8:30 am  **Breakfast and Registration**

9:00 am  **Welcome**

Jeff Taebel, FAICP • *Houston-Galveston Area Council*

9:30 am  **Establishing a Foundation**

Kyle Shelton, Ph.D. • *Kinder Institute for Urban Research*
Steve Spillette • *CDS Community Development Strategies*
Shannon Van Zandt, Ph.D., AICP • *Texas A&M University*
Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning

10:10 am  **Break**

10:25 am  **Opportunities and Barriers to the Regional Housing Vision**

Lawrence Dean • *Metrostudy*
Joy Horak-Brown • *New Hope Housing, Inc.*
Mark Meyer, PLA • *TBG Partners*

11:05 am  **Break**

11:15 am  **Local Realities**

Bobby Pennington • *City of Cleveland*
B.J. Simon • *Baytown-West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation*
Tim Tietjens • *City of Galveston*

11:55 am  **Announcements and Closing**
SPEAKERS

PANEL 1, ESTABLISHING A FOUNDATION

Kyle Shelton, Ph.D.
Director of Strategic Partnerships • Kinder Institute for Urban Research
Kyle Shelton, Ph.D., is the Director of Strategic Partnerships at Rice University’s Kinder Institute for Urban Research, where he leads research on urban development, transportation, placemaking, and urban and metropolitan governance. Dr. Shelton has a Ph.D. in American History from The University of Texas at Austin. His research focuses on how the intersections of transportation, urban development, and policy shape the built and natural environments of cities in the past and today. He is the author of Power Moves: Transportation, Politics and Development in Houston. His areas of expertise include transportation, urban development, and planning policy.

Steven R. Spillette
President • CDS Community Development Strategies
Steve Spillette is the President of CDS Community Development Strategies, where he provides real estate and urban planning guidance to both public and private sector clients. He evaluates the options available for obtaining desired market-supported results to create better developments, districts, towns, and cities. Mr. Spillette has engaged in a wide range of services and products for his clients, including market analysis, economic development agreements, special district planning, and public development and planning policy. He holds economics, city planning and business administration degrees from Stanford University, UC Berkeley, and Texas A&M. His 28 years of work experience includes positions with the national research and analysis firm Economics Research Associates, the Uptown Houston Improvement District, and the Real Estate Research Center at Texas A&M University. He headed his own firm for 12 years, and in 2013 merged with CDS Market Research, a Houston firm with nearly 40 years experience in real estate market research and urban development economics.

Shannon Van Zandt, Ph.D., AICP
Department Head • TAMU Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning
Shannon Van Zandt, Ph.D. AICP, is Professor and Head of the Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning at Texas A&M University. She holds a Ph.D. in City & Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a fellow of the College of Architecture’s Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center and is former director of the College’s Center for Housing & Urban Development. Prior to becoming department head, Dr. Van Zandt directed the professional program in urban planning. Dr. Van Zandt researches policy and practice around affordable housing, low-income homeownership, disaster recovery, and land use planning. She serves as a board member for the Texas Low-Income Housing Information Service and Texas Sea Grant. She is engaged with the American Planning Association’s Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Planning Division, the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, and the National Institutes for Standards and Technology Center of Excellence for Community Resilience Planning.
SPEAKERS

Lawrence Dean
*Regional Director - Houston • Metrostudy*
Lawrence Dean is Metrostudy's Regional Director – Houston. Prior to becoming the Houston Regional Director, Mr. Dean led a team in Metrostudy's consulting business advising diverse clients, including builders, developers, and investors, on specific sites and potential development programs. He brings abundant experience to this role, having 15 years of experience in the housing development industry in the Houston area. Mr. Dean has held management roles in land acquisition and development for some of the region's largest builders, including Ryland, KB Home, and D.R. Horton. In the real estate consulting arena, he was also Vice President of a local boutique consulting firm. Mr. Dean holds a Master of Science in Land Development as well as a second Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning, both from Texas A&M University. His undergraduate degree is from the University of Houston.

Joy Horak-Brown
*President and CEO • New Hope Housing, Inc.*
As its founding President and CEO, Joy Horak-Brown is responsible for real estate development, property management, fundraising, marketing/PR, and administration for New Hope, a 25-year nonprofit developer of life-stabilizing, affordable, permanent housing and services for people with limited incomes. With Ms. Horak-Brown's leadership, New Hope Housing has grown from an organization that operated 40 units of apartment housing to one with more than 1,000 units at seven properties around Houston, in addition to more than $35 million currently under construction and $25 million in pre-development. Since inception, New Hope Housing has assisted more than 9,500 people and has raised almost $140 million in layered, debt-free financing for capital expansions, organization operating funds, and resident services. Guided by Ms. Horak-Brown's management, New Hope Housing has received numerous awards honoring the organization's innovative and transformative approach to community change.

Mark Meyer, PLA
*Practice Lead Principal • TBG Partners, Dallas*
Mark Meyer is a Professional Landscape Architect with more than 20 years of experience encompassing all aspects of landscape architecture and planning. He guides TBG's firm-wide professional practice as Practice Lead Principal, helping guide and refine a thoughtful project approach that considers not only aesthetics but also pertinent environmental, economic, and social performance factors. Mr. Meyer also has a passion for the charrette process and the power of hands-on, multidisciplinary collaboration to deliver project solutions. He is an experienced facilitator at guiding large stakeholder groups toward a shared vision, and he frequently leads multi-day creative planning workshops to jumpstart the development process. Mr. Meyer maintains extensive involvement in professional organizations, including the 2018 City of Dallas Urban Design Peer Review Panel, National Community Development Panel with the Urban Land Institute, and the Texas A&M University Landscape Architecture Professional Advisory Board.
SPEAKERS

PANEL 3, LOCAL REALITIES

Robert Pennington
Assistant City Manager • City of Cleveland

Robert Pennington is the Assistant City Manager of Cleveland, Texas, responsible for the financial and economic operations of the city. Mr. Pennington previously held positions with the City of Pearland as the Budget Officer, the City of Fort Worth as a CMO Management Analyst, and the City of Palestine as Director of Finance. Mr. Pennington has over 20 years of experience in city finances, strategic planning, and economic development.

B.J. Simon
Associate Executive Director • Baytown-West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation

B. J. Simon is the Associate Executive Director of the Baytown-West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation. Mr. Simon, on staff at the Foundation since 2005, is involved in most aspects of economic development including business recruitment, retention & expansion, business development, labor analysis, workforce development, public policy, market research, marketing, retail development, contract administration, and strategic planning. Mr. Simon serves as board member of various civic and professional organizations including the Gulf Coast Economic Development District and the Houston-Galveston Air Emission Reduction Credit Organization. Prior to joining the Foundation, Mr. Simon’s professional experience includes more than 20 years in the petrochemical industry with ExxonMobil and the Cities Service Company, holding assignments in quality engineering, process improvement, and organization development.

Tim Tietjens
Director of Development Services • City of Galveston

Tim Tietjens serves as the Director of Development Services for the City of Galveston. He began his planning career over 29 years ago after graduating from Iowa State University’s College of Design with a degree in Community and Regional Planning. He moved to Texas from Iowa with his wife and has helped guide the direction of three jurisdictions in the southeast Houston metro area. In his current role, Mr. Tietjens oversees the Planning, Permit and Coastal divisions at the City of Galveston. He began his career as a Land Planner with the City of Pasadena, Texas, where he ascended to the Director of Planning overseeing the planning and economic development functions as well as the federal Community Development Block Grant and Housing Choice Voucher programs. After 18 years of service, Mr. Tietjens was recruited to La Porte, Texas, where he was the Director of Planning and was responsible for the Permit and Engineering divisions for 9 years.
Jeff Taebel, FAICP
Moderator for Panel 1, Establishing a Foundation
Director of Community & Environmental Planning • Houston-Galveston Area Council
Jeff Taebel, FAICP, has over 35 years of local and regional planning experience, including 31 in his current position. His responsibilities include overseeing the Houston-Galveston Area Council’s community and economic development, disaster recovery, environmental planning, livable communities, socioeconomic modeling, and sustainable development programs. In 2008, he was named a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners and, in 2013, he received Houston Tomorrow’s inaugural Community Catalyst award for his contributions to quality of life in the Houston region. Mr. Taebel is a past President of the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association and has served on the Urban Land Institute Houston District Council Executive Committee and co-chaired its Sustainability Committee.

Joshua Owens, AICP, LEED-AP
Moderator for Panel 2, Opportunities and Barriers to the Regional Housing Vision
Senior Planner • Houston-Galveston Area Council
Joshua Owens AICP, LEED-AP, is a Senior Regional Planner with the Houston-Galveston Area Council where he works on regional economic development. He is the administrator for the Gulf Coast Economic Development District and the Revolving Loan Fund. His work focuses on expanding the economic vitality and resiliency of the Houston-Galveston region. He holds a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). Previous work experiences include positions with the U.S. Green Building Council, Enterprise Community Partners, and service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Paraguay. He serves on the board of the Houston section of the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Joey Kaspar
Moderator for Panel 3, Local Realities
Senior Planner • Houston-Galveston Area Council
Joey Kaspar is a Senior Regional Planner in the Sustainable Development Program at the Houston-Galveston Area Council. In that role, she supports the organization’s work in Low Impact Development and Hazard Mitigation Planning. Ms. Kaspar holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning and a Master’s of Urban Planning with an emphasis in Community and Economic Development.
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