



Redesign welcomes its new Executive Director, Andy Hestness

Redesign partners and supporters –

My hope is that you have been able to follow Redesign's work over the last months. As the President of its Board of Directors, I am very proud of the organization's recent accomplishments including saving the Coliseum Building from demolition, being named as the recipient of the US Bank property donation on Lake Street and our work in support of many small businesses during stressful and challenging times. Today, Redesign is providing excellent leadership related to the healing and recovery of our South Minneapolis communities.

Additionally, I am extremely pleased to announce that Andy Hestness has accepted the Executive Director position at Redesign. Andy has a long-standing and deep relationship with our organization and has been a part of Redesign as both a staff member and a member of the Board of Directors. Andy is an accomplished leader within the field of community-driven economic development and he brings important community relationships and technical expertise to the role. Andy's work and strategic leadership span a wide range of initiatives including co-leading the design and development of the City of Saint Paul Bridge Fund for Small Business, distributing over \$4.7M in emergency COVID-19 pandemic relief funding to small businesses in Saint Paul, the development of All My Relations Gallery and the Anpetu Wa'ste Cultural Arts Market Place on the American Indian Cultural Corridor and managing the construction of hundreds of units of affordable housing in Chicago. The Redesign Board and staff are incredibly excited to have Andy join our team. Andy's first day at Redesign will be January 10, 2022.

It is obviously bittersweet to also say farewell to Redesign's current Executive Director, Chris Romano. As you may now know, Chris was approached by the Bush Foundation to become its Chief Operating Officer. This truly is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Chris and his family, and while we will miss his leadership, the Redesign Board and staff are very supportive of this next professional opportunity. Chris brought strong and committed leadership to Redesign during very unsettled times which we are very grateful for. Chris' successes at Redesign have been many, including building an accomplished, diverse and high-performing leadership team.

We very much look forward to this next chapter in Redesign's growth and we are thankful for your ongoing support and partnership. As Andy gets started in his new role, he will be proactively reaching out to many of you. Do not hesitate to contact us as well. We anticipate hosting a gathering to both welcome Andy to Redesign and to wish Chris well on his next opportunity.

Thank you for your commitment to our community,

Sheldon Mains

President, Redesign Board of Director