



## Viridiant nonprofit names new executive director, moves to Shockoe Slip

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(<https://richmondbizsense.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Andrew-Stuart-Transition-scaled.jpg>)

Andrew Green, left, and Stuart Nuckols. Nuckols took over as Viridiant's executive director in recent weeks. (Courtesy Viridiant)

As it moves into new digs, a local eco-conscious building nonprofit has brought a familiar face to a new role.

Viridiant relocated last month from Henrico to Shockoe Slip and also recently announced that long-time employee Stuart Nuckols has taken over as its executive director.

Nuckols, who has worked at Viridiant on and off for almost a decade, said she's excited to take the helm of the organization as it looks to beef up some of its offerings. Its work includes green-building consulting for single-family, multifamily and commercial building projects as well as home energy audits and other programs primarily in Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic.

Nuckols was previously with Viridiant from 2012 to 2019, working on marketing and operations. She left for five years, spending that time in consulting at McLean-based Novus Energy Advisors, and returned to Viridiant in 2024, serving as deputy director, per her LinkedIn.

Viridiant's previous executive director, Andrew Green, was in the role for two years.

Nuckols said Green's hiring was part of a plan to take a deeper look at how the nonprofit was operating, which led to changes such as handing the reins of its EarthCraft certification program back to Atlanta, Georgia-based Southface Institute, which founded the program.

Nuckols said that Green decided to step down from the role and is serving in a senior adviser role, which started in March and will run through June.

"Viridiant holds a unique place in the green-building ecosystem in Virginia, and I'm proud of what we accomplished together during my tenure, especially the realignment of the EarthCraft program with Southface," Green said in a statement emailed to BizSense last week. "Deciding to step away is never simple, but when you can look at the work still to be done, and the person stepping into leadership and feel genuine confidence — that's how you know the timing is right."





(<https://richmondbizsense.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/buggy-factory-building.jpg>)

The Buggy Factory building in Shockoe Slip. *(Jackie DiBartolomeo photo)*

With her previous background at Viridiant, her consulting experience (which included taking on Viridiant as a client at one point) and her close work with Green when she returned, Nuckols said she felt she had the ability to take on the top job, though it wasn't one she'd necessarily envisioned.

"I did not expect to land in this position. I'd always really admired the organization and fully believe in the work we do," she said. "It just felt like the right progression."

In her new role, Nuckols sees priorities for Viridiant as multifold, including a more long-term partnership with architects, developers, property owners and contractors that Viridiant works with, she said.

"We're trying to look at our work more as strategic memberships, you could say consulting, instead of these one-off certification contracts," she said. "One of the big things we're pushing for is earlier engagement."

Viridiant is also working on a program that would help reduce energy costs and improve residents' comfort in affordable housing, even after a building has already been built.

The company operates in its new office in the Buggy Factory building at 1421 Lombardy Alley in Shockoe Slip. The building is owned by Sandra Leibowitz. Viridiant is subleasing space from Sustainable Design Consulting, Leibowitz's sustainable design firm.

The 3-story Buggy Factory building has a mix of apartments and office space on its first floor.

“(Leibowitz) was on our board, she’s one of the founding board members,” Nuckols said. “There’s this kind of shared energy around green building down there. ... I think it was just to have that relationship with Sustainable Design Consulting and feel connected to someone else working in the environment.”

Viridiant and its staff of eight are occupying around 900 square feet in the building.

Originally founded as EarthCraft Virginia in 2004, Viridiant rebranded to its current name in 2016. In 2020, the nonprofit acquired Richmond Region Energy Alliance (<https://richmondbizsense.com/2020/04/23/green-building-nonprofit-adds-to-its-ranks-with-acquisition/>).

Viridiant was headquartered at 1601 Rolling Hills Drive in Henrico for 1½ years. Before that, its home was at 1431 W. Main St. in the Fan.

The nonprofit operated with \$1.91 million in revenue and \$2.58 million in expenses in 2024, according to its most recent public financial reports issued to the IRS.

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