

ANN YOACHIM NAMED SMALL CENTER DIRECTOR



The Tulane School of Architecture has named Ann Yoachim as director of the Albert and Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design. Yoachim, currently director of civic engagement and a clinical professor at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, will take over the position from Small Center Interim Director Emilie Taylor Welty on April 15.

Yoachim has more than 15 years of experience building partnerships across campus-community boundaries to empower communities and support meaningful change.

As an educator, scholar and administrator, she is focused on facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration and shaping built, natural and social environments that impact health and wellness. Much of her work falls at the intersection of design, equity and ecology.

“Ann is uniquely positioned to move into this key leadership role,” said Tulane School of Architecture Dean Kenneth Schwartz. “Her experience, talent and outlook complement the designers and professionals who staff the Small Center, and she has a proven track record of teaching and collaborating with diverse community members.”

In her new role, Yoachim will oversee programs and projects, execute strategic initiatives and nurture key relationships. She will also serve as a professor of practice in the school of architecture.

“We are excited to have Ann leading our collaborative team of designers, makers and doers,” said Taylor Welty. “She brings a range of interdisciplinary experience and networks which will expand the capabilities of the Small Center and build on our existing strengths.”

Yoachim holds a Master of Public Health degree from Tulane University and a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies and political science from Dickinson College. From 2012-13, she was a Loeb Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

She has stayed connected to Tulane throughout her career, working at the Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy and the Center for Bioenvironmental Research. She also taught in visiting or adjunct roles for the Phyllis M. Taylor Center for Social Innovation and Design Thinking, the Payson Center for International Development, the School of Liberal Arts and the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

“I am thrilled to have this opportunity to lead the Small Center and rejoin Tulane,” said Yoachim. “The center’s commitment to facilitating community-driven design and training the next generation of reflective practitioners has played a vital role in supporting communities in New Orleans for over a decade. I am excited to build on this legacy, develop new partnerships and leverage expertise from across the university to remain a leader in public interest design and empower communities to confront complex social and ecological challenges.”