BUSINESS to BUSINESS

BAY AREA HOUSTON Economic Partnership

www.bayareahouston.com

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Kaitlyn McMillan

BAHEP extends its sincere appreciation for the continued support of THE DAILY NEWS through this monthly supplement.

BAHEP Small Business Committee Highlights Leadership and Growth at Luncheon

BAHEP's Small Business Committee hosted a luncheon at Lakewood Yacht Club on September 2, 2026, bringing together businesses and community leaders for an afternoon focused on the region's aerospace community and aerospace opportunities.

The event featured Vanessa Wyche, Director of NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC).



(L to R) Brian Freedman, Vanessa Wyche, William McArthur, William T. Harris, Nellie Chappel-White.

Director Wyche presented on the history of JSC and the center's role in the nation's human spaceflight efforts, along with a brief overview of the developing Bay Area Houston region aerospace industry.

Following Wyche's presentation, attendees heard from a panel of aerospace leaders that included Director Wyche, retired NASA astronaut William McArthur, and William T. Harris, President & CEO of Space Center Houston.

The panel featured perspectives from these aerospace leaders on human spaceflight, space exploration, and discovery.

The luncheon provided BAHEP Small Business Committee members and community leaders with the opportunity to network and connect with one another.

BAHEP thanks the Small Business Committee members who organized and supported the luncheon, as well as the table sponsors: Barita Law Firm, Bay Area Houston Ballet and Theatre, Dean Draper, Elevated PT, Express Employment Professionals, Frost Bank, Galveston County Small Business Development Center, Green Appraisals, Jordan Marketing Consultants, Meador Staffing, Minuteman Press, MyFlooring America, Navarro Insurance Group, New Horizon Strategies, One Stop Tents and Events, Robinette & Company Caterers, Rutledge Commercial Real Estate, San Jacinto College Small Business Development Center, SSCI, Successful Events, TDECU, and University of Houston-Clear Lake.

BAHEP Tourism Committee Wraps Up Summer Season

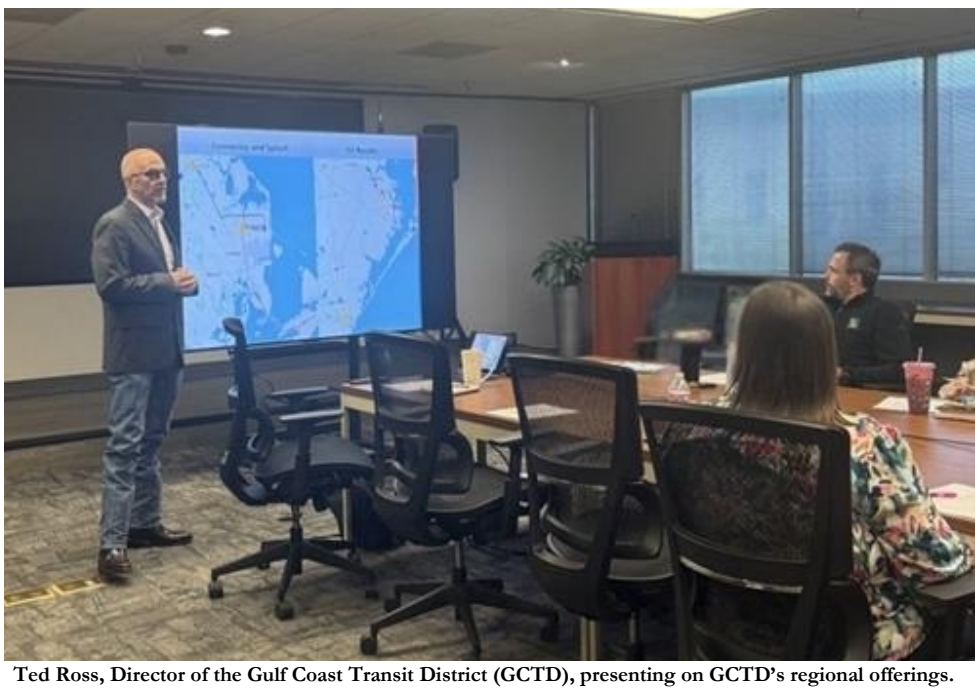
BAHEP's Tourism Committee met September 4, 2026 to discuss regional tourism initiatives, transportation issues, legislative priorities, and upcoming opportunities to promote the Bay Area Houston region.

The meeting began with a presentation from Ted Ross, Director of the Gulf Coast Transit District (GCTD).

Ross spoke about GCTD's regional transportation offerings, such as bus routes and mobile app services.

Following the presentation, committee members discussed legislative priorities for the 90th Texas Legislative Session and issues relevant to the region's tourism industry.

Meeting attendees shared upcoming events in the community and explored ideas for future tourism-focused initiatives.



Ted Ross, Director of the Gulf Coast Transit District (GCTD), presenting on GCTD's regional offerings.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of next steps and an emphasis on the upcoming holiday season.

The BAHEP Tourism Committee connects regional partners to advance tourism and showcase the attractions, events, and experiences that make Bay Area Houston unique.

BAHEP Hosts Colonel Sandie Pynes of the 147th Attack Wing

BAHEP hosted the September General Membership Meeting August 19, 2026 at Bay Oaks Country Club, bringing the organization together to hear from Colonel Sandie Pynes, Commander of the 147th Attack Wing of the Texas Air National Guard at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base.



(L to R) Brian Freedman, Byron Auzenne, Dr. Chara Bowie, Nellie Chappel-White, Colonel Sandie Pynes, Carl Joiner, Mark Denman, Noel J. Cárdenas.

Col. Pynes provided an overview of the 147th Attack Wing and its role in supporting both local and federal government agencies. She discussed their capabilities and contributions to missions that support the safety and operational needs of the region and beyond.

Col. Pynes highlighted current initiatives with the United States Coast Guard. The collaboration between the two branches demonstrates the 147th Attack Wing's ability to support a range of operations in the Houston region.

BAHEP would like to thank everyone who attended the meeting, especially the sponsors: Harris County Precinct 2, Joiner Architects, Inc., and Memorial Hermann.

BAHEP to Host Build Freedom Career Expo

In partnership with the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), The Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Institute (IACMI), and the Industrial Base Analytics and Sustainment Program (IBAS), BAHEP will host the Build Freedom Summit Career Expo on Oct. 22, 2026, at the Galveston Convention Center.

The career expo will bring together job seekers and employers from the manufacturing, defense and skilled trades industries as the nation continues to face a significant demand for workers in these fields.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, more than 800,000 manufacturing positions are currently open, with the industry expected to require more than 4 million additional workers over the next decade.

The event will provide job seekers with opportunities to learn about available positions, meet with hiring managers, network with employers and participate in on-site interviews.

Employers will also have the opportunity to connect directly with prospective employees and showcase career opportunities within the manufacturing, defense and skilled trades sectors.

The Build Freedom Summit Career Expo is free for both employers and job applicants. Registration and additional event information are available through the QR code.

BUILDFREEDOMSUMMIT

BUSINESS to BUSINESS is a monthly Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership publication in partnership with THE DAILY NEWS. BAHEP is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeastern Texas. Its members include more than 340 business partners encompassing 18 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, the Houston Airport System, and Port Houston.

For membership information, contact Membership Director Harriet Pilgrim at 832.536.3250.

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