In August of 2018, the 1-year anniversary of Hurricane Harvey, Houston was named the 101st member of 100 Resilient Cities – Pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation.
WHAT IS URBAN RESILIENCE?

Urban Resilience

The capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.
RESILIENCE AS A CORE VALUE

HOUSTON OFFERS OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL. WE CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE, IDEAS, ECONOMY, CULTURE, AND PLACES. WE PROMOTE HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES THROUGH SMART CIVIC INVESTMENTS, DYNAMIC PARTNERSHIPS, EDUCATION, AND INNOVATION. HOUSTON IS THE PLACE WHERE ANYONE CAN PROSPER AND FEEL AT HOME.

ADOPTED BY HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL OCTOBER 2015.
What do you see as Houston’s most important existing efforts to strengthen and build the resilience of the city?
Agenda Setting Workshop
November 8, 2018
Buffalo Bayou Partnership Headquarters
150+ Participants
ACUTE SHOCKS AND CHRONIC STRESSES

What are other shocks and stresses for Houston?

**Top Shocks**
- Rainfall Flooding
- Hurricanes
- Infrastructure Failure
- Hazardous Materials Accidents

**Top Stresses**
- Lack of Affordable Housing
- Poverty / Inequity
- Education Quality & Access
- Urban Sprawl
REGIONAL KEY MESSAGES

• Develop a region-wide “agency checklist” for project coordination.
• Consider positive and negative upstream and down-stream impacts.
• Short-term land management and acquisition can enable better long term development.

BAYOU KEY MESSAGES

• Stronger cross-jurisdiction communication, planning & data collection is needed.
• Multiple factors should guide future investigation (including ongoing coordination, climate projections, project funding and regulatory levers).
• “Space for Bayous” is a theme to explore.

DISTRICT KEY MESSAGES

• New incentives are needed for resilient development.
• “Quick wins” will build trust
• Flood adaptations should not displace residents outside their neighborhoods.
• Water overlaps equity and environmental justice issues.
• Site-specific and distributed solutions are needed.

TYPOLOGIES KEY MESSAGES

• Focus on multiple benefits of all policies and land uses.
• Policy guidance should consider subsurface, ecological, and environmental extremes.
• Typologies bridge all groups and scales.
BUILDING ON EXISTING EFFORTS
RESILIENT HOUSTON STRATEGY PROCESS

Stakeholder Engagement: defining the solutions

1-2 months  4-6 months

Pre-Strategy  Phase 1  Phase 2  Implementation

Agenda Setting Workshop November 2018
Strategy Initiation March/April 2019
Strategy Release Fall 2019
Tangible actions with widespread support drive resources and investment

MORE RESILIENT HOUSTON
FRAMING RESILIENCE AT MULTIPLE SCALES

Individual

Neighborhood

City

Region and beyond

Bayou

RESILIENT HOUSTON
DISCOVERY AREAS FOR PHASE II

- Achieving Equity and Inclusion
- Building Forward
- Improving Health and Safety
- Integrating Housing and Mobility
- Living With and Without Water
IMPLEMENTATION THEMES FOR PHASE II

• Smart Cities/Technology/Data
• Innovative Finance
• Governance/Transparency/Partnerships
• Communications/Engagement
• Evaluation and Metrics
• Legal/Legislative
NEXT STEPS

• Working Group kicking off in May-June
• Second Living With Water Workshop in May
• Collaborate with existing and ongoing efforts
THANK YOU!

Marissa Aho, AICP
Chief Resilience Officer
City of Houston

Marissa.aho@houstontx.gov

Cell: 832-808-2168