

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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OUR VISION

Everyone should find great experiences and opportunities in Greater West Houston because it is resilient, well-planned, wellmaintained, and welcoming. We see opportunities to continually improve by ensuring that the public and private sectors work cooperatively on policy and planning.

OUR MISSION

We are industry leaders who collaborate, educate, and advocate to achieve the best quality of life, experience, and opportunity in Greater West Houston by promoting highquality development, sustainable infrastructure, long-term planning, and public policy.

OVER 40 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP IN QUALITY GROWTH

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LETTER FROM OUR OUTGOING CHAIRMAN



It has been a great three years as Chair of the West Houston Association. These years have been an interesting time for development and an even more interesting time across the globe. If John Moody's time as Chair is marked as the time of Hurricane Harvey, my time as Chair is marked as the time of COVID. I can only hope that Marlene does not get to have as much "fun" during her time as Chair.

When I was elected as Chair at the end of 2018, I was humbled, honored, and excited. The West Houston Association has a history

spanning over four decades. It is a well-regarded institution, championing a movement for continued quality growth across the greater West Houston region. We have achieved a tremendous amount over those years, and I wanted to be sure that our tradition of leadership in quality growth continues. My goals coming in were to continue to build from the 2060 Plan, develop new leaders within the organization, and increase the awareness, influence, and impact of WHA.

We made inroads on all of those, despite the challenges of COVID. In 2019 we refined our vision and mission, led Houston Stronger to help secure billions of dollars in funds to help with flood control, championed envision training, supported UH & HCCs efforts in Katy, and influenced METRONext planning. In 2020 we were forced to move most of the work of the association to virtual environments. Collaboration at committee meetings, education at breakfast and lunch forums, and in-person advocacy were moved to Zoom, Teams, and phone calls. Despite these challenges, in 2021 we were able to start returning in person with our new Rising Leaders Top Golf event that was a major success with over 200 attendees! Over the summer more events and meetings returned to an in-person format, culminating in our 2021 Annual Awards Celebration, a revamp of our previous awards and holiday party combined into one bigger and better event. In 2020 and 2021 we focused on improving the Rising Leaders program which now includes a half-dozen targeted learning sessions that focus on important issues and opportunities to educate and engage newer members. We have continued to push forward with goals outlined in our West Houston 2060 Plan and we also had a major legislative win in 2021 with the passage of HB 1410. Over the last three years we have increased public awareness of WHA through enhanced social media engagement and updates to our website. The information from our 2060 Plan has been integrated into the committee pages of the website and we improved online access to WHA resources such as our Development Maps and Economic & Demographic Profiles. This allows the public to be more aware of what we are doing to improve quality of life across the region.

None of this could have been possible without the outstanding support of our members and amazing staff in this unprecedented time. We continue to collaborate, educate, and advocate, making West Houston a better place to live, work, and play for the 2 million plus people in greater West Houston. I have been honored to serve an organization with such amazing members who are dedicated to continuously improving the region and ensuring a high quality of life in West Houston because it is resilient, well-planned, well-maintained, and welcoming.

Thank you for three wonderful years and I look forward to Marlene's leadership as Chair,

Heath Melton

LETTER FROM OUR INCOMING CHAIRMAN



I appreciate the membership's support for me to lead the West Houston Association. I am both honored and humbled to serve as your Chair. Heath Melton did a fantastic job leading West Houston Association during some particularly challenging times. The organization is much stronger due to his leadership. He has left big shoes to fill.

I am very proud of WHA and our membership. Each of us brings our knowledge and talents to improve the West Houston area by encouraging responsible, quality development, and good, sustainable infrastructure for utilities, roads, and parks. When I joined West Houston, education and workforce were not part of our 2050 plan. I was so pleased that our membership

embraced the idea of education and developing the workforce to meet our area's demand for jobs. This is just one example of many where membership comes together and supports the changing needs of West Houston.

2021 was a great year as we were able to return to in-person events, starting with the highly successful Rising Leaders TopGolf Tournament which we will be holding again this May. I am looking forward to members participating in-person at committees and at the board level as I personally love seeing everyone's faces. We ended 2021 with our reformatted awards celebration that provided a fun and elegant experience and served as a reminder that under Heath's leadership and with staff's effort we are financially stable coming out of COVID.

My goals for the next three years focus upon planning for the future. Starting with updates to WHA resources including a 2022 Economic and Demographic Profile that considers the impact of COVID, a 2023 Development Map so that we can see all the recent residential growth across the region, and updates to the 2060 Plan that we aim to release in 2024. While we do that, I seek to ensure that the West Houston Association is on a solid footing for the future by encouraging the participation of our next generation of leaders, including expanding our Rising Leaders program, stimulating increased committee engagement on issues facing the region, and welcoming new board members who are currently rising through the WHA ranks.

The strength of the West Houston Association stems from our members. You care about the future of Greater West Houston. You believe in quality growth, sustainable infrastructure, long-term planning, and evidence-based public policy. Your active engagement with WHA is key to our success. We must continue to collaborate across disciplines to identify opportunities, work together to bring innovative ideas to West Houston, and engage with public and private sector leaders to advance sustainable projects and promote our shared vision for Greater West Houston.

Sincerely,

Madene Haprick

Marlene Gafrick

ISSUES SPOTLIGHT

We work to achieve the best quality of life, experience, and opportunity for the 2 million plus people who live, work, and play across the 1,000 sq miles of the Greater West Houston region. This work is done through our committees who are guided by the goals set out in the West Houston 2060 Plan.

Some of the major movements on those issues in 2021 included:

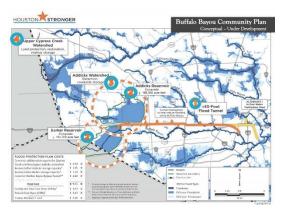


Increased Opportunities for Parks Funding HB 1410 provides increased financing opportunities in a fiscally conservative and pragmatic way by allowing established and financially healthy municipal utility districts to have more flexibility in programming bonds for parks and green spaces. Ultimately, this will mean more open spaces, native habitats, trails, parks, lakes, and other dual use features that both enhance quality of life and improve drainage in West Houston and beyond.

Start in West Houston – Succeed in West Houston

WHA is an active supporter of the development of campuses and educational programing by Houston Community College and the University of Houston in Katy. By bringing together industry and school district representatives with higher education officials, we are working to create a pipeline where students can build career and technical education while in K-12, advance through higher education locally, and get good jobs within the region.





Working Towards Flood Solutions

In partnership with Houston Stronger, WHA has encouraged the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Harris County Flood Control District to continue to investigate the potential for flood control tunnels and is working on increasing funding for flood mitigation and flood-related infrastructure improvements.

2021 FORUMS & EVENTS

A Look Ahead in Precinct 3 with Commissioner Tom Ramsey



On February 11th WHA hosted a virtual discussion with the recently elected Harris County commissioner **Tom Ramsey**. **Paul Lock**, Manager of Local Government Relations for CenterPoint Energy and Vice Chair of the WHA Government Affairs Committee, moderated a discussion focused on Ramsey's priorities for the precinct in the coming year including crime reduction, getting kids back to school, people back to work, and bringing more jobs to the area. Ramsey also expressed a need for more streamlined coordination between cities and the county on infrastructure

projects. When asked how the West Houston Association could support his efforts, Ramsey asked the association to support projects like the I-45 expansion, the dredging of the reservoirs, and "getting Houston and Harris County on the same page" on infrastructure.

Tri-County Economic Development Forum

On March 25th WHA hosted a virtual Economic Development Forum. **Susan Davenport** of Greater Houston Partnership moderated the 90-minute discussion with **Pamela Chan** of the new Harris County Office of Economic Equity and Opportunity, **Jeff Wiley** of the Fort Bend Economic Development



Council, and **Vince Yokom** of the Waller County Economic Development Partnership. Participants weighed in on issues as varied as racial equity, infrastructure, and international trade. Harris County' OEEOs priority is on economic disparity and building equity between and within communities. Fort Bend EDC's focus is on infrastructure, in particular major road projects and concerns about flood insurance. Waller EDP is concentrating on drawing international businesses to the area, while keeping the rural character of the area intact. In closing, Davenport expressed optimism about the future, "We know we've got work to do, but we're looking forward to some great outcomes."



MPC E3 w/Houston Wilderness

On March 30th Houston Wilderness, in partnership with the West Houston Association and the Association of Water Board Directors – Texas, hosted a virtual tour of an amenitized detention pond in Fort Bend MUD 23 and a park-side chat about HB 1410, legislation to increase the 1% recreational facilities limit.

Water Innovation Forum



On May 29th WHA hosted a Water Innovation Forum which took advantage of our virtual format to have speakers from San Marcos, California, and Denmark participate. Moderated by **Todd Burrer**, Inframark's Vice President of Texas MUDs. **Robert Mace**, Executive Director of the

Meadows Center for Water at Texas State University, discussed multiple ways to grow the water supply, from increasing wastewater reuse and rainwater harvesting, to more high-tech solutions like harvesting air conditioning condensate, seawater desalination, and aquifer storage and recovery. **Bjorn Simundson** of Molecule USA in California explained that his team started with the premise of decentralizing water production, thereby removing the need for fragile centralized sources like traditional reservoirs. **Claus Homann**, COO and CSO of Aarhus Water, talked about projects in Denmark designed to reduce water consumption and increase energy efficiency. Denmark has ample groundwater reserves, but the country still believes in stewardship of natural resources and hopes to take the lessons they are learning to localities who need to increase conservation. The panel recognized that the roadblock in water innovation is at the state and federal government, where burdensome planning and permitting regulations tend to snuff out promising ideas.

Rising Leaders Top Golf

On May 27th West Houston Association's Rising Leaders Class 4 hosted a Topgolf Tournament fundraiser. Team tournament champions included Allen Boone Humphries Robinson (1st place), Howard Hughes Corporation (2nd place), and Jones Carter Engineering (3rd place). The Longest Drive winner was Daniel Gutierrez playing on behalf of EHRA Engineering.





Rising Leaders Programming

From April 9th through November 12th we had over a dozen members forming a combined cohort of Rising Leaders Class 5 & Class 6 participate in a series of half-day events where they were introduced to issues in alignment with WHA Committees and the West Houston 2060 Plan. They engaged with a series of experts, industry leaders, and policy makers to improve their understanding of issues facing the greater West Houston region.

Emerging Trends in Transportation



On June 16th WHA hosted a discussion with an array of experts regarding the need to reimagine the future of transportation in a discussion moderated by **Jim Webb**, CEO/President of The Goodman Corp and Chair of the WHA Regional

Mobility Committee. **Kathleen Herbek**, Head of Mobility Engagement, Central/Mountain Region for Ford Motor Company discussed how electric vehicles are finally getting traction with the public. **Emily Leung**, Vice President of Future Mobility and Electrification for BP, recognized that industry still has a way to go in designing larger vehicles suitable for public transportation. For trucking, innovations in battery technology and development of infrastructure is critical to moving forward. **Veronica Davis**, Director of Transportation and Drainage for the City of Houston discussed the city's commitment to transition to electric vehicles as well as the city's work to increase the availability of public charging stations. Davis also highlighted the need for electric bicycles as part of any future mobility conversation. **Lainey Shorp** of Via discussed the role digital technologies can play in improving and streamlining public transportation and getting it ready for the future, while **Dan Mitchell**, Community Engagement Manager for Nuro, discussed the room for growth of autonomous vehicles.

West Houston City Council Forum

On July 22nd WHA brought together Houston City Council members **Amy Peck, Edward Pollard, Tiffany Thomas, David Robinson, Greg Travis,** and **Sallie Alcorn**, for an in-person forum about issues facing the greater West Houston region. Moderated by **Marlene Gafrick**, Director of



Planning for MetroNational and Vice-Chair of WHA's Board of Directors, the council members engaged in a discussion about the budget, crime, and the Livable Places initiative. The panel provided an opportunity for council members to come together and have an open, honest conversation about the challenges that West Houston is facing and how we can come together to achieve our shared vision of a region where everyone has the opportunity for great experiences to live, work, and play. The panelists were optimistic about Houston's future, recognizing that it will take them working together to bring continuous improvement to the region.

Flood Control Forum



On August 12th, WHA brought together leaders from the private and public sectors to discuss flood control challenges facing the region at the federal, state, and local levels. The event was moderated by **Tim Buscha**, President of IDS Engineering and the Chair of WHA's Flood Control and Drainage Committee. **Kathleen Jackson**, from the Texas Water Development Board, noted that 110 projects have been

committed to, totaling \$311,493,625 in state funding dedicated to working on flood related challenges throughout the state with numerous projects happening locally in Harris and Fort Bend counties. **Andrew Weber**, from the US Army Corps of Engineers, updated the audience on the USACE's activities within Addicks and Barker reservoir projects, in particular the Dam Construction Mega Project. **Johnathan St. Romain**, from Harris County Flood Control District, wrapped up the forum discussing multiple projects the HCFCD is working on in the West Houston region.

Public & Elected Officials Forum

On September 9th WHA held our annual Public and Elected Officials Reception. In the words of WHA Board Chair **Heath Melton**, "Thank you so much for joining us as we celebrate the hard work and dedication of the elected and public officials who work with us towards improving Quality of Life across the West Houston region."



State and Local Politics Update w/John Whitmire



On October 14th John Whitmire, Dean of the Texas Senate, was warmly welcomed with a standing ovation in a packed house of the West Houston Association membership and their guests for a State and Local Politics update emceed by Howard Cohen, Chair of the WHA Government Affairs Committee and Partner at Schwartz, Page & Harding. Whitmire spoke about the many changes he has seen during his tenure of almost five decades of public service and in particular, the increase in polarizing rhetoric. He emphasized that a great deal more unites us than divides us when it comes to policy including safe communities, effective

regional mobility, and quality infrastructure leading to flood resiliency.

2021 AWARDS

2021 Awards Celebration

On November 17th WHA held our newly revamped Annual Awards Celebration at the Hyatt Regency West. This year, we welcomed local troubadour Darian Hernandez and his smooth guitar to entertain guests during cocktail hour followed with a spectacular line-up of award recipients and Rising Leaders graduates, culminating in the announcement of the incoming 2022 board.



Compass Awards



Jim Boone, Tricia Brasseaux, & Deborah January-Bevers for their leadership and the combined efforts of their teams' work on HB 1410 which provides increased financing opportunities to MUDs for parks, trails, native habitats, open spaces, and dual-use features that both enhance quality of life and improve drainage.

Lona Shipp and **Noe Escobar** for their leadership of WHA's first Rising Leaders Topgolf tournament. This well received event was a very successful fundraiser for WHA. Credit is owed to the sponsors, and the large number of WHA Rising Leaders from classes 3 & 4 who worked together to coordinate and execute this event.



Star of Excellence



Russ Poppe for his work with the Harris County Flood Control District. Russ spent nearly 15 years working with Harris County Flood Control District. Under his direction, the district carried out its mission to devise countywide flood damage reduction plans, implement those plans, and maintain the infrastructure. In his role, he managed more than \$2.4 billion in district assets and successfully led a \$2.5 billion bond program approved by more than 85% of county voters.

Sustainability Stars



Bridgeland's Parkland Square is located within Parkland Village, a traditional neighborhood development incorporating significant outdoor space for healthier lifestyles. The design allows a mixture of uses, encourages pedestrian mobility and connectivity, and reduces environmental impacts. It features 11 rain gardens, permeable hardscape, sustainable building materials, reclaimed water for

irrigation purposes, low flow drip irrigation, adaptive landscaping, synthetic turf, fruit trees, alley system, dark sky compliant lights and interpretive signage for educating about these features. It was created as regional model for best practices by incorporating sustainable features for low-impact development while maximizing benefits to ecology and residents' well-being.

Website Updates

Over the course of 2021 we improved the user experience with the public in mind. For starters, the menu bar at the top is different. The "About Us" tab now includes our most recent Annual Reports, all of the subpages below the "Resources" tab have been redone to make it easier to find and download current and past Development Maps, Economic & Demographic Profiles, the WHA 2060 Plan, and our Membership Handbook. Each of these pages were streamlined to improve access and make accessing materials more straightforward.

For the public to better understand what we do, the committee pages were reformatted to focus on Issues and Opportunities from the West Houston 2060 Plan. Videos and graphics about the committee or issues have been added to pages where available. To better recognize our award winners, all the pages for individual awards (Compass, Star of Excellence, IMPACT) have been reformatted for a matching appearance.

For the benefit of our members, there is now a complete listing of upcoming events for 2022 (as available) under the "Events & Awards" menu button. Additionally, there is a new "Get Involved" button on the menu that takes people to a summary video of WHA, information about membership, and the ability to sign up for the newsletter. Past and regular visitors to the WHA website should still easily be able to find what they need, and new users will more easily navigate the website.

THE NUMBERS

2021 Financials for the West Houston Association



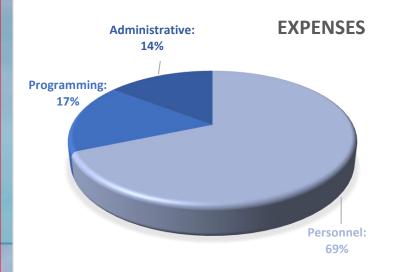
Expenses

Personnel	\$258 <i>,</i> 638
Programming	\$63,664
Administrative	\$54,601
Total	\$376,903

Personnel: Payroll, Taxes, Benefits

Programming: Events, Maps, Reports, Awards

Administrative: Office Space, Equipment, Software, Telecommunications, Insurance, Professional Services



2021 Quality Growth Partners

Thank you to our 2021 Quality Growth Partners. These organizations provided a substantial annual financial investment commitment to support WHA programs. We hope to welcome them back in 2022!







MISCHER

SHAPING COMMUNITIES ENRICHING LIVES





















JONES CARTER

















2021 MEMBERSHIP

WHA partnered with 86 organizations in 2021 to collaborate, educate, and advocate for Quality of Life across the Greater West Houston Region.

5engineering Allen, Boone, Humphries, Robinson, LLP Asian Chamber of Commerce BGE, Inc. Black & Veatch **Caldwell Companies CDS Community Development Strategies CenterPoint Energy City of Waller EDC** Costello, Inc. **DAC Engineering** DEC Corp. Delta Troy Interests, Ltd. DJH Ranching / Harrison Interests **EHRA Engineering Energy Corridor Management District Fulshear-Katy Chamber of Commerce Greater Houston Partnership** Halff Associates **Highland Homes** Hines Houston Community College – Northwest Houston West Chamber of Commerce Howard Hughes Corp - Bridgeland HR Green **IDS Engineering Group** Inframark Johnson Development Corp. Jones | Carter, Inc. Jones Engineering Solutions Katy Area EDC Katy Chamber of Commerce Katy Independent School District Knudson, LP Lake Management Services, LP Land Advisors Organization LJA Engineering Locke Lord LLP

Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc. Maddox Investments Masterson Advisors, LLC **MD** Anderson Cancer Center **Memorial Management District Meritage Homes** META Planning + Design **MetroNational** Midway **Mischer Investments Moody-Rambin Interests Newland Communities NewQuest Properties** Ninyo & Moore Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP Othon, Inc., Consulting Engineers Parkside Capital **Partners in Building Perry Homes** Post Oak Municipal Advisors, LLC Quadvest R.G. Miller Engineers, Inc. Raba Kistner, Inc. Radcliffe, Bobbitt, Adams, Polley, PLLC **Ravenna Homes Richfield Real Estate Corporation Rise Communities RPS** Group Schwartz, Page & Harding, LLP Si Environmental, LLC **STOA Architects** Sueba USA Corporation **Taylor Morrison Texas Children's Hospital** The Goodman Corporation The Muller Law Group, PLLC **TNG Utility Corporation** Twinwood (U.S.), Inc. University of Houston – Katy University of Houston - Victoria Vogler & Spencer Engineering Waller County EDP Westin Homes Winstead, PC WGA **Wolff Companies WSB** Zonda

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

Board Chair



Marlene Gafrick MetroNational

Board Vice Chair



Lee C. Lennard BGE Inc.



Alia Vinson ABHR*



Treasurer

Rainer Ficken Brookfield Properties



Rob Bamford Johnson Development



Mark Kilkenny Twinwood, L.P.



Jim Russ EHRA Engineering



John Moody Parkside Capital

Board Members

Peter Barnhart, Caldwell Companies Todd Burrer, Inframark Howard Cohen, Schwartz Page & Harding* Carolyn Wolff Dorros, Wolff Companies Mark Gehringer, Howard Hughes Corporation* David Hightower, Midway Companies Zach Hodges, Houston Community College Kyle Lippman, NewQuest Properties Heath Melton, Howard Hughes Corporation Jack Miller, RG Miller Engineers Dick Phillips, University of Houston System Matthew Timmons, Texas Children's Hospital

*New member for 2022

Emeritus Directors

Joe B. Allen, Allen, Boone, Humphries, Robinson Jim Boone, Allen, Boone, Humphries, Robinson * Fred Caldwell, Caldwell Companies Bradley Feels, Midway Companies Ned Holmes, Parkway Investments Peter Houghton, Rooted Development Jim Jard, MetroNational Bob Jones, Jones Engineering Solutions Jack Linville, Parkway Investments Walt Mischer, Jr., Mischer Investments Ted Nelson, Newland Communities David Ramsey, NewQuest Properties David Wolff, Wolff Companies

*New member for 2022

2022 COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

Regional Mobility

Chair: Jim Webb, Goodman Corporation *Vice Chair:* William Papadopoulos, Delta Troy Interests

Water Resources

Chair: Jack Miller, R.G. Miller Engineers Vice Chair: Alia Vinson, Allen Boon Humphries Robinson

Flood Control & Drainage

Chair: Tim Buscha, IDS Engineering Group *Vice Chair:* Andy Palermo, EHRA Engineering

Sustainable Infrastructure

Chair: Mark Gehringer, Howard Hughes *Vice Chair:* Natalie Chaney, RPS Group

Education and Workforce

Chair: Zach Hodges, Houston Community College *Vice Chair:* Liz Parent, 5engineering

Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces

Chair: Christina Cole, Schwartz, Page & Harding *Vice Chair:* Tricia Brasseaux, Howard Hughes

Quality Planned Development

Chair: Rob Bamford, Johnson Development Company *Vice Chair:* Brian Gates, Brookfield

Government Affairs

Chair: Howard Cohen, Schwartz, Page & Harding Vice Chair: Paul Lock, CenterPoint

2022 ADVISORY BOARD

Andrea French, Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) Deborah January-Beavers, Houston Wilderness Richard Johnson, Rice University - Sustainability Dietrich von Biedenfeld, University of Houston - Downtown Mary Anne Piacentini, Katy Prairie Conservancy Tim Early, Texas A&M University* *New Member for 2022



Thank You for your service in 2021:

Jim Russ, EHRA Engineering Chair, Sustainable Infrastructure

Jon Polly, Radcliffe Bobbitt Adams Polley Vice Chair, Education and Workforce

Brian Stidham, Hines *Vice Chair*, Quality Planned Development

Membership

Chair: Mark Kilkenny, Twinwood *Vice Chair:* Todd Burrer, Inframark

2022 Upcoming Events

- Feb 11 Sustainable Infrastructure Conference
- March 9 Harris County Update w/David Berry
- April State Update w/TBA
- May 26 2nd Rising Leader Topgolf Tournament
- June 14 Water Infrastructure Forum
- Mid July Regional Mobility Policy Forum
- Aug 11 Flood Control Forum
- Sept 8 Public & Elected Officials Reception
- **Oct 6 West Side City Issues Forum**
- **Dec 1 WHA Awards Celebration**







