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**URA’S KAREN ABRAMS ACCEPTED AS A HARVARD LOEB FELLOW**

**PITTSBURGH, PA (May 2, 2016)** The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) announced today that Karen Abrams, community and diversity affairs manager, was accepted into the 2017 [Loeb Fellowship](#) class. The Loeb Fellowship at the Harvard Graduate School of Design is a worldwide network of practitioners supporting equity and social justice through the built and natural environment. Abrams will spend a transformative Fellowship year in residence at Harvard’s campus located in Cambridge, MA.

“Karen’s passion and creativity around community engagement and equity have been instrumental in broadening the cultural awareness at the URA – internally as well as externally,” said Acting Executive Director Robert Rubinstein. “We congratulate Karen and look forward to her Loeb Fellowship experience to help us advance our important work.”

At the URA, Abrams creates civic engagement tools to encourage participation by Pittsburgh’s most vulnerable residents in decision making processes that directly impact them. Her Toolkit projects use art and design to help low income communities of color address land use and design challenges and reimagine their neighborhoods. During her Loeb year she will explore just and inclusive development and design practices to help mitigate the negative effects of climate change and demographic shifts.

Abrams is among a diverse class of outstanding professionals disrupting political exclusion in refugee camps, overturning longstanding social inequities in rust-belt cities, democratizing telecommunications infrastructure, and raising design expectations in the cities of Ethiopia.

Since 1971, Loeb Fellows have come from around the world to the Harvard Graduate School of Design with a common purpose: to strengthen their ability to advance positive social outcomes and to make the world a better place for all. Fellows join a powerful worldwide network of over 450 colleagues and friends. The connections, collaborations and learning are there for a lifetime.

Abrams’ Fellowship runs from August 22, 2016 – June 21, 2017.

*The [Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh](#) (URA) is the City of Pittsburgh’s economic development agency, committed to creating jobs, expanding the City’s tax base and improving the vitality of businesses and neighborhoods. The URA achieves this mission by assembling, preparing and conveying sites for major mixed-use developments; and by providing a portfolio of programs that include financing for business location, relocation and expansion, housing construction and rehabilitation, and home purchases and improvements.*

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