In reviewing the accomplishments of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research over the past year, it is clear the Institute has emerged as an important force—and an honest broker—objectively capturing and analyzing urban issues in Houston.

The Kinder Institute released almost 20 reports last year. More important than the quantity, however, is the breadth and impact of the Institute’s work.

In 2016, the Kinder Institute took on issues as diverse as urban education, housing and development, health in our neighborhoods, income disparity, building stronger suburbs—and perhaps most significantly, the City of Houston’s pension crisis.

The Kinder Institute’s pension report, for example, framed the complex pension issue—articulately and impartially—and was used by the Houston Chronicle and the many parties involved as the primary source to understand the issues and challenges facing our city as a result of the pension situation.

We are grateful to Rice University for housing the Kinder Institute and to Houston Endowment Inc. for providing substantial support that has allowed the Kinder Institute to expand its scope and footprint in Houston. We look forward to even greater accomplishments in 2017.

**Rich Kinder**  
Advisory Board Chairman  
Kinder Institute for Urban Research

**Nancy Kinder**  
Advisory Board President  
Kinder Institute for Urban Research
## Advisory Board Members

**CHAIRMAN:**
Rich Kinder, Kinder Morgan

**PRESIDENT:**
Nancy Kinder, Kinder Foundation

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* Members Emeriti
Five years ago, when Rice University celebrated its centennial, we committed ourselves to become more engaged in the well-being of the great city of which we are a part. Since that time, we have reached beyond the hedges as never before, collaborating with our political and civic leaders, the business community, our schools and our neighborhoods to help make Houston a better place for the people who live and work there.

Rice’s Kinder Institute for Urban Research is a critical part of this effort. Since its origins with Steve Klineberg and the Houston Area Survey—and especially since the Institute was endowed by Rich and Nancy Kinder in 2010—the Kinder Institute has become a major force in helping shape and solve urban issues in Houston and other cities around the nation and the world.

Rice is blessed with an extraordinary set of intellectual resources from across the university that the Kinder Institute can call upon to help deal with urban issues. These include, for example, faculty in the School of Social Sciences, in the Rice School of Architecture, in the Jones School of Business, in the School of Humanities and in the George R. Brown School of Engineering. Rice University provides a vast array of expertise about the urban environment and the urban experience that the Kinder Institute draws upon in developing its research and proposals.

Houston is a remarkable city—welcoming, dynamic, cosmopolitan, diverse, cultured, generous and prosperous. For a century, Rice University has been proud to be a part of Houston’s remarkable growth and emergence as a global city. Now more than ever, we are proud to play an integral role in making Houston a better place, and grateful for the leading role of the Kinder Institute in this effort.

David Leebron
President
Rice University
When we reviewed the reports the Kinder Institute released in 2016, I was amazed that the list was almost 20 items long—everything from magnet schools to mayoral elections, resilient suburbs to fixing potholes, concentrated poverty in Houston neighborhoods to pension reform. And, of course, there's the 35th Annual Kinder Houston Area Survey.

That's a pretty impressive list for a research institute that re-booted only one year before. I couldn't be prouder of our staff and all of the hard work they put into all these reports this year.

But our job at the Kinder Institute isn't just to produce reports. It's also to have impact on urban issues, especially here in Houston. And here's where I am especially proud of everyone here at the Kinder Institute. Because there's no doubt that in addition to increasing the number of reports, we are beginning to have a big impact.

The impact of our pension report has gotten a lot of publicity. But the pension report wasn’t the only Kinder Institute work product to have a big impact on Houston. Our report on disconnected young adults—“Houston’s Opportunity,” prepared in conjunction with JPMorgan Chase & Co.—stimulated a conversation among a wide range of social service and educational providers on how to work better together to make sure that young adults who are neither working nor in school don’t fall through the cracks of “the system.” And, of course, the Houston Education Research Consortium continued to churn out many research reports that have informed policymaking at the Houston Independent School District.

Even when the Kinder Institute has not had a direct impact on policy and on-the-ground action, we have begun to play an important role in shaping how the public and the media frame urban issues in Houston. We have been a constant presence on the pages of the Houston Chronicle, on television and on Houston Public Media.

These are impressive achievements. But they are only the beginning. Now that we are completely staffed up, we will be cranking out even more reports in 2017.

Of course, none of these accomplishments would be possible without the generous support of Nancy and Rich Kinder, Houston Endowment Inc. and our other donors, as well as President David Leebron and Rice University. With all this support, we look forward to making Houston an even better place in 2017 and beginning to work with our peer institutions elsewhere to tackle urban issues across the Sun Belt.

Bill Fulton
Director
Kinder Institute for Urban Research
Mission Statement

The mission of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research is to:

- Advance understanding of the most important issues facing Houston and other leading urban centers through rigorous research, policy analysis and public outreach; and
- Collaborate with civic and political leaders to implement promising solutions to these critical urban issues.
The year 2016 marked a turning point for the Kinder Institute for Urban Research: The organization produced more research, reached a wider audience and had more impact than at any point in its seven-year history. After undergoing a re-launch in 2015 that included hiring a new director, adding key staff members and debuting several new programs, the Institute’s scope and influence has reached new heights.

In 2016, the Kinder Institute produced cutting-edge research that addressed some of the most important urban policy questions facing Houston. It engaged policymakers, the news media, the business community, nonprofits and the general public in conversations about the future of Houston. The Institute also secured critical funding in 2016 that will allow it to continue influencing the conversation about Houston and metropolitan areas nationwide for years to come.

Among the Kinder Institute’s 2016 highlights:

• The Institute published “The Houston Pension Question,” a report that explains how the city’s $3.9 billion unfunded pension liability developed and how it can be reversed. The Kinder Institute held a series of briefings and events to ensure key stakeholders—those who are actually in a position to act on this research—understood the report’s implications.

• Partnering with JPMorgan Chase & Co., the Institute produced the report “Houston’s Opportunity: Reconnecting Disengaged Youth and Young Adults to Strengthen Houston’s Economy.” The study focuses on the strategies that nonprofits, governments, employers and educational institutions can pursue to address the needs of young people in Houston who neither work nor attend school. The report served as a vehicle for the Institute to engage with 45 key stakeholders who are working on this important issue. Approximately 150 people attended the report’s rollout event.

• The Urban Data Platform, a first-of-its-kind effort to compile, organize and analyze urban data across many disciplines, became operational. The data platform will allow researchers and policymakers in Houston and beyond to engage in cross-disciplinary research to gain a deeper understanding of local issues. The platform will serve as a foundational resource for future Institute research.

• Houston Endowment awarded the Kinder Institute a generous three-year, $7 million grant that allowed the Institute to increase its capacity for research and outreach. The grant supported the hiring of more than 10 new full-time positions and allowed the Institute to begin work in several new program areas.

• The Kinder Institute Forum, the Institute’s flagship event series, hosted some of the world’s most celebrated urban thinkers who, in many cases, were visiting Houston for the first time. In 2016, guests included Janette Sadik-Khan, the former commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation, and Richard Florida, the bestselling author and senior editor at The Atlantic. Overall, nearly 3,000 people attended Institute events in 2016.

• The Institute expanded its Urban Edge blog, one of the organization’s leading tools used to disseminate information about Kinder Institute research and expertise. The site serves as a conduit between the Institute and journalists, public officials, advocates and other interested stakeholders. In 2016, the blog was cited by preeminent publications including The Atlantic, the Houston Chronicle, the New York Times and the Washington Post, and its traffic increased by more than a third.

More information on these successes—and many more—is contained within the pages of this report, which is designed to highlight the organization’s activities, reach and impact in 2016. The Kinder Institute is already building upon this progress and looks forward to sharing even more stories of its success in the coming years.
A generous three-year, $7 million grant from Houston Endowment allowed the Kinder Institute to greatly expand its research capacity in 2016, increasing its ability to identify solutions to the most pressing challenges facing Houston and cities across the U.S. Sun Belt.

This support is helping to make Houston a better city and is raising the profile of the Kinder Institute to a place of national prominence. The grant marked the largest contribution the Kinder Institute has received since 2010, when it was founded with a $15 million gift from Houston philanthropists Nancy and Rich Kinder.

Specifically, the Houston Endowment grant supports the Kinder Institute’s efforts to launch or expand in five key areas.

The Urban Data Platform, a first-of-its-kind effort to compile, organize and analyze urban data across many disciplines, focuses on critical issues facing the Houston metro area. The data housed within the secure platform will allow researchers and policymakers in Houston and beyond to engage in cross-disciplinary research to gain a deeper understanding of local issues and find new insights and potential solutions. kinder.rice.edu/UrbanData

The Urban Development, Transportation, and Placemaking Program is working to ensure that Houston’s most rapidly urbanizing areas are transforming in ways that benefit the region and its residents. In 2016, for example, it shared insights on how suburbs can become more resilient, and it developed an interactive platform for exploring a decade of Houston development. kinder.rice.edu/DTP

The Urban and Metropolitan Governance Program explores emerging governance issues in the Houston metropolitan area and works to implement the most promising solutions. The program also studies issues in the counties surrounding Houston and the various management, taxation and utility districts in this region. In 2016, it created a widely read report (HoustonPensions.com) that quantifies and offers solutions to Houston’s pension challenges. kinder.rice.edu/UrbanGovernance

The Urban Disparity and Opportunity Program addresses equity in the Houston region by combining research across disciplines including health, education and demographics—all of which are traditional Kinder Institute strengths. The goal is to improve life in Houston by developing evidence-based strategies that address the root causes of disparity. Its “Disparate City” study shows how segregation is tightening its grip on the Houston region. kinder.rice.edu/UrbanDisparityandOpportunity

The Urban Outreach/Convening Program includes a robust editorial operation that produces research reports and the popular Urban Edge blog (KinderUrbanEdge.com), as well as a programming department that hosts workshops, lectures and conferences year round (kinder.rice.edu/events). The grant is allowing the Kinder Institute to ramp up in both these areas. That means more blogging, more research reports and more events for the general public, civic leaders and other experts.

The Houston Endowment grant will also complement and strengthen three existing and well-established programs: the Kinder Houston Area Survey, the Urban Health Program and the Houston Education Research Consortium. The funding allowed the Institute to hire more than 10 new full-time positions, including technical, research, program and editorial staff.
The Urban Data Platform (UDP) is a new, one-stop-shop for data about Houston and its urban environment that also offers analytical tools to help understand that data.

The goal of the project is simple yet critically important: to help encourage new ways of understanding urban environments in an effort to improve residents’ lives.

The platform’s true innovation is its ability to integrate data from seemingly different sectors—and then detect connections. For example, researchers can examine the links between absenteeism in school, air pollution and diseases. “It’s this idea of pinpointing many of the challenges Houston faces in order to optimize solutions,” said Kathy Ensor, director of the UDP.

In particular, the UDP focuses largely on spatial data, or information with a geographic component. The idea is to provide the data as a resource to researchers so they can focus on research itself, as opposed to tracking down and cleaning up data.

It will host much of the data from the Harris County Appraisal District, such as construction and demolition permit data that formed the basis for our recent “Houston In Flux” report (HoustonInFlux.com). It will also house our Kinder Houston Area Survey data, as well as datasets from the City of Houston, its Department of Health and Human Services and the Houston Housing Authority, among other agencies.

The UDP is now up and running with its core infrastructure in place. The team is regularly adding data sets and working with new users, and it’s continuing to develop the system’s web interface. The UDP team is also working with Rice University officials to determine the best ways to host and share sensitive data.

Importantly, this won’t be a resource only for Rice. Over time, we expect to make the UDP and its data available to researchers, government agencies and community groups across Houston—and beyond. We know the Kinder Institute doesn’t have all the answers about cities, but we also know we’re not the only ones with questions.

Our goal at the Kinder Institute is to address the most pressing urban problems in Houston and other Sun Belt cities, and the Urban Data Platform is the most powerful tool we’ve created yet to achieve that mission.

The Kinder Institute is a world-class thought partner for the City of Houston. Their research provides city leaders with a factual basis to understanding the complexities of our community.

Jesse Bounds
Director, Innovation & Performance
City of Houston
One of the pillars of the Kinder Institute is its commitment to “translational” research. It’s not our goal to simply produce research for research’s sake. Instead, we aim to conduct rigorous research—and then deliver it to the public in an accessible format so that voters, policymakers, journalists and civic leaders can actually use it.

As both Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and the local news media called for pension reform in 2016, four prominent Houston foundations—Houston Endowment, the Kinder Foundation, the Brown Foundation and the Wortham Foundation—encouraged the Kinder Institute to weigh in on the topic.

Our report, “The Houston Pension Question,” explains how the city’s $3.9 billion unfunded pension liability developed and how it could be reversed. It’s aimed at those who care about the issue but may lack a background in accounting or finance. The hope was that anyone who had a stake in Houston’s future—even people who aren’t pension experts—would be better informed about this pressing concern.

Creating “translational” research also means getting it into the hands of the right people. The Kinder Institute held a series of meetings to ensure key stakeholders—those who were actually in a position to act on our research—were aware of our work and understood its implications.

We briefed numerous public officials, including Mayor Turner, on our findings. We also briefed foundations around town about our work. We wrote several blog posts (which were re-published by the Houston Chronicle) that distilled the report down to its essence. And we held a forum on pension reform at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston on the topic.

All of our efforts are paying off and are influencing the conversation about pensions, both locally and nationally, as the National League of Cities is highlighting the Institute’s work on the topic. Mayor Turner and the Houston Chronicle continue to cite our work on the issue, months after publication.

Our steps helped ensure that our pension research is gaining traction in the places where it needs to be seen. After all, “translational” research ultimately means we don’t just care about research itself—we care about how it’s being used.
One in seven young adults in the Houston area neither works nor attends school. That’s a major problem for those young people, as well as taxpayers. The Kinder Institute’s study “Houston’s Opportunity: Reconnecting Disengaged Youth and Young Adults to Strengthen Houston’s Economy” explains who those young adults are and the strategies that nonprofits, governments, employers and educational institutions can pursue to address their needs. The research was supported through partnership and funding from JPMorgan Chase & Co.

The study found that despite assumptions about “inner-city youth,” some of the largest numbers of these “disconnected” young people live outside the Houston city limits in areas near Angleton, Baytown, Cloverleaf, Humble and Texas City. Researchers also learned that disconnected youth are more likely than their peers to have a parent who didn’t complete high school or isn’t working.

Despite these hurdles, this population is optimistic: Surveys found 72 percent of disconnected youth believe their circumstances will improve in the coming years. Meanwhile, more than 70 percent of this population has a high school credential or higher—larger than the rate in other metros—suggesting we can build on its strengths. There’s a critical need for on-ramps to postsecondary education and workforce development programs leading to credentials with value in the labor market.

Researchers relied on interviews with service providers and young adults, as well as guidance from the nonprofit Jobs for the Future, to develop recommendations for organizations serving this population. Among that guidance:

- Actively reaching out to young adults and building relationships with them is key to serving this group.
- “Wrap-around services” may help this population navigate a fragmented social services system.
- Alternative credentialing and education programs, outside the typical high school environment, can help students who are struggling academically.
- The “Earn and Learn” model, in which young people can earn income while also developing job skills, may fill a critical gap.

In September 2016, the Kinder Institute presented its findings to a group of 45 key stakeholders who work with this population. The research team continues to present its findings to stakeholders at conferences and events.

The Kinder Institute is a pillar in the region and plays a pivotal role in charting Houston’s future. The in-depth research and analysis the Kinder Institute developed on pensions is not just an invaluable resource to City Hall but also serves as a critical guidepost to securing our city’s financial future for generations to come.
Construction in Harris County has far outpaced demolition over the last 10 years, according to the Kinder Institute’s study, “Houston in Flux: Understanding a Decade of Bayou City Development.”

The study includes both a printed report and an online, interactive tool—the first time the Kinder Institute has presented its research in that format. The tool allows users to look at a color-coded map of Harris County parcels showing demolition permits, building permits and residential construction in order to help see a picture of how the area is changing. Redevelopment, preservation and gentrification can all be clearly seen.

The study highlights the effects of economic booms and busts, draws attention to the spaces where development pressures are most extreme or nonexistent and highlights instances of communities rising or being remade within a decade. The study categorizes census tracts into one of four groups, depending on the level of construction and demolition they’ve experienced over the last decade (high-turnover, demolition-intensive, construction-intensive and low-turnover).

At the end of 2015, 15 percent of properties in Harris County contained buildings constructed since 2005, while only 1.7 percent of properties had a demolition permit during that time period. The researchers also found that the area between Highway 6/FM 1960 and the Grand Parkway has the highest percentage of construction sites in Harris County, at 37.4 percent. In contrast, the area inside Loop 610 has the highest percentage of demolition sites in Harris County, at 43.4 percent.

The pattern of construction and demolition in the region suggests the majority of construction over the past decade has taken place on previously undeveloped or vacant property.

The Kinder Institute intends to build additional data atop this map, with subsequent versions incorporating socioeconomic and demographic data—as well as other information such as vacancies, home sales or dangerous buildings—to ensure it will serve as a useful tool.

The Kinder Institute is an advocate for urban well-being, providing multi-disciplinary research which aligns with BakerRipley’s mission. We share the belief that equitable growth in our region is achieved with the resources and human capital already here in our city.

**Claudia Aguirre-Vasquez**
Senior Vice President, Chief Program Officer
BakerRipley, formerly Neighborhood Centers
Other Reports:
kinder.rice.edu/reports

Urban Development, Transportation, and Placemaking

**Building Stronger Suburbs: Adaptability and Resilience Best Practices From Suburban Houston**
bit.ly/Stronger-Suburbs

The study, produced jointly with Urban Land Institute–Houston, describes important lessons planners and developers can learn from suburbs. The case studies in the report highlight the value of live/work/play spaces, citizen engagement and collaboration between the public and private sectors.

**Filling Potholes: Analyzing the City of Houston’s Response**
bit.ly/Filling-Potholes

Performed at the request of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, the study analyzed his administration’s response to citizen complaints about potholes. It confirmed the accuracy of the city’s assertions that 94 percent of citizen-reported potholes are filled by the next business day. But the study also suggested improvements to the city’s methods that might make the response rates more clear to the public.

**Redeveloping the East End: Catalysts for Sustainable Transitions**
bit.ly/ULI-East-End

Produced with Urban Land Institute–Houston, the study explores ways to increase development of multi-family housing in the East End, where much of the new development has been high-end townhomes. The report proposes a system that would incentivize developers to build multi-family housing in the area, which has more than 400 acres of vacant or underutilized land.

Center for Local Elections in American Politics

**Mayoral Elections in Indiana: 2003–2015**
bit.ly/LEAP-Indiana

Democrats have decreased their share of mayor’s offices in Indiana from 57 percent to 45 percent over the last dozen years. The study notes that in addition to that partisan shift, more than 20 percent of mayoral elections in the state go uncontested, and turnout in the state’s mayoral contests is gradually—but steadily—declining.

bit.ly/LEAP-California

The analysis of more than 1,000 California mayoral elections over two decades shows the importance of election timing. Mayoral elections that coincided with a presidential election attracted 40 percent turnout, compared to just 17 percent turnout for those held off-cycle. The study is one of the most detailed analyses of the link between off-cycle elections and reduced voter turnout.

**Mayoral Elections in Kentucky: 2010–2014**
bit.ly/LEAP-Kentucky

More than half of Kentucky’s mayoral elections are unopposed, according to the study, which includes more than 700 mayoral elections. That raises serious questions about the health of local democracy in the state and the ability of residents to hold their elected officials accountable, according to researchers.

The Kinder Institute has shifted how we take on the most pressing problems the Houston region faces including pensions, education, transportation and persistent inequality. They have matched data science with well-told stories, and policy chops with scholarship. They are systematically pushing for an urban planning approach that is as novel as the multi-nodal city we live in.

*Raj Mankad*
Editor
For the first time ever, the survey found the majority of Harris County residents say they align more closely with Democrats than Republicans. The survey also touched upon growing populist political sentiment in 2016. It found 66 percent of residents believe the government should take steps to reduce income differences in the U.S., and 76 percent believe the government should ensure that everyone who wants to work can find a job. In both cases, those figures were record highs.

In Harris County, 39 percent of the census tracts are classified as “high-poverty.” The figure has grown at a staggering rate, more than quadrupling since 1980. In Houston, poverty isn’t simply rising. It’s spreading beyond the inner city and transforming places that were once middle-class.

White people in Harris County are more likely to live in Hispanic neighborhoods in large numbers than in black neighborhoods. The study offers a new angle on the traditional analyses that often highlight the largest single racial/ethnic group in a community. It adds a level of depth by showing which is the second-most populous group in each area too.
Does a Self-Affirmation Intervention Reduce Stereotype Threat in Predominantly Black and Hispanic High Schools?
bit.ly/Self-Affirmation

Researchers found that “self-affirmation exercises,” designed to battle negative stereotypes among students of color, had no evidence of effect on standardized test scores in schools where students of color are the majority. However, they found the exercises are associated with higher grades in the spring semester for black students but not Hispanic or white students.

Evaluating the Impact of School Closures in Houston ISD, Part 1
bit.ly/Closures-1

School closures in HISD have disproportionately displaced poor and black students. While students generally transferred from closed schools to slightly more advantaged and academically higher-performing schools, few transferred to HISD’s highest-performing schools. Closures were generally not associated with higher achievement than what would have been expected in the absence of those closures.

The Effect of Rigorous Teacher Evaluations on Workforce Quality, Part 2: Teacher Exits and Student Achievement
bit.ly/Teacher-Exits-2

The effects of the ETI on teacher composition only contributed to a very small, positive effect on student achievement. That’s because although ETI increased the rate at which low-performing teachers exited the district, many effective teachers also exited.

The Significance of Teachers’ Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching and Their Math Background on Students’ Math Achievement
bit.ly/Math-Knowledge

Teachers developed significantly more adaptive educational beliefs and increased their mathematical knowledge for teaching (MKT) after successfully completing the Rice University School Mathematics Project’s summer campus program. The study also found that while the biggest predictor of a student’s future math achievement is his or her prior math achievement, factors including teachers’ MKT and whether a teacher has a math degree can also have a significant effect.

Faces of the Institute:
Ruth N. López Turley
Director, Houston Education Research Consortium

Earning tenure at University of Wisconsin-Madison should have left Ruth N. López Turley feeling elated, but as she reflected on her career in academia, she believed her work wasn’t having the impact she desired.

So in 2010, she opted for a change of scenery and accepted a position at Rice. It was an opportunity that allowed her to think critically about how she could directly impact the lives of all children. Today, she leads the Kinder Institute’s Houston Education Research Consortium, a pioneering partnership between Rice University and the Houston Independent School District that connects researchers and policymakers in order to improve education outcomes for students.

Turley’s passion for education stems from her upbringing in Laredo. Though neither of her parents attended high school, Turley said, they both wanted their children to be educated. “I loved school, but I just assumed I wouldn’t go to college because I couldn’t afford it,” she said.

Eventually, Turley became aware of opportunities like college scholarships—which turned out to be a life-changing revelation. Through her work in HERC, she’s hoping to ensure today’s generation of disadvantaged students have more opportunities, too. “We are systematically leaving out huge groups of people because they’re poor,” Turley said. “There’s so much that needs to be done.”
While the Kinder Institute is known for its research on important urban topics, the Community Bridges program is its way of working more directly in the community.

The program has two components: a weekly, three-hour sociology seminar focused on urban issues, and student internships with organizations working in Fifth Ward to reduce poverty. Community Bridges helps improve Houston by supporting the Fifth Ward community and by fostering a lifelong understanding of urban issues in undergraduates.

In 2016—the program’s five-year anniversary—undergraduates collectively spent 1,800 hours serving Fifth Ward through Community Bridges. Student service projects performed in 2016 included:

- Gathering community input for a master plan of Japhet Creek developed by Buffalo Bayou Partnership and the Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation.
- Creating a car donation program to support the work of the financial literacy organization Covenant Community Capital.
- Working to emphasize the importance of college to teenage boys through the Fifth Ward Enrichment Program.

The Kinder Institute’s Community Bridges and development teams work together closely, as the only “alumni” under the umbrella of the Kinder Institute are former Community Bridges participants. Capturing stories from alumni about their work in Fifth Ward helps supporters of the Kinder Institute understand the scope and impact of the program.

“By participating in this program, we hope the students learn a little bit about a different part of town that they likely wouldn’t have visited otherwise,” said Amanda Macune, program coordinator. “We hope they understand the multi-faceted nature of the city.”

Community Bridges Fellow Sarah Hernandez, Class of 2016, helps students at Small Steps Nurturing Center assemble a puzzle she designed and later produced with a 3D printer.
Ultimately, our partnerships with the Kinder Institute afford us an opportunity to better understand our community through its urban research program and provide the science needed to balance the passion we have for our community. This opportunity, coupled with the innovation of the Community Bridges program, which engages university students in the work we do, is a great tool that enhances our capacity to solve the challenges that beset Fifth Ward.

Kathy Payton  
President & CEO  
Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation

Community Bridges Partner Organizations

The Kinder Institute thanks the community organizations that partnered with its Community Bridges program in 2016:

- Buffalo Bayou Partnership
- CAN DO Houston
- Cane River Gardens, Inc.
- Covenant Community Capital
- EPSI Staffing, Inc.
- Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation
- Fifth Ward Enrichment Program
- Pleasant Hill Leadership Institute
- School Literacy & Culture
- Small Steps Nurturing Center
- YES Prep Fifth Ward

Faces of the Institute:

Amanda Macune  
Program Coordinator, Community Bridges

Amanda Macune’s Kinder Institute experience has come full circle. As an undergraduate, she was a fellow in the Institute’s Community Bridges program, which connects Rice University students with nonprofits working in Fifth Ward. Today, Macune is running the program, helping both students and the nonprofits enjoy the same positive experience she had.

Macune’s experience with Community Bridges dramatically shaped her career trajectory. Her work with the nonprofit Cane River Gardens taught her the value of public service.

“I helped plan two service days that brought students from the local high school to help with gardening,” Macune said. “And as a student, I studied how to eliminate poverty by improving education opportunities.”

Now in her role as the Community Bridges program coordinator, she’s revamped the program to more closely align with the Kinder Institute’s goals by helping students utilize data in their service projects, whether it’s to support grant applicants or better target services.

“As an undergraduate, Community Bridges was a way for me to put the theories I’d learned into practice and gain experience in the nonprofit field,” Macune said. “As the project coordinator, it’s been a way to share that experience with students.” Today, Macune is planning on a career working in state education policy after completing her graduate degree.
School districts have long sought to figure out the best ways to stem the tide of students who leave the education system prematurely. A study by the Kinder Institute’s Houston Education Research Consortium (HERC) may help them figure out how to better target their resources in the fight against dropouts.

The study reveals that the strongest predictor of dropouts in the Houston Independent School District (HISD) is whether a student is age 16 or older at the start of 9th grade. The research also highlights other predictors of dropping out: whether a student in 8th grade received an F, had a disciplinary incident or failed to meet testing standards in 8th grade math. The findings give the district the information it needs to steer its resources towards programs more likely to increase retention.

The dropout study is one of many studies conducted each year by HERC, a research-practice partnership between Rice University and HISD, the largest district in Texas. Established in 2011, HERC brings together education researchers and education decision-makers to ensure that all children have access to a high quality education, regardless of their economic status or where they live. HERC’s research agenda is informed by the needs of local education leaders, and the decisions of these leaders are informed by the research produced by HERC and its affiliates.

HERC’s primary objectives include: establishing an education researcher-practitioner partnership that sets a research agenda based on the needs of local education leaders; assisting in data collection, cleaning and management as needed to address the research agenda; combining data from various local, state and national sources and analyzing it to inform local decision-making; and training a new generation of researchers who ask critical questions grounded in the needs of practitioners.

The HERC database is perhaps HERC’s most important work. Permitting researchers to follow individual HISD students and teachers over time, the longitudinal database contains extensive information on all students who have been enrolled in HISD at any point between 2006 and present (over 300,000 students), including demographics, attendance, enrollment, academic performance, disciplinary actions and participation in specific programs and interventions. The data are available at the student, teacher and school levels.

“Having HERC expands our capacity to respond to the needs of the district and allows us to provide more evaluations and deeper research,” said Carla Stevens, HISD’s Assistant Superintendent for Research and Accountability.
The Kinder Institute organized and hosted the Houston Solutions Lab Forum in October 2016, launching a first-of-its-kind partnership between the City of Houston and Rice University.

Previously, the city and Rice had signed a memorandum of understanding around data sharing. But not much had been happening—at least not on a large-scale—in terms of formal, person-to-person interaction between the two institutions.

The Kinder Institute began working with City Hall and Rice University’s Provost’s Office to embark on a first step towards making that happen. We didn’t know what to expect, but we knew a symposium of Houston’s sharpest people in academia and government could yield big results. About 20 top city officials and 20 top Rice researchers convened for the event, which will lead to a call for specific research proposals in 2017.

The Institute hosted robust discussions (and in some cases, debates) around some of the biggest issues in Houston, such as housing and community development, infrastructure, policing, emergency management and urban planning. City leaders, for example, spoke with several Rice engineering professors about how to make the city’s wastewater system operate more efficiently. Phil Bedient, a civil engineering professor, told city officials how radar can be used to predict which intersections need to be blocked in the event of a downpour. Assistant Police Chief Mark Curran engaged in a conversation with sociology and economics professors about how the agency can improve the way it addresses repeat offenders with mental health problems. The list goes on and on.

Often, Rice and City of Houston personnel—who work on the same issues—were connecting for the first time. The conversations were rich, and more often than not, all that brainpower in the room led to more questions than answers. The Kinder Institute is now working with its colleagues at Rice to develop a request for proposals in hopes of funding research that might start to answer some of those big questions facing the City of Houston.

The Institute’s Urban Data Platform could serve as a leading data source for researchers to further investigate or answer questions born out of the rich Houston Solutions Lab discussions.

Combining the know-how of city leaders with the research capacity of university professors is a model that works. We’re excited to continue down this path and work through Houston Solutions Lab to improve our community.
Kinder Houston Area Survey and Speakers Bureau
kinder.rice.edu/KHAS

The Kinder Institute hosts more than 1,000 visitors each year for the much-awaited results of the annual Kinder Houston Area Survey. With timely findings about the most pressing social and political issues facing Houston—and presented by ever-charming Kinder Institute Founding Director Stephen Klineberg—it’s always a popular event.

But the Kinder Institute is also aware that not everybody can make it to this important gathering. That’s why it takes its message on the road, presenting findings about the changing face of Houston to a broad range of organizations in greater Houston and beyond.

In 2016, Klineberg, Institute Director Bill Fulton and Director of Strategic Partnerships Kyle Shelton represented the Kinder Institute at 81 speaking engagements in and around Houston, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio and New Orleans.

The goal of these events is to further the Institute’s translational research agenda, making its work tangible, available and usable for those outside of academia.

The bulk of those engagements were Klineberg’s presentations about Kinder Houston Area Survey results to civic, nonprofit, philanthropic and commercial groups. Notable engagements in 2016 included presentations to groups at Andrews Kurth Kenyon LLP World Law Conference, the American Advertising Federation, the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Chevron, the Greater Houston Partnership, H-E-B, Houston Independent School District, Houston Endowment, Memorial Hermann and Silver Eagle Distributors.

Filling Potholes
kinder.rice.edu/DTP/

When Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner took office at the beginning of 2016, he didn’t waste any time getting to work on one of the most frustrating issues that vexes Houstonians: potholes. After all, it was a major theme of his campaign.

Soon after it got to work, Turner’s administration issued a press release touting its success at filling potholes quickly. “Despite the more than 1,000 percent increase in service requests, city crews are maintaining an impressive next business day repair rate of more than 90 percent,” the city wrote.

The results drew praise for Turner, but some observers raised questions about the numbers. So the city asked the Kinder Institute to double-check its work. The verdict: the findings are accurate.

Kinder Institute researchers Kyle Shelton and Kelsey Walker sought to reproduce the way the city reached its conclusions in order to verify the accuracy of the city’s claim. “Based on the city’s current methodology,” they wrote in the study, “the Institute’s analysis confirms the accuracy of the city’s advertised rate of citizen-reported potholes filled by the next business day, a number that fluctuated between 93–96 percent for most of January 2016.”

They also recommended ways the city could clarify how it reaches its numbers in order to reduce confusion.
**2016 Next City Vanguard Conference**

The Kinder Institute hosted 45 of the country’s sharpest young urban professionals at the Next City Vanguard Conference in 2016, introducing many of them to Houston for the first time.

Hailing from disciplines such as architecture, urban planning, philanthropy and the arts, the Vanguard Fellows spent four days in Houston studying public policy and learning about the most pressing issues facing cities, including Houston.

The conference was organized with Next City, a Philadelphia-based nonprofit that is a widely read publisher of news about cities.

Next City ran a competitive selection process to choose the host of its seventh annual conference, and it ultimately picked the Kinder Institute and Houston. “The Next City Vanguard conference is the leading event for the country’s top young urbanists, and Houston is the country’s hottest urban location,” said Bill Fulton, director of the Kinder Institute. “The Vanguards had the opportunity to apply their skills to Houston’s urban problems.”

The theme of the 2016 conference was “equitable growth,” a critical issue in a city that is simultaneously experiencing a population boom and increasing challenges with affordability.

Through a combination of lectures, site visits, workshops with local nonprofits and an ideas competition, Vanguard fellows explored ways Houston can capitalize on its growth while promoting equitable and inclusive development, among other priorities.

The conference ended with a “Big Idea Challenge” design competition, in which fellows explored ways to transform underutilized land in Houston. The winning team pitched an idea for a miniature park at a 2,400-square-foot wedge of land in the Near Northside that had been previously used to store equipment during METRO’s light-rail expansion. The Kinder Institute is now working with local leaders to make that idea a reality.

**National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships**

Administrators who run school districts and academic researchers who study them would seem to be natural partners. But historically, collaboration between these two parties hasn’t always been strong.

The Kinder Institute is helping to change that through its National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships (NNERPP), which launched in 2016.

NNERPP promotes collaboration between school district leaders and education researchers in order to improve outcomes for students. It’s the natural follow-up to the Houston Education Research Consortium (HERC), the Kinder Institute’s partnership with Houston Independent School District. Similar partnerships between universities and school districts exist nationwide, but until now, there’s been no formal entity to coordinate their activities and facilitate communication between them.

NNERPP is filling that void, and today, the network includes partnerships between school systems and research institutions in 18 cities. “I’m excited this organization is happening,” said Paula Arce-Trigatti, who was hired in 2016 to lead the organization. “There’s an immense need for it. The network can transmit knowledge, learning and best practices, and get them to the people who are trying to improve schools.”

Part of the way NNERPP promotes collaborations between these partnerships is through its meetings. In August 2016, NNERPP hosted its first conference as a formal organization, welcoming more than 75 attendees from local agencies, research institutions, foundations and advocacy groups to an event in New Orleans.

The network was launched thanks to funding from several foundations including the William T. Grant Foundation; Spencer Foundation; Laura and John Arnold Foundation; The Wallace Foundation; and The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Next City Vanguard Fellows pose for a group photo after a tour of the Astrodome.
Feb. 11
James Sallis*

The psychologist from the University of California, San Diego explained the link between urban design and health, arguing that cities must take steps to encourage more active lifestyles. Sallis has previously presented his work to First Lady Michelle Obama, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Centers for Disease Control, among other influential experts and policymakers.

Attendees: 120

May 18
Janette Sadik-Khan*

The former transportation commissioner for New York City was responsible for closing Broadway to cars, building nearly 400 miles of bike lanes and creating more than 60 pedestrian plazas citywide. She explained how communities today, including Houston, can pursue similar ambitious efforts.

Attendees: 200

Aug. 31
Joe Minicozzi

The planner and developer demonstrated the tools he uses to illustrate the way different growth patterns can improve the wealth of a city. He highlighted the strong economic impact of walkable, mixed-use communities.

Attendees: 88

Sept. 20
Houston’s Pension Future

The panel discussion followed the release of the Kinder Institute’s report, “The Houston Pension Question.” The conversation explored the factors that contributed to Houston’s massive unfunded pension liability, ways the pension system could be reformed and the politics of the issue.

Attendees: 108

Faces of the Institute:

Dian Nostikasari
Urban Development, Transportation, and Placemaking Research Fellow

Research fellow Dian Nostikasari first became interested in urban planning when she was studying architecture as an undergraduate. As a young woman living in Jakarta, she found transportation costs to be one of her greatest expenses. And she knew other people had frustrations with the way they moved about the city, too.

“It’s one of those things that affects our lives, every single day, so significantly,” Nostikasari said. “But people don’t always think about how it gets planned.”

Today, she’s playing a pivotal role with the Kinder Institute’s Urban Development, Transportation, and Placemaking program, where she’s conducting research on affordable housing policy as well as safe streets.

She’s worked with other experts to develop an app that will allow cyclists to record and report “near miss” incidents in order to better understand the factors that contribute to danger for pedestrians and cyclists.

“I’ve been interested in the way research can shape policy,” Nostikasari said. “Working at an institution like this one allows me to connect with the policy world.”
Sept. 28

Houston’s Opportunity

The program featured a discussion of the findings from the Kinder Institute report, “Houston’s Opportunity: Reconnecting Disengaged Youth and Young Adults to Strengthen Houston’s Economy.” Stakeholders also discussed how to implement the report’s recommendations, and they heard a poignant address from a former dropout who is now pursuing her degree.

Attendees: 150

Sept. 29

Alex Garvin

The renowned urban planner made the case that the “public realm”—streets, squares, parks and other public facilities—are what make a city truly great. Using case studies from San Antonio to St. Petersburg, he highlighted six specific characteristics that can make a place shine.

Attendees: 77

Oct. 6

Richard Florida

The author and co-founder of The Atlantic’s urban news website CityLab said cities are increasingly grappling with disparity and inequality, and although many cities are booming, they’re leaving millions of people behind. He argued that one of the reasons cities are suffering from grave disparity is the low pay of service workers. His remarks came at a lecture sponsored by the Kinder Institute for Urban Research and the Greater Houston Community Foundation.

Attendees: 238

Nov. 16

Nigel Jacob

The head of the Boston Mayor’s Office of New Urban Mechanics explained how slight interventions—a more streamlined app, a different way of organizing community meetings—can drastically improve the way citizens interact with local government.

Attendees: 138

Those of us in government have a unique appreciation for the Kinder Institute’s ability to bring together disparate parts of our community to focus on the problems facing our city, our county and the nation as a whole.

Ed Emmett
Harris County Judge
The Kinder Institute Forum lecture series shares ideas about the most pressing urban issues facing us today. By hosting these discussions free of charge, the Kinder Institute provides an opportunity for Houston residents to enhance their understanding of cities and contribute to positive changes in the community. Sponsors for 2016 included Chevron, CenterPoint Energy, and HR&A Advisors.

In 2016, the Kinder Institute hosted four lectures as part of its Forum series, which addressed key urban issues including public health, transportation, disparity and innovation. Each of the speakers is a high-profile, nationally-known figure in his or her field who, in many cases, was speaking to a Houston audience for the first time.

James Sallis from the University of California, San Diego opened 2016 with a lecture in February about the link between public health and urban planning, explaining how cities can take deliberate design steps that can improve the health of residents. His remarks were timely: They came just after the U.S. Surgeon General issued a new call for more walkable communities that heavily cited Sallis’s work. Yet federal data indicate 30 percent of Americans say they live in communities that lack sidewalks.

In May, New York City’s Janette Sadik-Khan, the city’s former transportation commissioner and a hero to many pedestrian and bicycling advocates, brought her message to Houston. She outlined the obstacles she faced implementing changes in New York, and she sought to inspire Houstonians to remain undeterred as they try to improve their local streetscape. While in Houston for her presentation, she met with Mayor Sylvester Turner, among other city officials.

Bestselling author Richard Florida, likely the most famed speaker to grace the Forum stage, came to town in October. He rose to prominence 15 years ago when he started touting the idea that if cities cater to the “creative class” of professionals, they’ll thrive. But now he’s focusing on issues of disparity within cities, arguing that as the creative class thrives, service class workers struggle to survive.

Nigel Jacob rounded out the year in November. He leads the Mayor’s Office of New Urban Mechanics in Boston, which reaches across city departments to develop new ways for constituents and government to interact. His department has been described as Boston’s in-house R&D lab, but he emphasized that much of his work is about developing a new way of thinking, not just apps and gadgets. While in town, Jacob met with several city department heads, Mayor Turner’s chief of staff, METRO’s innovation group and several members of Houston’s civic tech scene.
Forum in Focus: Richard Florida

Houston has higher levels of inequality and segregation than every U.S. metro except New York and Los Angeles, according to a new analysis by Richard Florida, the author and co-founder of The Atlantic’s urban news website CityLab.

Florida delivered that analysis before a packed audience at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston in October at an event sponsored by the Kinder Institute and the Greater Houston Community Foundation.

Florida became famous after publishing his influential 2002 book “The Rise of the Creative Class,” which made the case that cities could thrive if they attracted a category of workers that includes engineers, artists, educators and scientists.

But today, he’s noticing an unintended consequence of the back-to-the-city movement he’s touted: increased disparity within cities, along with the decimation of middle-class communities. Today, he argued, many places are a “patchwork metropolis” of rich and poor neighborhoods living side-by-side but not interacting with each other.

“There are areas of concentrated advantage—small areas where the privileged third of us live,” Florida said. They’re surrounded by poorer communities, he said, and the “two worlds ... never meet.”

He argued that one of the reasons for that dynamic is the low pay of service workers. Well-paying manufacturing jobs are largely gone, supplanted by service workers who work in nursing homes, day care centers, hotels and restaurants. They are paid little, and homeownership—along with access to other middle-class amenities—is a pipe dream for many.

In Houston, Florida said, there are 825,000 workers in the creative class—but there are 1.2 million service workers, who represent almost half the entire workforce.

Even in the country’s most expensive cities, the creative class can still make a nice life. Today, that’s all but impossible for service workers. “You want to understand inequality?” Florida said. “That’s Inequality 101.”

To make cities work, society needs to make a deliberate decision to treat service workers today the way it treated factory workers 60 years ago, he argued. He also offered other policy recommendations for addressing the urban disparity he calls the “new urban crisis.”

Among them: build more housing in the country’s most expensive cities; build a mix of dense housing types (not just high-rise condos); create more affordable rental housing; repair the country’s infrastructure; and build transit connections between cities and suburbs. “We need a new urban policy,” Florida said.
The Urban Edge blog is one of the leading tools the Institute uses to disseminate information about its research and expertise. The site serves as a conduit between the Institute and journalists, public officials, advocates and other interested stakeholders.

The blog’s motto is simple: “Sharing stories about why cities are great and how they can be better.” That means highlighting stories about innovation and best practices happening in Houston and cities nationwide, as well as shedding light on ways cities can serve their residents more effectively.

Through thoughtful, daily blog content that aligns with the Kinder Institute’s research focus, the Institute is able to become part of the ongoing conversation about cities. The blog also spreads awareness of the Kinder Institute “brand” by exposing it to new audiences both locally and nationally.

In 2016, the blog was cited by preeminent publications including The Atlantic/CityLab, the Dallas Morning News, the Houston Chronicle, Slate, the Huffington Post, The New York Times and The Washington Post, among other outlets.

The blog’s traffic continued to rise in 2016, as well. The number of page views per month was 30 percent higher compared to the previous year, and monthly visitors were up more than a third.

The Kinder Institute provides baseline data, research and analysis that is essential to good decision-making for Houston’s leaders. This information informs Avenue CDC’s daily work addressing community revitalization, affordable housing and economic opportunity. And its Urban Edge blog, with posts about housing, planning, inequality and more, is an excellent tool for keeping abreast of trends both in Houston and nationwide, and helps us stay informed about latest research and developments in these fields.

Mary Lawler
Executive Director
Avenue CDC
“Third Ward Looks to Shift the Gentrification Conversation”  
Leah Binkovitz | May 25, 2016

The east corner of Elgin and Dowling Streets doesn’t look like much now. Sitting across from the ongoing $33 million renovation of Emancipation Park, the lot is empty. But many are hoping the corner will be part of an emerging vision of the historically African-American neighborhood.

“This is a historic moment,” said Assata Richards, director of the community-oriented think tank Sankofa Research Institute, speaking to the OST/Almeda Corridors Redevelopment Authority, a quasi-public agency. “There has never been an African-American community in a city this size take on gentrification.”

Richards is part of a dedicated group of people, along with community organizations like Project Row Houses, who have worked for years to build partnerships and, perhaps most importantly, purchase land across Greater Third Ward. With new townhomes sprinkling the western edge of the neighborhood, property values rising and the renovation of Emancipation Park, residents have watched the changes with a wary eye.

A study by Kyle Shelton and Kelsey Walker of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research found that over the last decade, Third Ward buildings were being demolished at a higher rate than buildings county-wide. Meanwhile, construction in the neighborhood lagged behind the county average. What will ultimately rise in place of these torn down buildings and homes depends, in part, on this informal coalition of community development groups of which Richards is a part.

“We’re definitely at a critical point,” said Eureka Gilkey, executive director of Project Row Houses, of the large portion of property owned by public entities and nonprofits. And the community is beginning to see a way to hold on to their neighborhood. If it succeeds, Third Ward will pull off something few similarly-positioned neighborhoods have been able to do: successfully manage the forces of gentrification.

Read the full story at bit.ly/Third-Ward

Houstonians Want to Live in Walkable Communities. Often, That Doesn’t Happen.  
Ryan Holeywell | April 25, 2016

In Harris County, 50 percent of survey respondents said they’d prefer “a smaller home in a more urbanized area, within walking distance of shops and workplaces.” Meanwhile, 49 percent preferred “a single-family home with a big yard, where you would need to drive almost everywhere you want to go.”

The good news is the county is large enough—nearly 1,800 square miles—that there’s something for everyone here. But the bad news is that a deeper dive into the data contained in the Kinder Houston Area Survey reveals that many Houston-area residents aren’t living in the type of housing they say they’d prefer.

Roughly one in five Harris County residents wants to live in an urban area but isn’t doing so. The same rate holds true in Montgomery County. And in Fort Bend County, more than one in four residents wants an urban home but lacks one. Project the figures across each county’s population, and the findings are stark: They translate to roughly 1 million people who want an urban home but say they aren’t living in one.

The survey findings can’t, of course, explain exactly why that’s happening. Workers might be living near their jobs, even if they’d rather live in a more walkable area. Rightly or wrongly, they may perceive of higher-quality education in suburban school districts. But, perhaps most importantly, is the fact that in recent years, home prices inside Houston’s urban core have skyrocketed.

Houston area officials have acknowledged that they’re not just competing for workforce talent nationally. They’re competing internationally to recruit and retain workers. When close to 1 million of those workers may be living in an environment they don’t prefer, it may be time to take notice.

Read the full story at bit.ly/Houston-Walks
In Houston, Constant Flooding Will be the New Normal, Expert Says

Leah Binkovitz | November 30, 2016

The 2015 Memorial Day floods hit the southwest Houston neighborhood of Meyerland particularly hard. Many families had just completed repairs to their damaged homes when the rain came in April of 2016. Now, many of them are questioning the area’s long term sustainability.

And more broadly, across the region, Houstonians are asking: Is constant flooding the new normal?

Yes, says Kinder Fellow Sam Brody, a professor with the department of marine sciences at Texas A&M University at Galveston. “We’re celebrated for our economic growth,” he said, “but at the same time, we’re being dragged down by chronic and acute flooding events.”

Along with a team of researchers, Brody works with data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to plot insurance claims following flooding across the Houston metro area. Tracking the insured damage from 1972 to 2015, Brody identified a huge spike in costs after 2002. Many of the claims fell within what’s known as the 100-year flood plain, where properties have an annual 1 percent risk of flooding. But plenty of others were outside the plain. These are places that didn’t used to flood, residents will tell you, but now they do.

What changed is a story familiar to anyone living in Houston: rapid growth. “You take that landscape of physical risk, add 6 million people, and you get a landscape of loss,” Brody said.

His team has been busy creating projections of future development into 2100, and the maps they’ve created show not only the spread of impervious surface cover but also blooms of similar development ringing the metro area. Fixing the problem will require a mix of solutions. But one thing’s for sure: “There are no easy answers,” said Brody.

Read the full story at bit.ly/Wet-Houston

Most-Read Urban Edge Posts of 2016

1. Houston Architect Puts Forward Unique Vision for Astrodome Overhaul
2. I Moved to Houston From 9,000 Miles Away. What I Saw Surprised Me
3. What if City-Loving Millennials Are Just a Myth?
4. Third Ward Looks to Shift the Gentrification Conversation
5. How Blacks, Whites & Hispanics Live Together (Or in Some Cases, Don’t) in the Country’s Most Diverse City
6. The Houston Townhouse: An Appreciation
7. Houston in 2016, as Told Through 5 Maps
8. What Makes a Great City? Great Public Spaces. And These 6 Rules
9. How Atlanta Decided It Can’t Out Suburb the Suburbs
10. Historic Freedmen’s Town Houses Could Become City Landmarks

The Kinder Institute provides a valuable voice in Houston. By helping policymakers here at the city explore more rational, data-based approaches to achieving better growth and development outcomes, the Kinder Institute makes the Houston community better informed and helps strengthen our neighborhoods.

Patrick Walsh
Director, Department of Planning and Development
City of Houston
2016 Kinder Institute Luncheon

The Kinder Institute hosts the Kinder Institute Luncheon each spring, where business and nonprofit leaders from Houston and around the nation join in to hear Founding Director Stephen Klineberg deliver the key findings of the most recent Kinder Houston Area Survey.

The 2016 luncheon was a success, as it commemorated both the 35th anniversary of the survey and Klineberg for his continued commitment to the project.

In recognition of his efforts, he was awarded the inaugural Kinder Urban Visionary Award, in addition to having the Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg Award named in his honor.

Additionally, a commemorative video featuring Klineberg, “Agree or Disagree: 35 Years of Questions With the Kinder Institute's Stephen Klineberg” was featured at the luncheon to the delight of the guests present. Those who attended the luncheon received a commemorative program, which honored Klineberg with congratulatory messages from political leaders, sponsors and guests.

The 2016 luncheon was also a record-breaking event. Despite a last minute delay due to flooding, 1,200 Houstonians were determined to see Klineberg speak, marking the largest-attendance ever for the event and a 50 percent increase in attendance from 2015. Furthermore, the Kinder Institute raised a gross $584,000 for the event, also a record, up from $350,000 in 2015.
Kinder Urban Visionary Award & Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg Award

After Kinder Institute Founding Director Stephen Klineberg presented his survey results at the annual Kinder Houston Area Survey luncheon, he got quite the surprise: an award for his years of dedication to Houston.

Rice University presented Klineberg with the inaugural Kinder Urban Visionary Award in 2016. Named for the founding contributors of the Kinder Institute, the award recognizes individuals who have positively impacted the urban stage at the international, national, regional or local level.

Additionally, at the 2016 luncheon, the Institute announced the creation of the Dr. Stephen L. Klineberg Award, which recognizes an individual who has had an important impact on Greater Houston. Through work in urban planning, urban design, civic leadership, journalism or community engagement, recipients of the Klineberg Award embody the spirit of collaboration, broad perspective, and positive charisma that embody Klineberg in his lifelong work on the Kinder Houston Area Survey.

In 2017, the Institute honors Tom Bacon, Houston Parks Board chairman and founding partner of Lionstone Investments, with this new award. As chairman of the Houston Parks Board, Bacon led the creation of the Bayou Greenways 2020 project, a public/private partnership developing linear parks along nine of Houston’s bayous to create 150 miles of off-road trails.

Donor Engagement Programs

With the rapid growth of Kinder Institute staff in 2016, there was also an increase in the number of published reports and public programs. As a result, the Institute created several new initiatives to connect donors with the organization’s growing body of work.

The new Kinder Insiders program grants contributors to the Kinder Institute the opportunity to have a more intimate conversation with the Institute’s researchers. Kinder Insider events include breakfast, a brief presentation by the researcher and an extended Q&A dialogue between guests and the researcher.

In addition, the Kinder Institute has started to release issues of the new Kinder Quarterly, a newsletter for contributors to keep up to date with recent research, events and other happenings of the Institute. The publication discusses current research projects and how our work “translates” to the public sphere. Aside from research, the Quarterly explores other sides of the Institute, including a staff update and a “Featured Researcher” section that includes an interview with a leading Institute expert about life in Houston.

Faces of the Institute:

Kyle Shelton, Director of Strategic Partnerships

Kyle Shelton plays a critical role in the organization’s mission: turning research into action. Shelton, promoted to his role in late 2016, is leading the organization’s efforts to establish strong relationships with partners who can implement the Institute’s ideas, including the City of Houston, Harris County, nonprofits, community groups, businesses, civic associations and philanthropic organizations.

Shelton also runs two important Kinder Institute programs: Urban & Metropolitan Governance and Urban Development, Transportation, and Placemaking.

He came to the Kinder Institute after earning his doctorate in 20th century urban history from University of Texas. It was an untraditional career move for a historian to come to a place studying modern-day issues, but the move made sense. “I knew a think tank like the Kinder Institute would be a perfect fit,” Shelton said. “I could apply my historical knowledge of how transportation networks operated to a contemporary setting.”

In 2016, he oversaw the Institute’s “Houston in Flux” study, which included an online, interactive tool illustrating a decade of Houston development. “That’s allowing us to be involved in conversations about affordable housing and economic development,” Shelton said. “We now have a deeply researched document—something specific to bring to the table.”
The Kinder Institute is a hybrid organization. In some cases, it has its own staff researchers tasked with performing research and working to ensure it reaches policymakers. But the Kinder Institute is also Rice University’s cross-disciplinary home for urban research, and researchers from various departments and schools contribute to its mission.

In 2016 the Kinder Institute organized a new Faculty Advisory Committee, tasked with helping the Institute identify ways it can work collaboratively across the Rice University campus.

The newly-formed committee has representatives across the university, with a goal of having at least one member from each school who can help inform the Institute on urban research issues.

Committee members are charged with promoting collaboration and helping the Institute understand how various Rice academic units can support the Institute’s work. They also provide some technical guidance to the Kinder Institute, as it seeks research proposals across campus, and they help identify experiential learning opportunities for Rice students interested in urban issues.

### 2016–2017 Faculty Advisory Committee Members

**James Elliott**  
Committee Chair  
Professor of Sociology

**David Alexander**  
Professor of Physics and Astronomy  
Director, Rice Space Institute

**Leonardo Dueñas-Osorio**  
Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering

**Farès El-Dahdah**  
Professor of Humanities  
Director, Humanities Research Center

**Douglas Schuler**  
Associate Professor of Business and Public Policy

**Moshe Vardi**  
Karen Ostrum George Distinguished Service Professor in Computational Engineering  
Director, Ken Kennedy Institute for Information Technology

**Sarah Whiting**  
William Ward Watkin Professor of Architecture  
Dean, School of Architecture

**Richard Lavenda**  
Professor of Composition & Theory  
Shepherd School of Music

**Stephen Klineberg**  
Ex Officio Member  
Professor of Sociology  
Founding Director, Kinder Institute

**Ruth N. López Turley**  
Ex Officio Member  
Professor of Sociology  
Associate Director of Research, Kinder Institute  
Director, Houston Education Research Consortium
AFFILIATED RESEARCH

The Kinder Institute’s Affiliated Researchers program allows the Kinder Institute to work with external researchers at Rice University and beyond who are studying important urban issues in Houston and other urban centers.

**Kinder Fellows** include Kinder Institute program directors, Rice University professors and other senior researchers who maintain long-term affiliations with the Kinder Institute and whose research interests are consistent with the Kinder Institute’s overall mission.

**Kinder Fellows**
kinder.rice.edu/KinderFellows

**Dominic Boyer**  
Professor of Anthropology  
Director, Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences (CENHS)  
Rice University

**Samuel Brody**  
Professor of Marine Sciences  
Director, Center for Texas Beaches and Shores (CTBS)  
Texas A&M University at Galveston

**Jenifer Bratter**  
Director, Kinder Institute Program for the Study of Ethnicity, Race and Culture (PSERC)  
Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director of Sociology  
Rice University

**Justin Denney**  
Associate Professor  
Director, Kinder Institute Urban Health Program  
Rice University

**Casey Durand**  
Assistant Professor  
University of Texas School of Public Health

**James Elliott**  
Professor of Sociology  
Rice University

**Michael Emerson**  
Provost  
Professor of Sociology and Urban Studies  
North Park University

**Kathy Ensor**  
Professor of Statistics  
Director, Center for Computational Finance and Economic Systems (CoFES)  
Director, Kinder Institute Urban Data Platform  
Rice University

**Matthew Festa**  
Professor of Law  
South Texas College of Law Houston

**Rudy Guerra**  
Professor of Statistics  
Co-Director, Kinder Institute Urban Data Platform  
Rice University

**Mark Jones**  
Professor of Political Science  
Joseph D. Jamail Chair in Latin American Studies  
Rice University

**Rachel Kimbro**  
Professor of Sociology  
Founding Director, Kinder Institute Urban Health Program  
Rice University
Kinder Institute Scholars are researchers—including professors, post-doctoral fellows and graduate students—receiving “soft” support from the Kinder Institute for short-term work. Their research is either focused on Houston or directly connected to the Kinder Institute’s research programs.

Kinder Scholars:
kinder.rice.edu/KIScholars

Christopher Hakkenberg
Academic Scholar, Bio Sciences
Rice University

Cayce Hughes
PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology
University of Chicago

Anthony Jimenez
PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology
University of Minnesota

Deirdre Pfeiffer
Assistant Professor
School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning
Arizona State University

Shelly Steward
PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology
University of California, Berkeley
KINDER INSTITUTE STAFF

Administration
Bill Fulton
Director, Kinder Institute

Hilary Toma
Director, Administration & University Partnerships

Lisa Emmite-Baker
Institute Administrator

Margaret de Sosa*
Executive Assistant to the Director

Angel Galbreath*
Staff Assistant

Development
John Bradshaw Jr.
Director of Development

Andrew Luce
Development Manager

Chris Bertaut*
Development Coordinator

Communications
Ryan Holeywell
Communications Manager

Leah Binkovitz*
Staff Writer

Glissette Santana*
Web & Social Media Editor

Amy McCaig
Senior Media Relations Specialist

Events
Dee Dee Grays*
Public Programs & Events Manager

Kinder Houston Area Survey
Stephen Klineberg
Founding Director, Kinder Institute

Megan Wisniewski*
Post-baccalaureate Fellow

Urban Development, Transportation, and Placemaking (DTP)
Urban and Metropolitan Governance (UMG)

Kyle Shelton
Director of Strategic Partnerships

Kelsey Walker
Staff Researcher

Dian Nostikasari*
DTP Research Fellow

Yujie Hu*
DTP Research Fellow

Jesseca Lightbourne*
UMG Research Fellow

John Lappie
Post-doctoral Research Associate

Alexius Marcano*
UMG Post-baccalaureate Fellow

Urban Disparity and Opportunity

Jie Wu
Director of Research Management

Amanda Macune
Program Coordinator

Heather O'Connell
Research Fellow

Mingming Zhang
Research Analyst

* indicates hired in 2016
Urban Data Platform

Kathy Ensor  
Director, Urban Data Platform & Professor of Statistics

Rudy Guerra  
Co-director, Urban Data Platform & Professor of Statistics

Danielle Jean-Louis  
Program & Outreach Manager

Emma Teng  
GIS Technician

Joshua Tootoo  
GIS Manager, Children’s Environmental Health Initiative

Hien Le  
Business Systems Analyst, Children’s Environmental Health Initiative

Ruiyang Li  
GIS Analyst, Children’s Environmental Health Initiative

Claire Osgood  
Senior Data Manager, Children’s Environmental Health Initiative

Houston Education Research Consortium (HERC)

Ruth N. López Turley  
Director, HERC

Holly Heard  
Associate Director of Research Operations

Carla Stevens  
Associate Director for HISD, HERC

Shauna Dunn  
Program Administrator

Vansa Shewakramani Hanson  
Research Analyst

Kori Stroub  
Research Analyst

Irina Chukhray  
Research Assistant

Erin Baumgartner  
Post-doctoral Fellow

Brian Holzman  
Post-doctoral Fellow

Terri Arellano  
Department Administrator

Sandra Alvear  
Graduate Student

Amanda Bancroft  
Graduate Student

Horace Duffy  
Graduate Student

Jie Min  
Graduate Student

Esmeralda Sanchez  
Graduate Student

Affiliated Programs:

Center for Engaged Research & Collaborative Learning (CERCL)

Anthony Pinn  
Director, CERCL

Center for Local Elections in American Politics (LEAP)

Melissa Marschall  
Director, LEAP

National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships (NNERPP)

Paula Arce-Trigatti  
National Director, NNERPP

Nina Spitzley  
Program Administrator

Program for the Study of Ethnicity, Race, and Culture (PSERC)

Jenifer Bratter  
Director, PSERC

Urban Health Program (UHP)

Justin Denney  
Director, UHP

Rachel Kimbro  
Founding Director, UHP

Ashley Kranjac  
Post-doctoral Fellow
The Kinder Institute’s 2016 revenue totaled $2.77 million and expenses totaled $2.34 million. Revenue is a combination of fundraising, research grants and an annual distribution from the Institute’s endowment. As of June 30, 2016, the Institute’s endowments had a market value of $15.60 million. The annual Kinder Institute Luncheon, a key fundraising event, grossed $584,000 in 2016, a 60 percent increase over the 2015 total. In addition, the Institute received the first installment of the three-year Houston Endowment grant.

Expenses are a combination of costs for fundraising, operations and public engagements, as well as the expenses incurred for specific research programs. Public engagements include all costs for communications, events and public affairs. The Institute grew from 12 to 24 staff in 2016 as the organization ramped up to support our research programs as well as general operations.

The fiscal year of Rice University’s Kinder Institute for Urban Research corresponds to that of the university, running from July 1 to June 30.

The Kinder Institute is a respected provider of credible and objective information on important issues facing our region. Houston Endowment provided funding to support the vision of the Kinder Institute as a ‘think and do’ tank—to be a critical source of data and ideas that help decision-makers address the important issues facing greater Houston.

Ann B. Stern
President and CEO
Houston Endowment
**Income Statement – Fiscal Year 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>$ 2,765,735</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder Institute Endowment Distribution</td>
<td>773,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Use Gifts from Supporters</td>
<td>959,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Programs</td>
<td>1,033,335</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>$ 2,342,247</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>389,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>786,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Engagements</td>
<td>132,879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Programs</td>
<td>1,033,335</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Income – Fiscal Year 2016**

$ 423,488

**Kinder Institute Endowment History (Fiscal Years 2011–2016)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Beginning Endowment Value</th>
<th>Gifts Added</th>
<th>Investment Earnings</th>
<th>Earnings Distributed for Operations</th>
<th>Ending Endowment Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2011</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$ 1,405,325</td>
<td>$ 153,053</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$ 1,558,378</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2012</td>
<td>1,558,378</td>
<td>2,594,675</td>
<td>140,599</td>
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<td>4,293,652</td>
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<td>FY2013</td>
<td>4,293,652</td>
<td>5,230,977</td>
<td>806,301</td>
<td>-412,287</td>
<td>9,918,643</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2014</td>
<td>9,918,643</td>
<td>2,594,625</td>
<td>1,806,196</td>
<td>-475,830</td>
<td>13,843,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2015</td>
<td>13,843,635</td>
<td>2,659,699</td>
<td>671,042</td>
<td>-767,508</td>
<td>16,406,868</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2016</td>
<td>16,406,868</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>-142,080</td>
<td>-773,320</td>
<td>15,594,467</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: includes the following endowment funds
- Kinder Endowed Fund (established December 2010)
- Kinder Institute for Urban Research Term Endowment Fund (established January 2011)
- T. Greg Hambrick Endowment for a Sustainable Workforce (established December 2015)
Kinder Institute Corporate Council  
Gifts from January 1 to December 31, 2016
Includes gifts, grants and sponsorships from corporations, organizations and government entities.

**Founder's Circle ($50,000-$99,999)**
BP America, Inc.
Chevron
JPMorgan Chase Foundation***

**Chairman's Circle ($25,000-$49,999)**
ExxonMobil
Silver Eagle Distributors
Urban Land Institute

**Director's Circle ($15,000-$24,999)**
Bank of America
Bracewell LLP
CenterPoint Energy
H-E-B
Hines
Lionstone Partners, Ltd.

**Visionary Circle ($10,000-$14,999)**
CHI St. Luke's Health
City of Houston through Houston Arts Alliance
Conti Street Partners
Hanover
Jackson Walker LLP
Mustang CAT
Project Row Houses***
Texas Aromatics, LP

**Leadership Circle ($5,000-$9,999)**
Andrews Kurth Kenyon LLP
Comerica Bank
Episcopal Diocese of Texas
Freese and Nichols, Inc.
HR&A Advisors, Inc.
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Memorial Hermann
Midway Companies
BakerRipley, formerly Neighborhood Centers
Page
Texas Children's Hospital
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
Wells Fargo

**Legacy Circle ($2,500-$4,999)**
Allegiance Bank
Amegy Bank
Belmont Village Senior Living
Blueprint Houston
Cadence Bank
Camden
CollegeCommunityCareer
Community Health Choice
Deloitte Services LP
Elmore Public Relations
Frost Bank
Gensler
Greater Houston Community Foundation
HFF
Houston Community College System

* Includes gifts to the Kinder Institute Endowment
** Multi-year pledge to the Kinder Institute
*** Research funding
Friends of the Kinder Institute  Gifts from January 1 to December 31, 2016
Includes gifts, grants and sponsorships from individuals and foundations.

**Benefactor’s Circle ($100,000+)**
- Laura and John Arnold Foundation***
- Baxter Trust †
- Annie E. Casey Foundation***
- Foundation for Child Development***
- William T. Grant Foundation***
- Houston Endowment, Inc. †
- Nancy and Rich Kinder | Kinder Foundation †
- John S. and James L. Knight Foundation***
- Spencer Foundation***
- The Wallace Foundation***

**Chairman’s Circle ($25,000 to $49,999)**
- Kathryn and Hank Coleman †
- Melissa and Steve Kean

**Director’s Circle ($15,000-$24,999)**
- Laura and John Arnold
- Patti and C. Richard Everett
- Herman Stude | The Brown Foundation, Inc.

**Supporter’s Circle ($1,000-$2,499)**
- Aquinas Companies
- Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
- Central Houston
- The Dallas Assembly
- First Presbyterian Church of Houston
- Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council
- Greater Houston Black Chamber
- Rice Design Alliance
- Rice University Glasscock School of Continuing Studies
- Rice University Jones Graduate School of Business
- Rice University School of Humanities
- Sterling Associates
- Traffic Engineers, Inc.
- Vecino Health Centers

**Visionary Circle ($10,000-$14,999)**
- Bill Fulton
- Susanne and Melbern Glasscock
- Sis and Hasty Johnson
- Will Mathis
- Katie and Patrick C. Oxford
- Susan and Fayez Sarofim
- Phoebe and Bobby Tudor

**Leadership Circle ($5,000-$9,999)**
- Marc Melcher | Anchorage Foundation
- Chinhui and Eddie Allen
- Nancy C. Allen
- Maire and David Baldwin
- John Bradshaw Jr.
- Anne and Albert Chao
- Molly and James Crownover
- Susie and Joe Dilg
- Jenny and Jim Elkins Family Fund
- Sarah and Doug Foshee
- Jill and Dunham Jewett
- Larsen Family Charitable Fund
- Phuong and George Levan
- Stan Marek and Family
- Glen Rosenbaum
- Virginia and L.E. Simmons Family Foundation
**Legacy Circle ($2,500-$4,999)**
Stanford and Joan Alexander Foundation
Karen and John Bradshaw Sr.
Nancy and Clint Carlson
Peggy and Stephen Klineberg
Tip and Charley Landgraf
Isla and T.R. Reckling III

**Supporter’s Circle ($1,000-$2,499)**
Eric O. Anyah
Don and Sue Sue Aron Family Fund
The Honorable Mary Bacon
Leslie and Brad Bucher
Stewart Cureton, Jr.
Anne and Charles Duncan, Jr.
Kyle Frazier
Jo and Jim Furr
Karen and Larry George
Clare Glassell
Drs. Laura Ling Hsu and Thomas Hsu
Victoria and Randall Jamail
Tracy and Ken Janda
Harriet and Truett Latimer
Y. Ping Sun and David W. Leebron
The W. Oscar Neuhaus Memorial Foundation
Bonnie J. Moore
Miwa Sakashita and Dr. John Stroehlein
The Samuels Foundation
Kristine and Stephen Wallace
Andrea and Bill White
Lorraine and Ed Wulfe

**Other Supporters of the Kinder Institute**
Aberdeen Building Group
Adept Word Management Inc.
African American Health Coalition
Danielle Allen
Judy Ley Allen
Alley Theater
Alliance for Multicultural Community Services
American Advertising Federation-Houston
Annunciation Orthodox School
Anti-Defamation League
Areté Landscape Design
Associated General Contractors of America
Dr. Maribel Barrera
Kinder Baumgardner
Baylor College of Medicine
BBVA Compass
Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Gary Greene
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas
Minnette and Peter Boesel
Richard L. Brooks
Christopher Frier Brown
Peter H. Brown
Dr. Pamela W. Butler
Dr. Dorothy Caram
Career and Recovery Resources
Chuck Carlberg
Walter Carstensen
Center for Houston’s Future
Change Happens!
Child Advocates of Fort Bend
Doug Childers
Chinquapin Preparatory School
City of Houston Planning & Development Department
Collaborative for Children
T. Jay Collins
Carley Colton
Jeff Compton
Sheila Condon
George W. Connelly
ContentActive, LLC
Susie and Sanford Criner
Cypress Fairbanks Independent School District
Algenita Scott Davis
Anthony Davis
Nair and Peter del Vecchio
Dr. Alexander Dell
Susan DiCioccio
Dini Spheris
Nancy Dunlap
AJ Durrani
Edens
Environment Associates Architects & Consultants
Episcopal High School
Robert Eury
Mary Sapp Fischer and Carl Fischer
FKP Architects
Foundation for India Studies
Susan Garwood
Genesys Works Houston
Dr. Angelo Giardino
Girl Scouts of San Jacinto
Danielle and William Gottfried
Patricia and Ira Gruber
John Haba
Peggy D. and Virgil H. Haney II
Bradley Harmes
Harmony Public Schools
Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services
Kathleen Hays
Health Museum Houston
Kathleen G. and Williams W. Heinzerling
L. Scott Hochberg
Holocaust Museum Houston
Robin Holzer
Houston A+ Challenge
Houston Airport System
Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Houston Independent School District
Houston Museum District Association
Houston Zoo
Juliana and David Itz
Jay Baker Architects
Jewish Federation of Greater Houston
Susan and Michael Jhin
Jan Johnston
J R P Company
Dr. Rita Justice
Heidi Kahle
Susan and Richard Keeton
Dr. Mary Kelly
Hetta and Harris Kempner
Knudson, LP
Ann Lents
Levan Group
Rich Levy
Brett Lezon
Zonghui Lian
Lodestar Logistics
Loving Houston
Dr. Nancy Luca
Andrew Luce
Donna Luce
Mary Julia and Don Macune
Nancy Manderson
Sultana and Moez Mangalji
Debbie and Vidal Martinez
Masterword Services
Dr. Allen Matusow
Hadia Mawlawi
Jean and Henry May
Mary Hale McLean
Anne and John Mendelsohn
The Menil Collection
Gary Mercer
Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County
Kim Mickelson
Roger Moore
Janet H. and Harvin C. Moore IV
Stewart Morris, Jr.
Suzanne Morris
Randall Morton
MECA
Municipal District Services, LLC
Kimberly Nettles
Neuhaus Education Center
New Hope Housing, Inc.
Dr. Michael Nichols
Kara Niles
Northern Trust
Dr. Alma Novotny and Dr. Edward Novotny, Jr.
Ralph O’Connor
One World Strategy Group
Opera America, Inc.
Outreach Strategists, LLC
Parra Design Group, Ltd.
H. Russell Pitman
Nancy Pittman
Port Houston
Rachel Portnoy
Cassye Cook Provost
The Kinder Institute serves an irreplaceable role in the study and discourse of the City of Houston in particular, and in the greater demographic and urban studies place overall. Rather than be subject to the rhetorical polemic that often drives much of what passes for academic doctrine today, their evidence-based stances and engagement-driven surveys are critical to how we understand and better address our contemporary society. I—and we—are better because Kinder exists and continuously pushes to improve us all.

Antoine Bryant
Houston Planning Commission