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Boston Society for Architecture welcomes new Managing Director

Boston, MA—The Boston Society for Architecture (BSA) is welcoming Lesley D. Slavitt to its staff as Managing Director. Slavitt is an accomplished philanthropic and nonprofit leader active in comprehensive urban and community quality of life issues. She will oversee day-to-day operations for the organization and will collaboratively lead institution-wide strategy, priorities, goals, and objectives.

Slavitt spent 2020 leading COVID-19 priorities for the state of Michigan and previously served as chief executive officer of the Fiat Chrysler Foundation and was chief operating officer of the Bank One Foundation, which she helped merge into the JPMorgan Chase Foundation. She also served as head of civic affairs for Chicago's Roosevelt University, one of the nation's most diverse private institutions. Earlier in her career Lesley authored a war crimes tribunal report on the destruction of cultural property in the former Yugoslavia for the UN Commission of Experts. She has published on aspects of cultural heritage and is the author of a US government publication on sources of federal support for older communities. She has lectured on issues of meaning and memory, the notion of "building back better," as well as on civic and philanthropic topics. She is an expert on Boston-born architect and urban planning pioneer George Burdett Ford, who is the centerpiece of a book on planning's professionalization set for publication in 2022. Lesley received her PhD in planning from the Bartlett School of the Built Environment, University College London, an MS in Urban Planning and an MS in Historic Preservation, both from Columbia University in the City of New York, and a BA in Art History from the University of Michigan. She is a director of Open Doors Organization and the Urban Renaissance Center.

"We're delighted that Lesley has accepted this position," said Eric White Hon. AIA, BSA executive director. "Her experience understanding and empowering communities to create a more just environment will help propel our organization toward our goals to advance architecture, equity, and the environment."

The Boston Society for Architecture is a diverse community committed to improving the quality of life for everyone through architecture and design. The BSA brings leadership about the built environment to New England's design profession and to communities throughout Greater Boston. The BSA keeps its 4,500 professional members working at the top of their fields while empowering children, communities, and municipalities to use design to create safe and healthy neighborhoods. Architecture can provide equitable solutions for housing, regional planning, and climate change. The BSA uses the expertise of architects, designers, and building professionals to make good design a part of life for everyone who lives, works, and plays in Boston. The BSA serves everyone who benefits from the built environment. By hosting professional and youth design education programs, fostering community engagement and membership networks, and initiating civic transformation, the BSA is making this a region where architects thrive and communities flourish.

Learn more at architects.org.