



# 2016 Annual Report American Leadership Forum

Houston/Gulf Coast Chapter

# messagefromthechair

Innovation has been described as the application of better solutions that meet new requirements, unarticulated needs, or existing market needs. That certainly describes the work that the American Leadership Forum has been doing since our founding here in Houston 35 years ago. And we are very proud to have continued that tradition of innovation in 2016 through the development of our new strategic plan. This plan charts a course through 2020 for us to expand and enhance our programming, to continue to be recognized as the "Best in Class" civic and community leadership program in our region, to increase engagement and participation of our Senior Fellows in all aspects of our work and to insure that we have the necessary financial and infrastructure resources to achieve our envisioned growth.



As the challenges we face across our region, across our country and around our world continue to become increasingly complex, the innovative civic and community leadership that the American Leadership Forum fosters and promotes has never been more needed and important. And we believe that the opportunities and potential for breaking away from traditional ways of thinking and introducing something better than before are more possible than ever before. Through our new strategic plan, the American Leadership Forum has reaffirmed our commitment to create these opportunities and the space for such collective innovation to occur. The possibilities are limitless when we harness the collective power of bright and caring leaders to spark change in our communities.

I am proud to share some of the accomplishments of the past year with you in this report and to invite you to continue to join and support our work to strengthen the leadership fabric of the Houston/Gulf Coast region.



Sharon Murphy (Class XXIII) Partner, McConnell Jones Lanier & Murphy LLP

# nessagefromthepresident

Illumination refers to shedding light upon something, bringing it out of the darkness. Yet it also refers to the idea of seeing or understanding something better or from new perspectives. The American Leadership Forum (ALF) illuminates opportunities to enhance and expand civic engagement across the greater Houston/Gulf Coast region. We do this by joining and strengthening diverse leaders each year.

In 2016, a powerful conversation around the issues of income disparity led the Fellows of Class XXXV to host their community dialogue on the topic of, "How to Create Access to Capital for Low Income Populations Without Perpetuating a Cycle of Poverty". The spark of collective illumination and innovation also inspired Class XXXV Fellows Kimberly Johnston and Kristi Rangel to initiate projects of their own, featured in this report. Also taking the opportunity to explore critical topics in a new light, Class XXXVI took stock of Houston's diversity in a dialogue entitled, "Exploring Our Opportunities and Challenges".



And Community Development Class 2 asked "What if Everyone Felt At Home?" to look critically at what truly inclusive community development might look like in the future.

ALF continues to bring together an incredibly diverse cross-section of leaders to engage them in the process of discovery and co-creation of new possibilities. These leaders bring different skills and understand the world from very different perspectives. By offering them the opportunity to build deep and trusting relationships with people from every sector of the community, we unleash the power of collective illumination and innovation.

I am deeply grateful for the vision of our board members, committee members, volunteers, generous donors and Senior Fellows as well as our extremely talented Program Consultants and staff members who have each made significant and immeasurable contributions to our work in 2016. Thank you for your commitment to the belief that together we can create the future we desire. I invite you to continue to join us in service to our region throughout 2017.

Daniel W. Snare (Medical Community Class 5)
President, American Leadership Forum

# An Aha! Moment



# Kimberly Johnston Class XXXV,

National Tax Partner/Power & Utility Sector, Ernst & Young

Good Works Houston -A Good idea that was born out of an ALF wilderness experience

The American Leadership Forum experience was the catalyst for Good Works Houston, a community-based organization launched in 2016 that empowers Houstonians in need by fostering innovative solutions tackling upward mobility challenges. It began during the ALF Wilderness Experience where Kimberly Johnston and her Class XXXV classmates engaged in a rich dialogue on the real hardships facing Houston communities.

"Through the American Leadership Forum experience, fellow classmates and I became seriously concerned about Houston's growing social issues which pushed me to think differently about solutions," said Kimberly. The experience led her to research leading global social innovation institutes that develop high impact enterprises tackling upward mobility challenges. One of the institutes, The Unreasonable Institute, was seeking to offer programs in 15 cities around the world by partnering with organizations interested in fostering social entrepreneurship and innovation in their local markets.

Good Works Houston was formed and Houston became one of the 15 selected global cities from nearly 200 applicants. Through this opportunity, Good Works Houston received 60 applications from four countries and selected 16 enterprises to support in 2016. Among those selected include Farm Dirt, a compost facility in the Fifth Ward; iEducate, which promotes STEM careers to underprivileged youth; and OneJump, that provides summer employment opportunities to teens with challenged backgrounds. Many flourished and expanded their impact due to the Good Works Houston lab and support offered by concerned business and civic leaders.

Johnston attributes the success of Good Works Houston to Senior Fellows living the American Leadership Forum mission. "Now I live and breathe by the ALF mantra of joining, strengthening, and serving. I seek to develop empathy for others and serve our community" Johnston said. She is grateful to CenterPoint Energy for investing in a stronger, healthier Houston community by supporting the American Leadership Forum and for sponsoring her participation in Class XXXV. "I hope to foster a more vibrant community of servant leaders who are empathic and motivated to care for others based on the principles of the American Leadership Forum," Johnston said.

# Bright Ideas!

## **Kristi Rangel**

Class XXXV, Public Health Education Chief, City of Houston Health Department - My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Houston



### The Development of the Children's Savings Account Emerged from the Class XXXV Dialogue

My American Leadership Forum class chose to hold a dialogue that we called "How to Create Access to Capital for Low Income Populations Without Perpetuating a Cycle of Poverty". We discussed the un-banked and under-banked in historically underserved communities. I realized at our class dialogue that there was a lot that could be done by intervening early in children's lives to allow them access to bank accounts and to build a culture of savings where the previous generations had none.

After our dialogue, I embarked on a journey to see what was out there. What I found was the Children's Savings Account (CSA) pilots. With 215,000 children enrolled in Houston Independent School District (HISD) and 75.5% of those students being economically disadvantaged, an investment in Children's Savings Accounts (CSAs) in Houston will increase post-secondary attendance and completion rates for a large number of students. Connecting a CSA program with the state-mandated financial education curriculum in the HISD schools will increase students' financial skills, knowledge and preparedness, and help decrease the financial burden that post-secondary education places on Houston's families. And research shows that low- and moderate-income students with a CSA for post-secondary education are:

- More likely to get better grades and graduate from high school;
- 3x more likely to attend college; and
- 4x more likely to graduate from college, even with only \$1-\$499 in the account.

I realized my role leading My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Houston education initiatives allowed me to make the connections to get a pilot here in Houston in our city's most at-risk communities. I have invited people to help bring this program to at least six elementary schools. Our plans will create non-custodial college savings accounts for all 4th graders in six schools by the fall of 2017. The goal is to scale up so every kindergartener in Houston will get an account automatically when they start school.

Since September 2016, a large working group has been meeting every two weeks to help put together details of the program. The working group includes My Brother's Keeper, University of Houston, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas - Houston Branch, United Way of Greater Houston and a variety of community leaders and business associates supporting this pilot program. A smaller cohort from the working group is currently in discussion about the role of Program Coordinator, who would manage the overall implementation and operations of the CSA program once it is launched. Members of the working group have been in discussions with other cities, financial institutions, and partner organizations around the country that are currently administering a CSA for College program to seek information about administration details and best practices.

I knew nothing about banking or even the details of financial literacy prior to my American Leadership Forum experience, but the fearlessness of my class tackling our dialogue inspired me to stretch and pursue this initiative. Several of the panel members from our class dialogue were my first contacts in finding out more and a few have been thought partners. It makes me proud to see the American Leadership Forum Class XXXV move its dialogue forward.



# **Class XXXV**

**Parvin Bagherpour -** Chief Student Affairs Officer, Graduate Medical Education Development

**Dwight Boykins -** Council Member District D, City of Houston

David Chaumette - Principal, www.piccman.com

Susan Deison - CEO/President/Founder, Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce

Christine Faulstich - Rector, Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

Judith Finkel - Past Chair, Anti-Defamation League, Southwest Region

Gloria Gallegos - Associate Superintendent for Special Programs, Pasadena ISD

Pete Garcia - President, Pete Garcia International Inc.

Veronica Chapa Gorczynski - President, Greater East End Management District

Ismael Hernandez - VP - Global Marine, Buckeye Partners, LP

Kimberly Johnston - National Tax Partner, Ernst & Young

John Kajander - Strategic Consultant - Life Sciences, Houston First Corporation

Lester King - Built Environment Manager, Harris County Public Health

Chi-mei Lin - CEO/Executive Director, Chinese Community Center

Karen Love - Director/Owner - Practice Growth, PKF Texas

**Qusai Mahesri -** Managing Director, Xpediant Solutions

**Robert McPherson** - Dean – College of Education, University of Houston

John Parras - Lawyer, John Parras Law Office

Mary Ann Perez - Texas State Representative, District 144

**Kristi Rangel -** Educational Consultant –My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Houston, City of Houston Health Department

**Cara Rudelson -** Chief Operating Officer, Memorial Park Conservatory

**Carlecia Wright** - Director – Office of Business Opportunity, City of Houston

**Carla Wyatt -** Central Information Technology, Harris County



## Class XXXVI

Juan Alonso - Regional Vice President, H-E-B

Minnette Boesel - Retired – Mayor's Assistant for Cultural Affairs, City of Houston

Janet Brown - Director of Finance, Space Center Houston/Manned Space Flight Education Fnd.

Cherri Carbonara - President, Carbonara Group

Sergio Castillo - Director – Office of Hispanic Ministry, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Cynthia Colbert - President, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

**Eric Coleman -** Deputy Head of Schools, KIPP Houston Public Schools

**John Daniel -** Chairman of the Board, The Council on Recovery-Houston

Cris Daskevich - Senior Vice President, Texas Children's Hospital

Marie Goradia - Board Member, Pratham USA and Director, Goradia Family Office

Marylyn Harris - Executive Director, Women Veterans Business Center

Eartha Jean Johnson - Chairman of the Board, Risk Mitigation Worldwide

Carl Josehart - SVP, CEO TIRR, Rehab and Post Acute Services, Memorial Hermann

Nicole Lievsay - Senior Manager, Risk Adjustment, Community Health Choice

Clark Lord - Partner, Bracewell LLP

Patrice McKinney - Attorney, Lanier Law Firm

Kathleen Ownby - Executive Director, SPARK School Park Program

**Tina Peterman -** Director, FirstSouthwest, a Division of Hilltop Securities Inc.

D. Mark Poag - Founder and Managing Director, Fitz Gate Ventures

Russell Richard - Director of Leadership & Engagement, Center for Houston's Future

**Debra Stewart -** Director, Supplier Diversity and Diversity Outreach, Shell

Adriana Tamez - Education Administration - Raul Yzaguirre School of Success, HCC Trustee Dist. 3

Rolando Trevino - School Support Office (SSO), Houston Independent School District

**Sixto Wagan -** Director – Center for Arts Leadership, University of Houston



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# **Community Development Class 2**

Christopher Bilton - Director, Houston MBDA Business Center

**Rebecca Block -** *Director of Communications and Engagement, American Leadership Forum* **Geoff Carleton -** *Principal, TEI* 

Tanya Debose - Executive Director, Independence Heights Redevelopment Council

Cedric Douglas - Architect, GO Team Leader for SEHTA's Strollin and Rollin

Patrick Ezzell - Director of Economic Development, Greater East End Management District

Karen Farber - Executive Director, UH Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts

Joseph Icet - CEO, Urban Farmer, Last Organic Outpost

**Ryane Jackson -** Director, Community Development and Global Education & Training,

Houston Methodist

**Kym King -** Vice President of Public Relations & Community Affairs, Goodwill Houston

Monte Large - Partner, Urban Deal

Raj Mankad - Editor, Cite Magazine

Lisa Mayes - Consultant

Ivette Mayo - President, Yo Soy I Am, LLC

**Carra Moroni -** Division Manager – Chronic Disease Prevention and Management, Houston Dept. of Health & Human Services

**Lupe Olivarez -** Owner, G.O. Productions Festival Consulting

Laura Ostlind Thomas - Co-Owner, Ostlind Thomas Inc.

Mark Praigg - Business Advisor, Houston MBDA Business Center/HCC

Robin Reagler - Executive Director, Writers in the Schools

Rebecca Reyna - Executive Director, Greater Northside Management District

Charlene Slack - Executive Director, Wayne Duddlesten Foundation

James Soller - Chief Executive Officer, Rebuilding Together Houston

**Gregg Stephens -** Architect, Principal, STOA Architects

Mark Thiele - Vice President, Housing Choice Voucher Programs, Houston Housing Authority



# forums&dialogues

- Chez ALF dinner and dialogue served at Senior Fellows' homes
- Reservations for Six program designed exclusively for Senior Fellows to get to know one another in a small group setting

#### Second Friday Breakfasts

- January: Houston Grows Up - Bayou City in the 21st Century

- February: City and County Government --

**Understanding the Roles and Distinctions** 

- March: What Does Houston Need in a New Superintendent?

April: Mayor Turner's First 100 Days in Office
 May: How Can Collaboration in Houston Help to

Address Food Insecurity?

- June: Is Houston Losing Its Edge on Housing Affordability?

- July: Understanding the Pension Predicament

August: What Houston Has Learned Since Last Hosting the Super Bowl

September: A Flood of Myths and Solutions:

A dialogue on Flooding in Houston

- October: The Next Legislative Session

- November: Post-Election Analysis and Policy Perspective

# Nonprofit Leadership Collaborative Forum 2016 featuring Dana Carney

#### Class Experiences and Curriculum

- Orientation—
   Camp Allen, Navasota, TX
- Wilderness Challenge— Lake George, Colorado
- Transformational Dialogue
- Experience as Other
- Leading is Convening
- Taking Stock Retreat—
   Camp Allen, Navasota, TX
- Disruptive Innovation
- Houston Area Survey with Stephen Klineberg, Ph.D.
- Commencement
- Debrief Reunion

#### Other ALF Events

- Annual Meeting
- Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Dinner
- Engaging Houston: A Dialogue on Race, Power and Privilege
- ALF Breakfast Dialogue with
  - Donna Bahorich, Texas State Board of Education Chair
- Have You Thought About Serving the City of Houston?
   Meet the Director of Boards and Commissions for the City of Houston, Danielle Bartz
- Documentaries, Dialogue and Delectables:
   Film Screening with Donna Cole
- Why is Houston Cool?

#### Class Dialogues

#### Class XXXV:

 How to Create Access to Capital for Low Income Populations Without Perpetuating a Cycle of Poverty

#### Class XXXVI:

Taking Stock of Houston's Diversity:
 Exploring Our Opportunities and Challenges

#### **Community Development Class 2:**

What if Everyone Felt At Home?
 Inclusive Community Development in 2016

#### Other projects:

 Strategic Planning -- This five-year strategic plan has been developed to guide the American Leadership Forum's activities. This planning process began at a board retreat where Trustees were tasked with developing a vision for the future. A strategic planning committee comprised of members of the board and a diverse cross-section of Senior Fellows developed and articulated this vision.



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Form L to R, Mark Wawro, Melanie Gray and Stephen Klineberg

# TO VA

# 2016 Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Dinner

Melanie Gray and Mark Wawro were presented with the Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award and Stephen Klineberg received the ALF Public Service Award on Wednesday, April 21, 2016 at the Houstonian Hotel, Club & Spa. The event, attended by 378 guests, raised over \$200,000 to support the American Leadership Forum's ongoing mission of joining and strengthening diverse leaders to serve the common good.



The American Leadership Forum values and appreciates all contributions made in support of our mission of joining and strengthening diverse leaders to serve the common good. ALF would like to acknowledge donors who have made significant contributions in support of our programming and scholarships in 2016 through Grants, the Annual Membership Campaign, the Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Dinner, and Endowed Scholarship Funds.

#### \$30,000+

Houston Endowment Inc.
Rockwell Fund, Inc.

#### \$20,000 +

Chevron

#### \$15,000 +

Melanie Gray & Mark Wawro

#### \$10,000 +

H-E-B

Marek Family

Memorial Hermann

Louisa Stude Sarofim

#### \$7,500 +

John & Kimberly Watson

#### \$5,000 +

Crys Blankenship
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John P. McGovern Foundation
Susman Godfrey LLP

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# Donor Recognition continued

#### \$2,500 - \$4,999

Eddie Allen/Eagle Global Advisors Amegy Bank Comerica Bank Founders and Leaders of Center for Women in Law Marc Grossberg Lauren & Geoff Harrison/ **Brittney & Max Tribble** Michael Holthouse **Houston Community College Houston First Corporation** Johnny Johnson Kelley Lang C.C. Lee The Leon Jaworski Foundation Marathon Oil Susan & Ron Martin McConnell Jones Lanier & Murphy LLP Marc Melcher Sherry & Gerald Merfish **Sharon Murphy** Carrin Patman & Jim Derrick Alan Ratliff Cara & Michael Rudelson Mary & Daniel W. Snare Lois & George Stark Clarissa & Gregg Stephens Karyl Van Tassel Fabené Joan Welch Cyvia & Melvyn Wolff

#### \$1,000 - \$2,499

AVANCE - Houston, Inc
Ann & Matthew Barnes
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Larry (Laurence) Neuhaus

# Other Recognition

David Underwood, Jr.

#### **In-Kind Support**

Host of the 2016 Annual Meeting and Reunion Bud Light/ Silver Eagle Distributors

Host of numerous dialogues and class sessions The Council on Recovery

# 2016highlights

Today, our Houston/Gulf Coast network includes 1,204 Senior Fellows who, through their ALF participation, have developed the relationships, trust and skills to co-create new possibilities for our region.

new leaders joined our network and participated in more than 530 hours of the Fellows Program, in which they learned collaborative leadership skills, modeled servant leadership, and created opportunities to work together.

29 events were held to engage our Senior Fellows in enhancing relationships, strengthening their capacity to collectively address public issues and to explore some of the most important issues facing our region.

Awarded \$155,400 in scholarships to insure that all deserving leaders were able to participate in our program and that all areas of our community were represented.

12% Fellows Classes Senior **Tuition** and **EXPENSES Earned Income** \$886,469 ard Dinr 20% In 2016 ALF had operating revenue of \$1,027,921 and expenses of \$886,469. \$1,027,921 At year end ALF had investment assets of more than \$2.6 million, of which \$1.57 million is in the Endowed Scholarship Fund.



## **Mission Statement**

The American Leadership Forum (ALF) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to join and strengthen diverse leaders to serve the common good.

# **Officers**

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#### **Sharon Murphy**

Class XXIII

Partner, McConnell Jones Lanier & Murphy LLP

#### **IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR**

#### Jim Drew

Class XXIII

Senior Vice President, Bowen, Miclette & Britt, Inc.

#### **VICE CHAIR**

#### Jose Villarreal

Class IV

Retired - Executive Director, AVANCE Houston

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**Gina Carroll** 

Class XXX

Partner, Inspired Wordsmith

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#### **Terry Morales**

Class XXXIV

Senior Vice President, Amegy Bank

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