Driving Growth in Bay Area Houston

A snapshot of regional initiatives and economic impact



18	2	1
Cities	Counties	Region

BAY AREA HOUSTON Economic Partnership

BAY AREA HOUSTON ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP 50 Years

Letter from the President



Brian Freedman

The third quarter at BAHEP was one of growth and accomplishment. We have continued to advocate for Bay Area Houston through our support of the five major industry clusters: Aerospace, Healthcare, Maritime, Specialty Chemical, and Tourism. BAHEP is committed to the prosperity of the communities we serve, and we are thrilled to share the important connections and partnerships formed during the past quarter.

One of the highlights of this quarter was the August General Membership Meeting with Colonel Sandie Pynes, Commander of the 147th Attack Wing at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base. Thank you to all who showed up for an afternoon of great information and relationship building.

BAHEP was also lucky to host the Texas Aerospace Scholars (TAS) Slingshot Class of 2026 for their closing ceremony. TAS is a statewide STEM education program facilitated by BAHEP that introduces high school students to careers in aerospace, engineering, and space exploration. Each student had the opportunity to participate in various activities and aerospace related projects. We are grateful for this program as the future leaders in aerospace grow into their careers.

We were also excited to welcome 13 new members this quarter, many of which were at our New Member Breakfast. Our members are the core of BAHEP, and we thank them for their continued support as we work together to strengthen Bay Area Houston.

BAHEP remained actively engaged in community initiatives throughout the quarter. In July, I was honored to attend the Texas Transportation Committee in Austin, Texas to advocate on behalf of the corridors that carry our region's freight, workforce, and hurricane evacuation traffic.

As we transition into the last quarter of the year, BAHEP continues to celebrate 50 years of bringing business and community leaders together, strengthening partnerships, and advancing initiatives that have helped shape the Bay Area Houston region. As we honor the organization’s history and the many accomplishments made possible through five decades of collaboration, we look ahead to the opportunities of the next 50 years. We look forward to carrying this legacy on and continuing to build a strong future for our members, our industries, and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Brian Freedman

Brian Freedman
President

General Membership Meetings & Events

August General Membership Meeting - Colonel Sandie Pynes, Commander, 147th Attack Wing

BAHEP's August General Membership Meeting held Wednesday, August 19 featured Colonel Sandie Pynes, Commander of the 147th Attack Wing at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base. The event brought together elected officials, business executives, community leaders, educators and legislative staff for an afternoon of networking and an engaging presentation. BAHEP President Brian Freedman kicked off the program with a welcome message and an introduction of elected officials, new members, and sponsors.

Colonel Pynes gave an overview of the 147th Attack Wing, how they assist both state and federal government agencies, and their current initiatives with the United States Coast Guard. Thank you to the sponsors, Joiner Architects, Memorial Hermann, and Harris County Precinct 2 for making the event possible.





September General Membership Meeting - Regional Education Forum

At BAHEP's September General Membership Meeting held Wednesday, September 16, members had the opportunity to hear directly from a panel of area school district superintendents. The panel was moderated by Dr. Greg Smith, Executive Director of Fast Growth School Coalition, and featured the following superintendents: Dr. Karen Engle of Clear Creek ISD, Thad Roher of Friendswood ISD, Dr. Walter Jackson of La Porte ISD, Dr. Toni Lopez of Pasadena ISD, and Dr. Melissa Duarte of Texas City ISD.

Each superintendent gave an overview of current initiatives and programs within their respective school districts. Thank you to the event sponsors, Bartlett Cocke, Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union, Harris County Precinct 2, Joiner Architects, and MoakCasey for their support.







General Membership Meetings & Events

August Prospect Review Meeting

BAHEP hosted the Prospect Review Meeting August 27, 2026. Kicking off the meeting was City of Nassau Bay Mayor Phil Johnson. Mayor Johnson gave an update and overview of the new Compass Hotel by Margaritaville and its progress. The anticipated opening date is set for late 2027.



The latter half of the meeting consisted of updates on BAHEP's various economic development projects. Mark Mitchell, Vice President of Economic Development and Policy, Barbara Cutsinger, Real Estate Marketing Manager, and Kim Morris, Aerospace Marketing Manager, led the discussion, providing attendees information on projects looking to come to Bay Area Houston.

NASA & Commercial Space Advocacy

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Luncheon





In August, BAHEP was honored to participate in two special events in support of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) International Astronautical Congress (IAC) 2029 Houston Bid.

BAHEP President Brian Freedman and Aerospace Marketing Manager Kim Morris attended a welcome reception at the George R. Brown Convention center on August 24 and a luncheon at Space Center Houston the following day. Both events provided an opportunity to highlight both AIAA and the region's vision for hosting the IAC. Houston's IAC 2029 bid has already demonstrated strong and diverse global support.

The IAC is the one place and time each year where leaders in the international space industry get together. The event draws more than 6,000 participants and covers all sectors of space. Attendees discuss the latest space developments, information, and make connections with others in the industry.

BUSINESS BRIEFS | Q3 2026

Community Engagement

BAHEP Small Business Committee Luncheon

BAHEP's Small Business Committee held a luncheon September 2 at Lakewood Yacht Club. The event featured a presentation from Vanessa Wyche, Director of NASA Johnson Space Center, followed by a panel discussion featuring retired NASA astronaut William McArthur, Director Wyche, and William T. Harris, President & CEO of Space Center Houston.

Thank you to the Small Business Committee and everyone that sponsored a table for making the event possible.



Texas Transportation Committee - Austin, Texas



BAHEP President Brian Freedman was joined by a group of regional leaders to speak before the Texas Transportation Committee in Austin, Texas.

The group spoke to the various corridors that keep the region thriving, including SH-146 and I-45. The group also spoke on the 2027 Unified Transportation Program and what it means for the communities BAHEP serves. Thank you to all who attended for their dedication to transportation in the Bay Area Houston region.

New Member Breakfast



BAHEP hosted a New Member Breakfast August 4, bringing together the organization's newest members, staff, and leadership for an introduction to BAHEP's programs and activities.

BAHEP had 13 new members join this quarter: Bartlett Cocke General Contractors, CMIT Solutions of Clear Lake, Enora Rogers, Inc., Gulf Project Solutions, Jackson Lewis P.C., Jacobs, Newmark, Orbital Arc, Partner One Technologies, PKU Industries LLC, Team Logic IT, Texas First Bank, and Titan Technologies.

Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program (SATOP)

On September 16, 2026, SATOP hosted its Alliance Partner Appreciation Luncheon, bringing together representatives from its network of 36 Alliance Partners and regional leaders whose expertise and support help make SATOP's work possible. The event featured product showcase booths from two SATOP success stories, Moonflower Farms' GroPod™ and LiiLu's E-Stim Massage Suit, giving attendees an opportunity to see innovative products that were advanced with the help of SATOP.







Keynote speaker, State Representative Dr. Greg Bonnen, reflected on SATOP's origin and growth over the years, highlighting the continued support from the State of Texas that has helped the program expand its outreach and impact. He also discussed the exciting developments underway across Texas's aerospace ecosystem, including the state's growing role in supporting the U.S. Space Force and advancing collaboration among government, industry, and academia.

The luncheon provided an opportunity to celebrate SATOP's continued growth and recognize the Alliance Partners whose contributions are central to the program's success.

Texas Aerospace Scholars (TAS)





Texas Aerospace Scholars (TAS) is a statewide STEM education program that introduces high school students to careers in aerospace, engineering, and space exploration. This summer, TAS hosted two residential onsite experiences at NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) for high school juniors and seniors.

Base Camp, the junior onsite experience, welcomed 54 TAS juniors to JSC for a week of facility tours, engineering challenges, seminars, and workforce networking. The week concluded with a closing ceremony celebrating the highest-performing junior scholars, allowing them to showcase their accomplishments with their families, NASA staff, and TAS partners.

Slingshot, the senior culminating event, brought four student teams to JSC's Innovation Design Center to fabricate lunar infrastructure prototypes, giving students a deeper understanding of how engineering and fabrication intersect. This summer, each of the 13 participating seniors were returning TAS scholars, with this experience marking two full years of continuous participation.

BUSINESS BRIEFS | Q3 2026

Upcoming Events

October 2026

October 1 - Team NASA
October 2 - Tourism Committee
October 6 - MAC
October 7 - AAC & SBC
October 7 - HD129 Candidate Forum
October 8 - Public Safety Committee
October 8 - Galveston County Economic Development Lunch
October 14 - PPC
October 15 - Annual Banquet Committee
October 15 - IMAC
October 15 - Education & Workforce
October 19 - Golf Outing
October 21 - SMC
October 22 - TEES Career Expo
October 28 - Mayor's Roundtable
October 28 - Energy Committee

November 2026

November 3 - MAC
November 4 - SBC
November 4 - President's Lunch
November 5 - Team NASA
November 6 - Tourism Committee
November 10 - Space City Workforce
November 11 - PPC
November 12 - Public Safety Committee
November 19 - IMAC
November 19 - Education & Workforce
November 19 - Annual Banquet Committee
November 25 - Energy Committee

December 2026

December 2 - AAC
December 2 - SBC
December 3 - Team NASA
December 16 - BAHEP Holiday Party

For a complete list of events or for more information, please visit the calendar on our website at bayareahouston.com.

Welcome New Members

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Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP) is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in the region. Utilizing a collaborative committee structure, we engage more than 340 investor companies, business professionals, local governments, and educational institutions in southeast Texas to bring forth prosperity and a high quality of life for the 1.5 million people who live and work in the region. Our members include business partners, 18 member cities, Galveston County, Harris County, the Houston Airport System, and Port Houston.

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BayAreaHoustonEcon

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership sincerely thanks Harris County Precinct 2, Port Houston, the Houston Airport System, CenterPoint Energy, Southwest Airlines, and United Airlines for their continued support of BAHEP's work for the region.

Clear Lake Shores | Deer Park | Dickinson | El Lago | Friendswood | Houston | Kemah
La Marque | La Porte | League City | Morgan's Point | Nassau Bay | Pasadena
Santa Fe | Seabrook | Texas City | Taylor Lake Village | Webster