

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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### STAFF



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We aim to shape the greater West Houston region into a model of quality living and ongoing advancement - where quality development, sustainable infrastructure, and sound public policy converge seamlessly.

Embracing the principle of 'Leadership in Quality Growth,' we strive to bring new ideas that continuously improve the quality of life. To acheive these goals, we leverage public and private partnerships, educate on best practices in development, identify and facilitate funding for infrastructure needs, engage in thoughtful long-range regional planning, and promote economic development.

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### 2023 QGP's

We'd like to give a special thank you to our Quality Growth Partners for their year-round support!



### LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

### MARLENE GAFRICK

MetroNational



Reflecting on the remarkable achievements of 2023, I am thrilled to share the collective success we've experienced at the West Houston Association in this Annual Report. From sold-out forums to the highly successful Rising Leaders Topgolf tournament, increased reach and engagement through social media, our inaugural half-day Quality Planned Development symposium, to the unveiling of our 2024 Development Map – it has truly been a phenomenal year. As I stand at the helm of my final year as Chair, I am sincerely grateful for the unwavering support that each of you has shown, allowing me to lead this incredible organization. I am deeply grateful for Alan and Ryann's dedication to WHA, as they serve as the cornerstone of our organization. When you see them, thank them for their hard work, ensuring our collaborative endeavors run smoothly.

Our strength at the West Houston Association lies in the dedication of our members. Your steadfast commitment to the advancement of Greater West Houston is truly inspiring. You are the champions of quality growth, advocates for sustainable infrastructure, proponents of prudent long-term planning, and supporters of evidencebased public policy. Your active involvement with WHA is the bedrock of our accomplishments.

To ensure our ongoing success, let us persist in fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration, identifying new opportunities, and uniting to introduce innovative concepts to West Houston. By working hand in hand with leaders from both the public and private sectors, we can advance sustainable projects and realize our collective vision for the Greater West Houston region and beyond.

I am thrilled to welcome five new board members in 2024, including one who was a former WHA Rising Leader participant. The anticipation for the impending 2060 Plan Update is palpable, and I commend the individuals who have already begun envisioning the future of our region. Together, let us continue to build upon the legacy of the West Houston Association, a beacon of leadership in quality growth for over four decades.

Our institution has achieved tremendous milestones, and it is our shared responsibility to ensure that the tradition of leadership in quality growth endures. Let us persist in collaboration across disciplines, identifying and seizing opportunities, and engaging with public and private sector leaders to advance sustainable projects. Your belief in quality growth, sustainable infrastructure, long-term planning, and sound public policy is not only commendable but pivotal to our continued success.

As we navigate the future together, let our shared vision for the Greater West Houston region and beyond be the guiding light that propels us toward even greater heights. Your active engagement with WHA is not just appreciated – it is essential.

With gratitude and enthusiasm,

Mailen Hapick

Marlene Gafrick WHA Board Chair

### 2023 FORUMS & EVENTS



### FEBRUARY

### Success in Business & Development Through Nature Based Infrastructure

Our first forum of 2023 was co-hosted by our Sustainable Infrastructure Committee and our Parks, Recreation, & Open Spaces Committee. Guest speakers included Mary Keilers, Innovation and Research Principle at Clark Condon Associates, Pouyan Layegh, Associate VP for Engineering and Building Systems for MD Anderson Cancer Center, and moderating the discussion was Harry Thompson, Associate with Allen Boone Humphries Robinson, LLP and Vice Chair of our Sustainable Infrastructure Committee.

### MARCH Tri-County Commissioners Forum

On March 23rd, WHA hosted our first Tri-County Commissioners Forum. For many years, WHA has hosted the Tri-County Judges Forum. However, this year we decided to focus our attention on county commissioners because they are often more directly engaged with **infrastructure challenges and the development communities**. The forum featured Fort Bend Co. Commissioner Pct. 1 Vincent Morales Jr., Waller Co. Commissioner Pct. 4 Justin Beckendorff, and Harris Co. Commissioner Pct. 4 Leslie Briones. The discussion was moderated by Executive Committee Member, Alia Vinson (Allen Boone Humphries Robinson, LLP).





### **APRIL** Federal Issues Luncheon with Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher

On April 12th, we held our Federal Issues Luncheon featuring Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher of Texas' 7th Congressional District. Congressional District 7 spans across a large portion of the Greater West Houston region overlapping parts of Harris and Fort Bend Counties. WHA Executive Committee Member, Alia Vinson (Allen Boone Humphries Robinson, LLP) moderated the discussion which centered around the critical issues of **flood resiliency, infrastructure, and the expansive growth** across the greater West Houston region.



2023 Champions - Unitas Construction

### MAY Rising Leaders Topgolf Tournament

May 25th marked WHA's 3rd Annual Rising Leaders Topgolf Tournament. The event soared to new heights with a Top Gun: Maverick theme leaving sponsors and guests with the need for speed! The **tournament was hosted by our Rising Leaders** Class 7 and included approximately 200 guests representing **multiple industries** from across the Greater Houston region. The event began with free play, and networking over drinks and fajitas. After some rules from the Topgolf pros, the tournament began. All teams brought their A-game, showing off their "top gun" skills. Spectators cheered on their favorite "wingmen," creating a sense of camaraderie and unity among participants. In the Signature Room, many golfers and spectators took time to

enter into our raffle drawings for an array of amazing prizes. We are grateful for our incredible sponsors and participants who made the tournament a soaring success!

### **JUNE** Developing Resilient Water Infrastructure

Recognizing the challenges seen in aging water infrastructure across our region, WHA's Water Resources committee identified the opportunity to discuss how we can do things even better moving forward. Our June 29th panel featured Rainer Ficken (Caldwell Companies), Taylor Reed (Vogler & Spencer Engineering), and Jeff Haley (SiEnvironmental). The event was moderated by WHA Water Resources Committee Vice Chair, Melinda Salazar (BGE). Together, they made the case on how planning the right resources upfront can lead to more **sustainable and resilient communities.** 





### **JULY** Collaborating for Quality Growth

On July 28th, WHA hosted a half-day series of panels, each dedicated to the theme of '*Collaborating for Quality Growth*.' The event began with discussing two different quality planned developments in the region and the success they've experienced over the past twenty plus years. Then, the conversation turned to the issue of lot sizes and market demands to reveal exactly what works and what does not. The series ended with a talk about attracting the commercial businesses that developing communities want. The silver thread throughout each of the conversations? **The power of collaboration** in shaping sustainable and prosperous communities for future generations.



### AUGUST — Flood Control Forum

On August 10th, we held our annual Flood Control Forum with panelists Heather Lagrone (Texas General Land Office) and Tina Petersen (Harris County Flood Control District). Tim Buscha (IDS Engineering), Chair of the WHA Flood Control & Drainage Committee served as moderator. In the past, our flood forums have centered around specific flood related projects, but this year shifted our focus to funding. The panel discussed challenges in mitigation efforts and provided critical insights into flood funding. Both panelists emphasized the importance of **working together** to continue improving **flood resiliency** in the region.

### OCTOBER Public Officials & Awards Reception

On October 11th West Houston Association held our annual Public Officials and Awards Reception at the Junior League. The event was moved to a location near I-610, in line with the new <u>2024 WHA Development Map</u> that now extends from 610 to Sealy, Hempstead to Rosenberg. Each year, WHA recognizes the hard work and dedication of the public and elected officials who serve the greater West Houston region, honor WHA members who are making significant contributions to the organization's mission and highlight projects that have **made a positive impact on the quality of life** for those who live here. The event welcomed public and elected officials representing three counties and a half-



dozen municipalities from across the 1,000+ mile greater West Houston region. Additionally, we presented four awards (Pg. 10-11). The development map was on display and in keeping with expanding access and ease-of-use, the map was provided for the first time on WHA branded USB storage drives rather than in print form. The map will also be available for download free of charge from the WHA website and we are working on a GIS based Map App that will be accessible in 2024.



### **NOVEMBER** Texas Legislative Update with Dade Phelan

On November 16th, WHA members and guests gathered for a Legislative Update featuring the 76th Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, Dade Phelan. The event took place in a question-and-answer format moderated by Chair of WHA's Government Affairs Committee, Howard Cohen (Schwartz Page & Harding, LLP). Phelan and Cohen focused on **issues related to quality growth** and discussed some **specific bills passed** during the 88th Texas legislative session. WHA looks forward to continued collaboration with public and elected officials to ensure the region is an increasingly better place to work, live and play.

### 2023 AWARDS

### STAR OF EXCELLENCE

Over a decade ago, Byron Hebert recognized that with continuous population growth, the City of Katy, Texas was soon to outgrow it's reputation as a quaint, suburban town on Houston's west side. He understood the importance of working with land developers and that well managed, highquality development would be beneficial to the city. It's this type of belief that has proven instrumental in paving the way for Katy's emergence as a thriving urban hub, with



continued growth slated for the city and surrounding areas. The City of Katy has reaped the rewards of his forward thinking, and Byron has become an asset and resource to other cities in the region. We are proud to recognize Byron Hebert as our 2023 Star of Excellence honoree.



### COMPASS AWARD

Andrew Lang is an Associate at BGE, Inc. and part of WHA's Rising Leaders Class 7. Upon completing the program, he immediately took the lead on updating the 2024 Development Map. Those who have updated previous maps understand that this is no small feat. Andrew and his team at BGE contributed over 300 volunteer hours to this project over the course of six months. In addition to the technical work of expanding and updating the map,

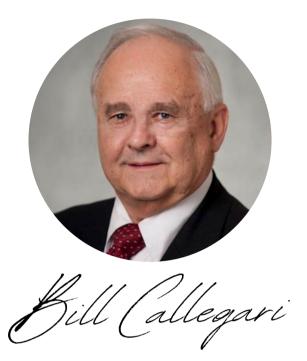
Andrew has had multiple meetings with WHA members to receive their input, expertise, and feedback. In tandem with this update, he is also working with others at BGE to update the Map App component on our website which is expected to finish by early 2024. Congratulations, Andrew!

### QPD AWARD

As the Greater Houston region continues to grow at a steadily rapid pace, it is essential to encourage and recognize developments that adhere to standards which foster community and quality growth. Along the native wetlands of Mustang Bayou in Manvel, you'll find a thriving community designed to elevate life's everyday moments. Pomona by Hillwood Communities, offers the ideal blend of small town charm and big city living. By building upon the culture of the area, connecting with the land, and collaborating with area stakeholders, Pomona is a perfect example of a quality planned development, earning it the mark of a higher standard.



# IMPACT AWARD



William "Bill" Callegari served seven terms in the Texas Legislature representing the Harris County communities of Katy and Cypress. Among his many legislative successes, he authored water resources management legislation, measures to reform the business franchise tax, created the Texas Hurricane Center for Innovative Technology, implemented disaster preparedness requirements for water utilities, protected private property rights by passing the groundbreaking Landowner's Bill of Rights Act and CCN reform. As a two-term Chairman of the affordable housing program, he modernized civil contracting resulting in millions of dollars saved by Texas taxpayers, and amended the Texas Constitution allowing water districts to create parks and recreational facilities.

Callegari graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering from Louisiana State University in 1963 and a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Houston in 1972. In 1974, Callegari founded AM-TEX Corporation, which provided management and privatization services to utility districts and municipalities throughout Texas. As President and CEO, he pioneered AM-TEX's growth as a major force in the state and national water industry. Subsequent to selling AM-TEX, he served as President of several major national and international water companies. Over his career, he was involved in the design, development, and operation of several major residential and commercial projects in the Houston area, including The Woodlands, Kingwood, Copperfield, Fairfield, Cinco Ranch, Atascocita, Clear Lake City and many others. He has participated in engineering and operations for hundreds of utility districts and cities in Texas, Florida, Colorado, and New England. During his professional career Mr. Callegari founded the Texas Association of Water Board Directors and served on several professional committees and boards relating to environmental control, water, and wastewater treatment. He has been a Licensed Professional Engineer for over 40 years and holds "Class A" certifications in water and wastewater management. During his time in office, he was recognized by many as the state's leading water expert in the Texas Legislature, and still serves as an expert on the topic today still serving on the WHA Water Resources Committee and the WHA Education and Workforce Committee.

The Impact Award is WHA's highest honor. Created to honor the exemplary life's work of individuals who set high standards for quality growth and the pace for others to follow, bestowal of the award is designed to be a rare distinction. The West Houston Association is honored to recognize the extraordinary life's work of Mr. Bill Callegari with our 2023 Impact Award.

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### 2023 MEMBERSHIP

5engineering

Black & Veatch

Baxter & Woodman

CenterPoint Energy

**DAC Engineering** 

Delta Troy Interests, Ltd.

EMBER Real Estate & Development

**Gauge Engineering** 

HCC

Hillwood Communities

HR Green

Jacobs Engineering

Katy ISD

Knudson & Associates, LP

Lockwood, Andrews, & Newnam, Inc.

LJA Engineering

McLemore Luong Architects

Memorial Management District

Midway

NewQuest Properties

Partners In Building

Quiddity Engineering

RES

Allen Boone Humphries Robinson, LLP Bold Fox Development Caldwell Companies Cleary Zimmermann David Weekley Homes

DJH Ranching / Harrison Interests

**Energy Corridor District** 

Grundfos

H-E-B

Hines

**IDS Engineering Group** 

Johnson Development Corporation

Kimley-Horn

KW Landscape Architects

Land Advisors

Maddox Investments

MD Anderson Cancer Center

META Planning + Design

Minto Communities

Ninyo & Moore

Perry Homes

Raba Kistner

R.G. Miller Engineers

BGE, Inc. Brookfield Properties CDS Strategies Comcast DEC Engineering EHRA Engineering

Forestar Group

Halff

**Highland Homes** 

Howard Hughes

Inframark

Jones Engineering Solutions

Kirksey Architecture

Lake Management Services, LP

LandSense Advisory

Masterson Advisors, LLC

Millis Development & Construction

MetroNational

Moody Rambin

Parkside Capital

Quadvest

**RBC** Capital Markets

Richfield Real Estate Corporation

### 2023 MEMBERSHIP

**Rooted Development** 

Schwartz Page & Harding, LLP

Spring Branch ISD

SWA

The Goodman Corporation

Twinwood

Vogler & Spencer Engineering

Westchase District

Woolpert

#### RPS

Si Environmental

**STOA Architects** 

**Taylor Morrison** 

**TNG Utility** 

University of Houston

W Land Development

WGA Consulting Engineers

Zonda

Stuart Consulting Group

Signorelli Company

Sueba Consulting, Inc.

Texas Children's Hospital

**TriPointe Homes** 

University of Houston - Victoria

Walter P Moore

Wolff Companies

### COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

Asian Chamber of Commerce

Fulshear-Katy Area Chamber of Commerce

Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce

The Katy Area Chamber

Central Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce

> Greater Houston Partnership

Houston Stronger

Katy Area EDC

Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce

Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce

Houston West Chamber of Commerce

Waller County Economic Development Partnership

### 2024 ISSUES AT A GLANCE



Funding for the Flood Infrastructure Fund & Projects In Our Region



Raising Awareness of Water Supply Challenges & Water Reuse



Exploring Nexus of Increasing Energy Demands, Reliability, & Effects on Development in the Houston Region

Monitoring Impacts Regarding Changes to ETJ, Land Development, & Annexation

West Houston Association's <u>88th Legislative Agenda</u>

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### GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Chair - Howard Cohen, Schwartz, Page & Harding LLP Vice Chair - Paul Locke, CenterPoint Energy

### SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

**Chair** - Natalie Chaney, *RPS Group* **Vice Chair** - Harry Thompson, *Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP* 

#### WATER RESOURCES

Chair - Melinda Salazar, *BGE*, *Inc.* Vice Chair - Taylor Reed, *Vogler පි Spencer Engineering* 

#### EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

Chair - Jay Neal, *University of Houston* Vice Chair - Leslie Cook, *RBC Capital Markets* 

### PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACES

Chair - Christina Cole, Schwartz, Page, & Harding LLP Vice Chair - Tricia Brasseaux, Howard Hughes

#### INCOMNG COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

Alan Black Andy Palermo Jay Neal Leslie Cook Melinda Salazar Noe Escobar Taylor Reed Todd Burrer

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Alia Vinson Chair, Water Resources (2023) *Allen Boone Humphries Robinson, LLP* 

Tim Buscha Chair, Flood Control & Drainage (2018 - 2023) *IDS Engineering* 

Zachary Hodges Chair, Education & Workforce (2020 - 2023) *Houston Community College* 

### QUALITY PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

Chair - Brain Gates, *Hillwood Communities* Vice Chair - Matt Stoops, *LJA Engineering* 

### FLOOD CONTROL & DRAINAGE

**Chair** - Andy Palermo, *EHRA Engineering* **Vice Chair** - Alan Black, *Quiddity Engineering* 

### REGIONAL MOBILITY

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

MEMBERSHIP

**Chair** - Todd Burrer, *Inframark* **Vice Chair** - Noe Escobar, *LJA Engineering* 

# 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**







Vice Chair Midway



**ALIA VINSON** Secretary ABHR, LLP



LEE C. LENNARD Treasurer BGE, Inc.



### ZACH HODGES

Houston Community College



#### MARK KILKENNY

Twinwood

### BOARD

Rob Bamford, Johnson Development Corporation Peter Barnhart, Caldwell Companies Todd Burrer, Inframark Tim Buscha, IDS Engineering Lisa Clark, WLand Development Howard Cohen, Schwartz, Page & Harding, LLP Melanie Folkert, Rooted Development Kyle Lippman, NewQuest Properites Harry Masterson, EMBER Steve Sams, Howard Hughes DeKécha Shepherd, Pape Dawson Engineers Matt Stoops, LJA Engineering Brett Walker, Parkside Capital Jim Webb, The Goodman Corporation



JACK P. MILLER R.G. Miller Engineers | DCCM



**JIM RUSS** 

EHRA Engineering

### **EMERITUS DIRECTORS**

- Joe B. Allen Jim Boone Fred Caldwell **Bradley Freels** Ned Holmes Peter Houghton
- Jim Jard **Bob** Jones Jack Linville Walt Mischer, Jr. David Ramsey David Wolff

### **ADVISORY BOARD**

Andrea French, Scenic Houston Deborah January-Beavers, Houston Wilderness Richard Johnson, Rice University Mary Anne Piacentini, Coastal Prairie Conservancy Dietrich von Biedenfeld, UHD Tim Early, Texas AピM University

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### 2024 EVENTS AT A GLANCE



#### SCAN GR CODE WITH PHONE for upcoming events, new developments from WHA, and more!



