

**For Immediate Release  
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## **VAN ALLEN INSTITUTE ELECTS ABBY HAMLIN OF HAMLIN VENTURES AS BOARD CHAIR**

**New York, NY** - Van Alen Institute: Projects in Public Architecture, an internationally renowned, New York-based think tank for design in the public realm, announced today that Abby Hamlin, President of Hamlin Ventures, a real estate development company, and founder of Studio HV, an urban policy consulting firm, has been elected as Chair of the Van Alen Institute Board of Trustees. She succeeds Peter Slatin, former publisher of the *Slatin Report* and *Grid Magazine*.

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"Abby Hamlin is a creative thinker and true urbanist who has the business savvy to get things done. I am delighted that she has agreed to accept a leadership role at a time when Van Alen is broadening the scope of its programs in fulfillment of the Institute's core mission to promote inquiry into the processes that shape the design of the public realm," said Adi Shamir, Executive Director of the Institute. "Abby will be instrumental in ensuring that our new initiatives including the New York Prize Fellowship and Design Competition Archive have the sustained capacity to enable the production of a diverse range of projects and explorations in public architecture".

Trained as an urban planner, Hamlin understands the complexities and nuances of public process and the value of public space. Hamlin's background in real estate and public policy informs her unique approach to development. Hamlin Venture development projects – such as the Schermerhorn House in downtown Brooklyn, a 217 unit supportive housing project that incorporates a community theater and ballet school – build strong and sustainable public/private partnerships.

Known for her design-driven approach to real estate, Hamlin has demonstrated an unusual commitment to design excellence and architectural innovation. *14 Townhouses*, a recently completed project designed by Rogers Marvel Architects, has won numerous accolades for its modern interpretation of the classic townhouse form.

Hamlin, who has been a member of the Van Alen Institute board for six years, said "I am honored to be chairing the Board of the Van Alen Institute at this crucial juncture. As we grapple with rapid technological change and accelerated urbanization throughout the world, with attendant social, economic and environmental repercussions, a limited view of the public realm will not suffice. The Institute's legacy is one of multidisciplinary international dialogue. I look forward to

working with Executive Director Adi Shamir, her staff, and my fellow trustees to help to strengthen Van Alen Institute as a vital place of inquiry into the many issues affecting the design and use of the public realm".

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### **About Van Alen Institute: Projects in Public Architecture**

For over a century, Van Alen Institute has cultivated a fellowship of architecture and design practitioners and scholars, awarded excellence in design, and fostered dialogue about architecture as a public practice. Today, Van Alen Institute reclaims its legacy as an architectural institute that is dedicated to critical inquiry surrounding contemporary forms of public space and new configurations of spatial practice. The Institute informs debate and advances design through competitions, fellowships, and related forums, publications, and exhibitions. For information about programs and supporting the Institute, please visit [www.vanalen.org](http://www.vanalen.org).

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