



News release

Contact: Kathryn Cooper
Communications Manager
18045 Saturn Lane
Bay Area Houston, Texas 77058
Phone: 832.536.3244
Fax: 832.536.3258
Email: kathryn@bayareahouston.com
Visit: www.bayareahouston.com

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Board officers prepare for action-packed year

BAY AREA HOUSTON, TEXAS – The newly-elected officers of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership’s board of directors have a full agenda as they begin their one-year term of office.

Board Chairman Robert Ellis stated, “The upcoming year will have a few mountains to climb. We will develop a new Strategic Plan for 2012-2016, increase our efforts to facilitate maritime workforce development in preparation for the soon-to-be-completed work on the Panama Canal, travel to Austin to further the region’s legislative agenda, return to Washington for our 20th annual trip to Capitol Hill in support of NASA, seek out means to further stimulate the region’s economy, and keep a close watch on the NASA appropriations process.

“This promises to be an exciting year, and I appreciate the opportunity to chair the board of an organization that is widely recognized for its integrity, determination, and ability to accomplish the seemingly impossible.”

Brief biographies of the 2011 BAHEP board officers follow.

Board Chairman Robert Ellis



Robert Ellis, group president, is responsible for all operations of Wyle’s Integrated Science and Engineering Group (IS&E) which is headquartered in Houston, Texas. The business unit has

provided life sciences services and flight-related hardware to NASA at the Johnson Space Center since the late 1960s.

Wyle IS&E also performs work for NASA Ames Research Center, the Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, and the European Space Agency to name a few.

Wyle IS&E has two prime contracts with NASA to provide astronaut-related medical support and operations, flight hardware development, research services for the Space Shuttle and International Space Station Programs, and occupational medicine and occupational health services at JSC. Ellis has been involved in the management of this company since Wyle's first contract in 1968.

Ellis received his MBA in management and statistics from the University of Dayton. He founded Wyle's company chapter of the National Management Association in 1988 and is a recipient of the Silver Knight of Management Award from the NMA.

Board Vice Chairman Richard E. Allen, Jr.



Richard E. Allen, Jr., holds the position of president and CEO of the Manned Space Flight Education Foundation, Inc., and its 501(c)(3) project, Space Center Houston. Allen brings to the Center a more than 30-year, successful background in the attractions/museum industry. Prior to joining Space Center Houston in 1995, he served as general manager for the United States Space and Rocket Center (home of United States Space Camp), a space museum and education center in Huntsville, Alabama. He accepted that position in 1991 after more than 20 years with the Six Flags Corporation where he held numerous management positions.

As president of Space Center Houston, Allen has overall responsibility for all business aspects of the day-to-day operations, which include maintaining high standards of quality in the shows, exhibits, programs, food services, and merchandise presented to the Center's guests and the general public, directing educational, fundraising and marketing efforts, strategic planning for future development, and community relations.

Board Secretary Fred B. Griffin



Fred B. Griffin received a B.S. Degree in physics engineering at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. After receiving an MBA from the University of Texas, Griffin joined

Exxon Company USA in 1969. It was there that he began his real estate career with Friendswood Development Company, a subsidiary of Exxon Corporation, one of Houston's largest real estate developers.

In 1980 Griffin, with Conley Juban, formed Griffin/Juban Companies, the predecessor to Griffin Partners. The Griffin/Juban Companies - and subsequently Griffin Partners - have completed ground-up development projects encompassing more than 4,000,000 square feet of corporate office and retail space.

In addition to serving as chairman of Griffin Partners, Griffin also enjoys playing golf and traveling throughout the world.

Board Treasurer Jennifer Bowers



Jennifer Bowers, board treasurer, is a partner with the law firm of Bowers & Sadler LLP. The firm specializes in a variety of legal services aimed at assisting closely-held businesses and their owners with their tax planning, business organization matters, estate planning and probate matters. Bowers is board certified in tax law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

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The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeast Texas. Its members include more than 260 investor companies, business professionals, local governments, and educational institutions encompassing 13 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, and the Port of Houston Authority. Visit www.bayareahouston.com.

Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program is administered by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. It is a State of Texas funded initiative designed to transfer the knowledge and technology of the U.S. Space Program to small businesses to solve technical challenges they are unable to solve themselves. Visit www.spacetechnologies.com/bahep.