



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kate O'Donnell
p: 703.506.2895
e: kodonnell@edra.org

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION PRESENTS "HEALTHY RHODE ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN SUMMIT"

Event Explores Applied Research Focused on Rhode Island Health Policy

(McLean, VA, May 9, 2013) – As part of its 44th annual conference, the [Environmental Design Research Association](http://www.edra.org) (EDRA) will conduct the *Healthy Rhode Island Environmental Design Summit* on Wednesday, May 29, at the Omni Providence hotel in Providence, R.I. Co-sponsored by the Rhode Island Department of Health, this seminal event brings together the expertise of researchers from around the globe converging in Providence for [EDRA44Providence](http://www.edra.org/edra44providence) together with leaders of local initiatives that have health implications, and with policymakers who shape and implement health policy for Rhode Island.

Sessions will provide local champions the opportunity to present their place-specific projects and programs, become informed about and learn from each other, "seed" additional initiatives, and create opportunities to increase coordination, cooperation, and overall effectiveness.

"The goal of the Summit is to create health policies that affect Rhode Island's neighborhoods and communities," said Michael Fine, M.D., Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health. "We hope that EDRA44Providence will affirm the value of creating healthy neighborhoods where Rhode Islanders can live healthy lives."

Summit topics explore "Introducing a Place-Based Approach to Healthy Communities"; "Creating Health Stations for Primary Care and Prevention"; "Streets for Living"; "Healthy Neighborhoods"; and "Healthy Cities, Regions and States through Academic-Government-Community Partnerships". Confirmed participants include: **Sheldon Whitehouse**, United States Senator (D-R.I.); **Barbara Fields**, Regional Administrator, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; **Donald J. Farash**, President, Roger Williams University; **Christina Paxson**, President, Brown University; and **Fred Kent**, President, Project for Public Spaces.

"EDRA has always been at the forefront in providing a forum where environmental design research can be explored and debated," said Mallika Bose, Ph.D., Chair of the EDRA Board of Directors. "The Healthy Rhode Island Environmental Design Summit is an excellent opportunity to see research in action, and we truly appreciate the integral support of the Rhode Island Department of Health and Roger Williams University in the creation and development of this historic event."

For more information on the Healthy Rhode Island Environmental Design Summit and EDRA's 2013 conference, visit www.edra.org/edra44providence.

1760 Old Meadow Road, Suite 500, McLean, VA 22102
p. 703.506.2895 f. 703.506.3266
www.edra.org



###

About EDRA:

The Environmental Design Research Association is an international, interdisciplinary organization founded in 1968 by design professionals, social scientists, students, educators, and facility managers. EDRA exists to advance and disseminate environmental design research, thereby improving understanding of the inter-relationships of people with their built and natural surroundings toward creation and curation of environments responsive to human needs.

About EDRA44Providence:

With the theme of "Healthy + Healing Places", EDRA44Providence has a special focus on health policy implications for environmental design in addition to promoting the value of research for advancing environmental design and theory building. Educational sessions will present cutting-edge research and collaboration in a variety of topic areas including healthcare environments, workplace environments, school and educational environments, and environments for aging populations. The sessions provide students, researchers, and practitioners alike the opportunity to participate in a collaborative discourse. Conference attendees include architects, urban planners, designers, social ecologists, urban anthropologists, researchers, consultants, policymakers, academics, and students from around the world. For more information about EDRA44Providence or to register, visit www.edra.org/edra44providence.