

# FALL PLANNING

OUR HEALTHY  
COMMUNITIES

## WORKSHOP



“Planning is bringing the future into the present  
so that you can do something about it now.”

– Alan Lakein

**Friday, November 9, 2012**

Houston-Galveston Area Council

# AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00 ..... **Registration, Breakfast**

9:00 – 9:05 .. **Establishing the Framework: Why Planning for Healthy Communities?**  
Jeff Taebel, FAICP, H-GAC

9:05 – 9:30 ..... **What Does “Healthy Communities” Really Mean?**  
Dr. Herminia Palacio, Executive Director,  
Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services

9:30 – 10:25 ..... **How Can We Create Healthier Communities?**

- **Planning for an Active Lifestyle: Pedestrian/Bicycle Planning**  
Zakcq Lockrem, Director of Planning, Asakura Robinson
- **Are Your Codes and Policies Helping or Hindering Your Healthy Communities Planning Efforts?**  
Rebecca Leonard, Principal, Design Workshop

10:25 - 10:35 ..... **Break**

10:35 – 11:25 ..... **What Best Practices Examples Are There in the Region?**

- **Using Livability to Create a Healthy Community**  
The Honorable Carl Pickett, Mayor, City of Liberty
- **Houston Bike Share—A Building Block to a Better Future**  
Will Rub, Director, Houston Bike Share - Houston B-cycle
- **Planning Smart Greenspaces that Result in Measurable Health Benefits for Communities**  
Roksan Okan-Vick, Executive Director, Houston Parks Board

11:25 – 11:50 ..... **The ROI of Cool! - Quantifying the Value of Linear Greenspace, Parks, and Trails - How Can Your Community Capitalize on its Existing Assets?**  
Sue Darcy, President, and John Havenstrite, Vice President, Marsh Darcy Partners

11:50 – 11:55 ..... **Concluding Remarks**  
Jeff Taebel, FAICP, H-GAC

# SPEAKERS



**Jeff  
Taebel**

Jeff Taebel, FAICP, is the Director of Community and Environmental Planning at H-GAC, where he oversees the agency's community and environmental planning, socioeconomic modeling, economic development, community enhancement, disaster recovery, and sustainable development initiatives. He has 30 years of experience in urban and regional planning, including 25 in his current position.

Actively involved in community service, professional development and planning education, Mr. Taebel is a former President of the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association and in 2008 was inducted as a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Mr. Taebel received a Master of Urban Planning from Texas A&M University and a Bachelor of Science in Life Sciences from the University of Nebraska.



**Dr.  
Herminia  
Palacio**

Herminia Palacio, MD, MPH, served as Special Policy Advisor to the Director for the San Francisco Department of Public Health before relocating to Houston. In January 2003 she was appointed to the post of Executive Director of Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services (HCPHES). She has served on the Board of Directors of several organizations and currently serves as Chair of the Texas Public Health Coalition. She has also served as a member of national scientific advisory panels and committees and was most recently appointed by President Obama as a member of the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health.

Dr. Palacio received her medical degree from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. She completed her residency training at the University of California San Francisco Primary Care Internal Medicine Program at San Francisco General Hospital and obtained a Master of Public Health from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. She is an adjunct faculty member of both the Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Texas School of Public Health.

**Today's presentations will be available at**  
**[www.h-gac.com/community/  
qualityplaces/workshops/  
fps2012.aspx](http://www.h-gac.com/community/qualityplaces/workshops/fps2012.aspx)**

# SPEAKERS



**Zakcq  
Lockrem**

Zakcq Lockrem is the Director of Planning for Asakura Robinson, a Landscape Architecture, Urban Planning and Design firm in Houston's Sixth Ward. In his work, he focuses on the experience of urban space and the role of public space in shaping civic engagement. He brings broad project experience from the gulf coast, New England, California, Mexico and West Africa, working on issues from cycling to affordable housing.

In addition, Mr. Lockrem brings experience from the non-profit sector, which he utilizes in developing cutting-edge public participation strategies and building stakeholder capacity. He is an adjunct professor of urban planning at Texas Southern University and is a co-founder of Social Agency Lab, a collaborative of urban planners and designers from around the country who engage in public art and creative urban interventions. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Affairs from Boston University and a Master of Urban Planning from Harvard's Graduate School of Design. Mr. Lockrem has been a part of a car-free household for over 11 years and currently lives in downtown Houston with his partner and their 2- month- old son.



**Rebecca  
Leonard**

Rebecca Leonard, AICP, LEED-AP, a Principal of Design Workshop, has experience in the areas of community planning, urban design, redevelopment, tourism planning, regional planning, and site design. Ms. Leonard has a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Ball State University College of Architecture and Planning. She focuses on projects that represent the heart of the community. Through her strategic initiative, she integrates in-depth knowledge of the area's environment, community and economy with strong physical design and public spaces. Her projects have been recognized as solving some of the toughest public/private dilemmas facing communities, and she believes that an excellent design is one that considers its context in all facets – environment, community, art, and economy.

Ms. Leonard's professional affiliations include American Planning Association: Urban Design and Preservation Division and Small Town and Rural Planning Division; Healthy Mountain Communities; Form Based Code Institute; and Congress for the New Urbanism.

# SPEAKERS



**Hon. Carl  
Pickett**

Carl Pickett is Mayor of the City of Liberty and is now in his fourth term. He is a practicing attorney and a practicing CPA. His office is in Liberty where he is associated with his brother Ed in a law firm under the name Pickett & Pickett, P.C.

Mayor Pickett and his wife Laura are the parents of three children, a son and two daughters, and are lifelong residents of Liberty.

Prior to becoming Mayor of Liberty, Mayor Pickett served for 21 years as a member of the Liberty Independent School District Board of Trustees. He also serves as a Director on the Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency Board of Directors.



**William  
Rub**

William Rub has worked in a broad spectrum of industries including Oil & Gas and Information Technology. The past 13 years have been dedicated to the non-profit industry. Mr. Rub has worked for the National MS Society and the American Stroke Association. He was the Executive Director of the International Facility Management Association Foundation for six years. He is now the Director of Houston Bike Share—the organization that is vested with the responsibility to operate and expand the Houston B-cycle Program.

Mr. Rub has been a lifelong advocate of fitness and has been a triathlete and cyclist since the mid-1980s. He has lived in Houston since 1972. He is a graduate of Rice University where he was a four-year letterman in football.



Will we have a greener region?  
Will we spend less time on the road?  
Will we have a competitive workforce?

**Think 2040. Take the survey.**

[www.ourregion.org](http://www.ourregion.org)



# SPEAKERS



**Roksan  
Okan-Vick**

Roksan Okan-Vick has been the Executive Director of the Houston Parks Board, a non-profit organization that creates, improves, and protects parkland for Houston, since July 2004. She leads and directs all aspects of the organization's business and serves as liaison to city government, other green space organizations, national park organizations, outside consultants, foundations, and the board of directors. Under her leadership, the Houston Parks Board has raised the funds and implemented over \$80 million of new parkland acquisitions and improvements. Ms. Okan-Vick is also the Executive Director of two affiliated organizations – Parks for Greater Houston and Houston Parks Board Local Government Corporation.

Prior to her current position, in August 2002 she was appointed as the first woman director of the Houston Parks & Recreation Department: responsible for 850 employees, 314 parks, and an annual budget of \$52 million. From late 1995 to 2002, Ms. Okan-Vick was employed by Friends of Hermann Park, a non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration and enhancement of Hermann Park.



**Sue Darcy**

Sue Darcy has worked extensively in the field of economic development and has helped countless public clients across the state establish policies and implementation strategies to promote job growth, tax base diversification, and an improved quality of life. To this public sector work, Ms. Darcy brings 20 years of real world commercial real estate sales and development experience. Her balance of public and private sector real estate work provide her with a unique perspective that benefits all the parties sitting around a negotiating table.

Ms. Darcy is originally from the Golden Triangle, has been married 38 years, and has sailed and chartered throughout the United States and Caribbean.



# SPEAKERS



## John Havenstrite

John Havenstrite has more than 20 years of experience with special districts, infrastructure finance, economic development and municipal policy. He has worked on behalf of large national developers, as an advocate for individual homeowners, and on behalf of large and small municipalities. Mr. Havenstrite has worked since 1999 to help the public and private sector balance competing needs, finance and construct infrastructure, and develop sustainable communities through mutually beneficial public-private initiatives.

Mr. Havenstrite is originally from New Orleans and now divides his time between Houston and Austin. He is the proud father of two elementary school-aged children.



# PLANNING RESOURCES

## Healthy and Livable Communities

Community Initiative Network  
[www.communityinitiatives.com](http://www.communityinitiatives.com)

CDC Community Transformation  
[www.cdc.gov/communitytransformation](http://www.cdc.gov/communitytransformation)

Prevention Institute  
[www.preventioninstitute.org/index.php?option=com\\_jlibrary&view=article&id=114&Itemid=127](http://www.preventioninstitute.org/index.php?option=com_jlibrary&view=article&id=114&Itemid=127)

Partnership for Livable Communities  
[www.livable.org](http://www.livable.org)

Smart Growth America  
[www.smartgrowthamerica.org/issues/healthy-communities-and-people](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/issues/healthy-communities-and-people)

## Nutrition and Food Policy

USDA Food Desert Locator  
[www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-desert-locator.aspx](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-desert-locator.aspx)

Houston Food Policy Workgroup  
[www.houstontomorrow.org/initiatives/story/houston-food-policy-workgroup](http://www.houstontomorrow.org/initiatives/story/houston-food-policy-workgroup)

Local Harvest  
[www.localharvest.org](http://www.localharvest.org)

# PLANNING RESOURCES

## Active Transportation

Alliance for Biking & Walking

[www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/site](http://www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/site)

America Bikes

[www.americabikes.org/about](http://www.americabikes.org/about)

America Walks

[www.americawalks.org](http://www.americawalks.org)

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center

[www.pedbikeinfo.org](http://www.pedbikeinfo.org)

Safe Routes to School

[www.saferoutespartnership.org](http://www.saferoutespartnership.org)

Bike Texas

[www.biketexas.org](http://www.biketexas.org)

Bike Houston

[www.bikehouston.org](http://www.bikehouston.org)

H-GAC Pedestrian Bicyclist Planning

[www.h-gac.com/community/qualityplaces/pedbike](http://www.h-gac.com/community/qualityplaces/pedbike)



Houston-Galveston Area Council

P.O. Box 22777

Houston, Texas 77227-2777

713-627-3200