

REBECCA BARNES
LOEB FELLOW 1988
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC GROWTH
BROWN UNIVERSITY
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Rebecca's work took her from coast to coast playing key planning roles in Seattle and Boston before she returned to her alma mater Brown University as head of Strategic Growth. She credits the Loeb Fellowship for its significant impact on her career. "Right after the fellowship I found the job I'd always wanted;" she said of her work managing architecture and urban design for the Central Artery Project in Boston, "taking an urban design project from concept to putting flesh on the bones was very exciting."

Rebecca readily took the advice of Bill Doebele, former Curator of the Loeb Fellowship to do anything and everything her heart desired during the Loeb year. She took saxophone lessons and went sculling on the Charles River. She attended a course at the Kennedy School of Government on the press, politics and public policy taught by Marvin Kalb. "I'd been doing that kind of work in the public sector without the preparation or theory or background." She said, "It was my most enjoyable classroom experience."

Approaching career burn-out at 37, Rebecca applied for the Loeb Fellowship hoping to be able to take a breather, explore doing new things and see what an educational experience at Harvard might have to offer. It was all that and more. "My class had a lot of fun together; a

couple of my closest friends are from that Loeb year 20 years ago," she said.

Uprooting yourself to take advantage of the fellowship experience can be difficult and risky both professionally and personally but Rebecca points out that there are risks to staying where you are as well. She has high praise for how helpful and supportive fellowship staff members were for fellows in all kinds of circumstances. She found that rather than having to make yourself fit the fellowship, it works to fit the individual.



"One of the most rewarding aspects of the Loeb Fellowship for me was becoming part of a community of people who were energized, highly motivated, and dedicated to making a real difference."

Rebecca, like many fellows, believes that one of the most important lasting impacts of the fellowship was her increased self confidence. "I was accepted as a peer with people I thought were beyond my world." She said, "It allowed me to breathe easier, reach higher and go further."