

Press Release



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Urban Land Institute's Rose Center Fellows to address key land use challenges in Houston

HOUSTON, December 6, 2010 – This week, The Urban Land Institute (ULI) Daniel Rose Center for Public Leadership in Land Use will be in Houston for work sessions, tours and a final presentation. The final presentation which is open to the public is Thursday, December 9 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Council Annex Chambers, City Hall Annex, 900 Bagby. Panelists will present preliminary findings and answer questions.

A Houston team led by Mayor Annise Parker has been named as one of four fellowships. Parker's local team will join three others led by the mayors of Charlotte, Detroit and Sacramento. The local team includes George Greanias, President and CEO of Houston METRO; James Noteware, Director of the City of Houston Housing and Community Development Department and Andy Icken, Mayor Parker's Chief Development Officer for the City of Houston.

Over the upcoming year, Parker and her team will work with leading experts in the real estate development, finance and land use fields with the intention of tackling complex land use issues facing each community.

Houston will examine issues that concern deteriorating multifamily housing stock located along major thoroughfares that are creating blight conditions in some adjacent middle-income neighborhoods. Many of these deteriorating developments have exceeded the life expectancies of their construction, and the City is faced with multiple questions about how to prevent this trend of disinvestment from spreading into nearby healthy communities.

Houston will be looking for new tools to redevelop dilapidated multifamily structures, while also creating community development initiatives that reach within a 2- to 3-mile radius to help resuscitate middle-class neighborhoods most at risk of decline. The City of Houston has teamed with METRO (Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Houston, Texas) to create a multi-faceted strategy to address this problem.

For more information on the Daniel Rose Fellowship program, please contact Jesse Givens, Houston's Rose Fellowship Program Coordinator, at jesse.givens@houstontx.gov or visit <http://www.uli.org/rosecenter>.

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