

HARRIS M. STEINBERG, FAIA

Harris M. Steinberg, FAIA, became the executive director of the Lindy Institute for Urban Innovation at Drexel University in November 2014 with a joint appointment as a distinguished teaching professor in Drexel's Westpahl College of Media Arts and



Design. The Lindy Institute, a university-wide initiative housed in the provost's office, fosters creative exchange between citizens and experts about city making and puts into practice interdisciplinary strategies to equitably build cities at home and abroad. At Drexel, Harris is leading the creation and launch of a new Masters of Science in Urban Strategy program – one of the first such programs in the world designed to train the next generation of engaged urban strategists to solve complex, interdisciplinary

urban problems. Harris also serves as a special advisor to the president of Drexel University on urbanism. He is a key strategist in the university's efforts to create a new, 14-acre mixed-use, transit-oriented neighborhood on land that the university owns adjacent to campus in joint venture with a master developer.

Prior to his appointment at Drexel, Harris was the founding executive director of PennPraxis (2002-2014), the applied research arm of the School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania, and an adjunct associate professor of city and regional planning. Harris built PennPraxis into a robust faculty and student consulting practice that billed for more than \$18M in professional fees over 12 years; engaging more than 1000 students and 35 faculty members on more than 100 projects. Civic visioning was a hallmark of Harris' work at PennPraxis. His projects included the award-winning A Civic Vision for the Central Delaware (2006-2007); a public planning process that

engaged more than 4000 Philadelphians in over 200 meetings in 13-months - altering Philadelphia's planning history and producing a vision that is now guiding development along the Delaware River. Other civic visioning projects included Reimagining the Kimmel Center (2008); Green2015: An action plan to add 500 acres of new park space in Philadelphia (2010); and More Park, Less Way: An action plan to increase urban vibrancy on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway (2013). The New Fairmount Park, a vision and action plan for Philadelphia's 2000-acre watershed park was released in May 2014.

Harris speaks nationally and internationally on the role of civic engagement in city planning. He was recruited in 2012 by the U.S. Department of State to convene a series of conversations in Haiti on the role of civic engagement in the creation of an arts district in Port-au-Prince following the 2010 earthquake. He is a frequent participant on conference panels where he speaks to the significance of the relationship between civic life, placemaking and public policy in city building. In addition, Harris has led national design teams for the American Institute of Architects Sustainable Design Assistance Team (SDAT) program. SDAT projects, which engage the local community and key stakeholders in an intensive series of public meetings and interviews over three days leading to key urban planning recommendations, include work along the Miami River in Miami, Florida; the Route 7 Corridor outside Shelburne, Vermont; the South Shore Central lakefront in Austin, Texas; and Coral Bay in the US Virgin Islands.

Harris received his Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Pennsylvania and his Master of Architecture degree from Penn where he was awarded the Paul Phillippe Cret Prize for Architectural Design. He is the recipient of the Young Architects Award from the Philadelphia Chapter of the AIA and in 2006 was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. From 2001 to 2006, he served as a member of the Philadelphia Historical Commission by appointment of Philadelphia mayor, John F. Street.