Harvard Design School



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Donna Graves named Loeb Fellow at Harvard Graduate School of Design

Donna Graves, cultural planner and social historian based in Berkeley, California, has been named a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University's Design School. Donna will be in residence at Harvard for the 2009-2010 academic year.

The Loeb Fellowship is the only one of its kind in the nation. Founded in 1970, it provides a year of independent study at Harvard for outstanding mid-career professionals in fields related to the built and natural environment. Primarily the focus is on architects, landscape architects, urban planners, and urban designers. Professionals in related fields such as filmmaking, journalism, non-profit administration, the arts, and government service have also been Loeb Fellows.

Donna Graves is a cultural planner and social historian based in Berkeley, California. Her work combines historic preservation, public art, urban design and community engagement to explore local histories and the significance of place. She has nearly twenty years experience developing projects throughout California and the West that document and interpret the state's diverse history.

As director for the *Rosie the Riveter Memorial* in Richmond, California, she developed the first national monument to women's contribution to the WWII home front. Graves was a key collaborator with the National Park Service and City of Richmond in conceiving and developing Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park. She continues to conduct significant research on Richmond's built environment and develop projects that connect the community to current issues through exploring the city's history. Graves is also currently director of *Preserving California's Japantowns*, a statewide project documenting pre-WWII Japanese American historic resources in communities across California. The project's efforts to catalyze local awareness and stewardship of these forgotten landmarks were recognized by the Vernacular Architecture Forum's inaugural Advocacy Award in 2008. Other recent projects include a neighborhood revitalization plan for San Francisco's Japantown, a community history project about civil rights activism in South Berkeley, and directing a competition to design a monument to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade on San Francisco's waterfront.

As a Loeb fellow, Donna plans to study urban design, public art and historic preservation strategies that support cultural preservation and community development.