



May 20-23, 2015 ★ Houston, Texas

40th Annual Conference on Neighborhood Concerns



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Welcome to Houston



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NUSA Staff

Jeri Pryor - *Administrative Assistant*
Fort Lauderdale, FL

President's Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors for Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA), I thank you for coming to Houston for the 40th Annual NUSA Conference on Neighborhood Concerns.

Our conference is like none other in the entire nation. And, by being here and actively contributing and collaborating with other neighborhood leaders, community organizers, dedicated volunteers and countless others who work every single day to create the change that's needed in neighborhoods all across America, you are truly living up to this year's conference theme by putting your "Passion into Action."

On any given day, you can turn on broadcast or cable news and get discouraged by the events that happen in our local communities, our nation and our world. It's easy to toss your hands up, sigh heavily in disgust, and recess to a state of indifference or helplessness. Far too many people have done just that and unintentionally created what I often refer to as a "back yard" culture – one that insulates them from neighbors and allows a person to become comfortably numb.

However, you have chosen to be different. You have chosen to take a different path - one that promotes more fellowship among neighbors, stronger bonds in our neighborhoods, and a better, safer future for everyone. You have decided to care about your community. You have made the conscious choice to put your "Passion into Action."

That's why this conference is so important. Over these next few days, you will have a plethora of options among our educational workshops to help you strengthen your neighborhood. You will witness how neighbors all across Houston put their "Passion into Action" during Friday's Neighborhood Pride Tours. And, you will see NUSA honor the achievements of dedicated neighborhoods, individual volunteers, communication outlets and programs that have made the most impact during its annual awards ceremonies. But, most importantly, you will reunite with old friends and make new connections with people who care about their fellow neighbors.

In closing, I want to thank everyone who has donated their time, talent and energy into putting the 2015 NUSA conference together (and I encourage you to do the same). And, I want to thank you for what you do back home. Whether you realize it or not, your efforts are changing your neighborhoods for the better because you put your "Passion into Action" every single day. I remain...

Yours in partnership,



Tige Watts
President, Neighborhoods, USA
Columbia, South Carolina

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tige Watts".

Greetings,

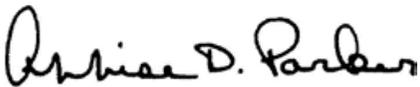
As Mayor of the City of Houston and past *Neighbor of the Year* recipient, I welcome all attending the Neighborhoods, USA Conference. I am honored that our city has been chosen to host this resourceful event and am excited to see community volunteers, leaders and organizations coming together to improve their cities.

The conference invites a national audience of community volunteers and professional planners to share experiences, participate in innovative workshop sessions and take tours into various neighborhoods. I commend Neighborhoods, USA for promoting the importance of building stronger communities through partnerships among neighborhood organizations, government and the private sector.

Houston has so much to offer, including our world class restaurants, appealing museums and thrilling sports arenas. I hope you will share in the experience, taking with you lasting impressions of the spirit, vitality and tradition that characterize our city.

Best wishes for a rewarding conference.

Sincerely,



Annise D. Parker
Mayor, City of Houston

The People Who Made this Happen

NUSA 2015 Houston Planning Committee

City of Houston Staff

Planning & Development Department

Margaret Wallace Brown, Conference Coordinator
Tonya Sawyer
Lynn Henson
Nathan Kraus
Chris Andrews
Suzy Hartgrove
Will Schoggins

Mayor's Office of Special Events

Department of Neighborhoods

Landon Taylor
Carl Davis
Mark Cueva
Nelson Espitia
Katherine Price
Tashara Callaway

Council Member Larry Green, District K

Donald Perkins

Community Partners

American Planning Association, Texas Chapter
Kelly K. Porter

Downtown Management District

Angie Bertinot

Legacy Community Health

Russell Etherton

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

Amanda Timm
VanNhi Nguyen

Neighborhood Centers Inc.

Graciana Garces

NUSA 2015 Exhibitors

Union Pacific Railroad
CITGO
City of Memphis, Housing & Community Development
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas
AARP
Houston City Tours
Metro
Neighborhood Centers Inc. (NCI)
City of Little Rock
Texas Chapter, American Planning Association
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
City of Omaha
Omaha Convention & Visitors Bureau
City of Houston Planning & Development Department
City of Houston Department of Neighborhood
Houston Public Library
Community Association Institute (CAI)

McKenna Contracting
Mutual of Omaha Bank, Community Association
Banking
Houston Parks and Recreation Department & Houston
Parks Board Inc.
Neighborhoods USA (NUSA)
Houston Police Department
City of Houston Department of Public Works &
Engineering
Loving Houston
City of Houston Mayor's Office of Sustainability

Universities and Agencies

Texas Southern University
Houston Community College System
San Jacinto College District
Workforce Solutions - Astrodome

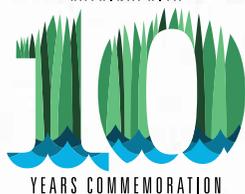
*Thank You to our Awesome
Volunteers*

Ten years ago we were united by tragedy.
Today, we are united by hope
and the promise of a better future.



In 2005, the Gulf Coast was united by tragedy when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck. From the beginning, CITGO was there helping the community rebuild. This past summer, we launched Caring for Our Coast, a yearlong campaign dedicated to environmental conservation and restoration of the Gulf Coast, culminating with a 10-year commemoration of the hurricanes' impact on the area. Work is underway with marine education projects and wetlands cleanups, including events that have already taken place in New Orleans and Holly Beach, Louisiana, and Corpus Christi and High Island, Texas. To learn more about our Caring for Our Coast initiatives and join us in any of the upcoming volunteer events, please visit www.CITGOcaringforourcoast.com.

2005 - 2015
KATRINA/RITA



CARING
for our
COAST



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NEIGHBORLY

Keynote Speaker: Thursday, 9:15 am



Angela Blanchard
President & CEO, Neighborhood Centers Inc.

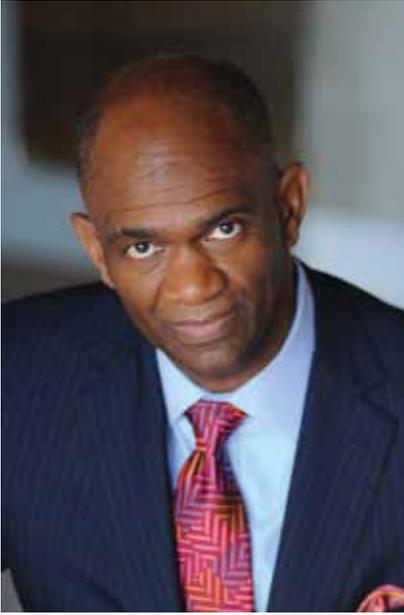


Through her more than 25 years of experience, Angela Blanchard has reached an epiphany: A community should be defined by its strengths, resources, achievements and hopes – not its degree of “brokenness.” As President and CEO of Neighborhood Centers Inc., Blanchard guides the agency’s work throughout the Houston region to impact more than 525,000 people a year. Under Angela’s leadership, Neighborhood Centers remains the largest non-profit in Texas, ranks in the top 1% of charitable groups in the nation, and has an operating budget of more than \$260 million.

Blanchard has participated in The White House Social Enterprise and Opportunity Series, The Brookings Institution Metropolitan Leadership Council, and the Clinton Global Initiative. She has spoken at a number of high-profile events, including the Business Innovation Factory (BIF) summit, TEDxHouston, the Federal Reserve Bank’s forum on “Investing in What Works for America’s Communities”, Rockefeller Foundation Roundtable, Executive Leadership Academy of Australia, and Alliance for Children and Families national conference. Blanchard is currently a Board Member at the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP), and on the National Community Advisory Board for JPMorgan Chase.

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center honored Blanchard with its “Everyday Freedom Hero Award” for her advocacy on behalf of the nation’s working immigrants. She is an ARAMARK Building Community National Innovation Award Leadership Honoree, and was named one of Houston’s 50 Most Influential Women by Houston Women Magazine. In 2013, Fast Company Magazine named her a Generation Flux Leader for adapting and leading during troubled and disruptive times, as well as one of the year’s Most Creative People in the nation.

Keynote Speaker: Friday, 12:30 pm



Kirbyjon H. Caldwell
*Senior Pastor, Windsor Village United
Methodist Church*



Kirbyjon H. Caldwell is Senior Pastor of Windsor Village United Methodist Church. Under the leadership of Caldwell since 1982, Windsor Village Church membership has increased from 25

members to more than 16,000, making it one of the largest Protestant churches in the country. As a result of his effective social entrepreneurship, both Caldwell and the Windsor Village Church Family have been featured extensively in national and international print and broadcast media, including *U.S. News & World Report*, the *British Broadcasting Corporation*, *The Wall Street Journal* and the *CBS Evening News*. Caldwell was included in Newsweek's "Century Club", the publication's list of 100 people to watch as America moved into the 21st century.

In partnership with the Windsor Village Church Family, Caldwell has spearheaded several independently operated nonprofits and community development projects that have impacted the social and economic landscape of central Southwest Houston. Collectively, the nonprofit projects have produced 700 permanent jobs and make a \$65.5 million cash flow impact on the community annually.

Caldwell currently serves on several corporate and nonprofit boards, including NRG Energy where he serves as Chair of the Governance Nominating Committee, Inc., Bridgeway Capital Management, The Greater Houston Partnership Executive Committee, Southern Methodist University and M.D. Anderson-The University Cancer Foundation. He is also a limited partner with the Houston Texans NFL franchise.

A native Houstonian, Caldwell was educated in the Houston public schools; received a B.A. Degree in Economics from Carleton College; an M.B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Business; a Master's Degree in Theology from Southern Methodist University-Perkins School of Theology; and two honorary Doctor of Law degrees, one from Huston-Tillotson College and another from Carleton College.

Caldwell is a husband, father and author of the best seller *The Gospel of Good Success* and co-author of *Entrepreneurial Faith*.

Conference at a Glance

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

	Time
NUSA Board Meeting	9:00 am-5:00 pm
Pre-Conference Tours/Workshops/Events	1:00 pm-8:00 pm
Registration	4:00 pm-9:00 pm
Exhibit Booth/Setup	12:00 pm-5:00 pm
Mix & Mingle at the Hyatt LobbiBar	6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Morning Fitness Activity	7:00 am-8:00 am
Networking Breakfast/Pin Exchange	8:30 am-9:15 am
Registration	8:00 am-5:00 pm
Exhibits	8:00 am-5:00 pm
Keynote: Angela Blanchard *	9:15 am-10:00 am
Workshop Session 1	10:15 am-11:45 am
Neighborhood of the Year Judging	10:15 am-11:45 am
Lunch on your own	12:00 am-1:30 pm
Workshop Session 2	1:45 pm-3:15 pm
Neighborhood of the Year Judging	1:45 pm-5:00 pm
Workshop Session 3	3:30 pm-5:00 pm
Mayor's Reception	5:30 pm-8:00 pm

Friday, May 22, 2015

Morning Fitness Activity	7:00 am-8:00 am
Breakfast on Your Own	8:00 am-9:00 am
Registration	8:00 am-9:00 pm
Exhibits	8:00 am-5:00 pm
NUSA Board Election	8:00 am-12:00 pm
Workshop Session 4	9:00 am-10:30 am
Best Neighborhood Program Award Judging	9:00 am-12:15 pm
Workshop Session 5	10:45 am-12:15 pm
<i>Neighborhood of the Year Awards Luncheon with Keynote: The Reverend Kirbyjon Caldwell *</i>	12:30 pm-2:30 pm
NUSA Board Elections	2:30 pm-4:30 pm
Special Session: Engaging Youth and Adults as One	2:45 pm-3:45 pm
Best Neighborhood Program Award Judging	2:45 pm-5:00 pm
Neighborhood Pride Tours	4:00 pm-8:00 pm

Saturday, May 23, 2015

Morning Fitness Activity	7:00 am-8:00 am
Continental Breakfast	7:00 am-8:45 am
Exhibit Booth / Breakdown	8:00 am-12:00 pm
NUSA General Membership Meeting	9:00 am-10:30 am
<i>NUSA Best Neighborhood Program Awards Luncheon</i>	11:30 am-1:30 pm
NUSA Board Meeting (Post Conference)	2:00 pm-5:00 pm

NUSA Celebrates 40!

Be a Part of the Celebration!

For 39 years, NUSA's annual conferences have helped educate neighborhood leaders on ways they can turn their passion into action. Now, we gather together in Houston for NUSA's 40th Annual Conference on Neighborhood Concerns. More than just a victory lap, this year's conference promises to be the most informative and exciting ever.



We've Come a Long Way, Baby!

From our very first conference in Kansas City, attended by 70 people, the cornerstone of each conference has been to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our members.

In Houston, we honor Howard Hallman and Judy LaFoon, organizers of our first conference. We have also planned a special presentation celebrating all of you who have made NUSA into America's foremost advocacy group for neighborhoods.

And, we'll pay it forward

Everyone that attends a NUSA conference leaves with more than just memories. You will take with you a renewed desire for improving your neighborhood and a sense of community with others from around the country that shares their passion.

And after gaining so much, it seems only right that we leave something behind. That's our goal.

We're hoping that you brought the books we asked you to bring. Take them to the donation table in the exhibition hall and put them in the stacks. Don't forget to sign the commemorative book plate. You can dedicate your contribution to your neighborhood, a special child or even yourself.

Neighborhood Centers Inc. will loan these books out to under-served children at locations though out the city. For years to come, children all over Houston will read these books, see your dedication and know that you cared. Now, that's passion into action NUSA style.



This Book is Donated to
Neighborhood Centers Inc.
in Honor of
**Neighborhoods, USA
40th Anniversary
National Conference.**

May 23, 2015

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Pre-conference Events: Wednesday, May 20

Bikes and Bayous*

4:00-6:30 pm

Houston is often referred to as the Bayou City because of the multitude of bayous throughout our city. Once thought of primarily as a means of moving rainwater out of Houston – the quicker the better – they are now considered green ribbons that contribute so much more to Houston's quality of life. Cycling advocacy group BikeHouston's staff and volunteers will lead you on a tour of Houston's amazing bayou and trail system on bikes provided by Houston's bike share program, B Cycle. You will experience our renown bayou path system as you traverse Buffalo and White Oak Bayous and the neighborhoods they connect. Experience how our trails act not only as a beautiful recreational amenity but also as a true multi-modal transportation system.

Michael Payne, Executive Director, BikeHouston, Houston, TX

Michael Skelly, Board of Directors, Houston Parks Board and Houston Bike Share, Houston, TX

This event is full to capacity. Check your schedule to see if you are registered for it and where you meet the leaders.



The Astros at Minute Maid Park

1:10 pm-til the last out

It's a battle in the American League, West Division when the Oakland Athletics come to Houston to play our hometown Astros. Beautiful Minute Maid Park is conveniently located close to the Hyatt Regency and the Astros have saved some seats for us. Best of all, it's \$1 hotdog day! To purchase tickets, go to www.astros.com/NUSA. Use the discount code: NUSA.

Transportation on your own.

Purchase tickets on your own. Unlimited seating. Tickets: \$12.00



Houston City Bus Tour

4:30-6:30 pm

Board a double-decker bus and learn first-hand about one of the most spectacular cities in America. Be delighted by sights of the colorful Main Street Market Square Historic District, the Theater District, the Museum District, vibrant Midtown and more!

This event is full to capacity. Check your schedule to see if you are registered for it and where you meet the leaders.



Passionate about Green - Buildings, Composting, Recycling and More*

3:00-5:00 pm

Tour Houston's Green Building Resource Center that offers economical Green solutions for the community. Housed in the state-of-the-art LEED Certified Gold protected landmark Houston Permitting Center, the Resource Center features a showroom and a classroom with samples of recycled and refurbished materials. Explore interactive displays, a library of information that provides strategies for Going Green, and see our huge array of solar panels and our demonstration vegetated roof. The tour also includes a presentation on the benefits of composting and a how-to demonstration. Led by our home grown experts, this tour will make you green with envy.

Steve Stelzer, AIA, LEED, AP, Program Director, City of Houston Building Code Enforcement Green Building Resource Center, Houston, TX

Lynn Henson, Master Composter, Administration Manager, City of Houston Planning & Development Dept., Mayor's Go Healthy Houston Task Force Member, Houston, TX

This event is full to capacity. Check your schedule to see if you are registered for it and where you meet the leaders.

Mix and Mingle

6:00 pm-whenever

Kick off the conference, with a casual dutch-treat mixer in the Hyatt Regency LobiBar. Enjoy a relaxing time catching up with old acquaintances and get charged up for the week ahead.

Party atmosphere provided by NUSA.

Food and beverages are available at your cost.



 Like us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/NeighborhoodsUSA>

 Follow us on Twitter
@NUSAconference
visit <https://twitter.com/nusaconference>

Mayor's Welcome Party! - Thursday, 5:30-8:00 pm



Mayor's Welcome Party! Reception at City Hall

5:30 pm-8:00 pm

Howdy y'all!

Join Mayor Annise Parker at Houston's City Hall for a big Houston-sized welcome. Enjoy an evening of fun, great food, and superb entertainment on the grounds of one of Houston's most iconic National Register Landmark. City Hall is just a few short blocks away from the Hyatt Regency.

Mariachi Music

The mariachi band is from The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA).

The mission of the HSPVA Music Department is to provide students highly specialized and rigorous musical training, fostering an appreciation for the arts, guiding them on their journey towards graduation and post-graduation studies as future performers and arts advocates. Music Department Philosophy: The HSPVA Music Department's primary aim is to promote to a maximum degree the musical intelligence and potential of each student. They develop this potential through active participation in large and small ensembles, group and individual technical instruction, and interaction with performing artists. In addition to the development of musical skills, students learn positive, professional work ethics, becoming responsible citizens.



Passionate about Architecture? Downtown Houston has the best!

From Victorian to Post-Modern, downtown has block after block of award-winning buildings designed by internationally recognized architects. Just be sure to look both ways before crossing the street.



Houstonians are passionate about our neighborhoods!

From stately Courtland Place to colorful Montrose, Houstonians are passionate about their neighborhoods. With over 81 designated Super Neighborhoods and more than 900 civic clubs, citizens and civic leaders are working together to protect and preserve the unique character they add to our city.



Houston's passion for good food results in great restaurants!

During breaks from all this great content we hope you'll get out and try some of Houston's most delicious culinary offerings. With 10,000 restaurants representing cuisine from more than 70 countries and American regions, Houston's restaurant scene is as ethnically diverse as its more than 4-million residents. With so many options, it's not surprising that visitors leave the city with plenty of good things to say about dining in Houston. Find lots of suggestions here!

<http://www.visithoustontexas.com/restaurants/>



Workshop Program Tracks



Grants & Government Programs Applying for grants and understanding government regulations can be a daunting challenge. These workshops will provide help, tips, and even some tricks, from experienced professionals. You can also hear how other communities have used grants and government programs to achieve targeted goals.



Health & Safety Gone are the days when all it took to have a safe community was local cops on the beat. Now, neighborhoods must deal with everything from unsafe buildings to unhealthy restaurant food. Each neighborhood has its own challenges, but these workshops will provide some great solutions that just might work for you.



Natural Environment & Resources Today, more Americans than ever are living in dense urban areas. As we urbanize, we realized that our natural areas and environment face considerable challenges. Learn how communities are using innovative programs to build stronger and more sustainable neighborhoods.



Neighborhood Initiatives Defined by the spaces, places and the people who call them home, neighborhoods are the backbone of every city. Learn about the initiatives that have been undertaken by other communities to combat neighborhood challenges, build upon existing strengths and improve the reality of all the people who define the places we call home.



Senior Boom America is entering a time of profound and permanent change in it's demographic makeup. By 2030 the U.S. will have twice as many seniors as we have today. The lifestyle choices and critical needs of this senior population will have a great impact on our neighborhoods and service providers. Learn how we can change perception and public policy to better accommodate the needs of the seniors.



Social & Civic Engagement An engaged citizenry is one of the most valuable neighborhood assets. Turning a neighborhood of nonparticipants into an engaged group of neighbors can be challenging. Learn how to bring together neighbors of diverse perspectives, how to establish a collective vision and how to be heard by the people that have the power to shape our neighborhoods.



Technology Information is power. Learn how your community can harness the power of social media and new technology to effectively communicate information, network and stay connected. Increase the impact of your neighborhood organization by using social media and new technology to connect, organize and fundraise.



Youth It is important that youth are provided the tools necessary to become actively involved in the neighborhood issues that affect them. Learn how to develop youth workshops that will encourage and guide the young on how to become active in their neighborhoods and how to effectively create change. The finale will include an interactive workshop with the entire conference attendance.



Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) Get information about the NUSA organization, attend workshops on running for the NUSA board of directors, connecting via social media, or becoming an affiliate member. Also, watch the presentations for the Neighborhood of the Year and Best Neighborhood Program Award Judging.

Getting Around Downtown and Beyond

Greenlink



Free, brightly colored Greenlink buses circulate through downtown Monday through Friday, 6:30 am to 6:30 pm, approximately 7-10 minutes apart. The route stops in front of the Hyatt and includes other stops such as the George R. Brown Convention Center, Market Street Square, Discovery Green, GreenStreet shopping and entertainment center, Phoenicia Specialty Foods, City Hall and the Central Library. The buses run on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), making them a cleaner transportation alternative. Greenlink is operated by METRO through an interlocal agreement with the Downtown District. The Downtown map included in your bag will show you the stops for the Greenlink.

METRO Bus and Rail



Heading out of downtown? Give the car a break and let the city's 13-mile METRORail handle all of the legwork. The 7.5-mile Main Street Line, also called the Red Line, offers convenient and fast service between Downtown, Midtown, Museum District, Texas Medical Center and NRG Stadium and Center. The 5.3-mile North Line extends the existing Red Line northward

starting at the University of Houston-Downtown campus, along North Main to Boundary where it crosses over to Fulton and continues northward to the Northline Transit Center and Northline Commons Mall. One-way tickets cost \$1.25 and can be purchased using cash or credit at all rail stops. Travel time from end to end is one hour. Discounted fares are available to students, seniors, Medicare cardholders, the disabled and jurors.

Houston B-Cycle



Houston B-cycle is a "bike sharing" program that can take you along the bayou, into the Museum District, up to Market Square or into Montrose. Membership is available by day or week and can be purchased on line or at any station. Once you're a member, grab a bike at any B-station and return it to any other B-station within 60 minutes at no cost. After that, it's just \$2 for each additional half hour with a maximum charge of \$55 a full day. There is no limit to the number of bikes you can ride.

One Day Membership \$5
Weekly Memberships \$15
Annual Memberships \$65
www.houston.bcycle.com

Underground – Houston's Tunnel System

Downtown's pedestrian tunnel system is more than 6 miles long, having started out years ago as a tunnel between two downtown movie theaters. Today it includes restaurants and service retail between connecting buildings. Ask the hotel concierge how to access the tunnel system.

Workshops at a Glance

Workshop Session 1: Thursday, 10:15-11:45 am

Session	Workshop Title	Location
1-A	* Fair Housing and Equal Employment Opportunity Rules	Arboretum II
1-B	Summer F.U.N - Memphis' Summer Food Service Program	Pecan
1-C	* Orange County, Florida's Safe Neighborhoods Program	Mesquite
1-D	Introduction to Railroad and Rail Safety	Arboretum I
1-E	* Hope Farms™: Urban Farming in Houston's Food Deserts	Arboretum III
1-F	* Congo Street Initiative	Redbud
1-G	* Creating Community Engagement with Non-Cash Resources	Window Box
1-H	Teen Police Service (TAPS) Academy	Raintree
1-K	Building a Dementia Capable Community	Arboretum IV
1-M	* Rapid Needs Assessments and Community Planning	Dogwood
1-N	Enhancing Engagement Through Technology	Cottonwood

Workshop Session 2: Thursday, 1:45-3:15 pm

2-A	* Building a Community Grant Program	Window Box
2-B	* From Homeless to Housed	Arboretum V
2-D	Healthy Homes +Healthy Families = Healthy Neighborhoods	Dogwood
2-E	* People, Planet, Prosperity	Arboretum IV
2-F	* Engaging Families Through the Arts!	Redbud
2-G	* Appreciative Inquiry	Cottonwood
2-H	Tool Lending Center	Arboretum II
2-K	* Seniors: Ready, Set, Survive!	Mesquite
2-L	A New Uncharted Process	Ebony
2-M	* Regional Exchange for Neighborhood Enhancement and Well-Being - RENEW	Arboretum III
2-N	* GIS in City Support and Planning	Arboretum I
2-P	Running for the NUSA Board of Directors	Raintree

Workshop Session 3: Thursday, 3:30-5:00 pm

3-A	Permission GRANTED	Arboretum II
3-B	* Finding Space for the Previously Incarcerated	Mesquite
3-C	* Cities of Service	Ebony
3-D	* Drought is an Opportunity	Pecan
3-E	* Business Assistance for Neighborhood Corridors	Redbud
3-F	Nonprofits: Leaders in Civic Engagement	Dogwood
3-G	Disaster Preparedness at the Neighborhood Level	Raintree
3-H	A New Story about Seniors	Arboretum IV
3-K	* From Apathy to Action: Love Where You Live	Arboretum V
3-L	* How to Organize in Disconnected Communities	Cottonwood
3-M	Social Media 2.0 for Neighborhood	Arboretum III
3-N	Corporations Make Great Neighbors	Arboretum I

* AICP Certification Maintenance credits approved

Workshops at a Glance

Workshop Session 4: Friday, 9:00-10:30 am

Session	Workshop Title	Location
4-A	* Increasing Participation in the Block Grant Process	Mesquite
4-B	* Blessings & Curses – Managing a Multimillion-Dollar Disaster Recovery Program	Ebony
4-C	Creating Healthy Eating Habits in Low Income Areas	Arboretum II
4-D	Engage with Community Leaders & Law Enforcement	Cottonwood
4-E	* Art, Culture, & Creative Placemaking in Southeast Houston	Redbud
4-F	* Transportation Changes in Third Ward Houston	Pecan
4-G	Maximizing Opportunities for Partnership Building	Dogwood
4-H	* It Takes a Village: Helping Seniors Age in Place	Arboretum I
4-K	* Holding Back New Development in Houston's Near Northside	Arboretum III
4-L	Strangers into Neighbors: Engaging the Masses for the Long Haul	Window Box
4-M	Putting the Neighbor Back in the Hood	Arboretum V
4-N	Facebook, Funds & Friends	Arboretum IV
4-P	Partnering for Integrated Services: CONNECT@6800 Bellaire - A Purpose Built Community	Raintree

Workshop Session 5: Friday, 10:45 am-12:15 pm

5-A	* Grant & Proposal Writing Made Simple	Window Box
5-B	Change Your Perception: Stop the Crime, Join the Line	Redbud
5-C	Using City Resources to Combat Neighborhood Nuisances	Cottonwood
5-D	Be Wildlife Friendly with the National Wildlife Federation	Arboretum II
5-E	* Redefining Affordable Housing	Arboretum V
5-F	* DIY Garland: A New Framework	Arboretum III
5-G	Mentoring Emerging Neighborhood Leaders	Dogwood
5-H	* Age Friendly Communities	Arboretum I
5-L	* Creating a Mediation Program in Your Community	Arboretum IV
5-M	Finding the Silver (Sky)Lining in Neighborhoods - Youth Facilitated	Pecan
5-N	How Story Telling Can Unite a Community	Mesquite
5-P	Running for the NUSA Board of Directors	Raintree

Youth Workshops: Friday (Youth Only, Please)

6-A	8:45 - 9:45 am	Building Stronger Communities	Regency Ballroom
6-B	10:00 - 11:00 am	Get Down with Go Youth Northside	Regency Ballroom
6-C	11:15 am - 12:15 pm	Fostering Leaders in Neighborhoods	Regency Ballroom

Special Workshops

7-A	Thursday, May 21, 10:15 - 11:45 am	Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) Judging	Conference Room 1
7-A	Thursday, May 21, 1:45 - 5:00 pm	Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) Judging	Conference Room 1
7-B	Friday, May 22, 9:00 am - 12:15 pm	Best Neighborhood Program Award Judging	Conference Room 1
7-B	Friday, May 22, 2:45 - 5:00 pm	Best Neighborhood Program Award Judging	Conference Room 1
7-C	Friday, May 22, 2:45 - 3:45 pm	Engaging Youth and Adults as One	Imperial Ballroom

Workshop Session 1: Thursday, 10:15-11:45 am



1-A Fair Housing and Equal Employment Opportunity Rules*

The country's giant oil and gas boom has had some profound consequences: wonderful job opportunities and crippling housing shortages. As a result, it's imperative that community stakeholders understand the rights and responsibilities under the laws of Fair Housing and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO). This workshop will provide you with information on how to properly address issues related to fair housing and equal employment opportunity. Topics covered include: protective classes, discriminatory housing and employment practices, filing complaints, and other related matters.

Vickie Covington, *Housing Investigations Manager, Texas Workforce Commission-Civil Right Division, Austin, TX*

Gilda Bettis, *Fair Housing Outreach Coordinator, Texas Workforce Commission-Civil Right Division, Austin, TX*

Ellena Rodriguez, *Training and Outreach Coordinator, Texas Workforce Commission-Civil Right Division, Austin, TX*



1-B Summer F.U.N. – Memphis' Summer Food Service Program

Working with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other partners, The City of Memphis Summer Food Service Program provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to help children in low-income areas get the nutrition they need during the summer months when school is not in session. You will gain knowledge on a program that has a direct and meaningful impact toward improving the health of local children.

Toni M. Hayes, *Community Resource Coordinator, City of Memphis Office of Community Affairs, Memphis, TN*



1-C Orange County, Florida's Safe Neighborhoods Program*

The Safe Neighborhoods Program is a tool used by Orange County, Florida to stabilize eight transitioning communities that have started to show signs of decline. The program provides access to funds for neighborhood improvement projects, gives a voice to the community, connects citizens to information and resources, and lays out a plan to implement projects and activities. This workshop will offer lessons on

how to form beneficial partnerships, improve safety and reduce crime through neighborhood projects.

Jason Reynolds, *Principal Planner, Orange County Government, Neighborhood Preservation & Revitalization Division, Orlando, FL*



1-D Introduction to Railroad and Rail Safety

Thousands of communities trace their origins to settlements founded along railroads more than a century ago. Those railroads remain a critical component of the nation's transportation infrastructure. Union Pacific Railroad operates in 7,300 communities in the western half of the United States and is committed to keeping neighborhoods and communities safe. This session will provide an inside look at Union Pacific and the programs it offers to support public safety.

Public Affairs Department, *Union Pacific Railroad*



1-E Hope Farms™: Urban Farming in Houston's Food Deserts*

Childhood obesity is a growing concern nationwide. In cities such as Houston, overindulgence can become the norm. The need for greater awareness and appreciation about the consumption of food is critical to combating childhood obesity. This workshop will provide you with information about initiatives that address food access and affordability in Houston, promote a passion for farming as a means of incubating solutions for food deserts, and about how effective collaborations can foster sustainable food systems.

Gracie Cavnar, *Founder/CEO/President, Recipe for Success Foundation, Houston, TX*



Workshop Session 1: Thursday, 10:15-11:45 am



1-F Congo Street Initiative*

The Congo Street Initiative panel will discuss the impacts of resident-led neighborhood revitalization efforts through the lens of the designer/resident relationship. The discussion will include how that partnership has influenced the lives and professional careers of both. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn from the successes, challenges, and failures of a grassroots architecture and planning effort.

Elizabeth Jones, *Impact Analyst, buildingcommunity-WORKSHOP [bc], Dallas, TX*

Brent Brown, *Founding Director/President, buildingcommunityWORKSHOP [bc], Dallas, TX*

Benje Feehan, *Associate Director, buildingcommunity-WORKSHOP [bc], Dallas, TX*

Frankie Boulden, *Congo Street Resident, Dallas, TX*



1-G Creating Community Engagement with Non-Cash Resources*

Independence Heights was Texas' first African American incorporated municipality. Since its founding in 1908, it has undergone dramatic changes. Led by the Independence Heights Redevelopment Council, this community has an impressive track record of neighborhood revitalization in a historically African American neighborhood that is becoming increasingly diverse. Join Tanya Debose, Executive Director of the Independence Heights Redevelopment Council, as she shares lessons learned from eight years of building a strong network of community partners focused on stabilizing and improving this very proud community.

Tanya Debose, *Executive Director, Independence Heights Redevelopment Council, Houston, TX*



1-H Teen & Police Service (TAPS) Academy

The Teen and Police Service (TAPS) Academy is a U.S. Department of Justice program founded by the Houston Police Department and the University of Houston-Clear Lake. The goal of the program is to help reduce the tension, hostility, and misunderstanding between law enforcement and at-risk youth. TAPS Academy has proven to be a helpful tool that gives youth a voice as they learn skills and interact with law enforcement. By attending this session, you will learn the critical steps of creating an academy in

your community.

Everette B. Penn, Ph.D., *Director of the Teen and Police Service (TAPS) Academy, TAPS Academy, Houston, TX*



1-K Building a Dementia Capable Community

As our population grows, so does the number of our neighbors who face life-changing dementia. This workshop covers the impact of dementia and methods to create a dementia capable and supportive community. Workshop participants will learn to spot the signs and symptoms of dementia and develop a plan to address dementia-related issues that affect their community.

Katie Scott, *Director of Adult Day Center Services, Neighborhood Centers Inc., Houston, TX*



1-M Rapid Needs Assessments and Community Planning*

This workshop will teach you how to effectively get community input for rapid needs assessments. A case study from Houston's Northside Early Childhood Coalition will demonstrate the overall process of how to both increase civic engagement and gain community input. This workshop will help you better understand the role of community engagement as part of a needs assessment, and give you an understanding of the methodology that will allow you to begin to utilize Participatory Learning in Action.

Ellen Schwaller, *MUEP, Assistant Director, Center for Social Measurement and Evaluation, Houston, TX*



1-N Enhancing Engagement through Technology

Technology and social media are powerful tools for neighborhood organizers and volunteers. Discover how to effectively use simple technology to enhance current outreach strategies. Learn about the City of Orlando's iLead program, an online leadership training tool designed to help neighborhood organizations build membership, recruit leadership and increase the impact of their organization.

Michele Brennan, *Director, City of Orlando Office of Communications & Neighborhood Relations, Orlando, FL*

Cindy Light, *Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, City of Orlando Office of Communications & Neighborhood Relations, Orlando, FL*

Workshop Session 2: Thursday, 1:45-3:15 pm



2-A Building a Community Grant Program*

Seattle's uniqueness and quality of life is tied to strong neighborhoods and active residents. These came about as a result of the city's Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) program. Established in 1988, the program provides neighborhood groups with city resources for community-driven projects that enhance and strengthen individual neighborhoods. In this interactive workshop, you will gain insight on how political and community forces led to the formation of the NMF program and discover practical tips for developing a similar program of community grants in your city.

Ed Pottharst, *Neighborhood Matching Fund Project Manager, City of Seattle, Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle, WA*

Karen Selander, *Neighborhood Matching Fund Project Manager, City of Seattle, Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle, WA*



2-B From Homeless to Housed*

With a 37% decrease in homelessness from 2011 to 2014, Houston is leading the nation in addressing this critical issue. This workshop gives real life, real time examples and strategies for building programs that get our most vulnerable populations off the streets and into permanent homes. You will see how a strategic shift from providing shelters to building permanent supportive housing can dramatically decrease the public cost of homelessness and change your community's conversation from serving the homeless to actually ending homelessness.

Tory Gunsolley, *President & CEO, Houston Housing Authority, Houston, TX*

Jocklynn Keville, *Public Information Officer, City of Houston Housing and Community Development Department, Houston, TX*

Tom McCasland, *CEO, Harris County Housing Authority, Houston TX 77054*

Neal Rackleff, *Director, City of Houston Housing and Community Development Department, Houston, TX*

Mandy Chapman Semple, *Special Assistant to the Mayor for Homeless Initiatives, City of Houston, Houston, TX*

Mark Thiele, *Vice President, HCVP, Houston Housing Authority, Houston, TX*



2-D Healthy Homes + Healthy Families = Healthy Neighborhoods

Poor housing conditions can adversely affect public health. Childhood lead poisoning, respiratory illnesses such as asthma, rodent bites and falls can be linked to substandard housing. Recognizing that code violations are a public health issue, Marion County Public Health Department, Department of Housing and Neighborhood Health has developed a comprehensive approach to resolving code violations. This session will explain the importance of Code Enforcement, housing conditions and the effects on public health.

Pamela Parker, Debra Carroll, Deveree Webster
Department of Housing and Neighborhood Health, Marion County Public Health Department, Indianapolis, Indiana

Around Houston

Our Theater District turns Passion into Great Performances!

The Theater District is an impressive cultural and entertainment center. The district features nine renowned performing arts organizations, and many smaller ones, in four venues – Jones Hall, Wortham Theater Center, Alley Theatre and Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. You'll also find Sundance Cinema, the Bayou Music Center and Landry's Downtown Aquarium here.



Workshop Session 2: Thursday, 1:45-3:15 pm



2-E People, Planet, & Prosperity*

“Sustainability” is often considered solely a “green” term that includes the activities we undertake to protect the planet. However, sustainability can be seen as a three-part effort that considers the impacts of our activities on people, local prosperity and the planet. This workshop will provide you with information and fun ideas that you can readily apply to make your neighborhood and community more sustainable.

Rene Kane, *City of Eugene, Office of Human Rights and Neighborhood Involvement, Eugene, OR*



2-F Engaging Families through the Arts!*

Collaboration between a park, school, neighborhood organization and businesses can effectively engage the whole family. The Windom Community Council demonstrates through creative event planning and shared engagement the specific ways to make this work in your community. You will be challenged to combine two successful events into one that focuses on family fun. Each participant will have the opportunity to create a collaborative art piece and photo booth keepsake.

Amanda Vallone, *Windom Community Council Coordinator, Windom Community Council, Minneapolis, MN*



2-G Building on Strengths*

You cannot build on broken. Nor can you transform a community by focusing on problems. Instead, focus your energy and work on the possibilities inherent in your community. Appreciative Inquiry uncovers the assets and strengths of communities. It is not about fixing what’s wrong; it’s about finding what works. Learn how Neighborhood Centers strength based approach is transforming communities.

Bolivar Fraga, *Community Engagement Developer, Neighborhood Centers Inc., Houston, TX*



2-H Tool Lending Center

The City of Round Rock, Texas recently debuted its newest resource, the Tool Lending Center (TLC). The TLC provides tools for residents to borrow to maintain their property during a neighborhood cleanup. The TLC is also a resource for neighborhood and church volunteers to work on homes that have a genuine need for help. With tools and volunteers, this new program is removing obstacles and assisting residents with creating beautiful neighborhoods and schools.

Joseph Brehm, *Neighborhood Services Coordinator, City of Round Rock, Round Rock, TX*

Around Houston

Buffalo Bayou Park turns your passion for running and riding the trails into easy action!

Houston’s bayous run through our city like beautiful ribbons of green. The grand-daddy of them all, Buffalo Bayou, is just steps from your hotel. Take a walk or rent a B-cycle to explore the nearly complete \$5k8 million dollar park project. Find out all sorts of information that will enhance your visit here <http://buffalobayou.org/visit/>.



Workshop Session 2: Thursday, 1:45-3:15 pm



2-K Seniors: Ready, Set, Survive!*

This workshop will explore the Ready Shelby program and its 2013 outreach strategy to train seniors in emergency preparedness. The Resident Association Network within the Memphis Housing Authority (MHA), in conjunction with the Memphis Office of Emergency Management – CERT, will demonstrate the best methods to inform and prepare seniors and other vulnerable populations for an emergency or disaster.

Ian L Randolph, *Planning Committee Member, Ready Shelby, Memphis, TN*

Gregory McNeal, *Resident, Memphis Housing Authority, Memphis, TN*



2-L A New Uncharted Process

Historically, Spokane allocated Community Development Block Grant funds through neighborhood steering committees. These committee boundaries were established using decennial census data. All of that changed in 2014 and funds are now allocated citywide. Learn how Spokane worked with neighborhood organizations and city staff to develop an equitable distribution of the funds resulting in shovel-ready projects. Pitfalls and successes of this new uncharted process will also be discussed.

Rod Minarik, *Community Programs Coordinator, City of Spokane Neighborhood Services, Spokane, WA*



2-M Regional Exchange for the Neighborhood Engagement and Well-Being (RENEW)*

In 2013, representatives from several cities in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex began meeting to form a multi-city networking group for neighborhood and community development professionals. This session will focus on how communities can utilize a regional exchange to share training, best practices and community outreach activities to revitalize and engage neighborhoods. Founding members of Neighborhood Engagement & Revitalization Association (NERA) will present methods for developing regional exchanges for neighborhood empowerment and enrichment using techniques learned through their information exchange.

Felisa Conner, *Environmental Waste Services, City of Garland, Garland TX*



2-N GIS in City Support and Planning*

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) has become a prolific tool that aids in the analysis of complex spatial problems. This workshop will explore how GIS can help residents and government officials study and develop strategies to address various neighborhood issues. The first item discussed will be utilizing GIS for identifying locations of high-flood risk. The second item discussed will be using GIS to track historical properties to aid in historic preservation. The last item discussed will be utilizing GIS to test for potential ordinance violations and ordinance compliance. This workshop will illustrate the use of GIS from the perspective of supporting the City of Houston's Planning Department project goals.

Larry Nierth, *GISP, City of Houston Planning and Development Department, Houston, TX*



2-P All About NUSA: Running for the NUSA Board of Directors

Ever wonder how the spirit and magic of Neighborhoods, USA stays alive? This workshop will present an overview of the NUSA organization and what is involved in joining the volunteer Board of Directors. If you ever thought of being involved in the neighborhood movement on a national level, this is your invitation. This workshop is a prerequisite to running for the NUSA Board.

Beryl McCadden-Pritko, *NUSA Board Member, Gardena, CA*



Workshop Session 3: Thursday, 3:30-5:00 pm



3-A Permission GRANTED

Grant programs are designed to strengthen neighborhood associations and the communities they serve. This workshop will discuss the importance of community groups, public and other organizations working together to improve neighborhoods and preserve the quality of life, in addition to providing an overview of grant funded programs and the process for securing them.

Wanda L. Sloan, *Neighborhood Liaison, Hillsborough County, Neighborhood Relations, Tampa, FL*
Avelino Vide, *Avid Property Management, Tampa, FL*



3-B Finding Space for the Previously Incarcerated*

Many cities must find the balance between effectively supporting the population returning to our communities from jail and prison while continuing to keep our communities safe. This workshop by Compassion In Action, Inc. and the Pasadena/Altadena Reintegration Council explores how communities can improve public safety and build community at the same time. Participants will be given practical steps for implementing progressive measures that support formerly incarcerated persons as they return to the community.

Brian Biery, *Director of Community Organizing, Flintridge Center, Pasadena, CA*
Teela A. Mickles, *Founder/CEO, Compassion In Action Inc., Omaha, NE*
Darryl Qualls, *Deputy Chief of Police, Pasadena Police Department, Pasadena, CA*



3-C Cities of Service*

Cities of Service is a national model of mayor-led impact volunteering. This workshop will explore how mayors can engage citizen volunteers to address pressing local challenges and how local nonprofits can play an important partnership role. Houston's successful Volunteer CPR program will be one case study to see the concept in action, in addition to examples of other initiatives that have taken place.

Katy Price, *Chief Service Officer, City of Houston, Houston, Texas*
Representative, *American Heart Association, Houston, Texas*
Rachael Greenburg, *Program Manager, Cities of Service, New York, NY*



3-D Drought is an Opportunity*

Water use has become a national issue as various areas in the country are experiencing drought conditions. Often the solutions to mitigate water shortages are viewed negatively, while in practice they may help. To make lasting changes about water use, there must be a change in attitude and perception. This workshop will compare various regulatory measures to reduce water use, illustrate how public spaces can serve as an example of efficient and beautiful landscaping and learn about programs that can change perceptions of what a beautiful garden is.

Lisa Middleton, *City of Palm Springs Planning Commission, Palm Springs, CA*
Michele Mician, *Manager, Office of Sustainability, City of Palm Springs, Palm Springs, CA*
Paul Ortega, *Co-Founder and President Emeritus, Desert Horticulture Society of the Coachella Valley, Palm Springs, CA*



3-E Business Assistance for Neighborhood Corridors*

Pine Hills Road is one of Orange County's older neighborhood corridors. This workshop will look at the Business Assistance for Neighborhood Corridors (BANC) program that provides resources for small businesses on Pine Hills Road. The resources and assistance provided allow the businesses to reinvest in their properties and incrementally redevelop the Pine Hills Road corridor. Learn how the BANC is making a difference in this primarily African-American community and how it might help transform a corridor in your city.

Jason Reynolds, *Principal Planner, Orange County Neighborhood Preservation & Revitalization Division, Orlando, FL*



Workshop Session 3: Thursday, 3:30-5:00 pm



3-F Nonprofits: Leaders in Civic Engagement

Join Neighborhood Centers, Inc. and Nonprofit Vote for a discussion on how nonprofit organizations can build a culture of civic engagement within the communities they serve. Nonprofit organizations are well positioned to reach and engage low-propensity voters who are often missed by political campaigns and other outreach initiatives. In 2014, these two organizations; led a robust voter engagement program aimed at strengthening our democracy by engaging vulnerable yet vibrant communities. Learn best practices from two well-respected organizations, one a leader in community engagement and the other a national leader in nonprofit voting work.

Graciana Garces, *Asst. Director of Community Engagement, Neighborhood Centers Inc., Houston, TX*
Lindsey Hodel, *National Field Director, Nonprofit Vote, Houston, TX*



3-G Holding Back New Development in Houston's Near Northside

New construction and development is booming in Houston. The Near Northside community, located close to downtown Houston has a unique history and culture to protect. Due to recent interest from developers, preserving this community's culture and history may be at risk. Learn how these neighbors are fighting back to preserve their community's heritage.

DeAngela Hayes, *Community Coordinator, Avenue CDC, Houston, TX*



3-H A New Story about Seniors

As demographic trends unfold, people over the age of 65 will soon represent nearly one-quarter of the nation's population. This workshop will help participants discover how to use strength-based and high-engagement approaches to create programmatic change and generate support for improvement in senior services. Learn how to take advantage of the talent around us as the population ages.

Jane Bavineau, *Vice President, Sheltering Arms Senior Services, Neighborhood Centers Inc., Houston, TX*



3-K From Apathy to Action: Love Where You Live*

Maturing cities face several challenges, especially in residential neighborhoods where city funds are not typically spent. This session describes the success of Plano's, Love Where You Live program. This program uses the power of volunteerism to create change in neighborhoods, restoring community pride. Learn how the program uses the Neighborhood Enhancement Tool to assess and analyze neighborhood indicators to determine program area needs as well as to measure the program's success.

Kala Krishnan, *Senior Neighborhood Planner, City of Plano, Plano Texas*

Around Houston

Passionate about music? You've come to the right place.

Downtown is ground zero. Within walking distance of your hotel there are great opportunities to listen to wonderful music. Whether its the House of Blues, Pete's Dueling Piano Bar, the Bayou City Music Center or any of downtown's small, live performance bars, you're sure to find your groove.



Workshop Session 3: Thursday, 3:30-5:00 pm



3-L How to Organize in Disconnected Communities*

How does a small non-profit thrive for 30 years doing community and neighborhood organizing in a region that is primarily unaccustomed to solving local issues? This workshop will demonstrate how adopting inclusionary practices, and simply 'talking it out' can organize and empower the least likely of communities.

Annie Rodgers, *Coordinator, Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, North Adams, MA*

Amber Besaw, *MS, Family Place Coordinator, Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, North Adams, MA*

Jessica Sweeney, *Program Associate for UNITY and Northern Berkshire Neighbors, Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, North Adams, MA*



3-M Social Media 2.0 for Neighborhoods

The Cities of Fort Lauderdale and Memphis have created robust communication toolboxes that afford their neighbors the opportunity to communicate with one another and their city. This workshop will provide information on how to ensure the digital-divide is forged; and, showcase new communication tools being explored to look for innovative ways to build community.

Ryan Henderson, *Senior Management Fellow, City of Fort Lauderdale, Fort Lauderdale, FL*

Toni M. Hayes, *Community Resource Coordinator, City of Memphis, Office of Community Affairs, Memphis, TN*



3-N Corporations Make Great Neighbors

Come hear how NUSA 2015 sponsors support all types of neighborhood initiatives. Whether it's underwriting this conference or a local clean-up, these great companies are doing good in neighborhoods across the nation. Ask how they can do good in your neighborhood. Speakers include, representatives from Union Pacific, CITGO, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas and AARP.

Around Houston

We're passionate about space. After all, "Houston" was the first word heard from the Moon!

A quick day trip to the Clear Lake area will put you in the middle of the space race. Relive the exciting years when America's space exploration was front and center in our country's conscienceness. **Space Center Houston** will put you right back in that time and will teach you about America's future in space. Where do you think we'll go next?



Like us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/NeighborhoodsUSA>



Follow us on Twitter
@NUSAconference or
visit <https://twitter.com/nusaconference>

Workshop Session 4: Friday, 9:00-10:30 am



4-A Increasing Participation in the Block Grant Process*

Many cities receive Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) but only a few understand best practices used to for securing funds and prioritizing community driven projects. In this session, you will review proposals awarded CDBG funds; learn how to form an advisory component through incorporation and marketing; conduct demographic and sociological studies of your neighborhood; and, how to develop proposals to receive CDBG funding for your city.

Matthew C. Stelly, *Founding Director, Triple One Neighborhood Association and Parents' Union, Omaha, NE*

Reverend Robert L. Gould, *EKG Enterprises, Omaha, NE*

Cheryl Williams, *North Omaha Development Advisory Board, Omaha, NE*



4-B Blessings & Curses – Managing a Multimillion-Dollar Disaster Recovery Program*

When disaster strikes, rarely do communities have the right resources and partners to quickly and fully recover. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, Houston received two infusions of CDBG Disaster Recovery funds totaling \$265 million. This workshop will provide tips for managing day -to-day operations of disaster recovery programs; increase community engagement; building a partnership with Fair Housing advocates and other agencies to design effective and efficient home rebuilding programs; and, how to leverage disaster funds to spur private investment and stimulate community revitalization.

Neal Rackleff, *Director, City of Houston Housing and Community Development Department, Houston, TX*

Joel North, *Deputy Director, City of Houston Housing and Community Development Department, Houston, TX*

Stedman Grigsby, *Division Manager, Disaster Recovery Round 2, City of Houston Housing and Community Development Department, Houston, TX*



4-C Creating Healthy Eating Habits in Low-Income Areas

This workshop will highlight two Houston programs that promote healthy eating and active living to reduce childhood obesity. The first, CAN DO Houston, engages and empowers the low-income communities that are the most at risk for poor health. This program has led to sustainable, community-driven changes that can serve as a best practice model for other communities. In another effort, the East Aldine Management District has teamed with the county health department to create a healthy restaurant program that promotes nutritious eating.

Niobli Armah IV, *Director of Health Programs, NAACP, Washington, DC*

Dr. Beverly J. Gor, *Research Associate, CAN DO Houston, Houston, Texas 77025*

Natali LaCasa, *Director of Services, East Aldine Management District, Houston, TX*

Dr. Jasmine J. Opusunju, *DrPH, MSEd, CHES, Executive Director, CAN DO Houston, Houston, TX*

Jenny Varghese, *Health Education Program Specialist, Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services, Houston, TX*



4-D Engage with your Community Leaders and Law Enforcement Partners

Community Policing has been taught and practiced by law enforcement agencies for the past 20 years as a method for creating safer communities. To be successful, it requires a true partnership. It requires that both law enforcement and civilians work together to ensure a better quality of life in their neighborhood. This workshop will show you how to take the first steps in developing a partnership with your local law enforcement providers to make Community Policing a success in your neighborhood.

Larry V. McGhee, *M.S., Idaho State Police, Retired, Boise, ID*

Workshop Session 4: Friday, 9:00-10:30 am



4-E Art, Culture, & Creative Placemaking in Southeast Houston*

This workshop will teach you about an arts-based community development plan that helped transform a Houston area long plagued with few jobs and high crime. You will gain insight on how identifying local art and culture in this historically African American urban area provided a creative placemaking framework that continues to improve this community's future. In addition, you will learn how to apply it to your community.

Carroll Parrott Blue, *Director, Southeast Houston Arts Initiative, Houston, TX*

Keiji Asakura, *Founder and Principal Designer, Asakura Robinson Company LLC, Houston, TX*

Patrick Peters, *Professor, University of Houston's Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture, Houston, TX*

Roland Cotton, *Community Volunteer, Houston, Texas*

Terry Garner, *City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services, Houston, TX*

Breanna Cotton, *Old Spanish Trail/South Union SuperNeighborhood, Houston, TX*

Chris Bilton, *Executive Director, Greater Southwest Management District, Houston, TX*



4-F Transportation Changes in Third Ward Houston*

Since the beginning of time, transportation has been at the center of development. It started with cities emanating adjacent waterways, then the great railroad expansions, to various roadways, to bus systems, and a variety of smart highway systems. But the question is: have transportation and its varied modalities developed and changed in an equitable fashion? This moderated session/panel will look at modalities past, present and future of transportation in the Third Ward and analyze whether this question can be answered.

Anthony Rodriguez, *PhD, Visiting Professor, Texas Southern University, Mickey Leland Center for Environment Justice & Sustainability, Houston, TX*

Gwen Goodwin, *PhD, Research Assistant Professor, Texas Southern University, Mickey Leland Center for Environment Justice & Sustainability, Houston, TX*

Walter Council, *PhD, Student Urban Planning & Environmental Policy, Texas Southern University, Mickey Leland Center for Environment Justice & Sustainability, Houston, TX*

Raiven Williams, *Senior MIS Student, Texas Southern University, Mickey Leland Center for Environment Justice & Sustainability, Houston, TX*



4-G Maximizing Opportunities for Partnership Building

Shaping the future takes foresight, stamina, knowing when to seize the moment and finding support. This session is about Spring Lake Neighborhood Association's experience of learning how, when, and to whom you need to say, "Hey, we could do this together!" Seizing the opportunities to form positive partnerships can change the shape of things to come.

Janet Bonet, *Spring Lake Neighborhood Association, Omaha, NE*



4-H It Takes a Village: Helping Seniors Age in Place*

Attend this workshop to learn about neighborhood membership-based organizing to support seniors aging in place through a "pay it forward" system of volunteering to support senior living needs. Village models will be presented to showcase groups currently in early stages of organizing.

Madeleine Appel, *Founders Committee, Neighbors 4 Neighbors Network, Jewish Family Service, Houston, TX*

Linda Lait Burger, *Organization Chair, Jewish Family Service, CEO, Houston, TX*

Lorna Grenadier, *Organization Chair, Foggy Bottom West End Village, Washington, DC*



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Workshop Session 4: Friday, 9:00-10:30 am



4-K Disaster Preparedness at the Neighborhood Level*

In a disaster the first people you turn to for help are your neighbors. Building good relationships with your neighbors is the best way to extend your personal safety net. The purpose of this workshop is to provide a step-by-step guide to communities to help facilitate a neighborhood disaster preparedness plan. This program will provide the tools necessary to create a blueprint for improving community safety.

Wanda L. Sloan, *Neighborhood Liaison, Hillsborough County, Neighborhood Relations, Tampa, FL*
Eugene Henry, *AICP, CFM, Manager Hazardous Mitigation Program, Hillsborough County, Public Works Department, Tampa, FL*



4-L Strangers into Neighbors: Engaging the Masses for the Long Haul

How do you break people out of routines and spark a neighborhood association? How do you sustain that energy over time? How do you assure a productive organization? The answers to these three questions led Palm Springs, California to establish its Office of Neighborhood Involvement in 2005. Today, there are 35 certified neighborhood organizations with more forming every year! This workshop will discuss strategies that helped Palm Springs achieve and maintain their success. You must attend to learn how to replicate it in your city.

Eric Chiel, *Founder and Chair, Twin Palms Neighborhood Organization, Palm Springs Neighborhood Involvement Committee (PSNIC), Palm Springs, CA*
Lee Bonno, *Director of Neighborhood and Community Relations, City of Palm Springs, Palm Springs, CA*
Greg Gilman, *Tahquitz River Estates Neighborhood Organization (TRENO), Co-Chair, PSNIC Communications Committee, Palm Springs, CA*



4-M Putting the Neighbor Back in the Hood

Abide Omaha is transforming its inner city, one neighborhood at a time by creating Lighthouses, safe homes where residents work with one another to build strong neighborhoods. Lighthouse families become neighborhood advocates by coordinating positive community

building activities. This workshop will show you how the Lighthouse program operates and how to find partners to fund one in your community.

Rich Plagman, *Project Coordinator, Abide, Omaha, NE*



4-N Facebook, Funds & Friends

Facebook sweepstakes are becoming more and more popular, but do people actually ever win? Yes! They do. See how this small town in Southwest Arkansas used Facebook and other forms of social media to win \$100,000 to build a dog park for their city. And the winnings didn't stop there...

DeAnna O'Malley, *Community Educator, Texarkana, AR*



4-P Partnering for Integrated Services: CONNECT@6800 Bellaire, a Purpose Built Community

The Houston neighborhood surrounding 6800 Bellaire Boulevard is the most diverse and densely populated in Texas. Sharpstown/Gulfton is home to first generation immigrant and refugee families, many of whom lack access to resources and local support systems. A Purpose Built Community is built on five parts: a tightly defined geographic area, mixed income housing, cradle to college education pipeline, community wellness programs and a strong independent organization dubbed the "community quarterback" who serves as a single point of accountability and ensures that programs are coordinated, integrated and measured. Connect@6800 Bellaire uses the power of healthy partnerships - KIPP, Legacy Community Health Services, St. Luke's/Gethsemane United Methodist Church and the YMCA of Greater Houston - to create a dynamic place of hope and health that improves the lives of residents by empowering them with knowledge, training and support.

Anne Whitlock, *CONNECT@6800 Bellaire A Purpose Built Community, Houston, Texas*
Kathleen Brownlee, *VP, Purpose Built Communities, Atlanta, GA*



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Workshop Session 5: Friday, 10:45 am-12:15 pm



5-A Grant & Proposal Writing Made Simple*

This workshop will provide an interactive, participatory, and hands-on approach to grant and proposal writing. If you are interested in learning simple and easy steps in preparing good proposals then this workshop is for you. Participants will have an opportunity to engage in a hands-on exercise in grant writing.

Elton Gatewood, Ph.D., Public Administration, Municipal Government & Int'l Consulting, Tacoma, WA



5-B Change Your Perception: Stop the Crime, Join the Line

What does it take to counteract youth exposure to gangs and violence in low-income neighborhoods? This exploratory workshop will highlight a program at Cullen Middle School in Houston that is making a difference. The workshop will feature a facilitator and panel of youth, grades 6-8, from Cullen Middle School, showing ways to engage and encourage youth to consider appropriate alternatives to gangs and violence.

Cullen Middle School Students, Houston, TX
Wythel Rogers, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, Houston, TX



5-C Using City Resources to Combat Neighborhood Nuisances

The City of Peoria, Illinois has combined the use of police, code enforcement, fire investigators, zoning inspectors and building inspectors to address nuisance properties that cause community blight. This team approach coordinates criminal, city code and fire situations at a given property at the same time, saving time and resources for the City. You will be given information on the tools used to investigate and combat nuisance properties and an outline of the steps so you can develop your own action plan for dealing with nuisance properties in your city.

Officer Anthony Allen, Nuisance Abatement Officer, Peoria, IL
Officer Ryan Winkle, Resident Police Officer, Peoria, IL
Officer Sherry Carter-Allen, Code Enforcement Inspector, Peoria Police Department, Peoria, IL



5-D Be Wildlife Friendly with the National Wildlife Federation

Wildlife conservation is a growing concern in neighborhoods, towns, cities and counties across the country. Restoring habitat for wildlife helps to create healthier, happier communities—places called NWF Community Wildlife Habitats. Learn how to join the program and partner with NWF to certify your community. In this workshop, participants will learn how wildlife conservation affects communities, gain understanding on how the NWF can support your community and turn your passion for your neighborhood and for wildlife into action through the NWF Community Wildlife Habitat program.

Patrick Fitzgerald, Senior Director of Community Wildlife, National Wildlife Federation, Reston, VA

Around Houston

Passionate about outdoor spaces? Discovery Green is downtown's gem!

Discovery Green is a beautiful, vibrant 12-acre park in the heart of downtown Houston that opened to the public in April 2008. With playgrounds, shuffle board, bocce ball and a full assortment of activities – even kayaking on the Kinder Lake – Discovery Green is a Must See while you're here.



Workshop Session 5: Friday, 10:45 am-12:15 pm



5-E Redefining Affordable Housing*

Culturally driven place-making is the new paradigm for affordable housing in America today. Houston architects, professors, and advocates will discuss the design work of local architecture students, who's partnered with neighborhood residents to redefine healthy housing and advocacy through resilient design methods.

April Ward, Board Member, Living Paradigm CDC and Independence Heights CAC, Houston, TX

Shelly Pottorf, AIA, NCARB, CPHC, LEED AP BD+C, Regenerative Practitioner, Adjunct Professor, Prairie View A&M University and Independence Heights Collaborative Action Coalition, Richmond, TX

Jasmine J. Opusunju, DrPH, MSED, CHES, Executive Director, CAN DO Houston / Independence Heights Collaborative Action Coalition, Houston, TX

T. Leon Preston, II, Senior Pastor, Yale Street Baptist Church and Independence Heights Collaborative Action Coalition, Houston, TX



5-F D.I.Y. Garland: A New Framework for Engagement*

Traditional community engagement often promotes communication, participation, and input into city-led initiatives. Do It Yourself (D.I.Y.) Garland expands engagement to build the capacity of residents and stakeholders to contribute significantly to neighborhood vitality and growth. Learn how residents are encouraged to take more initiative to address home improvement, connect with neighbors, and engage the right partners.

Laura Castillo, Neighborhood Vitality Specialist, City of Garland, Garland, TX

Angela Calvin Self, Planning Administrator, Planning & Community Development, City of Garland, Garland, TX



5-G Mentoring Emerging Neighborhood Leaders

The Emerging Neighborhood Leaders Program seeks to create a leadership community that connects new and existing neighborhood associations with established community/neighborhood leaders, to identify solutions to problems communities face every day. This approach is easily transferrable to your community and this workshop will show you how.

Toni M. Hayes, Community Resource Coordinator, City of Memphis, Memphis, TN



5-H Age Friendly Communities*

As our senior boom population increases, our homes and neighborhoods need to be prepared and ready for this transition. An age-friendly city encourages active aging by optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security, to enhance quality of life. This workshop will explain the importance and benefits of an age-friendly community and provide tools, small and large, to improve communities.

Meggin Eleanor Lorino, Director, Senior Activity & Education Services, Neighborhood Centers Inc., Houston, TX

Joshua Reynolds, Director, Care for Elders, United Way of Greater Houston, Houston, TX

Marisol Rodriguez, Associate State Director of Outreach and Advocacy, AARP Texas, Houston, TX

Workshop Session 5: Friday, 10:45 am-12:15 pm



5-L Creating a Mediation Program in Your Community*

Are disputes within your neighborhood wasting valuable time and money? Learn how the City of Henderson, Nevada, created an innovative community mediation program to address this challenge. In this workshop, you will learn what mediation is and how the Henderson Mediation Program is helping residents find creative, synergistic solutions to neighborhood disputes.

Emily Lewis, *Senior Neighborhood Programs Specialist, City of Henderson Neighborhood Services, Henderson, NV*



5-M Finding the Silver (Sky) Lining in Neighborhoods – Youth Facilitated

The Neighborhood Center Inc. (NCI) Community Engagement team uses the Jr. Community Engineers program to provide leadership training to individuals from 14-18 years of age. The curriculum includes teaching them to access and use appropriate resources and developing their public speaking skills in order to advocate for positive transformations in their communities. The NCI Jr. Community Engineers will discuss the benefits of implementing youth engagement initiatives that take a proactive approach to transforming communities. You will leave this workshop feeling motivated and informed in key ways to engage young leaders.

Graciana Garcés, *Assistant Director of Community Engagement, Neighborhood Center Inc., Houston, TX*



5-N How Story Telling can Unite a Community

This workshop will share stories of how to identify and honor individuals who are dedicated to making healthy and vibrant cities. This workshop will introduce the “People Organizing Place” and “Power of One” initiatives, which encourage civic participation and preserve the rich histories of our cities through community awareness.

Elizabeth Macwillie, *Senior Public Designer, buildingcommunityWORKSHOP, Dallas, TX*

Craig Weflen, *Media Associate, buildingcommunityWORKSHOP, Dallas, TX*

Thomas Simpson, *Planning Associate, buildingcommunityWORKSHOP, Dallas, TX*

Brian Biery, *Director of Community Organizing, Flintridge Center, Pasadena, CA*

Martha Edwards Coleman, *Flintridge Center, Pasadena, CA*



5-P All About NUSA: Running for the NUSA Board of Directors

Ever wonder how the spirit and magic of Neighborhoods, USA stays alive? This workshop will present an overview of the NUSA organization and what is involved in joining the volunteer Board of Directors. If you ever thought of being involved in the neighborhood movement on a national level, this is your invitation. This workshop is a prerequisite to running for the NUSA Board.

Beryl McCadden-Pritko, *NUSA Board Member, Gardena, CA*

Workshops for Youth: Friday, 8:00 am-12:15 pm



6-A Building Stronger Communities

Our youth are an important factor to the potential growth of our neighborhoods. This workshop will inspire our youth to embrace their individual strengths and learn how to use them to contribute towards the positive transformation of our communities. Energetic leaders will speak to youth about the importance of community work and share their personal experiences of using success as a platform for change.



6-B Get Down with Go Youth Northside

Calling all youth and civic leaders! This youth led workshop will break down the workings of Go Youth Northside. As civic and social leaders, we work towards honoring the history of our neighborhood while highlighting its greatest aspects. We will discuss what youth leadership and community organizing looks like when it comes to implementing neighborhood initiatives and community enrichment.

Gloria Ocampo, Aurora Martinez, Karina Rodriguez, Irette Torres, Jazzmine Mendez, Avenue CDC, Houston, TX



6-C Fostering Leaders in Neighborhoods

The Neighborhood Centers Inc. Community Engagement team created the Community Engineers program to provide leadership training. The curriculum includes teaching individuals to access and use appropriate resources and developing leadership skills in order to advocate for positive transformations in their communities. Community Engineers will discuss the benefits of working with all members of their community, including youth. You will leave this workshop feeling motivated and informed in key ways to contribute to discussions traditionally led by adults.

Carlos Paz, Community Engagement, Neighborhood Centers Inc.

Roberta Leal, Chair, Cleveland Ripley Community Center Advisory Committee, Neighborhood Centers Inc./ Clinical Assistant, Professor-Social Work, University of Houston, Houston, TX



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7-A Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) Award Judging

This Workshop will be conducted twice on Thursday, May 21, 2015. The times are: 10:15 am-11:45 am and 1:45 pm-5:00 pm

Invited neighborhoods from across the nation will be judged during these sessions. Judging will be based on the extent of self-help, innovation, grassroots participation and capacity building exhibited by the nominated organization. The Neighborhood of the Year (NOTY) will be announced at Friday's luncheon.

Angela Rush, NUSA Board Member, Fort Worth, TX



7-B Best Neighborhood Program Award (BNPA) Judging

This Workshop will be conducted twice on Friday, May 22, 2015. The times are: 9:00 am-12:15 pm and 2:45 pm-5:00 pm

Invited municipalities, neighborhoods and other organizations from across the country will be judged during these sessions. Best Neighborhood Program Awards (BNPA) will be presented in two categories, Social Revitalization and Physical Revitalization. Award winners will be announced at the Saturday luncheon.

Angela Rush, NUSA Board Member, Fort Worth, TX



7-C Engaging Youth and Adults as One

Youth/Adult Joint Workshop:

Every member of our community has value and each possesses strengths that can serve as major assets for community development. The key to productive engagement is identifying and embracing those skills and merging them despite age difference. This workshop will focus on the benefits of intergenerational engagement. Participants will be introduced to innovative techniques on merging adult and youth priorities to transform communities for good.

Graciana Garces, Assistant Director of Community Engagement, Neighborhood Centers Inc.

Roberta Leal, Chair, Cleveland Ripley Community Center Advisory Committee, Neighborhood Centers Inc./ Clinical Assistant, Professor-Social Work, University of Houston, Houston, TX

Around Houston

Passionate about Art? The Museum District is just a train ride away!

The Houston Museum District consists of 20 museums, just steps away from the rail line. Fine or Contemporary Arts, Health, Natural Science, Asian, and Buffalo Soldiers are just a few that are available. Spend a few hours or spend a day. You won't be disappointed.



Neighborhood Pride Tours: Friday, 4:00 pm

Tours will meet in the Regency Room Jr. Ballroom on the second floor beginning at 3:45. Buses will depart promptly at 4:00 pm

Look for a volunteer holding a sign with your tour number and check in there.

T-1 Downtown Houston - The Place to Be

Whether you're a long-time resident or visiting the Bayou City for the first time, there's no doubt that Houston is experiencing an incredible burst of development, particularly within its Downtown core. Today, more than \$4.2 billion in new or planned downtown projects are underway. Nestled among the construction is two great urban parks: Market Square Park and Discovery Green. A growing corporate center, increasing residential hub and a wide variety of cultural and recreational opportunities make downtown the place to be.

Bus, Light walking

T-2 University Place - Where Mixed Uses Work

University Place is a unique community of residential, commercial, and institutional neighbors. One of Houston's most desirable residential areas, University Place surrounds the 290 acre campus of prestigious Rice University, and is home to the Rice Village, one of Houston's oldest and most popular centers for shopping, dining and entertainment. Such proximities, diverse land uses and growing commercial districts can produce problems for neighborhoods. See how this coalition of communities works to address issues such as traffic, spillover parking, aging infrastructure and beautification to preserve this gracious, older inner-city neighborhood.

Bus, Light walking

T-3 Westbury - Growing a Community

through Green Projects

Working together can really make a difference. Once a thriving community, the Westbury area had lost its identity, and its commercial areas had fallen into decay. With the help of the City of Houston, this neighborhood developed a revitalization action plan in 1998 and the Working on Westbury project began in 2004. Today, they have a new identity and new life! Visit this neighborhood to see the great work that's been done.

Bus, Light walking

T-4 Houston Heights - Texas' Original Planned Community

Houston Heights, developed in 1891, was the first planned community in Texas. It boasted state-of-the-art amenities such as schools, a hospital, public sewer system, and an electrified streetcar line. The citizens of Houston Heights voted in 1918 to be absorbed into the City of Houston. Now, as one of Houston's hottest historic districts, the Heights struggle to retain its historic feel while new families want homes with 21st century amenities.

Bus, Medium walking



Neighborhood Pride Tours: Friday, 4:00 pm



T-5 Glen Brook Valley - Mid-Century Rules

Welcome to the largest, post-war historic district in the country. Glenbrook Valley once basked in the glow of Houston's economic optimism with proximity to the first freeway built in Texas. Now, the timeless appeal of these homes is drawing an influx of young residents who appreciate the aesthetic made popular by the "Mad Men" lifestyle. Home prices have increased annually since the District was created and there have been many a bidding war for homes still intact with Formica, wood paneling, terrazzo floors and Sputnik light fixtures. Glenbrook Valley wears its historic label proudly.

Bus, Light walking

T-6 Washington Avenue - Where Art Happens

The Washington Avenue Arts District is a state recognized cultural district. Home to over 250 working studios (and more than 60 more in the works) housed mostly within converted industrial warehouse space, this special neighborhood in Houston boasts the highest concentration of working artists in all of Texas! The area is also home to many individual artists' residences, studios, and arts-focused institutions such as Crockett Elementary, an award winning fine arts school and MECA, a multicultural arts education center. This tour will visit many of the landmarks, two distinct residential Historic Districts, public green spaces and stop at four of the area's converted studio buildings that make the area so special.

Bus, Light walking

T-7 OST/South Union - The 3P Effect for Neighborhood Revitalization

Revitalizing historically underserved communities requires a myriad of partners. The more engaged the community, the more comprehensive the revitalization is likely to be. This tour visits Houston's Old Spanish Trail/South Union community, where major philanthropic and government grants are converging to create a groundswell of development activity that includes public art and greens spaces, transit development and economic development, and also develops and preserves affordable housing in a gentrifying community. The common denominator pulling redevelopment together in the area is community engagement. The OST experience provides a narrative that encourages neighborhoods to affect community transformation by uniting civic associations, stakeholders and public entities.

Bus, Light walking

T-8 Corinthian Pointe – A Community Built from Scratch

Slightly more than 10 years ago, this community was open pastureland. Now it's a complete master-planned community with 462 homes (80% of which are affordable) and a 104,000 square foot Power Center facility that provides medical, financial, and social services to more than 15,000 families a month. It also boasts an award winning elementary school, a YMCA, and a successful commercial park filled with neighborhood-oriented businesses. You may have heard Pastor Caldwell speak about the beginning of this initiative at the NUSA 2002 Conference. Now come see for yourself how a faith-based organization has used innovative financial methods to fill a void in the community and spark development in the area.

Bus, Light walking



Neighborhood Pride Tours: Friday, 4:00 pm

T-9 Aldine – A Community Committed to Transformation

East Aldine is the home to more than 53,000 residents and lies just beyond Houston City Limits. In the past two decades, the population has quadrupled. Without access to city's resources to maintain infrastructure or build community centers, the community is tackling their own challenges and determined to transform their community. You will tour a community of bootstrappers and feel the sense of pride that inspires the residents to improve their Neighborhood through innovative solutions. You will get a chance to visit Neighborhood Centers Mobile community center Good to Go and hear about the partnership bringing positive change to East Aldine.

Bus, Light walking

T-10 Gulfton Today's Ellis Island- 16,000 Residents, 70 Nationalities and Neighborhood Centers

Tucked away in a corner of Southwest Houston, one of the city's biggest secrets quietly harbors 70 nationalities making it the most diverse community in Houston. Let us take you through this melting pot and introduce you to Neighborhood Centers Baker-Ripley, a beacon for community development that continues to be a national model for implementing place-based strategies to transforming communities. Baker Ripley provides a continuum of services including free tax preparation, family health and education, immigration and citizenship services, financial literacy as well as programs for youth and seniors. These services not only engage individuals but also improve their overall quality of life.

Bus, Moderate walking

T-11 Near Northside - Reweaving the Fabric of an Urban Neighborhood

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) helps resident-led, community-based development organizations transform distressed communities into healthy sustainable ones. LISC's GO Neighborhoods approach ensures that both people and place prosper by investing in quality of life as well as physical improvements. In the Near Northside, LISC and its partners

will guide you through the Northside GO Neighborhoods partner community. The examples you will see on this tour are all derived from the community's Quality of Life Agreement – a plan that documents the Near Northside's unified vision and strategies to achieve transformation the resident's desire.

Bus, Light walking

T-12 Lyons Avenue – Renaissance in Houston's Fifth Ward

Walk along Lyons Avenue and experience the revitalization of an historic area. In the 1930s more than 40 black-owned businesses proudly stood along this stretch of northeast Houston. While many are long gone, revitalization efforts include new housing complexes, renovation of an historic theatre, and development of an entertainment complex and installation of art pieces. The two-mile walking tour will introduce you to community residents who will share their story of historic Fifth Ward and Lyons Avenue.

Moderate walking



Neighborhood Pride Tours: Friday, 4:00 pm

T-13 Neartown Montrose – Eclectic Charm in the City

Nearthown/Montrose is an eclectic neighborhood located immediately west of downtown Houston. In its 100 year history, it has transformed from a street-car subdivision for Houston's wealthy to a prime location for a free-spirited and creative class of artist and musicians, performance and entertainment venues. Today, this neighborhood has a little of everything. It is a blend of architectural styles and land uses. Housing is diverse, ranging from cottages to large townhome developments, and historic mansions. Former residents include President Lyndon Johnson and billionaire Howard Hughes. Nearthown/Montrose owes its vitality to the thriving art, museum and cultural scene and local businesses. It's no wonder that in 2009, The American Planning Association named Montrose one of "The Great Places in America – Greatest Neighborhoods."

Bus, Light walking

T-14 East End - Where it all began

Houston's East End is a vibrant place with history dating back to the Texas Revolution, even as the new light rail line has swept it into the 21st century. It's a diverse community, where all types of Houstonians thrive amid strong ethnic cultures. Tour stops include Harrisburg Cemetery, the final resting place for several prominent state figures, the Gus Wortham, Texas' oldest 18-hole golf course, and Magnolia, one of Texas' earliest cities. But like much of Houston's inner city, the development pressures are immense. Residents invite you to come out and experience how the East End has come together through collaborative efforts to develop, enhance and preserve the original character of their community.

Bus, Light walking

T-15 Millennials and Development in Houston

Houston is a growing city, continuing to attract thousands of residents each year. Many are families whose interests lie in the quality of schools and the size of a yard, Houston has also become a magnet for millennials, those 20 and 30 year-olds, who seek out urban living in more compact, walk able areas. This tour will

highlight developments in Houston's Midtown, East Downtown, and Downtown neighborhoods that attract millennials and demonstrate how a city where once the car was king has been able to shape public policy to reflect changing preferences for urban living.

Bus, Moderate walking

T-16 Museum Park: The Art of Being Resourceful and Engaging

Put on your walking shoes and join local residents and stakeholders for a walking tour of the Museum District, a unique urban neighborhood that serves as a critical corridor between Downtown and the Texas Medical Center. The Museum District is known as a cultural destination that includes 15 museums, green space, educational institutions, and a mix of businesses and residences. Learn how the area has been able to effectively engage and utilize services and resources to encourage smart growth, assist with safety and security best practices, initiate beautification projects and more. Two of the tour sites include the Museum District MetroRail Stop and Hermann Park Centennial Gardens.

Rail, Considerable walking

Tours will meet in the Regency Room Jr. Ballroom on the second floor beginning at 3:45. Buses will depart promptly at 4:00 pm

Look for a volunteer holding a sign with your tour number and check in there.

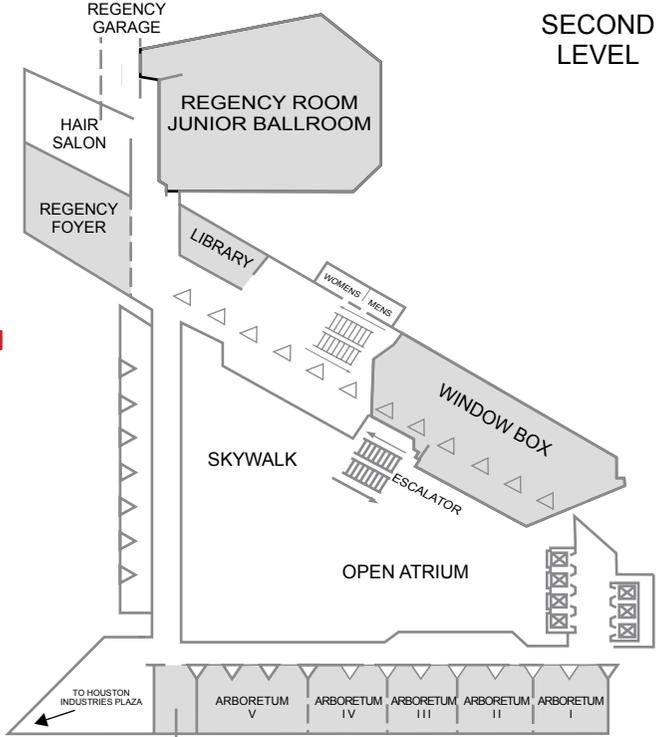


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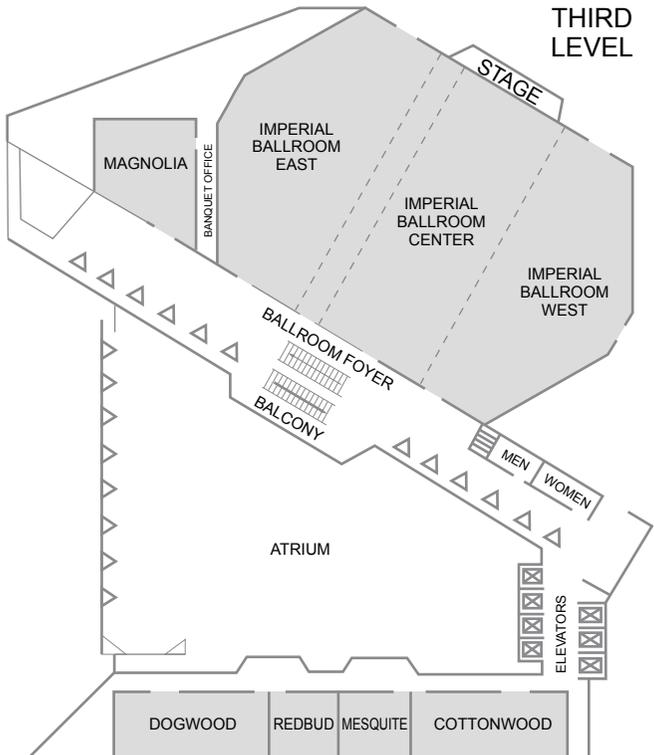
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SECOND LEVEL

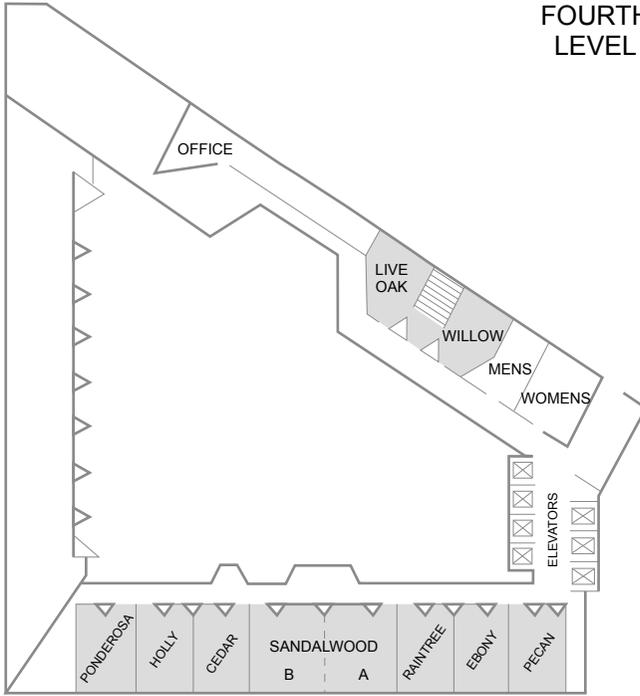
Wi-Fi Access

Free Wi-Fi access is available in the lobby and in the hotel guest rooms. To receive complimentary internet access, attendees will need to log in by following directions on the TV inside the guest room.

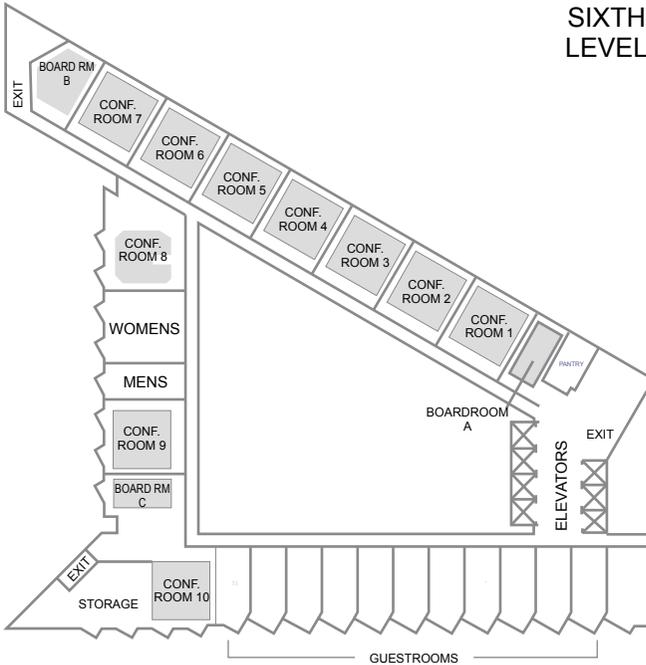


THIRD LEVEL

FOURTH LEVEL



SIXTH LEVEL



NUSA Award Programs Judging Schedules



2015 Neighborhood of the Year Finalists

Thursday, May 21, 2015

6th Floor-Conference Rm 1 – Hyatt Regency Houston

Physical Revitalization – Single Neighborhood

- 10:15 am – 10:35 am **Denver Park Neighborhood Association**, Memphis, TN
- 10:40 am – 11:00 am **Shores of Wellington Lake Shores Park**, Garland, TX
- 11:05 am – 11:25 am **Westbury Community Garden**, Houston, TX
- 11:30 am – 11:50 am **Recycled Water Irrigation for Forest Creek**, Round Rock, TX

Judge's Deliberations and Lunch

Social Revitalization – Single Neighborhood

- 2:00 pm – 2:20 pm **MGHA Chili Cook-Off & Bocce Ball Tournament**, Huntington Beach, CA
- 2:25 pm – 2:45 pm **Sunset Avenue Architectural Tour**, Pasadena, CA
- 2:50 pm – 3:10 pm **Old Spanish Trail/South Union Revitalization**, Houston, TX
- 3:15 pm – 3:35 pm **Eastwood Neighborhood Preservation Project**, Birmingham, AL

Judge's Deliberations and Break

Multi-Neighborhood Partnerships

- 4:00 pm – 4:20 pm **Near West Collaborative/Abandoned Mural Masterpiece**, Indianapolis, IN
- 4:25 pm – 4:45 pm **Wedge Garden**, Raleigh, NC
- 4:50 pm – 5:10 pm **Lake Worth Centennial Celebration**, Fort Worth, TX

2015 Best Neighborhood Program Award Finalists

Friday, May 22, 2015

6th Floor-Conference Rm 1 – Hyatt Regency Houston

Physical Revitalization/Beautification – Single Neighborhood

- 9:00 am – 9:20 am **Into the Streets Community Mural Project**, Birmingham, AL Museum of Art
- 9:25 am – 9:45 am **Do-It-Yourself Garland**, City of Garland, TX
- 9:50 am – 10:10 am **Adopt-a-Neighbor**, City of Fort Lauderdale, FL
- 10:15 am – 10:35 am **Tool Lending Center & Neighborhood Cleanup Program**, City of Round Rock, TX

Judges Deliberations and Lunch

Social Revitalization/Neighborliness – Single Neighborhood

- 3:00 pm – 3:20 pm **Palm Center Farmer's Market**, Southeast Houston Transformation Alliance
- 3:25 pm – 3:45 pm **Mariposa District**, Denver, CO Housing Authority
- 3:50 pm – 4:10 pm **iLead-Your Interactive Neighborhood Training Source**, City of Orlando, FL
- 4:15 pm – 4:35 pm **Access Columbia**, City of Columbia, SC
- 4:40 pm – 5:00 pm **Hopkins Family Practice Healthcare Facility**, Columbia, SC, Eau Claire Cooperative Center
- 5:05 pm – 5:25 pm **Ready Shelby**, Memphis, TN Housing Authority
- 5:30 pm – 5:50 pm **Block Party Trailer Program**, City of Arvada, CO



-  **Hyatt Regency**
-  **City Hall**
-  **Minute Maid Park**
-  **Permitting Center**
-  **Metro Rail Stations**
-  **Metro Rail**
-  **Parks**

Membership Spotlight



Affiliate Members

Belmont Heights Community Association	Long Beach, CA
Building Our Neighborhoods for Development & Success	Montgomery, AL
California Heights Neighborhood Association	Long Beach, CA
Century Villages at Cabrillo	Long Beach, CA
Citizens Crime Watch – Special Task Force	Quezon City, Phillipines
Columbia Council of Neighborhoods	Columbia, SC
Community Council of Tacoma	Tacoma, WA
Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Florida Neighborhoods Conference	Florida
Green Bay Neighborhood Leadership Council	Green Bay, WI
Hands On Youth Activities Program, Inc.	Birmingham, AL
Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Association	St. Petersburg, FL
Idaho Crime Prevention Association	Idaho
Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center	Indianapolis, IN
Japan Association for Community Policy	Japan
Killough Springs Neighborhood Association	Birmingham, AL
Madison Neighborhoods, Inc.	Madison, WI
Neighborhood Leadership Program Alumni Support Team	Long Beach, CA
Neighborhood Resources Connection	South Bend, IN
Northside Residents Redevelopment Council	Minneapolis, MN
Richland County Neighborhood Council	Columbia, SC
Riverside Neighborhood Partnership	Riverside, CA
Rock Hill Council of Neighborhoods	Rock Hill, SC
RRR – Residents for Responsible Representation	Riverside, CA
Southern California Neighborhood Partners	California
The Urbiculture Foundation	Roanoke, VA
Third & Fourth Streets Planning Community	Coronado, CA
University Neighborhood Association	Riverside, CA
Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference, Inc.	Virginia
Wichita Independent Neighborhoods, Inc.	Wichita, KS
Winona Woods Neighborhood Association	Irondequiot, NY
Wood Streets Green Team	Riverside, CA

NUSA Thanks you for your continued support



Municipal Members

Edmonton, AB (Canada)	Miramar, FL	Spartanburg, SC
Anchorage, AK	Orlando, FL	Sioux Falls, SD
Birmingham, AL	Indianapolis, IN	Memphis, TN
Hueytown, AL	Topeka, KS	Arlington, TX
Little Rock, AR	Wichita, KS	DeSoto, TX
Osceola, AR	Minneapolis, MN	Fort Worth, TX
Tempe, AZ	Oakdale, MN	Garland, TX
Citrus Heights, CA	Gladstone, MO	Houston, TX
Compton, CA	Hattiesburg, MS	Round Rock, TX
Escondido, CA	Raleigh, NC	Portsmouth, VA
Long Beach, CA	Winston-Salem, NC	Roanoke, VA
Monrovia, CA	Omaha, NE	Bellingham, WA
Palm Springs, CA	Eugene, OR	Kent, WA
Riverside, CA	Portland, OR	Lacey, WA
Littleton, CO	Aiken, SC	Tacoma, WA
Fort Lauderdale, FL	Columbia, SC	Green Bay, WI
Hollywood, FL	Richland County, SC	Madison, WI

Corporate Members

American Care Foundation	Dallas, TX
National Wildlife Federation	Merrifield, VA
North & East Lubbock CDC	Lubbock, TX
Parallel Design Inc.	Philadelphia, PA

Our Mission

NUSA provides opportunities for diverse people and organizations to share their ideas, values and experiences to build stronger communities.

The list of affiliate, municipal and corporate members displayed is current as of April 21, 2015. If your entity became a member in one of these categories after that date, we apologize for not being able to list you in this ad; however, we greatly appreciate your support and value your membership to Neighborhoods, USA. Thank you!



A shared vision
creates inspiration.
Through it all.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas is a proud supporter of NUSA
and is committed to keeping our communities active and inspired.



BlueCross BlueShield of Texas

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BE ALERT. BE AWARE. STAY ALIVE.

Always Expect a Train.

Stop. Look. Listen.

Union Pacific is committed to public safety in the communities we serve and is always looking to spread the message of rail safety. That's why we're proud to be a sponsor of the 2015 Neighborhoods, USA Annual Conference, and to join NUSA in its mission of sharing information and experiences that build stronger communities.

We remind you to be aware and stay focused when approaching railroad crossings. Trains can come from either direction at any time. In addition, trespassing on railroad tracks is not only illegal; it can be deadly.

To find out more about how you can bring the rail safety message to your neighborhood, visit UnionPacificCares.com.



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NUSA ^{47th}

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

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