

## **Roksan Okan-Vick, AIA**

### **Short Bio**

Roksan Okan-Vick joined the Houston Parks Board as its executive director in August 2004. She leads and directs all aspects of the organization's business and serves as liaison to city government, other green space organizations, national park organizations, outside consultants, foundations and the board of directors. The Houston Parks Board creates, improves and protects parkland for Houston. In the last six years it has added over \$30 million of new parkland and improvements to Houston's park system.

For the previous 2 years, Roksan served as department director of the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department. She was the first woman director of the Houston Parks Department, and was responsible for 850 employees, 312 parks, and an annual budget of \$52 million. As director, she worked closely with the mayor's office, city council members, county commissioners, and numerous non-profit, private groups and foundations.

From 1995 to 2002, Roksan was the executive director of Friends of Hermann Park, now the Hermann Park Conservancy. She was responsible for the dramatic restoration of Hermann Park, including \$31 million of projects and programs, on-going access and parking, maintenance, and concessions management in Hermann Park.

Roksan is active in many green and civic organizations, is a graduate of the master of architecture program at Rice University, and a member of the American Institute of Architects.