



# PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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## **Houston selected as host for 2015 Neighborhoods USA Conference**

**HOUSTON, May 29, 2013** – Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) selected Houston as the Host City for the 2015 Neighborhood U.S.A. (NUSA) conference. This will bring the nation's largest neighborhood organization and an estimated 1,000 grass-roots community leaders from across the country to Houston. The conference will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization.

Neighborhoods, USA is a national non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. Created in 1975 to share information and experiences toward building stronger communities, NUSA continues to encourage networking and information sharing to facilitate the development of partnerships between neighborhood organizations, government and the private sector.

Houston's dedication to neighborhoods and the city's status as a great convention location were the primary reasons Houston was selected for this conference," said Mayor Annise Parker. "This is our opportunity to showcase the many neighborhood programs the City offers."

Margaret Wallace, assistant director of the Planning and Development Department, was also elected to the board of NUSA for a three-year term.

Today the organization maintains a stable membership base of approximately 1,100. Each year the Board solicits nominations to recognize the commitment of neighborhoods and neighborhood friendly individuals or enterprises in awarding "Neighborhood of the Year" (NOTY) and "NUSA Notables" Awards. The NOTY awards have been presented since 1984 as a collective "thank you" for the hard work of nominated neighborhoods and are the only national awards given on an ongoing basis to neighborhood organizations for their self-help initiatives.

The Planning and Development Department and the Department of Neighborhoods will coordinate with local neighborhood advocates and NUSA on the 2015 Conference. For more information or to find out how you can get involved, call Margaret Wallace at 713-837-7701.

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