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Unedited version

Economic regionalism connects islands of opportunity that benefit everyone

A truism is a common statement that is obviously true. Truisms become so, because they are pronouncements of everyday wisdom of the common man. That makes them valuable to those who take the time to listen.

About 400 years ago, an Englishman named John Donne wrote, “No man is an island, entire of itself.” Is this a truism? Logic would dictate that it is, but not everyone would agree.

Let’s return to the present and the great “island” of the Bay Area Houston region.

Founded 40 years ago out of the desire to strengthen the interests of one of Clear Lake’s strongest industries – aerospace – the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership has emerged over the ensuing decades as a leader in driving regional diversification.

Regional growth interconnected

BAHEP’s concerted regional economic development efforts, in cooperation with governmental entities and business, institutional, and industry partners, have assisted in the growth of five primary industry clusters: aerospace, healthcare and life sciences, maritime, specialty chemical, and tourism/recreation. Each sector has its own unique needs, strengths, and identities, but each is interconnected creating a dynamic region.

Vital regional transportation corridors and new road construction projects stretch across municipal jurisdictions from downtown Houston to the beaches on Galveston Island. Area utility networks – water pipelines, electricity grids, natural gas, internet fiber, etc. – are connected throughout the region. Local police, fire, and medical responders routinely work together to protect and save lives through interagency agreements. The same is true with hurricane preparedness and other emergency response efforts.

Bay Area Houston’s workforce, manufacturing supply chains, and distribution networks are all interconnected. The ports, railroads, and airports are just as interconnected, and they serve to create a world marketplace.

There are five independent school districts within Bay Area Houston alone from which students graduate into one of the numerous institutions of higher education in the

region or nation or into the workforce. Schools are increasingly connected to businesses through partnerships and internship programs, as well. The region’s excellent work-

ing approach. It showcases the concept that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. People travel here, stay here, and spend money here because of the attraction of the

choices. People can choose to live in one city yet work in another. They can play in their own backyard or choose to visit a wide variety of venues in the region. It results in an incredible quality of life.

Many studies have touted the benefits of regional economic development. The aforementioned interconnections make the region more resilient and better able to compete in today’s challenging world of global commerce.

However, the region is facing some very challenging issues: developing effective storm surge protection, maintaining adequate regional water supplies, developing reasonable approaches to flood and windstorm insurance coverage just to name a few. In order for the region to remain competitive in the national and world-

wide marketplace, regional challenges must be met with regional solutions, which translates into regional economic development.

The world has become interconnected in a way

that would have been almost unimaginable years ago. Bay Area Houston is no different. The information presented here about the great island of Bay Area Houston serves to prove that the region is not an island, “entire of itself.” Every government entity, each individual business, every person is part of the whole, contributing to the whole, dependent upon the whole. Regional economic development is a reflection of this principle. Dependent upon many factors, some within its control and many outside of it, economic development works on behalf of all.

BAHEP and members promote regionalism

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, whose members include the cities of Clear Lake Shores, Dickinson, El Lago, Houston, Kemah, La Porte, League City, Morgan’s Point, Nassau Bay, Pasadena, Seabrook, Taylor Lake Village, and Webster, Galveston and Harris counties, the Port of Houston Authority and the Houston Airport System, has promoted regionalism for 40 years.

“Economic development doesn’t happen by itself” is a truism within economic development circles. Viewing jurisdictional lines as avenues of cooperation rather than roadblocks to development connects islands of opportunity that benefit everyone in the region.



The 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership held in September brought together leaders from throughout the region who have worked together for four decades to diversify the economy of Bay Area Houston. Shown are Dr. Bill Staples (2nd from right), president of the University of Houston-Clear Lake since 1995, who served as emcee for the evening’s program and introduced speakers (l to r): Sandy Johnson, president, Barrios Technology; Bob Scott, CLAEFD chairman 1983-1986; Joe Barlow, principal, Barlow Jones, LLP, and Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president.

force is a huge drawing card for companies considering relocation.

Even the region’s shopping venues, tourism attractions, and entertainment centers benefit from each other in this cluster-

whole composed of a lot of amazing parts.

Diversified regionalism brings strength to all of the region’s participants through efficiencies and economies of scale. It also creates an environment of

BAHEP welcomes Draker-Cody, Inc. and Brewer Construction Services as organization expands its membership base

Brewer Construction Services

Brewer Construction Services is a design / build general contractor specializing in the design and construction of laboratory and technical facilities with a long history of successful projects. The company has recently become a member of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.

BAHEP President Bob

Mitchell stated, “Medical and technical facilities have seen unprecedented growth in our region in recent years. It is an opportune time for a company with the expertise of Brewer Construction Services to become involved in the community, and we extend a warm welcome to them as new members.”

Dennis Brewer is the owner and operator of Brewer Construction Services with his sons Nathan and Travis. He has been involved in this type of construction since 1980. Many of the projects have been for national, international, and Fortune 100

Bay Area Houston region for a long time to come.”

The personnel of Brewer Construction have built many laboratories involving new building construction and renovations for industrial, medical and institutional clients. They self-perform the critical components of the construction of the laboratory, providing every aspect of laboratory construction from design, budgeting, cost analysis, construction services, and on-going facility support, fume hood testing and building commissioning.

Brewer Construction is fully insured and has the

art QA/QC laboratories and remodels of existing laboratory spaces to optimize production, Brewer Construction Services has the expertise to provide the services necessary to build any type of facility needed.

Since its founding in 2010, the Brewer team has completed specialty construction projects for petrochemical companies, oilfield service companies, bio-tech and pharmaceutical companies. Top clients include Baker Hughes, Inc., Huntsman Chemicals, Camin Cargo Control, and Evonik Industries.

Brewer Construction Services is located at 1207 Price Plaza Dr., Katy, Texas. For more information, call 281.769.5507, visit www.brewercs.com or send an email to contact@brewercs.com.

Draker-Cody, Inc.

Draker-Cody, Inc. (DCI) is a business management consulting company that works to partner a client’s vision with an action plan that will help achieve the potential that exists. DCI is the newest member of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.

“In a hectic world of project deadlines, budgets and personnel management, it’s often difficult for many companies to ‘see the forest for the trees,’” stated Bob Mitchell, BA-

HEP president. “Since 1997, Sandy Cody and Rick Draker have helped organizations to meet those kinds of dilemmas.

We welcome their membership and participation in our organization.”

Cody serves as president / CEO of DCI. She noted that DCI works to make sense of the challenges facing an organization and its leadership. She said, “We believe that the greatest partnership in the world is formed when vision and action merge forces, and we look forward to forming such partnerships in Bay Area Houston.”

DCI provides full and accurate analysis of business situations, developing workable strategies to ensure that a company can achieve the positive changes it wants. “However, no matter how good the analysis and no matter how great the plans, these are nothing without the ability to implement,” cautioned Draker, DCI’s chief operating officer.

DCI works step-by-step with its clients to assist them in implementing their plans with a ‘roll up our sleeves’ attitude that gets results. DCI also pro-

vides help in managing the transition process and supporting staff members with the resources they need to succeed.



DCI’s services in process management include:

- Process Re-Engineering
- Quality Improvement
- Workflow Analysis
- Efficiency Assessments
- Policy Overview
- Asset Management

DCI’s human resources services include:

- People Strategies
- Staff Development
- Compliance Oversight
- Records Management
- Compensation Analysis
- Affirmative Action Plans

For companies needing business advice, DCI offers:

- Succession Planning
- Corporate Strategy
- Board Development
- Idea Generation
- Leadership Development
- Growth Strategies

DCI’s clients include for-profit commercial enterprises, government entities, and non-profits. For additional information, visit www.drakercody.com, call 832.966.1237 or email scody@drakercody.com.



companies that insist on the highest standards of safety, quality and integrity.

“Whether building a laboratory from the ground up or remodeling an existing space, we can help. Our approach to a project is to make sure the customer receives the best and most efficient facility for the most reasonable cost,” said Brewer. “Nathan, Travis and I look forward to supporting the expanding needs of the

safety and quality control programs in place that are critical management tools to have when building a technical project in an industrial / commercial environment.

Brewer Construction Services is responsible for numerous laboratory and technical facilities throughout the nation. Providing exhaust systems for pipeline companies to achieve the OSHA VPP recognition, as well as state of the

BUSINESS to BUSINESS is a monthly Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership publication in partnership with the *Houston Chronicle*. BAHEP is a member-driven organization in southeastern Texas that includes more than 265 business partners encompassing 13 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, the Houston Airport System, and the Port of Houston Authority. For membership information, contact Membership Director Harriet Lukee at 832.536.3250. Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership 18045 Saturn Lane Houston, TX 77058 832.536.3255 “Like” us on Facebook: [BayAreaHoustonEcon](https://www.facebook.com/BayAreaHoustonEcon) Follow us on Twitter: @BAHEP