

BAHEP extends its sincere appreciation for the continued support of the *Houston Chronicle* through this monthly supplement.

December 2016

December offers opportunity for reflection and anticipation

December – the month when many of us perform the annual rite of reflection as well as anticipation. We as individuals, small businesses, corporations, communities or societies take this time to review the road just traveled over the last 12 months and set course for the journey that lies ahead.

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership has performed this ritual for 40 years as it has endeavored to bring prosperous New Years to the people and industries of this unique and nationally significant region of Texas.

The following look at BAHEP's 2016 journey will focus on: Advocacy, Regional Development, Special Initiatives, and Looking Forward.

Advocacy

Storm Surge Protection

BAHEP organized and hosted a meeting in March 2016 for state-elected officials to roll out a new video on storm surge protection, produced by Space City Films, Inc., and the Bay Area Coastal Protection Alliance (BACPA), and the Coastal Atlas.

The Coastal Atlas, developed by Texas A & M University at Galveston's Center for Texas Beaches and Shores, is a web-accessible, interactive software program that allows public users to view the impact of storm surge flooding over any particular geographic location.

In June 2016, the GCCPRD (Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District)

released its Phase 3 report, recommending the Coastal Spine – a very positive step toward the future.

There has also been increased support from the Texas General Land Office and Land Commissioner George P. Bush.

BAHEP has been actively working in support of a storm surge protection system for the region since Hurricane Ike struck in September 2008.

BAHEP also testified twice before the Joint Interim Committee to Study a Coastal Barrier System, which is co-chaired by Sen. Larry Taylor and Rep. Joe Deshotel. These legislators are moving forward with legislation requiring the GLO to finalize plans for storm surge protection.

At the federal level, Sen. John Cornyn and Rep. Randy Weber submitted the COAST Act to expedite the Army Corps of Engineers' Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Study.

In early December, Congress passed major provisions of the COAST Act within the Water Resources Development Act, which has been sent to President Obama for his signature.

Citizens for Space Exploration

The 25th annual Citizens for Space Exploration trip to Washington, D.C., set a record for the number of visits to congressional offices (407).

Unified messages in each meeting included continuity for NASA human space exploration programs through the upcoming presidential administration transition and

facturers (SOCMA) Washington, D.C., Fly-in. Fifty SOCMA members hit Capitol Hill to advocate on key issues impacting the specialty chemicals manufacturing sector. The Fly-In couldn't have happened at a more opportune time with hearings taking place on the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) and Congress deliberating on the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA).

Regional Development

Houston Spaceport

In 2015, the Federal Aviation Administration approved the City of Houston to be home to the United States' 10th licensed commercial spaceport. BAHEP has been working major projects with the Houston Airport System in support of the Houston Spaceport. These projects have the potential to create over 1,092 jobs and more than \$428 million in capital investment.

Port of Houston Authority

BAHEP has been working closely with the Port of Houston Authority's economic development team on two major initiatives, Foreign Trade Zone 84 and cold storage. The PoHA seeks to increase utilization of FTZ 84, and BAHEP worked to secure FTZ status for two projects this year.

The Port has also identified cold storage as a market segment in which to expand port activities. Therefore, BAHEP has been working with a cold storage company to site

labor in 2016 with the implementation of the grant for the new tower.

Broker / Developer Reception

In early November, BAHEP hosted the Broker and Developer Reception at the HESS Club to showcase city opportunities to

developed and brokers and highlight activities going on in the Bay Area Houston region.

This hugely successful event had over 130 in attendance with representatives from more than 50 commercial real estate and related companies. Eleven of BAHEP's member cities attended, as well as representatives from Harris and Galveston counties.

marked another successful year of assisting returning and transitioning veterans through the BAHEP Cares! Program. BAHEP Cares! has now successfully mentored 95 veterans since the program's inception in 2012. This year BAHEP Cares! awarded its first two grants from the Salute to

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BAHEP also worked with the Galveston County Council of Economic Development Professionals to facilitate best practices within that group.

Special Initiatives

BayTech

The Bay Area Houston Advanced Technology Consortium (BayTech) was formed by BAHEP and has built a network of partners across multiple industries and academia, creating a resource pool which will be drawn upon as collaborations are identified and research funding is pursued.

During 2016, BayTech successfully executed its Wagner-Peyser contract with the Texas Workforce Commission by training 22 participants in cybersecurity, conducting four cybersecurity awareness workshops, and conducting two cybersecurity tabletop exercises.

BayTech executed approximately \$100,000 of reimbursable projects through its Space Act Agreement, helped create NASA / Johnson Space Center engagement with Texas Tech University, and signed a Memorandum of Agreement with San Jacinto College to offer JSC electronic workmanship courses.

Of significance, BayTech has been invited to conduct two cybersecurity presentations at the Fifth Annual Maritime Security 2017 East conference and workshop to be held in Galveston, Texas, in March.

The conference provides participants from the federal, state and local agencies, ports, critical infrastructure and private industry an outstanding opportunity to learn and collaborate across different perspectives, jurisdictions, and borders.

BAHEP Cares!

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Looking Forward

Supporting the region

The New Year will be another year of growth as BAHEP continues to support the changing needs of this region. BAHEP's 2017-2021 Strategic Plan will go into effect, which addresses specific steps to provide leadership and engagement to stimulate regional economic development and employment that improves our quality of life. Glenn Freedman, Ph.D., chaired the Strategic Planning Committee. Innumerable reports, data sets and countless meetings resulted in the plan, which positions BAHEP for continued success in the coming years.

2017 Legislative Agenda

The 85th Texas Legislature will convene on Jan. 10, 2017. A legislative agenda, developed by BAHEP, represents the entire region and will be presented to the legislators during the session. The agenda encompasses: Education and Workforce Development, the Texas Maritime Industry Jobs Initiative, the Ellington Field Task Force Initiative, the State Franchise Tax, the Healthcare Initiative, Storm Surge Protection, the Texas Spaceport Trust Fund, and the Texas Aerospace Scholars and Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program.

And Finally ...

The mission of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is to provide leadership and engagement to stimulate regional economic development and employment that improves our quality of life. In reflecting over BAHEP's work during 2016, it is clear that this organization has stayed true to its mission as it also anticipates a New Year of service to the people, businesses and industries of Bay Area Houston.



In October, BAHEP hosted regional legislators and stakeholders at a meeting to discuss the 2017 Legislative Agenda, which BAHEP drafted in support of the people, businesses, and industries of Bay Area Houston.



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NASA's role in supporting American leadership, education, innovation, health care, and quality of life for less than half of one percent of the federal budget.

SLS / Orion Suppliers' Conference

BAHEP also attended the Space Launch System (SLS)/Orion Suppliers' Conference in Washington, D.C. SLS and Orion provide a critical crewed launch capability, enabling human space flight beyond low Earth orbit with the goal of reaching Mars.

As a strong advocate for NASA / JSC, it is vital that BAHEP keep apprised of activities associated with human space exploration.

Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates

Additionally, BAHEP participated in the 9th Annual Society of Chemical Manu-

two new locations and has been looking to identify available real estate to attract additional cold storage facilities.

Ellington Airport

The Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant Program (DEAAG) is an infrastructure grant program designed to assist defense communities.

BAHEP worked with the Houston Airport System in 2015 to develop an application for the DEAAG Program for Ellington Airport, which was approved by the Texas Military Preparedness Commission.

The \$3.1 million grant, along with additional funds from the Federal Aviation Administration and the HAS, will be used to build a \$7.1 million state-of-the-art airport control tower. BAHEP and the HAS are seeing the fruits of their

SATOP

The Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program (SATOP) is a State of Texas funded program that helps small businesses faced with technical challenges by providing up to 40 hours of FREE technical assistance for qualified requests. SATOP's Alliance Partners assisted 21 small businesses and worked 54 total projects during the year.

During 2016, SATOP also developed an agreement with TMAC (Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center) worth \$404,000 over two years.

Partnerships

BAHEP recognizes that it could not be nearly as ef-

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.
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