



CENTER FOR HOUSTON'S FUTURE

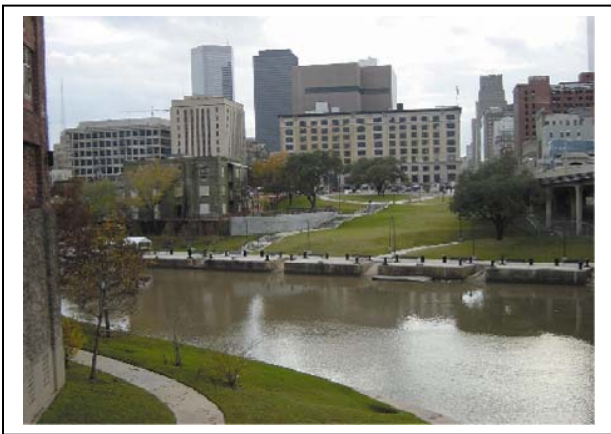
FUTURE FOCUS

Bringing business and community together to innovate for the future of the Houston region

September 2007 Issue

To read the newsletter online, please click [here](#).

Indicator Report to be Released to the Region



The Center for Houston's Future is excited to publish a report on the Environment this Fall. "Counting on Quality of Life: An Environment Indicator Report" brings attention to critical areas that affect quality of life for Houstonians by telling a story about the environment in the Houston Region. The Center is thrilled that so many organizations have contributed to the report by providing data, writing, or editing.

Houston is a thriving business center that has experienced high population growth in recent decades, contributing to the strain on its natural resources. In the face of increasing concern over quality of life in the region, this report seeks to paint a more precise picture on where the region is environmentally. The intent in producing the report is to begin a dialogue on how to hold ourselves, including government institutions, researchers, and community groups, accountable for improving quality of life.

"Counting on Quality of Life: An Environment Indicator Report" addresses five main questions throughout each of its nine chapters. The chapters cover air quality, signage, green buildings, litter and graffiti, parks and open space, resource use, tax delinquent lots, trees, and water quality. First, we ask "Why is this important for the region?" Next, we outline current public policies affecting that environmental area in answer to, "What is the community goal?" We then analyze, "How can we measure progress?" as well as "What is the current situation?" Finally, we provide future directions for research or action by asking, "Where do we go from here?"

All citizens can use the Indicators to understand the *connections* between our community and the built and natural environment around us. Each individual category provides "baseline" information on how the region is doing in that area. However, when read as a whole, the reader will begin to unravel the thread that cuts across all the Indicators: the manner in which we manage our land and build our city and communities affects our quality of life. Observing how well we do in attaining our quality of life goals is a key fact in deciding what if anything we should change in our approach.

This report will be available on our web site, www.centerforhoustonfuture.org, and from Sandra Wegman, Strategic Planning and Community Outreach Specialist, by the end of November, 2007.

Fall 2007 Business/Civic Leadership Forum Sets Record!

The Center for Houston's Future welcomes a record setting class of thirty-eight participants to The Fall 2007 Business/Civic Leadership Forum September 27th – 29th at The Woodlands Resort & Conference Center. These regional leaders will convene in The Woodlands for the first session which begins with a welcome reception on the evening of September 27th. Days two and three include informative, educational panel discussions on topics ranging from Quality of Life and Inclusiveness/Diversity to 21st Century Economies and Human Capital Development/Education.

Welcome the newest class of the Fall 2007 Business and Civic Leadership Forum!

George Acevedo, Senior Vice President and Market Manager Retail Financial Services, JPMorgan Chase Bank
Rick Barongi, Director, Houston Zoo

Susan Borches, Founder/CEO, Houston Greeters
 Stan Bunting, CEO, McCoy Workplace Solutions

Alison Chang, President, TCBh, Inc.
 Felix Chevalier, Managing Member, the Chevalier Law Firm

Brandon Clarke, JD, Associate, CB Richard Ellis
 Cindy Clifford, President, Clifford Group, Inc.

Bob Collie, Partner, Andrews Kurth, LLP
 Peter Durkin, CEO, Planned Parenthood

Theresa Einhorn, Partner, Haynes & Boone, LLP
 Michael Emerson, PH.D., Director of CORRUL and Professor of Sociology, Rice University

Cecelia L. Garcia, VP of Fund Development, The Collaborative for Children
 Roland Garcia, Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Harry Gibbs, M.D., Vice President, Institutional Diversity, The University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center
 William King, President and Director, Southwest Airport Services, Inc.

Tom Kornegay, Executive Director, Port of Houston Authority
 Anna Leal, Grant Director, Houston Endowment, Inc.

Robert Ledesma, Manager, Supplier Diversity-Downstream, Shell Oil
 George Levan, Principal of Levan Group and General Partner of Crosspoint, Levan Group/Crosspoint Properties

Thompson Lin, Ph.D., President and CEO, Applied Optoelectronic, Inc.
 Carlos J. Lopez, President and Executive Director, Mexican Institute

Marvin Marcell, Director, Public Affairs, Group 1 Automotive, Inc.
 Julie Martineau, President, Montgomery County United Way

Fulkra Mason, Vice-President-Southeast Transmission & Storage, Spectra Energy
 Sylvia Mayer, Partner, Weil, Gotshal, & Manges LLP

Jason Melton, Chief Financial Officer, Valencia Group
 Daniel Monticello, Ph.D., President, Molecular LogiX, Inc.

Erin Patterson, Senior Financial Analyst, Waste Management
 David Stanley Peterman, Partner, Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP

Steven Retzloff, CEO- Retail Banking, Sterling Bank
 Mary Eliza Shaper, President -Elect, Junior League of Houston, Inc.

Blake Stoehr, Vice President, Commercial Lending, Amegy Bank
 Bill Swanstrom, Partner, Locke, Liddell, & Sapp

Bob Udell, President-Telephone Operations Texas, Consolidated Communications
 Lorie Westrick, Principal, Rey de la Reza Architects

Dane Whitehead, CFO- Exploration and Production, El Paso Corporation
 Cary Yates, Sr. Business Relationship Manager, Wells Fargo Bank N.A.

For more information about the Business/Civic Leadership Forum program, please contact Chris Bilton 713-844-9323 at the Center for Houston's Future.

Regional Greenway Water Quality Initiative

Working closely with Center/Coalition/GHP members, a collaboration of groups have recently come together to develop and implement these Greenway Rings and Green Bayou Filters through the *Regional Greenway Water Quality Initiative (RGWQ)*. A group of business/civic leaders is also being formed to assist in seeking regional funding for implementation of the Greenway Initiative. Also, local public officials in the region have voiced support for, and involvement in, the effort. This *Regional Greenway Water Quality (RGWQ) Initiative* is based upon the following background information:

- Disconnecting impervious surfaces and directing runoff from impervious surfaces to pervious surfaces (i.e. green space and natural grass areas) can provide the opportunity for infiltration of stormwater runoff, thereby reducing both stormwater quantity and the bacteria entering the receiving waterbody. Due to the size of the Houston region, a critical water quality "best practice" for the region is establishment of scientifically-tested "natural filtration system" (i.e. greenways) around the region and "green filters" along the region's bayou arteries.



- There is a unique and critical opportunity currently existing in the Houston region to "capture" current land opportunities through creation of "Greenway Rings" with "Green Filters" -- that run through these greenways along the affected bayou arteries). These Greenway Rings can be developed through a linkage of current large open space areas (currently used as parks, detention and natural areas) with land that is currently or potentially available for acquisition.

Importantly, in late June of 2007, the Texas Water Resource Institute released a report, written by a Bacterial Total Daily Maximum Load (TDML) Task Force (comprised of water quality experts from 5 state universities), that establishes guidelines for how to measure and ultimately decrease the bacteria problem in waterways in Texas (see attached report). Much of this report contains scientific data regarding how to measure and identify bacteria and its TDML in waterbodies. However, the report also recommends a three-tier approach for implementing TMDL plans that can provide "an economical means to develop TMDLs to restore impaired waters." In this regard, the report recognizes that "no single process is appropriate for all bacteria impairments, given the variations in (1) the severity of the bacteria impairments, (2) the complexity of watershed land uses and development, and (3) the interests of stakeholders and the regulated community affected."

Long Range Planning a Priority

In order to better achieve the goals and objectives of the leadership forums, the Center's Board members have voted to undertake a long range planning initiative in the fall. SUMA Partners will facilitate the long range planning process for the Center. The Center's primary concern is to insure that input be collected from all stakeholders during the long range planning process. These stakeholders include, but are not limited to the Board of Directors, Advisory Council members, GHP Board of Directors, Center graduates, donors, foundations, public officials, etc.

Don't Miss This...

The Center for Houston's Future is presenting Rice University Sociology Professor, **Stephen L. Klineberg**, for the unveiling of his first Regional Survey on the future trends in development and demographics based upon the experiences and opinions of people in the 5 counties surrounding Houston.

Thursday, November 15, 2007
11:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.
Hilton Americas - Houston
1600 Lamar
Houston, TX 77010

***Individual and group seating still available at \$50 a lunch ticket. Call Claudette Harvey at 713-844-9325

*****FORUM GRADUATES AND BOARD MEMBERS*****

*****[SEND US YOUR NEWS TO BE FEATURED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF FUTURE FOCUS](#)*****

Graduates in the News

Nicole Ezer (winter 2002), a Houston immigration counsel at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, has been selected by the American Immigration Lawyers Association to serve on the national Social Security Administration liaison committee.

Mark Leland (fall 2007) was recently named Chief Financial Officer of the year by Houston Business Journal.

Sara Peterson (spring 2005) has moved to Philadelphia to become the SVP of Marketing and Communications for Main Line Health System.

The John P. McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Science, led by President and CEO **Tadd M. Pullin (spring 2007)** recently received two communications commendations for the Corporate Identity Program from the American Marketing Association and the Public Relations Society of America.

Pauline E. Higgins (spring 2007), Partner & Chief Diversity Officer at Thompson & Knight LLP is chairing Lawyers in Public Schools ("LIPS"). Higgins, as also highlighted as a Diversity Advocate in the 2007 Edition of Multi Cultural Law Magazine and quoted as follows, "Basis respect is at the heart of diversity and inclusion and its joint relevance within the legal profession is evident."

Teach For America is fortunate to have the following grads serving on the Houston Regional Board: **Anne Mendelsohn (winter 2002)**, **Martyn Goossen (fall 2006)**, **Mark Leland (fall 2006)**, **Bonnie New (fall 2005)**; and on the Houston Advisory Board: **Joni Baird (fall 2005)**, **Anne Chao (fall 2006)**, **Frank Michel (fall 2001)**, and **Matt Simmons (CHF Advisory Council)**. **Ann Best (fall 2006)** is the Executive Director and **Albert Myres (winter 2006)** recently served as co-chair for the Annual Benefit Dinner.

Dr. Ayse McCracken (fall 2003) is one of the 2007 Women on the Move (WOM) award winners presented by the Houston Chronicle and Texas Executive Women (TEW).

Laurence (Larry) Payne (fall 2002) received the University of St. Thomas' Vincent J. Guinan, CSB, Alumni of the Year Award for 2007.

Trinidad Mendenhall Sosa (fall 2003) was recently nominated to the Metropolitan Transit Authority's Board of Directors by the Harris County Commissioners Court. Sosa, co-founder of Fiesta Mart, Inc., is president of the Fulton Shopping Center and the founder and chairman of the Trini and O.C. Mendenhall Foundation.

Board Updates

George Martinez and five other Houston leaders have organized Allegiance Bank Texas (in organization), a new Houston commercial bank scheduled to open October 15, 2007 in temporary quarters at 8807 W. Sam Houston Parkway N., Suite 100. Martinez will serve as chief executive officer of the bank.

Fulbright & Jaworski partner Linda Addison is the only Houstonian tapped for the "50 Most Influential Women Lawyers in America" by the National Law Journal. Last year, the journal named her one of only 17 women on its list of "100 Most Influential Lawyers in America."

Genentech, after expiration of the Hart Scott Rodino waiting period, completed the acquisition of Tanox on Aug.2, 2007. Board member and Graduate **Nancy Chang (fall 2001)** is the CEO of Tanox.

Event Calendar

Fall 2007 Business/Civic Leadership Forums:

Session I: September 27th-29th

Session II: November 15th & 16th

Spring 2008 Business/Civic Leadership Forums:

Session I: February 7th-9th

Session II: April 3rd & 4th

Regional Perspectives with Stephen Klineberg

Thursday, November 15, 2007

11:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

Hilton Americas - Houston

1600 Lamar

Houston, TX 77010

Other News

The Center Welcomes New Staff Members

The Center for Houston's Future is pleased to welcome Sandra Wegman, Strategic Planning and Community Outreach Specialist and Deborah January-Bevers, Senior Manager, Policy Planning. These enthusiastic new staff members bring a wealth of talent and experience to the Center for Houston's Future.

Also...

Contact Information

We are currently updating our database and would like to ensure that everyone stays up to date on the many activities and accomplishments of the Center and its supporters. Please send your email address, mailing address, phone numbers, company name, and job title to charvey@centerforhoustonfuture.org. Thank You.

To *unsubscribe*, reply to charvey@centerforhoustonfuture.org with the words "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

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