



For Immediate Release

Richard H. Driehaus Foundation names Lynn Osmond its next President and Executive Director

Osmond to succeed current Driehaus Foundation head, Anne Lazar

(September 10, 2025) — The Chicago-based Richard H. Driehaus Foundation today announced that a valued member of its Board of Directors, veteran civic and business leader **Lynn Osmond**, has been named the Foundation's next President and Executive Director, effective September 29, 2025. She will succeed current Driehaus Foundation President and Executive Director **Anne Lazar**, who announced her retirement but will remain through December, serving as Co-President to assist with a seamless leadership transition.

With assets now exceeding \$380 million, the Foundation is among Chicago's largest philanthropic organizations. Last year, alone, it awarded more than \$17 million in grants, including a landmark \$10 million gift to fund the renovation of the historic South Portico of the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry. Building on the philanthropic vision of founder Richard H. Driehaus, the Foundation today supports the three critical local areas: the built environment, arts and culture, and investigative journalism for government accountability.

"We couldn't be more pleased with the selection of Lynn Osmond as the next President and Executive Director of the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation," said **Cynthia S. Van Osdol**, President & CEO of Driehaus Trust Company, LLC. "As a Foundation Board member since 2022, Lynn has worked with Anne Lazar and the Foundation staff to direct the Foundation's growth, including overseeing the tripling of annual grants. As a seasoned and well-respected Chicago executive, she brings strong organizational and transformative instincts, an innovative spirit, strong leadership, and a steadfast commitment to service excellence. Above all, she is deeply committed to delivering value for stakeholders, whether they are grantee partners, employees, or the broader civic community."

"Further, we are grateful for Anne's dedication over the past seven years, expanding the grant effectiveness of the three Driehaus Foundation program areas with greater financial and civic impact, while managing the Foundation through the global pandemic and always upholding Richard Driehaus' principles in furtherance of his philanthropic legacy," Van Osdol added.



With a career spanning three decades at the intersection of architecture, tourism, and civic engagement, Osmond is one of Chicago's cultural leaders. For twenty-five years as President and CEO of the Chicago Architecture Center (CAC), she transformed the organization into an internationally recognized leader in architecture education and public engagement. She launched Open House Chicago, the citywide architectural festival, in 2011, and spearheaded the creation and opening of the new Chicago Architecture Center, a major civic project that redefined the organization's mission and visibility, in 2018. Her leadership at CAC extended beyond Chicago. She founded the Association of Architecture Organizations in 2009, creating a global network of nonprofits advancing architecture and design. Because of her profile, she was called upon to serve on many civic organizations, including Choose Chicago as Vice Chair, before being appointed its President and CEO in 2022. In that role, she guided the recovery of Chicago's visitor economy after the pandemic, repositioned the organization's marketing strategy, secured major national and international events including the 2024 Democratic National Convention, and helped restore Chicago's image as a welcoming global city. Most recently, she leveraged her proven expertise to launch Osmond Consulting, that focused on civic and hospitality consulting as well as her passion for accessible tourism with clients such as Wheel the World.

Osmond's civic leadership has been recognized with service on numerous boards and commissions, including the Chicago Landmarks Commission, Magnificent Mile Association, Past President of International Women's Forum, Chicago Institute of Classical Architecture, Advisory Board Member at IIT School of Architecture, TravelAbility and President Emeritus, Chicago Architecture Center. In addition, she is a member of the Chicago Network, The Economic Club, Soho House and the Women's Athletic Club.

"For me, this role is the natural culmination of a career devoted to the arts, architecture, and civic life — all in service of building a stronger, more inclusive Chicago," said Osmond. "Having known Richard Driehaus, served as a Foundation grantee, and later as a board member, I carry both a personal connection and a deep respect for the Foundation's mission. I am honored to build on its extraordinary growth and to continue investing in what makes Chicago thrive: great architecture and design, vibrant cultural life, and a commitment to accountability in public life."

Founded in 1983 by legendary investor and philanthropist Richard H. Driehaus (1942–2021), the Foundation has enriched the lives of Chicagoans for more than four decades. With its expanded scale and bold vision for the future, the Driehaus Foundation is poised to have even greater impact.

For more information about the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, please visit www.driehausfoundation.org.

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