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## AIA Minnesota Announces Incoming Executive Vice President



Following a national search, The American Institute of Architects Minnesota (*AIA Minnesota*) has named **Mary-Margaret Zindren** (*pictured to the left*) as incoming Executive Vice President. She will join AIA Minnesota on July 6, 2015.

Mary-Margaret Zindren is a Certified Association Executive (CAE) with experience as Executive Director of the Hennepin County Bar Association—a Minnesota nonprofit with more than 8,000 member lawyers and judges. In this role, she has grown the association’s collaborative relationships; restored its financial sustainability; overhauled its strategic plan and brand identity; and focused on engaging younger lawyers and growing the diversity and inclusion of the legal community.

For nearly 15 years, she was the Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives for the League of Minnesota Cities, where she provided governance and facilitation expertise and led a wide range of communications initiatives, including successful public engagement campaigns, media relations activities, and education efforts focused on the association’s legislative agenda and risk management priorities. Mary-Margaret served as Special Assistant to the Mayor for Education for the City of Cleveland, Ohio, representing Mayor Michael White’s interests as his liaison to the Cleveland Public Schools. She also held the position of Legislative Counsel with the National League of Cities, lobbying federal issues on behalf of more than 18,000 cities nationwide.

*“Mary-Margaret joins AIA Minnesota’s staff at a time when our organization’s strategic focus is being re-envisioned on both national and regional levels, and when we are committing substantial resources toward promoting the value of architecture – both commercial and residential,”* said AIA Minnesota president Tim Dufault. *“Mary-Margaret will help to guide the organization’s continued evolution, drawing upon her knowledge of Minnesota communities and her extensive leadership experience.”*

In addition to her career accomplishments, Mary-Margaret completed the Women's Leadership Program at the Center for Creative Leadership in 2006 and was a Bush Fellowship Semi-Finalist in 2014. She serves on the board of directors for Interfaith Action, which operates Project Home. She has also been an active member of Unity Unitarian Universalist Church in St. Paul, where she currently serves on the Anti-Racism Leadership Team.

*"AIA Minnesota has a national reputation for excellence," Mary-Margaret remarked. "I am committed to maintaining the strong foundation that's been established while keeping the association moving forward in service to our members. Minnesota's architects are both big-picture visionaries and practical problem solvers. They are creating the future every day – a sustainable, inclusive, and inspiring future. I could not be more excited to be joining this great organization and to be of service to professionals who do so much good in the world."*

Mary-Margaret holds a bachelor's degree in Public Administration, cum laude, from Miami University, where she was awarded the Murray A. Seasongood Good Government Fellowship in 1992 and the Outstanding Leadership & Service Award in 1993. She also received her master's degree in Public Affairs, with a focus in public & nonprofit leadership, from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Mary-Margaret has solid roots in the Midwest. She grew up in Green Bay, WI and spent many summers with her grandparents in Duluth, MN and at her parents' cabin in Grand Marais, MN. She and her husband reside in St. Paul with their two daughters.

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### **About the American Institute of Architects Minnesota**

The American Institute of Architects Minnesota is the professional association for architects. As a state component of AIA National, with three local chapters, AIA Minnesota has nearly 2,300 members and a staff of eight professionals. AIA Minnesota provides services to all chapters, produces a regional convention, publishes the award-winning magazine *Architecture MN*, lobbies on behalf of the profession at the state legislature, and delivers continuing education to all members. Learn more at [www.aia-mn.org](http://www.aia-mn.org).

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