



Houston Gives:

A Guide to Donating to the City of Houston

Prepared by the Office of

Mayor Annise D. Parker

City of Houston

P.O. Box 1562

Houston, TX 77251

Houston Gives: A Guide to Donating to the City of Houston

Mayor Annise Parker is committed to the growth and development of the City of Houston. Her administration continuously seeks ways to improve the quality of life for all Houstonians by promoting efficient and effective city services, encouraging community involvement and participation, handling individual citizens' concerns, and supporting neighborhood revitalization efforts throughout the city.

In addition to services including crime prevention, law enforcement, sanitation, and environmental protection, the City provides an important safety net for senior citizens and other vulnerable populations. Utility payment assistance and free or low cost pet adoption and spay/neuter assistance programs are just a few examples of programs administered by the City that wouldn't be possible without voluntary donations from customers, charities, and businesses.

To that end, Houston Gives is a guide to those entities that can accept donations on behalf of the city or collect funds, including nonprofit 501(c)(3) arms, entities that can accept non tax-deductible goods or services, and quasi-governmental entities including TIRZ and management districts that contribute financially to infrastructure improvements in a limited geographic area of the City.

Mayor Parker first commissioned this guide as City Controller in 2005, after experiencing obstacles and frustration assisting a citizen in locating the best possible place for a donation to the City. Houston Gives is an updated version of Mayor Parker's original compilation, which is made available to promote philanthropic and economic development opportunities offered through the City of Houston.

Houston is still the best city in the country in which to live and work – a distinction that wouldn't be possible without the active engagement of civic-minded citizens. On behalf of the City of Houston Mayor's Office, thank you for all that you do to help our great city reach its full potential.

For more information on how to make a contribution to the City, or to offer updates or revisions to this guide please contact the Mayor's Office at:

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City of Houston
P.O. Box 1562
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Administration and Regulatory Affairs

Director, Alfred Moran: (713) 229-7300

The BARC Foundation

Formed in 2011, the mission of the BARC Foundation to improve the quality of life and survival rate of all homeless animals in Houston. In a major effort to prevent animals from becoming homeless and arriving at BARC, the Foundation's goal is to raise money to directly support BARC's life saving and homeless animal prevention programs, and to make spay and neuter assistance programs more widely accessible to Houston residents. BARC is the City of Houston's Animal Shelter and Adoption Facility committed to promoting responsible pet ownership through spaying/neutering, microchipping, vaccinations, and training class services. For more information or to make a donation, visit: <http://www.houstonbarcfoundation.org>.

Convention and Entertainment Facilities (Houston First)

President, Dawn Ullrich: (713) 853-8000

Houston First

On July 1, 2011, the City of Houston's Convention & Entertainment Facilities Department (CEFD) consolidated with the Houston Convention Center Hotel Corporation to create a local government corporation called Houston First that will operate the city's George R. Brown Convention Center, Wortham Theater Center, Jones Hall for the Performing Arts, Jones Plaza, Miller Outdoor Theatre, Theater District Parking, Sesquicentennial Park, Root Memorial Square, Houston Aquarium, Houston Center for the Arts and Talento Bilingue de Houston. For more information, contact Peter Radowick, Public Information Officer at (713) 853-8000.

Miller Theatre Advisory Board

Miller Theatre Advisory Board (MTAB) is a 501(c)(3) organization. The MTAB acts as a steward of public funds to provide professional-caliber performances, free to the public, at the Miller Outdoor Theatre for the cultural enrichment of Houston's diverse communities and visitors to this great city. The Miller Theatre Advisory Board (MTAB) is appointed by Mayor Annise D. Parker and confirmed by Houston's City Council through Section 32 of the City of Houston's Code of Ordinances. For more information, visit: <http://milleroutdoortheatre.com>

Finance

Director, Kelly Dowe: (713) 837-9888

Board of Public Trusts (formerly the Houston Foundation)

The foundation is not a 501(c)(3). The Houston Foundation was created by City Council in 1915 to establish a board of trustees to manage and distribute gifts and bequests to the City of Houston for charitable and benevolent purposes. The funds and estates accruing from charitable and benevolent gifts made to the City of Houston are collectively known as the Houston Foundation. The Foundation consists of the Hill Trust and the Bering Trust, both of which were established in

the 1900s. The city retains both the corpus and the earnings of the Hill Trust but only the earnings of the Bering Trust. The Hill Trust is a general-purpose charity trust, while the Bering Trust must be used to benefit the elderly. The foundation's board usually designates that the money be used for a specific purpose such as the care of dependent and helpless children, nursing the sick, the purchase of medical supplies, or to fund Meals on Wheels, rather than for a general administration or staff salaries. Finance provides administrative support to the foundation and its board. Contact Sherry Mose at (713) 837-9664 or Sherry.mose@houstontx.gov.

The Battaglia Fund

The Battaglia Fund is not a 501(c)(3) and does not receive donations. It was created upon the death of its namesake about 80 years ago. The fund was created upon this man's death 80 years ago. The will requires that the royalty earnings, about \$120 thousand to \$200 thousand annually, be distributed to a charity. The Finance Department receives the royalty checks and distributes the funds to the Houston Area Women's Center, which has held the contract since the 1980s.

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ)

See Appendix.

Fire

Fire Chief, Terry A. Garrison: (832) 394-6700

Adopt-a-Fire-Station

The Adopt-a-Fire-Station program was created to give citizens as well as civic and business groups a formal vehicle to make donations of equipment and/or supplies to the fire stations of their choice. This program, which is managed by both the Houston Fire Department and the General Services Department, serves as a supplement to the City's ongoing fire station maintenance program. The program is not set up to receive cash donations; however, the Fire Department may accept cash donations and apply for grants on behalf of the Adopt-A-Fire Station Program through MediLife of Houston. For information contact Alicia Whitehead at (832) 394-6639 or visit:

www.houstontx.gov/fire/community/adoptafirestation.html.

Citizens Fire Academy Alumni Association

The association is a 501(c)(3). It accepts cash donations on behalf of the Fire Department as well as goods and services to help underwrite the annual Valor Awards program honoring special acts of courage by firefighters.

MediLife

Medilife, a 501(c)(3), was founded in 1990 for the express service of improving and continually enhancing the quality of pre-hospital emergency care. Medilife

accepts cash or equipment donations on behalf of the fire department or EMS. In the past, the organization has raised money for EKG monitors, defibrillators, First Response equipment, and other medical supplies.

Houston Fire Museum

Prior to the creation of the Adopt-a-Fire-Station program, the Fire Museum raised money for the purchase of equipment and supplies for the fire department. Now, the Fire Museum seeks to educate the Houston community on fire prevention and safety. The fire museum is currently planning on building a new museum which will support its educational goals adding onto the historical exhibitions of the current museum. For more information visit: www.houstonfiremuseum.org.

General Services

Director, Scott Minnix: (832) 393-8000

See Adopt-A-Fire-Station under the Fire Department.

Health and Human Services Department

Director, Stephen Williams: (832) 393-5169

Houston-Harris County Immunization Registry (The Immunization Partnership)

The Immunization Partnership (TIP) is a 501(c)(3) that evolved from the partnership originally dedicated to supporting the Houston-Harris County Immunization Registry. The Partnership aims to eradicate vaccine-preventable diseases by developing and coordinating our communities' resources through public and private partnerships. For more information about donating, contact Jennifer Farmer at (281) 400-3689 or jyfarmer@immunizeUSA.org.

Acres Home MSC Advisory Council

The advisory council is a 501(c)(3) that sponsors and funds events and programs held at the multiservice center. For more information visit: www.houstontx.gov/health/MSC/acreshomesmsc.htm.

Metropolitan MSC Disability Council

The disability council is a 501(c)(3) that sponsors and funds events and programs held at the multiservice center.

Housing and Community Development

Director, James Noteware: (713) 868-8300

SPARK Program

The city sponsored school park program is funded through federal dollars received by the City's department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) as well as monetary, in-kind, and equipment donations from the private sector. SPARK also accepts donations to help (HCD) defer the costs of events associated with National Community Development Week. SPARK is a 501(c)(3). Contact Kathleen Ownby at (832) 393-0911 or visit <http://www.sparkpark.org/> for more information.

Human Resources

Director, Omar Reid: 713 837-9300

Combined Municipal Campaign

This is the City's annual fundraising campaign, benefiting 13 federations and over 100 independent charities, many of which are 501(c)(3) organizations. Employees participate by making cash donations or through payroll deductions. For more information or to apply to become a beneficiary, visit: <http://www.houstontx.gov/cmcc/cmcc.htm>.

Mayor's Office

Mayor Annise Parker: (713) 837-0311

Special Events Division

The City of Houston Mayor's Office of Special Events (MOSE) produces and permits events for the City of Houston. City-wide and neighborhood festivals, dedications, inaugurations, parades, tree plantings, fun runs, galas, ground-breakings, and holiday celebrations are all examples of events coordinated by this office. In addition to event production, MOSE processes requests for special events, parade and street function permits; evaluates event co-sponsorship on city property; and provides production assistance for sponsored, co-sponsored, or fee-paid events. The goal of the Mayor's Office of Special Events is to promote consistent quality, family-oriented entertainment to Houston citizens and visitors. For more information, call (832)393-0868 or email specialevents@houstontx.gov

Mayor's Discretionary Fund

Each year the City contributes 19 percent of its hotel occupancy tax revenue to the Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County (CACHH). 2.5 percent of CACHH's annual appropriation from the City is set aside to be used at the Mayor's discretion. This discretionary fund is supposed to be used to quickly fund

projects that have not been budgeted through CACHH's annual grant-review process.

Houston Employment Relief Organization (HERO)

The Houston Employee Relief Organization was founded in August 2007 as a 501(c)(3) to provide financial and emotional help for survivors of municipal city employees killed while serving the residents of Houston. HERO is an independent organization that runs entirely on donations. For more information, or to make a secure online donation, visit: <http://www.houstonhero.org>

Volunteer Initiatives Program (VIP)

The City of Houston has several departments with volunteer opportunities ranging from community service projects and seasonal internships to single-day events. Interns may be placed across the city in the Mayor's Office, Public Works, Parks, and other departments to assist with special projects or general administrative work. You can also consider volunteering at any of the city's special events such as Freedom over Texas in July, The Veteran's Day Parade in November, or the Mayor's Holiday Celebration in December. For more information visit: www.houstontx.gov/volunteer/ or email: volunteer@houstontx.gov.

Boards and Commissions

See Boards and Commissions Section in the Appendix.

Neighborhoods

Director, Catherine Flowers: (832) 393-1098

The mission of the Department of Neighborhoods is to promote the advancement of Houston neighborhoods by communicating available city services to civic organizations and citizens with a goal of improving the quality of life for all constituents. For more information, contact: Mark Cueva at (832) 393-0816.

Parks and Recreation

Director, Joe Turner: (832) 395-7000

Houston Parks Board

The Houston Parks Board is a non-profit organization created in 1976 as a partner to the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department dedicated to parkland acquisition and capital improvements to Houston parks. Donations are used to fund capital projects and land acquisition. Visit www.houstonparksboard.org/ for more information.

H.P.A.R.D. Adoption Programs

H.P.A.R.D.'s Adoption Programs accept in-kind donations and are a great way to show pride and commitment to Houston's parks and green spaces. Call (832) 395-7029 or email: Marilu.delafuente@houstontx.gov or visit:

www.houstontx.gov/parks/adoptedparks.html for more information on the following programs:

Adopt-A-Park

This adoption program welcomes homeowners, associations and civic groups interested in providing long-term support for the maintenance and aesthetic quality of a park. Term of agreement is 2-3 years.

Adopt-An-Esplanade

Adopt-An-Esplanade is a program designed to bring Houston neighborhoods together in committed, collaborative partnerships to improve and maintain city esplanades. Houston Parks and Recreation Department administers the program and Keep Houston Beautiful provides volunteer coordination, community education, training, planning assistance, and loans tools and equipment for beautification and cleanup projects. Participants include civic groups, garden clubs, business owners, city and state agencies and corporate sponsors. For information on how to apply, visit:

www.houstontx.gov/parks/pdfs/adoptanesplanade.pdf

Adopt-A-Sports Field

This adoption program welcomes organizations or individuals who wish to adopt a sports field in lieu of paying permitting fees associated with the use of ball fields. This adoption is available for youth leagues only. The term is for 6 months (January-June and July-December). The adoptee is responsible for all maintenance related to the sports field for the entire 6-month period.

Adopt-A-Library Green Space

This adoption program welcomes individuals, homeowners, associations, and civic groups interested in providing long-term support for the maintenance and aesthetic quality of library grounds. Term is 1-year minimum.

Friends of Mandell Park

The Friends of Mandell Park is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization working to develop Mandell Park into a tranquil green oasis in the Museum District of Houston that will offer a welcome respite where people can relax and enjoy the quiet solitude of nature and art. By raising sufficient monies through donations and grants, Friends of Mandell Park, a nonprofit Texas Corporation, will be able to implement the master plan, and establish an operating fund to supplement

park maintenance. Become a Friend of Mandell Park today. Website: <http://www.friendsofmandellpark.org/index.html>

Friends of Emancipation Park

Friends of Emancipation Park is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization that was established in December 2007 by Houston civic, business and professional volunteers. The major functions of Emancipation Park are resource protection, resource development, recreation and healthy living, serving communities, management excellence, and public space. Website: <http://emancipationusa.com>

Friends of West 11th Street Park

Friends of West 11th Street Park is a 501(c)(3) Texas corporation that was formed to assist in the acquisition and long-term management of West 11th Street Park, located at 2400 West 11th Street in Houston, Texas. They have been in existence since 1998, when they organized a neighborhood petition drive in favor of preserving the park. Website: <http://www.west11thstreetpark.org/>

Greater Houston Off-Road Biking Association

This association, a 501(c)(3), works with the City to create and maintain the greater Houston area off road bike trails. The association's contribution comes in the form of volunteer hours and trail building material donations. Website: ghorba.org

Heritage Society

The Heritage Society, a museum complex at Sam Houston Park, collects, preserves, exhibits, and celebrates the diverse history of the Houston region. It operates nine historic structures that date from 1823 to 1905. The Heritage Society exists not just to educate visitors about Houston's interesting history but also to celebrate the diversity of the people who came together to build this world-class city. For more information on the Heritage Society, call (713) 655-1912 or visit www.heritagesociety.org.

Hermann Park Conservancy

HPC, a 501(c)(3), funds and manages the design of projects to be undertaken in Hermann Park, and then shares the construction costs of these projects with the City. Visit <http://www.hermannpark.org/>

Houston Arboretum & Nature Center

The Houston Arboretum and Nature Center is managed by the HANC Board of Directors and staff under an agreement with the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department. The Houston Arboretum & Nature Center is a private, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to environmental science education for inner-city children. HANC depends upon private contributions and donations of funds, pertinent goods and materials, and volunteer services. Email: arbor@houstonarboretum.org Web Site: houstonarboretum.org

Houston Area Road Runners Association

The Houston Area Road Runners Association is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) association founded in 1993 to promote running as a competitive sport and a healthful exercise in the Houston area. HARRA raises funds for park trails and provides a collective voice on issues that affect all runners in the Houston area.

Visit: www.harra.org

Memorial Park Conservancy

The conservancy is established as a 501(c)(3), non profit organization and is dedicated to the preservation of the native habitat of Memorial Park for future generations; to the public use, enjoyment and education in accordance with conditions of the conveyance to the city by the Hogg family; and to the on-going support of the Houston Parks Department. Funds are used to help with implementation of park master plan. Website: <http://www.memorialparkconservancy.org>.

Trees for Houston

Trees for Houston is a volunteer non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the planting of trees along City streets. Since its incorporation in 1983, the organization has been responsible for the planting and monitoring of almost 178,000 trees and seedlings. Executive Director Barry Ward may be reached at barry@treesforhouston.org. Please visit <http://www.treesforhouston.org/> for more information.

The following entities are often associated with the Houston Parks department but the City obtains no financial benefit from them.

Downtown Park Conservancy

The Conservancy is a 501(c)(3). It is made up of a group of philanthropic institutions to provide and raise money for the park. The group includes The Brown Foundation, The Cullen Foundation, Houston Endowment Inc., The Kinder Foundation, and The Wortham Foundation, Inc. The Conservancy teamed up with the city's Houston Downtown Park Corporation on the design, construction and operation of Discovery Green.

Bayou Preservation Association

The Bayou Preservation Association's mission is to "protect and restore the richness and diversity of our waterways through activism, advocacy, collaboration and education." With more than 2,500 miles of waterways in "The Bayou City," protecting and transforming the bayous into beautiful "ribbons of green" makes good environmental sense. BPA collaborates with other environmental groups in coordinating the clean-up of area bayous and the planting of trees along their banks, as well as works closely with the City of Houston and Harris County Flood Control in consulting about water quality and

flood management issues. Programs include: “Eyes on the Bayou”, Trash Bash ®, Annual Water Symposium, and Paddle Trails. Contact: bayoupreservation.org

Buffalo Bayou Partnership

The Buffalo Bayou Partnership is a non-profit organization that oversees Buffalo Bayou improvements. The Partnership coordinates the integration of major amenities into the Bayou greenbelt and seeks ways to increase community involvement through pedestrian, boating and biking amenities, permanent and temporary art installations, and other natural and built attractions. This Partnership is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and is responsible for developing and facilitating improvements to the Buffalo Bayou greenway system. Website: buffalobayou.org PHONE: 713.752.0314

Houston Zoo Development Corporation/Houston Zoo Inc./Zoo Friends

The Houston Zoo Development Corporation is the local government development corporation that is under contract from the City to manage and operate the zoo. The corporation itself does not accept donations. However, Houston Zoo Inc. is a 501(c)(3) that does accept donations on behalf of the zoo strictly for zoo purposes. Zoo Friends is a separate 501(c)(3). It raises money for capital projects at the zoo. Visit <http://www.houstonzoo.org/> for more information.

Houston Arts Alliance (HAA)

The Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) was formed through the merger of the Cultural Arts Council Houston/Harris County, the Municipal Art Commission, and the Civic Art Committee. The HAA now serves as a unified entity that funds, advocates, preserves, and promotes the arts in the Houston and Harris county region. The HAA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization that exists to enhance the quality of life, ensure a competitive economy, and create an appealing tourist destination in the Houston region by supporting and promoting the arts through programs, initiatives, and alliances. Please visit <http://www.houstonartsalliance.com/> for more information.

Planning and Development

Director, Marlene Gafrick: (713) 837-7760

Neighborhood Conference Liability account (220240)

This account accepts donations from local businesses, corporations, and foundations to help defray the costs of the annual community conferences. Contact Roger Hamilton at (713) 837-7749 or Marcia Wilson (713) 837-7732 for more information.

Police

Chief of Police, Charles A. McClelland, Jr: (713) 308-1600

The Police Special Services Fund

This fund includes reimbursements to HPD from other agencies or organizations for the costs associated with overtime, supplies, services, and equipment. This fund also administers grants and other funds restricted for a specific law enforcement purpose. Restricted funds are monies paid directly to the department by the State. Donations are also deposited into this fund and are used to purchase animals or police equipment (e.g. bikes or bike parts).

Multicultural Community Institute In Search of Understanding (M.C.C.I.S.U)

The M.C.C.I.S.U is a 501(c)(3) and is not part of HPD.

Houston Police Foundation Fund

The Houston Police Foundation Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization with a Board of Directors comprised of private citizens. The Houston Police Foundation Fund will provide HPD with funding for various law enforcement programs and initiatives. For more information, email: info@houstonpolicefoundation.org or visit www.houstonpolicefoundation.org

The following four entries are often associated with the police department but the City obtains no financial benefit from them.

The Blue Santa Program

This is a 501(c)(3) program with a board of directors comprised of Houston Police Department employees. HPD does not manage this fund. The board members are responsible for the administration of all financial transactions. Monetary donations are received from various sources such as private citizens/corporations, the Combined Municipal Campaign Fundraiser, and from payroll deductions of participating City of Houston employees. Funds are used strictly for the purchase of toys to be distributed to disadvantaged children during the Christmas holiday season. For more information, email: bluesantahouston.org or call (713) 247-8730.

Crime Stoppers

The Crime Stoppers program is a 501(c)(3) program with a board of directors consisting of private citizens. The Houston Police Department does not administer the financial activities of the Crime Stoppers program. Crime Stoppers pays citizens for tips leading to the arrest and conviction of suspects involved in the commission of felony crimes. For more information, visit: www.crime-stoppers.org

Women In Law Enforcement (WILE)

WILE is a 501(c)(3), and is an organization composed of a local group of women in the law enforcement profession. The WILE Board of Directors currently consists of Houston Police Department employees. This is not an HPD managed fund. Monetary donations are deposited into the organization's financial account, and all disbursements require the signature of two board members. Monies donated to this program are strictly used for expenses relating to the WILE conference. The conference is held annually in the month of April. HPD provides technical assistance as requested.

The 100 Club

The 100 Club is a 501(c)(3) organization. The Houston Police Department does not receive monetary donations from The 100 Club. The 100 Club donates equipment based on written requests from the Chief of Police. The club has purchased safety equipment such as body armor and provides funds for training and education. The 100 Club also provides financial assistance to officers injured or killed in the line of duty and their families. Please visit <http://www.the100club.org/home.html> for more information.

Public Library

Director, Rhea Brown Lawson: (832) 393-1300

The Houston Public Library Foundation

The Houston Public Library Foundation, formerly the Houston Library Board, is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. It was created in August 2006 to actively support all aspects of the Houston Public Library. The foundation focuses on increasing community awareness of the vital role our public library plays in Houston's quality of life. The Foundation solicits funds, gifts and bequests for the sole benefit of the library. Through its endowments and fundraising activities, the foundation provides significant funding for books and materials, programming, staff development and training, communications materials and building refurbishment. Please visit <http://www.hpl.lib.tx.us/hplfoundation> or contact Susan Bischoff at 832-393-1450 for more information.

Friends of Houston Public Library

The Friends of the Houston Public Library, founded in 1953, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to fostering wider recognition, use, and support of the Houston Public Library. With support from the Friends, our Library is better able to meet the vital needs of the community. The organization provides support and resources for Library programs such as the Summer Reading Program for children, after school programs, cultural programming and activities for the entire community. The Friends supports Library staff through scholarships for advanced degrees in Library Science, employee recognition programs, staff recruitment, and training and development. Two big book sales are the highlights of the organization's year: The Annual Bargain Book Sale and The Children's Book

Sale. Please visit <http://www.friendsofthehpl.org/> or call 832-393-1387 for more information.

Clayton Library Friends

The mission of Clayton Library Friends is to enrich the resources and facilities of Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, a unit of the Houston Public Library. To that end, the Friends organize and direct fundraising projects to support the acquisition of research material for the library, to upgrade library facilities, and to enhance library services. An important part of the Clayton Library Friends' mission is the organization of programs that encourage family history research, provide specialized volunteer services for the library, and educate the public in the use of Clayton Library and its collections. Please visit www.claytonlibraryfriends.org/ or call 832-393-2600 for more information.

Friends of the Texas Room

The organization is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that accepts monetary donations to support the operations of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center's Texas and Local History Department. It also provides volunteers. Please visit www.friendsofthetexasroom.org/ or call 832-393-1568 for more information.

Public Works and Engineering

Director, Daniel Krueger: (832) 395- 2511

The W. A.T. E. R. Fund

The Water Aid To Elderly Residents (W.A.T.E.R.) Fund is a program administered by the City of Houston designed to provide financial assistance to senior citizens and others needing help with paying their water and wastewater bills. It is funded entirely through voluntary donations from customers, charities, and businesses and 100% of the contributions go toward assisting others. The City of Houston pays for all administrative costs. For more information visit: www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/resource/waterfund.html.

Solid Waste

Director, Harry Hayes: (713) 837-9103

The Building Materials Reuse Warehouse

The Building Materials Reuse Warehouse is not a 501(c)(3) and cannot accept cash donations, but it benefits the community by providing space for excess building materials that would otherwise be dumped in local landfills. Construction material accounts for 38% of the waste stream in the Houston area. We accept material from individuals, supply companies, and builders, and make it freely available for reuse by any non-profit organization. The Reuse Warehouse is funded in part by a grant from the Houston Galveston Area Council, a region-wide voluntary association of local governments in the 13-county Gulf Coast

Planning region of Texas. The facility is located at 9003 N. Main. For information on donating or available materials, visit:
www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/reuse.html

Aviation, Information Technology, Legal, and Municipal Courts have no mechanism for accepting charitable donations of cash or goods.

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Boards and Commissions

Gulf Coast Community Services

Gulf Coast Community Services is a 501(c)(3). It is willing to accept donations on the City's behalf, but has not had occasion to do so previously. Donations are accepted for projects/materials related to its mission: the provision of temporary housing, food to families and individuals, clothing for children, school supplies, counseling on homes, and a pre-school program which serves the Southeast part of the city.

Houston Housing Authority

Can accept donations through an affiliated 501(c)(3), Houston Housing Resource and Company, and is willing to accept donations on behalf of the City for uses designated by donor. The 501(c)(3) was set up to accept donations for programs and issues related to the Housing Authority and its public housing clients including supportive services like after school programs, health programs or landscaping at housing authority projects. To date no donations have been received by the Foundation.

Houston Clean City Commission

The commission can and does accept donations on behalf of the City. The Commission is itself a 501(c)(3). Donations are used to underwrite Keep Houston Beautiful Day and other cleanup and beautification programs, including volunteer incentives such as T-shirts, food, supplies, plants for gardening projects, teaching training manuals, educational programs and materials. The Commission's books are audited annually.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

H-GAC has a 501(c)(3), the Corporation for Regional Excellence, to which anyone may channel donations for any legal purpose. Donations on behalf of the City could be made to it and used for city designated projects, materials, etc. H-GAC also has a 501(c)(3) for donations related to economic development, the Gulf Coast Economic Development District. Donations to that entity are restricted to economic development purposes. There have been few donations to the Corporation to date. The H-GAC finance department tracks the money.

Houston Municipal Art Foundation

The Houston Municipal Art Foundation (HMAF) was chartered by the State of Texas, December 30, 1965 and received its 501(c)(3) IRS tax status shortly thereafter. HMAF is a non-profit corporation that adheres to and is protected by the laws governing non-profit corporations. It was chartered by the Houston Municipal Art Commission, and its Board of Directors and officers are the same as the Commission. HMAF serves as a vehicle to receive private sector donations. This foundation basically serves to receive the 10% endowment that must accompany any donated works of art to the City's art collection. This money

is restricted for expenses on the preservation of the art collection. The HMAF closely monitors how funds are used and carefully documents all donations, disbursements and restrictions. The corporation's charter is not specific about funds management, but the HMAF and the MAC make every effort to use prudent money management practices, seeking the counsel of an accounting firm whenever necessary.

Land Assemblage Redevelopment Authority (LARA)

As a creature of the City, it is assumed that LARA has the same ability to accept donations that the City has; however, the donations would have to be limited to LARA's purpose, which is to acquire foreclosed property in the 3rd and 5th Wards. The issue of accepting donations has never arisen in LARA's brief existence and there is no active gift program.

Special Districts

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ)

Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZs) are special zones created by Ordinance to attract new investment to a specific area. TIRZs help fund the cost of redevelopment and encourage development in an area that would normally not attract adequate development in a suitable timeframe. Tax increments are taxes set-aside in a fund to finance public improvements within the boundaries of the zone. While TIRZs have boards that the City may delegate broad powers to, they do not operate financially independent of the City. Any donations to a TIRZ would go into the TIRZ's tax increment fund. By law these donations would have to be used for TIRZ projects pursuant to the TIRZ Project & Financing Plan.

Redevelopment Authorities

Redevelopment Authorities are public non-profit local government corporations that serve as the administrative branches of TIRZs. Many are also exempt from federal taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As a result, donations to a redevelopment authority might be considered tax deductible. Redevelopment Authorities are independent corporations. Some Authorities have been awarded grants to leverage project costs identified in TIRZ Project & Financing Plans.

Management Districts

Management Districts are political subdivisions of the state. They have the same tax-exempt status as the City, and they may accept charitable donations but not on the City's behalf. Some are also affiliated with 501(c)(3)s through which they channel donations. For instance, Central Houston Civic Improvement Inc., a 501(c)(3) affiliated with the Downtown Management District, has accepted donations to help support HPD's Mounted Patrol and horse barn, Sesquicentennial Park and Main Street Square. The City provided the land; the donations through Central Houston funded the capital improvements and Central Houston donated the improvements to the City. Unlike TIRZs and redevelopment authorities, management districts can fund operational costs. Typically, they are funded through assessments on commercial properties within the district; however, in some cases residential properties are assessed.

Improvement Districts

Improvement districts are political subdivisions of the State that are created to obtain and provide various services and improvements to a specific area. Their primary focus and purpose is not to reduce public sector responsibilities, but rather to leverage public funds with coordinated private resources to supplement government services and thus to improve facilities and services; accelerate area improvements; and better the overall quality of a particular district and its desirability for residents, consumers, and businesses. .

TIRZ Directory

Contact: Claudia Hoier
Executive Assistant Finance & Administration Director's Office
(713) 837-9941

No.	Name	Creation	TIRZ Administrator	City Liaison (Secondary)	Redevelopment Authority
1	St. George Place	Petition	Hawes Hill Calderon 713-541-0447	Tim Douglass (832) 393-8745 Joel Alba (713) 221-0955	Yes
2	Midtown	Petition	Matt Thibodeaux 713-526-7577	Jennifer Curley (713) 837-7314 Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573	Yes
3	Main Street/ Market Square	Non-Petition	Central Houston Incorporated 713-650-1470	Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573	Yes
4	Village Enclaves	Petition	Economic Development	Joel Alba (713) 221-0955	No
5	Memorial Heights	Non-Petition	Economic Development	Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573	Yes
6	Eastside	Non-Petition	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
7	OST/Almeda	Non-Petition	Theola Petteway 713-522-5154	Jesse Bounds (713) 837-9724 Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573	Yes
8	Gulfgate	Non-Petition	Economic Development	Jesse Bounds (713) 837-9724 Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573	Yes

9	South Post Oak	Petition	Economic Development	Jesse Bounds (713) 837-9724 Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573	Yes
10	Lake Houston	Non-Petition	Hawes Hill Calderon 713-541-0447	Jesse Bounds (713) 837-9724 Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573	Not Applicable
11	Greater Greenspoint	Non-Petition	Sally Bradford 281-877-9952	Jennifer Curley (713) 837-7314 Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573	Yes
12	City Park	Non-Petition	Economic Development	Jesse Bounds (713) 837-9724 Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573	Yes
13	Old Sixth Ward	Petition	Economic Development	Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573	Yes
14	Fourth Ward	Petition	Vanessa Sampson 713-526-7577	Jesse Bounds (713) 837-9724 Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573	Yes
15	East Downtown	Non-Petition	Economic Development	Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573 Jennifer Curley (713) 837-7314	Yes
16	Uptown	Petition	John Breeding 713-621-2011	Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573 Jennifer Curley (713) 837-7314	Yes
17	Memorial City	Non-Petition	Pat Walters 713-984-8737	Jesse Bounds (713) 837-9724 Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573	Yes
18	Fifth Ward	Non-Petition	Kathy Payton 713-674-0175	Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573 Jennifer Curley (713) 837-7314	Yes

19	Upper Kirby	Non-Petition	Jamie Brewster 713-524-8000	Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573	Yes
20	Southwest Houston	Non-Petition	Hawes Hill Calderon 713-541-0447	Tim Douglass (832) 393-8745 Joel Alba (713) 221-0955	Yes
21	Hardy/Near Northside	Petition	Economic Development	Ralph De Leon (713) 837-9573	Yes
22	Leland Woods	Non-Petition	Economic Development	Jesse Bounds (713) 837-9724 Joel Alba (713) 221-0955	No

Management Districts

District	Created	Contact
Baybrook Management	2006	Lynne Humphries Executive Director lhumphries@abhr.com (713) 860-6401
Buffalo Bayou Management		Joe Turner Director joe.turner@houstontx.gov (832) 395-7050
East Downtown Management	1999	Tina Araujo Executive Director araujoconsulping@att.net (713) 222-8871
Fall Creek Management	2003	Marlene Gafrick Executive Director (713) 837-7708
Greater East End Management	1999	Hedy Wolpa Executive Director hwolpa@greatereastend.com (713) 928-9916
Greater Northside Management	2001	Rebeccas Reyna Executive Director rc.reyna@greaternorthside.org (713) 229-0900
Greater Sharpstown Management	2006	Bill Calderon Executive Director (713) 595-1216
Greater Southeast Management	2001	Jason McLemore Executive Director jason@greatersouthestonline.com (713) 942-0500
Greater Greenspoint Management	1991	Jack Drake President jdrake@greenspoint.org (281) 874-2131

Harris County Municipal Mgmt District No. 1 (Memorial City)	1999	Pat Walters Executive Director patw@memorialcitydistrict.org (713) 984-8737
Houston Downtown Management	1997	Robert M. Eury Executive Director rmeury@downtowndistrict.org (713) 650-3022
International Management		David Hawes Executive Director Dhawes@hhcllp.com (713) 541-0447
Midtown Municipal Management District	2000	Mathis Thibodeaux Executive Director mattt@houstonmidtown.com (713) 526-7577
Near Northwest Management District	2001	Wayne Norden Executive Director wnorden@nearnorthwestdistrict.com (713) 895-8021
Spring Branch Management District	2006	David Hawes Executive Director Dhawes@hhcllp.com (713) 541-0447
Uptown Management District	1987	John R. Breeding President jbreeding@uptown-houston.com (713) 621-2011
Westchase Management District	1995	James Murphy General Manager jmurphy@westchasedistrict.com (713) 780-9434

Improvement District Directory

District	Created	Contact
East Aldine Community Improvement	2001	David Hawes Executive Director Dhawes@hhcllp.com (713) 541-0447
Harris County Improvement District No. 3 (Upper Kirby)	1997	Jamie Brewster Executive Director jamie@upperkirby.org (713) 524-8000
Harris County Improvement No. 4(Energy Corridor)	2001	Clark Martinson General Manager cmartinson@energycorridor.org (281) 759-3800
Harris County Improvement No. 5 (Brays Oaks District)	2006	David Hawes Executive Director Dhawes@hhcllp.com (713) 541-0447
Harris County Improvement No. 6 (East Montrose)	2005	David Hawes Executive Director Dhawes@hhcllp.com (713) 541-0447
Harris County Improvement No. 9 (Hobby Area)	2007	David Hawes Executive Director Dhawes@hhcllp.com (713) 541-0447
Harris County Road Improvement District No. 1	2007	Adrian Patterson Executive Director apatterson@fulbright.com (713) 651-5151