



Center for Houston's Future Unveils First-ever Top 25 Leaders

In celebration of our 25th anniversary, we honor alumni of our Business/Civic Leadership Forum who have made significant contributions to our region.

March 12, 2025 – Center for Houston's Future is pleased to reveal the names of our [Top 25 Business/Civic Leadership Forum Alumni](#). We honor their substantial and successful efforts to ensure Greater Houston is a great place to live and work for all residents.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Center for Houston's Future and our Leadership Forum, we are highlighting the significant impact our 1,400 Forum Alumni have had and continue to have across our community.

Earlier this year, we selected an honor roll of [75 Leaders Who Stand Apart](#) for their important work in our region, and with the help of our Alumni network, narrowed the list to the Top 25 Alumni to celebrate in 2025. (See the list [here](#) and below).

This esteemed group of 25 difference-makers, spanning our region's business, civic and government sectors, will be honored throughout the year as part of our look at the Center's vital contributions to the community over our 25 years. We launch a series of events featuring Leadership Alumni starting on March 20, culminating in the fall with our annual signature event, Dinner & Conversation.

"Both our Top 25 and the honor roll of 75 Leaders are a testament to the amazing group of leaders working for the good of our region every day," said David Gow, the Center's CEO and president. "They are also a reflection of the Center's historical and ongoing commitment to develop, inspire and connect leaders across all facets of our region.

The nonprofit Center focuses on issues critical to the long-term success of Greater Houston. We bring business, government, community, and academic stakeholders together to engage in planning, research, consensus building and action. Through the Leadership Forum, which hosts two yearly cohorts, we deepen and widen the region's bench of leaders and spur leaders to act.

Some of our prominent Leadership Alumni opt to join the Center's board of directors, including three individuals in the Top 25 who currently serve on our board:

- **Bob Eury**, retired president & CEO, Central Houston, Inc. His Leadership Forum class was Fall 2000.
- **Y. Ping Sun**, of counsel, Yetter Coleman LLP, Fall 2010.
- **Beth Wolff**, founder & chairman, Beth Wolff Realtors, Spring 2002.

“I am truly honored to be selected as one of the Center’s Top 25 Leaders and congratulate everyone else on the list,” said Sun. “I also want to express my appreciation for the Center for Houston’s, which has played and continues to play a critical role in guiding our community to a successful future.”

“I’m grateful to be included on the Top 25,” said Wolff. “I cannot stress enough what an extraordinary opportunity it is to participate in the Leadership Forum and focus on Houston’s future. Fellow cohort members become friends and colleagues working together in service of the community.”

As part of our anniversary celebration, the Center will host, on March 20, **Leaders for Houston’s Future: Women Who Stand Apart**, an interactive panel discussion and breakfast celebrating our Leadership Alumni.

The panel includes three people on our Top 25 list and another on the honor roll, and will feature Donna Cole, founder, president & CEO, Cole Chemical; Cullen Geiselman, board chair, Houston Parks Board; Winell Herron, senior vice president of public affairs, diversity and environmental affairs, H-E-B; and Lharissa Jacobs, executive director, Fit Houston. Frances Castañeda Dyess, president of the Houston East End Chamber of Commerce, will moderate.

The women will share lessons about and best practices for leadership and leaders and reflect on the past and look ahead to our region’s future.

Details and tickets are available [here](#). Thank you to H-E-B for sponsoring the event.

About the Center for Houston’s Future: The Center brings business, government, and community stakeholders together to engage in fact-based strategic planning, collaboration, and action on issues of great importance to the region’s success. It engages in research, holds community events and develops leaders. Its current strategic areas include energy, climate, and energy transition with a focus on clean hydrogen; health care, including working to advance Houston as a medical AI hub, and health equity; and Vision 2050, a strategic visioning and action plan for the region. The Business/Civic Leadership program has 1,400 Alumni.

About the Business/Civic Leadership Forum: Our twice-yearly Business/Civic Leadership Forums build passionate civic leaders as diverse as the Houston region itself, leveraging participants’ business and leadership skills to drive lasting change. For both proven and emerging leaders, our Business/Civic Leadership Forums develop a deeper understanding of the challenges in our community and foster a new sense of responsibility for the future. Our Spring 2025 Forum kicks off this month and our Fall 2025 Forum begins August 28. Nominations for the Fall 2025 Class can be submitted [here](#).

Contact: Laura Goldberg, senior vice president, lgoldberg@futurehouston.org

Find the Top 25 list, in alphabetical order with Leadership Forum class noted, here and [online](#):

Laura Bellows

President & Board Chairman, W.S. Bellows Construction
Spring 2009

Richard Campo

Chairman & CEO, Camden Property Trust
Winter 2002

Anne Chao

Co-Founder, Houston Asian American Archive
Fall 2006

Donna Cole

Founder, President & CEO, Cole Chemical & Distributing
Spring 2005

Suzan Deison

CEO, President & Founder, Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce
Spring 2014

Amanda Edwards

Principal, The Community Based Solutions Firm
Spring 2014

Bob Eury

Retired President & CEO, Central Houston, Inc.
Fall 2000

Sidney Evans, II

Sr. Advisor, Business Affairs, Reliant Energy
Fall 2014

Roland Garcia

Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig LLP
Fall 2007

Cullen Geiselman

Board Chair, Houston Parks Board
Spring 2014

Bernard Harris, Jr.

Former NASA Astronaut
Fall 2002

Winell Herron

Senior Vice President of Public Affairs, Diversity and Environmental Affairs, H-E-B
Fall 2011

Paul Hobby

Founder & Managing Director, Genesis Park
Fall 2001

Laura Jaramillo

Executive Director, LISC
Fall 2004

Melanie Johnson

President & CEO, Collaborative for Children
Spring 2014

Laura Murillo

President & CEO, Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Spring 2005

Wilhelmina "Beth" Robertson

President, Cockspur, Inc. & Westview Development, Inc.
Fall 2000

Judson Robinson, III

President & CEO, Houston Area Urban League
Spring 2009

Kimberly Sterling

Principal, Sterling for Good
Winter 2002

Y. Ping Sun

Of Counsel, Yetter Coleman LLP
Fall 2010

Bobby Tudor

Founder & CEO, Artemis Energy Partners
Fall 2000

Brock Wagner

Founder, Saint Arnold Brewing Company
Spring 2014

Barron Wallace

Public Finance Partner & Practice Group Co-Head, Bracewell LLP
Winter 2002

Marc Watts

President, The Friedkin Group

Spring 2004

Beth Wolff

Founder & Chairman, Beth Wolff Realtors

Spring 2002