

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VISHAAN CHAKRABARTI NAMED NEW CITY PLANNING MANHATTAN OFFICE DIRECTOR

Monday, October 21, 2002, New York City –Vishaan Chakrabarti, AIA, has been named Director of City Planning's Manhattan Office, effective October 28, 2002. The appointment was announced by Amanda M. Burden, Director of the Department of City Planning and Chair of the City Planning Commission.

Chakrabarti succeeds Richard Barth, who was recently named Executive Director of the Department. Amanda M. Burden, Director of the Department of City Planning said, "I am pleased to announce that Vishaan Chakrabarti will take on this critical role at City Planning. I am confident that his extensive experience with complex development and urban design projects in New York City will prove to be a real asset to the Department and to the City as we move towards achieving our land use goals".

As Director of the Manhattan Office, Chakrabarti will be a key member of the agency's executive staff, and will be responsible for fulfilling the agency's mission in Manhattan, directing urban design and land use policy, guiding housing and economic development and fostering the orderly growth of the borough's neighborhoods, business districts and major institutions. He will also advise the Chair and members of the City Planning Commission on the planning and land use issues affecting the borough, manage the staff of the Manhattan office and act as the primary liaison to a wide range of stakeholders including elected officials, community organizations, and private sector entities on matters of land use, zoning and economic development in the borough.

Chakrabarti holds a Master's degree in Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley and a Masters degree in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Previously, Chakrabarti had been an Associate Partner for Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill, LLP where since 1996, he has overseen numerous projects including the new New York Stock Exchange, and master plans for the World Trade Center site, Columbia University, and Long Island City. He also has experience at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey as a Transportation Planner. Chakrabarti is a David Rockefeller Fellow, is involved in numerous civic organizations, and is a Registered Architect in the State of New York.

About City Planning

The Department of City Planning is responsible for the City's physical and socioeconomic planning, including land use and environmental review; preparation of plans and policies; and provision of technical assistance and planning information to government agencies, public officials, and community boards.