

The 7th Community Conference Sponsored and Organized by the
City of Houston Planning & Development Department



LESSONS IN NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZING

Saturday, October 15, 2011, 8:00AM - 1:15PM

United Way of Greater Houston, 50 Waugh Drive (Feagan St. @ Waugh Dr.)

\$5.00 per person, Free Parking

For more information, e-mail CommunityU@houstontx.gov

Set your own agenda based on your interests.
Pre-registration is critical to ensure adequate seating in each session.

Conference Agenda At A Glance

Saturday, October 15, 2011

8:00 - 8:45AM **Check-in and Chat**

8:45 - 9:10AM **Welcome by Mayor Annise Parker**

9:20 - 10:15AM **Concurrent Session 1 (choose one):**

- 1A: Networked Neighborhoods
- 1B: Creating Deed Restrictions that Work for Your Community
- 1C: Go Green
- 1D: Show Me the Money
- 1E: Win-Win Works

10:15 - 10:30AM **Break**

10:30 - 11:25AM **Concurrent Session 2 (choose one):**

- 2A: Recruiting, Retaining, and Rewarding Volunteers
- 2B: Building Neighborhood Capacity through Partnerships and Collaborations
- 2C: Developing and Managing a Successful Community Project
- 2D: Safety and Crime Prevention in Your Neighborhood
- 2E: The Art of Leading Meetings

11:25 - 11:40AM **Break**

11:40 - 12:35PM **Concurrent Session 3 (choose one):**

- 3A: Tools to Protect the Character of Your Neighborhood
- 3B: Enforcing Deed Restrictions; It's Not for the Faint of Heart
- 3C: Inside the New Neighborhood Department
- 3D: Navigating *My City* Online
- 3E: The Consolidated Planning Process

12:45 - 1:15PM **Closing & Door Prizes**

Conference Sessions in Detail

Concurrent Session 1:

9:20AM - 10:15AM

1A: Networked Neighborhoods

Seeking creative solutions to the age-old problem of helping folks know what's going on in your community? Come learn from experts about new ways to network your neighborhood and engage your community. Use new digital resources available to promote, understand, and connect with your community.

Speaker: Suzy Hartgrove, Houston Planning Dept.; Sandra Fernandez, Houston Public Library

1B: Create Deed Restrictions that Work for Your Community

This session will provide you with everything you want to know about creating, reinstating, or changing your neighborhood's deed restrictions. If you need a session on how the City may help enforce existing deed restrictions, attend Session 3B.

Speaker: Reid Wilson, Wilson, Cribbs, Goren, P.C.

1C: Go Green

Houstonians have always taken action and made things happen. With energy costs rising, now is the time to become less energy dependent. Learn simple things you can do to reduce dependency on energy and save money with lowering utility bills.

Speaker: Steve Stelzer, Houston's Green Building Resource Center

1D: Show Me the Money

Is your organization ready for fundraising? What do you want to fund? Is there a real need for it and what does the budget include? What is the best source of funds for this type of project? What are funders REALLY looking for? This session will help you answer these questions as you prepare an effective fundraising strategy tailored to the needs of your organization.

Speaker: Ronnie Hagerty, United Way of Greater Houston

1E: Win-Win Works

This session will inform you about how negotiating a win-win solution works better than confrontations with neighbors, civic leaders, city staff, politicians and others. Learn valuable skills to use throughout your life.

Speaker: Josefina Rendon, Harris County Dispute Resolution Center

Concurrent Session 2:

10:30AM - 11:25AM

2A: Recruiting, Retaining, and Rewarding Volunteers

Are you maximizing the human resources in your neighborhood? Volunteer management is an art and a science. Learn the strategies required to create meaningful volunteer opportunities, match the right people with the right job and keep those people interested and engaged in the tasks that need to be accomplished.

Speaker: Fiona Dawson, Volunteer Houston; Claudia Vasquez, Neighborhood Centers, Inc.

2B: Building Neighborhood Capacity through Partnerships and Collaborations

Businesses do it, education does it, elected officials do it, successful grant applicants do it. Partnerships and collaborations work. This session will discuss what partnerships and collaborations are, how to form a partnership, and the results you can expect.

Speaker: Amanda Timm, LISC; Sylvia Brooks, former Director – Houston Area Urban League

2C: Developing and Managing a Successful Community Project

If you've got a great project, but you don't know where to begin, come to this session. This presentation provides steps for developing and managing a project idea. It will focus on the preliminary stages of project planning and will emphasize questions that need to be answered before any resources are committed. It'll also provide proven methods of tracking your project's progress.

Speaker: Carla Wyatt, Harris County

2D: Safety and Crime Prevention in Your Neighborhood

Learn how neighborhoods can partner with their local law enforcement agency to work toward building a safer and more secure community. Discover unique techniques your community can use to address problems in your neighborhood to deter crime.

Speaker: Sergeant Mike Hill, Houston Police Dept.

2E: The Art of Leading Meetings

A strong organization with staying power has a solid foundation. This session explains and illustrates some basic building blocks of an effective association. Creative ideas for neighborhood projects and events will also be included, along with a list of resources to help you find more inspiration. Come learn some nifty techniques on how to handle touchy subjects, keep order and move through an agenda. Despite what you may already know about Robert's Rules of Order, you'll learn something new and you will have FUN in this session!

Speaker: Susan Hill, Hawes Hill Calderon, LLP

Concurrent Session 3:

11:40AM - 12:35PM

3A: Tools to Protect the Character of Your Neighborhood

Houston has numerous ordinance-based programs to protect neighborhood character. From the long-established Minimum Lot Size/Minimum Building Line Program, to the new Prohibited Yard Parking Program, to the newly strengthened Historic Preservation Program, the Planning Department has a lot to offer. Learn how these, and other programs, can boost civic pride and promote stability in your community.

Speaker: Keith Wilson, Nathan Kraus, Thomas McWhorter, Diana DuCroz, Houston Planning Dept.

3B: Enforcing Deed Restrictions; It's Not for the Faint of Heart

Texas law determines the City of Houston's authority in assisting neighborhood associations in the enforcement of deed restrictions. Our experts will explain the ins and outs of this authority and answer your questions on how to most effectively use the tools available. This session is primarily for neighborhoods that currently have deed restrictions. If you need help creating or reinstating a set of restrictions, be sure to attend Session 1B.

Speaker: Donna Edmundson, Senior Assistant City Attorney

3C: Inside the New Neighborhood Department

This summer, Mayor Parker made communicating with City Hall easier. With the new Neighborhood Department, she consolidated several neighborhood programs and improved communication with citizens across our city. Find out how your neighborhood can benefit from the new department.

Speaker: Catherine Flowers, Houston Neighborhood Dept.

3D: Navigating My City Online

See your city in a whole new way and learn how to access interesting and useful data. Join us for an informative look at the City's interactive mapping tool, **My City**. Learn how to search Super Neighborhoods, Council Districts, flood plain maps, crime statistics and much more. If you like Google maps, you will love this program. You are welcome to bring a laptop so you can play along with us! The United Way has Wi-Fi network.

Speaker: Richmond Coward, Walter Gordy, Houston Planning Dept.

3E: The Consolidated Planning Process

Did you know that the City's Housing & Community Development Dept. has a 5-year comprehensive assessment that outlines community development needs and outlines strategies for addressing these needs? The Consolidated Plan serves as the single grant application for the four major entitlement grants and your input is always needed. Come hear about the annual planning process and learn how you can contribute.

Speaker: Veronica Chapa-Jones, Andrea Jones, Houston Housing and Community Development Dept.

