



DOWNTOWN **WOMEN'S** CENTER
Every woman housed

For Immediate Release: January 21, 2020

Amy Turk Appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Downtown Women's Center
*DWC Board appoints veteran social services executive to lead organization at a critical moment
in effort to end homelessness*

LOS ANGELES, January 21, 2020—The Downtown Women's Center (DWC) announced today the appointment of Amy Turk as Chief Executive Officer. Ms. Turk, who has nearly twenty years' experience in serving women experiencing homeless, will assume the role effective February 3.

Ms. Turk is replacing interim CEO Lisa Watson, who led DWC through a period of impressive growth from 2000 to 2014 and returned to DWC in April 2018 to facilitate the leadership transition.

Ms. Turk joined DWC in 2013 as Chief Program Officer, responsible for administering DWC's programs including permanent supportive housing, health and wellness, workforce development, and DWC's social enterprise MADE by DWC. During her tenure, DWC increased public partnerships and housed 245% more individuals from 2015 to 2017, while maintaining a 95%+ housing retention rate across DWC's housing programs. In 2018, she was named DWC's Chief Innovation Officer and provided leadership in developing and implementing new organizational projects that fostered vital relationships with community partners and resulted in the doubling of the number of supportive housing units available to homeless women in Los Angeles County. In this position, Ms. Turk also helped establish the Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition, which she currently co-chairs, and conducted trainings that brought Trauma Informed Care practices to providers of homeless services throughout Los Angeles County and beyond.

"It's a privilege to be named Downtown Women's Center's CEO," said Ms. Turk. "I'm thrilled to work with the Center's remarkable Board and staff, dedicated supporters and partners, and with the resilient women that participate daily in our uplifting programs. I am honored to take the helm of such an essential service for women at a pivotal time to end homelessness in Los Angeles."

*"On behalf of DWC's Board of Directors, we are confident Amy is the right leader to advance our vision of a Los Angeles where every woman is housed and on a path to personal stability," said **Heather Rim, DWC Board President**. "Under her leadership, we will continue our critical work of housing, wellness, employment, and advocacy with the same determination, dedication, and passion DWC has become known for over the past 40 plus years."*

***Wendy Greuel**, former City Controller of Los Angeles and current LAHSA Commissioner, says: "Amy Turk is the leader DWC needs. In collaborating with Amy through the LAHSA Adhoc Committee on Women, I find that her expertise, passion, and determination to ensure that the needs of women in particular are always factored into our funding, systems, and practices is essential in our partnership to end homelessness."*

Ms. Turk has worked in the fields of social work and homeless services since 2001 and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Before joining DWC, she spent seven years as the Director of Daybreak, a project of OPCC (now The People Concern) serving women experiencing homelessness. Ms. Turk has held numerous local, state, and national leadership positions in efforts to end homelessness. She is a recipient of the John A. Hartford Foundation Practice Change Leader award for her efforts to improve healthcare for older adults experiencing homelessness, and she served as a Systems Leader for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's *100 Million Healthier Lives* Campaign. She is also a National Trauma Recovery Center Association Advisory Board Member, Los Angeles County Coordinated Entry System Councilmember, and was the previous Board Chair for Los Angeles Central Providers Collaborative.

About Downtown Women's Center

The Downtown Women's Center (DWC) is the only organization in Los Angeles focused exclusively on serving and empowering women experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless women. DWC envisions a Los Angeles with every woman housed and on a path to personal stability. Its mission is to end homelessness for women in greater Los Angeles through housing, wellness, employment, and advocacy. Founded in 1978, DWC was the first permanent supportive housing provider for women in the U.S. Learn more at www.DowntownWomensCenter.org

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