

For immediate release

Rosalie Genevro to Step Down after 37 Years as Executive Director of The Architectural League of New York

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New York, NY, September 22, 2022 – Rosalie Genevro, Executive Director of The Architectural League of New York since 1985, announced today that she will step down from her position in June 2023. She notified the Board of Directors earlier this week.

“It has been an extraordinary privilege to work with the creative, deeply committed board and staff of The Architectural League, and the countless designers we have engaged with during a period of significant change in architecture,” Rosalie Genevro said. “How exhilarating it has been to focus on the evolving definition of excellence in architecture – in its response to social, artistic, and environmental imperatives – and to do so in an independent, responsive, nimble institution that is so important to the social and cultural life of New York City and beyond.”

The Architectural League began its life in 1881 as an association of 26 New York City architects – all white men, mirroring the profession itself at the time. Today, the League is the center of an engaged, diverse community that ranges from architecture students to internationally recognized practitioners in the profession, as well as activists, writers, city planners, landscape architects, graphic designers, and artists from around the world, many of whom have had career-defining experiences thanks to a League program or initiative.

“In May 1985, I was inaugurated president of the Architectural League,” said architect Frances Halsband. “Rosalie had started in February and we were both new to the game. We got together and figured out what we wanted to do. Rosalie’s true calling emerged early on with Vacant Lots, a project focused on revitalizing New York neighborhoods. From the beginning, her passion for urban life, her dedication to civic values, her commitment to genuine collaboration, to hearing all voices, were already shaping the League and the world around us.”

Genevro has launched a variety of programs and initiatives, including American Roundtable, which examines the role of the designed environment in the successes, failures, and opportunities of small to mid-size communities across America; the award-winning online publication Urban Omnibus, dedicated to exploring issues big and small in the collective work of citymaking; Architecture and..., consisting of multiple projects that explore connections between architecture and other fields of inquiry and innovation launched in celebration of the League’s 125th anniversary; and a group of programs, including Ten Shades of Green and The Five Thousand Pound Life, which encourages architects to act on the cultural adaptations required to confront climate change. During her tenure, the League has substantially increased the support it provides to students and emerging designers through mentorships, travel grants, project grants, and fellowships. In addition, Genevro has worked to widen the League’s lens beyond a focus on architectural formalism and theory, bringing to the fore the diverse voices – established and emerging – including many from allied fields.

“Rosalie has a deep sense of justice – and this has informed and animated her leadership of the Architectural League,” said architect Billie Tsien, who served as president of the League from 2014 to 2018. “With grace and patience and wisdom, she has created a sense of common purpose, uniting us in elevating the practice and its ethos.”

Identifying and recognizing exemplary architects and encouraging their creative development have been central to the League’s mission from its inception. Over her nearly four decades of leadership, Genevra has balanced this long-standing interest in the art of architecture with a tireless commitment to interdisciplinary and intergenerational exchange, and to creating opportunities for architects and other designers to engage with the challenges of the public realm and the responsibilities of serving a dynamic society.

“Rosalie has been an untiring advocate for architecture and the built environment,” said architect and League President Mario Gooden. “Her enduring commitment to advocating for architecture’s role in promoting design ethics, social discourse, and spatial justice guided the League as it evolved into an expansive and inclusive network across the varied terrains of the building environment. She leaves a stalwart legacy for which we are immensely grateful along with the responsibility to build on that legacy for future generations of architects and designers.”

In addition to her role at the League, Genevra has been an active participant in the civic and cultural realms, serving as a peer reviewer for multiple New York City agencies and as a critic and juror for countless architecture school and grant juries and prize competitions, including the inaugural juries of the Rockefeller Foundation’s Jane Jacobs Medal and Architectural Record’s Women in Architecture Awards. Ms. Genevra received an Arts and Letters Award in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2015.

The League board will formally announce the search for Genevra’s successor in the coming weeks, and plans to name a new executive director by the time of her departure in June of next year.

About The Architectural League

The Architectural League of New York nurtures excellence in architecture, design, and urbanism, and stimulates thinking, debate, and action on the critical design and building issues of our time. As a vital, independent forum for architecture and its allied disciplines, the League helps create a more beautiful, vibrant, innovative, and sustainable future. For more information, visit archleague.org.