



## **Introduction of Lisa Schroeder by Edith Shapira, M.D., Board Chair, The Pittsburgh Foundation at the leadership event held in May 2019.**

And now, it is my absolute pleasure to introduce the sixth president of the Pittsburgh Foundation:

Lisa Schroeder is a nonprofit executive and civic leader with a distinguished record in this city and in Baltimore for turning place-centered organizations into powerful movements for quality-of-life improvement.

In announcing Lisa's appointment in February, I cited her deep understanding of Pittsburgh's culture, and her remarkable talent for bringing together stakeholders across a wide range of business, ideological and political interests to move an agenda forward and benefit the entire community.

Most of you know her history, but it is worth touching on:

From 2002 until 2015, she led Riverlife, a public-private partnership established in 1999 to guide and advocate for redevelopment of Pittsburgh's riverfronts.

She was widely praised for her achievements when she left to return to hometown Baltimore and become president and CEO of the Parks & People Foundation. She was the first CEO to follow the founder and president who had been leading the organization for 20 years.

During her Riverlife tenure, Pittsburgh transformed from one of the most polluted regions in the nation to become a national star in the Green Cities movement.

Nearly 80 percent of the ambitious vision known as Three Rivers Park was completed, with 13 miles of riverfront trails, 850 acres of public space and a \$128.8 million investment in the riverfront system.

Since its 1999 launch, Riverlife has brought an additional \$4.1 billion in development to waterfront areas.

Among her many accomplishments as CEO of Parks & People, Schroeder completed a \$14 million capital campaign to construct a nine-acre headquarters campus on what had been derelict city property and created the "Every Kid Deserves a Park" program to construct new parks in city neighborhoods struggling from decades of disinvestment.

Most recently, she launched a national competition to create a waterfront park that will connect 22 neighborhoods along 11 miles of the Patapsco River to half a billion dollars of development.

On May 29, three of the most famous firms in the world will reveal their designs for public input. She is appropriately OVER the MOON about this, and it is a mark of how much she loves us that she has torn herself away from that process.

Given all these accomplishments and more that there isn't time to recount, I am so pleased that Pittsburgh has re-gained Lisa's talents and that our Foundation is the place where she will do great things.

As I mentioned earlier, I had the great pleasure of working with her for many years at Riverlife, and eventually serving as her Board Chair. It was a delight and an honor, then, and it surely will be so again. She is one of the finest people I know, and she is a natural leader.

Please welcome our new president and CEO – and, if you've noticed, the first woman to hold that position – Lisa Schroeder.

#####