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Anish Kumar: Pennovation Works Managing Director

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Anish Kumar

Pennovation Works now has a managing director, Anish Kumar, in a new role designed to manage overall direction and oversight of the 23-acre innovation community adjacent to Penn's West Philadelphia academic campus. The creation of this position represents the University's dedication to Pennovation Works, open to entrepreneurs in all disciplines across the Greater Philadelphia area.

Mr. Kumar is charged with implementation of the long-range strategic master plan. Mr. Kumar leads business development of the site, including marketing, communications and leasing. He manages the strategic direction of the Pennovation Center (the community's business, technology and laboratory incubator) in collaboration with the operating partner, 1776. Mr. Kumar will also work collaboratively with Penn Center for Innovation (PCI), PCIVentures, and the Office of the Vice Provost for Research on company curation and programming. In addition, Mr. Kumar monitors development, design, construction and operations of the property as well as the operation of the JPod @ Philadelphia (*Almanac* November 6, 2018 (<https://almanac.upenn.edu/volume-65-number-12#launching-jpod-philadelphia-accelerating-health-care-innovation-at-pennovat>)).

One of Mr. Kumar's immediate responsibilities is the completion and leasing of the Pennovation Lab Building, a 65,000-square-foot, scientifically advanced, multi-tenant laboratory and office building. As the latest addition to the Pennovation Works community, tenants of the Pennovation Lab will benefit from the amenities and programming already available on the site. Leasing is ongoing at the Lab, which is anticipated to open in the third quarter of 2020.

“In adding this managing director role to our team at Pennovation, and in particular with bringing on Anish Kumar in this position, Penn can fulfill the promise of this exceptional innovation space that draws talent from the entire greater Philadelphia region, with the full weight of Penn behind it,” explained Ed Datz, executive director of real estate at Penn.

Mr. Kumar has built his career around improving urban life, enabling people to live and work together in the most inclusive and environmentally sustainable ways. Now, as managing director, he will focus on advancing Penn’s growing community of researchers and entrepreneurs at Pennovation Works.

A Penn graduate and long-time Philadelphia resident, Mr. Kumar has multi-faceted expertise in real estate business management, planning and architecture. Prior to joining Penn, Mr. Kumar most recently served as senior director for real estate development at Amtrak. In that role, he led an 18-person team and oversaw all real estate activities in support of Amtrak’s operations nationwide, including planning and portfolio strategy, acquisition disposition and lease transactions, administration of property agreements, development and fit-out of facilities, space management, budgeting and real estate financial operations. Before Amtrak, Mr. Kumar held leadership positions at major planning and architectural firms, including tvsdesign, Hillier and WRT. He has also served as an adjunct professor in Drexel University’s architecture program.

“Pennovation Works adds tremendous value to the two communities that are a significant part of my life, the University of Pennsylvania and the City of Philadelphia, and I am excited for the opportunity to collaborate with members of the Pennovation community to expand the City’s innovation ecosystem and increase Penn’s impact,” said Mr. Kumar.



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