



MEDIA ADVISORY

KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917-6413

Expert on sustainable suburban redevelopment to speak to community leaders and elected officials

- Who:** Knox County Health Department (KCHD), Tennessee Department of Health, Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization, Knoxville Area Association of Realtors, East Tennessee Quality Growth
- What:** Ellen Dunham-Jones, an award-winning architect, will serve as the keynote speaker at a luncheon for community leaders and local elected officials. Dunham-Jones' presentation "Retrofitting Suburbia for 21st Century Challenges" explores how the design of where we live affects public health, economic vitality and sustainability.
- When:** Wednesday, April 5 at 12 p.m., doors open at 11:30 a.m.
- Where:** The Market Place room, Knoxville Chamber, 17 Market Square
- Interviews:** Knoxville Regional TPO Principal Transportation Planner Ellen Zavisca and Integrated Planning Manager Amy Brooks as well as KCHD Active Transportation Coordinator Liliana Burbano will be available for interviews.

Background:

Dunham-Jones is a professor of architecture at the Georgia Institute of Technology where she coordinates the Master of Science program in Urban Design. She has served in several national leadership roles including Board Chair of the Congress for the New Urbanism, AIA Design and Health Leadership Group, and the Hanley Wood Sustainability Council. She is the co-author of "Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs." Her research intersects trends in contemporary theory, health and real estate development, and has been featured in the New York Times as well as on TED, PBS and NPR. She received her undergraduate and graduate degrees in architecture from Princeton University.

Dunham-Jones' presentation is part of a speaker series coordinated by KCHD, Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization, Knoxville Area Association of Realtors and East Tennessee Quality Growth, and is funded by the Tennessee Department of Health. The series focuses on how the built environment impacts population health and economic vitality.

Built environment factors that contribute to poor health was an area of concern in KCHD's [2014-2015 Community Health Assessment](#). It is well documented that the built environment influences public health, especially in relation to chronic disease – the burden of which can be reduced through an active lifestyle and proper nutrition. However, many urban and suburban environments are not well designed to facilitate healthy behaviors or create the conditions for good health.

On April 4 and 5, Dunham-Jones will also serve as the keynote speaker at events that are free and open to the public. More information is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/565047827028556/>

For more information contact Katharine Killen at 865-215-5534 (office) or 865-755-1121 (cell).