Annual Report
2020
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Ten years ago, we committed to partnering with Rice University to create the Kinder Institute for Urban Research. We understood that our city was facing a transition from the industries and people who helped it grow into a powerhouse in the 20th century to those who will help it flourish in the 21st century.

We believed that the lessons Houston could learn would inform better decision-making and more inclusive policies from our elected officials, educational leaders, and private and nonprofit sectors—not only in Houston, but in our neighboring cities and states across the Sun Belt.

After 10 years, our belief remains as strong as ever. Because the next 10 years—and beyond—will be just as vital to the health of our city, state and country. This year has been challenging. The Coronavirus has exposed massive inequality and vulnerability in our society. Working parents have had to become full-time teachers and caregivers, while also meeting the demands of their day jobs. Essential workers have had to ignore health risks to feed their families.

Medical professionals are at a breaking point. The services, agencies and organizations all vital to the vibrancy and efficiency we want in our cities face unprecedented uncertainty. How, in 2021, can we start to work to ensure a more just and equitable world where everyone has access to what they need in order to contribute and thrive?

The Kinder Institute is uniquely positioned to provide answers to that question because we have been providing robust, research-driven answers for 10 years strong. Now, more than ever, investing in long-term relationships, pursuing collaborations and providing diverse opportunities for engagement and education—not to mention unveiling the Kinder Houston Area Survey as a civic touchstone each year—can show us how we can all begin to build back better.

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President’s Message

Rice University’s strategic plan, the Vision for the Second Century, Second Decade (V2C2), calls for the university to engage and empower Houston as a leading city of the 21st century. It also calls for us to enable urban achievements through research. The Kinder Institute for Urban Research continues to be a vital resource for the Houston region and a pacesetter in urban policy analysis. Its mission and efforts have taken on even greater significance in 2020, with the renewed attention to issues of racial injustice and the global spread of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, both of which have greatly impacted urban areas.

Over the past 10 years, the Kinder Institute has played a crucial role in Rice University’s mission to expand partnerships with local governments and stakeholders across the Greater Houston area. Innovative research, rigorous data analysis and experts from the Kinder Institute have made the institute a go-to source of information for policymakers throughout the Houston metropolitan area, especially in the city of Houston and Harris County.

The pandemic has reminded us of the power and importance of timely and collaborative research and of having accurate, dependable data. In 2020, the Kinder Institute and Rice University researchers collaborated with local health departments, including the Houston Health Department and Harris County Public Health, to launch the Houston-area COVID-19 Registry, which tracks the spread of the disease and gathers data related to the pandemic’s impact on the health and economic well-being of the region’s residents. Registry data is housed on the Kinder Institute Urban Data Platform.

In 2020, longstanding social and financial disparities were made worse by a health care crisis that quickly became an economic crisis as well. Black, Hispanic and Native American populations have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, in large part because of inequalities in access to affordable and quality health care. The recession brought on by COVID-19 has hurt poor and low-income workers — who suffered most of the job losses — in much greater numbers. Wealth inequalities existed long before the pandemic, but those gaps increased during the current crisis. It is imperative that we undertake the work to understand the sources and consequences of these inequalities, and what can be done to eliminate them.

Many of the inequalities laid bare by the pandemic are rooted in unequal access to opportunities such as quality, affordable housing and education. Through the Houston Education Research Consortium (HERC) at the Kinder Institute, Rice faculty members and researchers are collaborating with Houston-area school districts to better understand and address these disparities. For example, HERC is working with the Houston Independent School District on an equity project to understand inequalities in access to programs, resources and opportunities for students of all backgrounds.

As we look ahead to the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow, Rice University is excited about the research, analysis and data mining that is being done at the Kinder Institute. The Kinder Institute thus remains a core pillar of Rice University’s mission of improving our world through research, education and service.

David W. Leebron
President
Rice University
In June 2020, the Kinder Institute celebrated one of the most important moments in our history: The publication of “Prophetic City: Houston on the Cusp of a Changing America.” It’s Steve Klineberg’s crowning achievement. Triumphant as it was, however, “Prophetic City” came out under circumstances none of us could have predicted: the COVID-19 crisis. The pandemic — like Hurricane Harvey before it — simultaneously disrupted our operations and increased the demand for our work.

2020 was the 10th anniversary of the Kinder Institute, but it was also the year that made us rethink everything. After thinking of Harvey as a one-off event, we realized during COVID that extreme events are here to stay — and we have to pivot our work in accordance. In addition, the renewed concerns surrounding racial injustice following the death of George Floyd, who grew up in Houston, led us to pivot again — and recognize that systemic racism and chronic inequity have to be dealt with as a core part of the institute’s work.

First, COVID-19. We had moved into our new building, Kraft Hall — designed by the office of Rob Rogers ’83 — in January. By March, we were all working at home, and we still are. We quickly transitioned our annual luncheon, which usually draws more than 1,500 people, to a virtual event. The “lunch-out” honoring the Rev. William Lawson turned out to be an enormous success, attracting about 3,000 people online.

And we kept pivoting. Working with Harvey Home Connect, the Houston Education Research Consortium implemented a large Community Impact Survey to assess how Houstonians have been affected by COVID-19. HERC also began working with its school district partners to assess what students and their parents needed during the pandemic. The Texas Flood Registry, a Rice survey that grew out of Hurricane Harvey, was moved to the Kinder Institute and expanded to include survey participants experiencing both economic and health impacts from COVID-19.

I was appointed to the Mayor’s Task Force on Police Reform and the institute provided research to support the effort. Eventually, we released a report — “Who’s Policing the Police?” — that focused on citizen oversight of police departments in several Texas cities. We had to pivot our public events online as well, and with great success. Fall events featured economist Rucker Johnson, who talked about the experience of school integration in the U.S., and transportation equity advocate Tamika Butler. Our online events regularly draw between 400 and 500 people.

It’s been an overwhelming 10th anniversary year for us. We’re hopeful that 2021 will seem a bit more normal. But whatever 2021 brings, you can bet the Kinder Institute will pivot toward it — and help figure out what cities need to do to thrive in a rapidly changing environment.

Bill Fulton
Director
Kinder Institute for Urban Research
1982
The first iteration of the Houston Area Survey is conducted as a class project in March 1982. Two months later, Houston’s oil boom collapses — almost 100,000 jobs are lost. Rice University professor Stephen L. Klineberg would decide to conduct the study again with a new class the following spring, and then each year after that, tracking the economic outlooks, demographic patterns, experiences and beliefs of area residents during 39 years of remarkable change.

2010
The Institute for Urban Research officially launches with Stephen Klineberg and Michael Emerson as founding co-directors. Philanthropists Nancy and Rich Kinder endow the institute with a $15 million gift, and in their honor, the organization is renamed the Kinder Institute for Urban Research and the annual study becomes the Kinder Houston Area Survey (KHAS).

2011
The Houston Education Research Consortium (HERC), led by founding director Ruth N. López Turley, is launched with a $1.3 million grant from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation.

2012
The Kinder Houston Area Survey releases “Interesting Times: Tracking Houston’s Transformations through 30 Years of Surveys,” a short film exploring the central findings from the first three decades of this research.

2013
Beginning this year, an annual survey is published and disseminated widely, presenting the central findings and conclusions from each successive KHAS study.

2014
William Fulton joins the institute in August as its new director.

“I’m looking forward to working with everyone at Rice — and everyone in Houston — to bring about a better urban future in Houston and translate those lessons to help other cities around the nation and the world.”

— William Fulton

2015
The Kinder Institute launches its signature Kinder Institute Forum, which brings well-known thought leaders in the study of urban issues to Houston.
2016
The institute receives a multiyear $7 million grant from Houston Endowment. With funding from six local and national foundations, HERC becomes the founding partner of the National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships.

2017
HERC receives a $10.7 million grant from the Kinder Foundation to expand partnerships with Houston-area school districts.
The Urban Data Platform, a data repository of research-ready geocoded data on the Houston area led by Kathy Ensor, is unveiled.
The interactive Houston Community Data Connections dashboard, led by Jie Wu, goes live.

2018
A new and refreshed tagline for the institute is unveiled, revised by Rose Rougeau.
Building Better Cities
Building Better Lives
HERC participates in an international study of children’s socio-emotional skills led by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), with Houston as one of 11 sites around the world.

2019
The institute becomes the strategic research partner for the Understanding Houston project initiated by the Greater Houston Community Foundation (GHCF).
More than 1,750 Houstonians attend the Kinder luncheon to hear the latest findings from the KHAS research. This type of support ensures the surveys will continue.

2020
The Kinder Institute turns 10!
The institute moves into its new home, Kraft Hall.
Looking Ahead: 2021 will mark 40 years that Klineberg has conducted the Kinder Houston Area Survey.
2020 State of Housing in Harris County and Houston

The inaugural “State of Housing in Harris County and Houston” report examines data from 2010 to 2018 to understand how dozens of key housing indicators shifted during that time. Data suggests that both the city and county face a major challenge in ensuring that all residents can live in affordable homes in close proximity to opportunities. The report finds that renters, low-income residents, and Black and Hispanic residents face some of the most difficult barriers, and without significant support for these groups, home prices are likely to remain well out of their range. The limited supply of available affordable homes also pushes low-income residents to less desirable locations farther from jobs or to areas that are at greater flood risk. Subsequent reports will add the latest year of data to the analysis and track trends over time.

Troubled Fiscal Times: A Comparison of Revenue Sources and Service Levels for Houston, Dallas and San Antonio

This report examines the revenue structure and service levels for Texas’ three largest cities: Houston, Dallas and San Antonio. Of the three, the report finds that Houston is the most constrained in its options for increasing revenue. This is due to several factors, including its locally imposed revenue cap and lack of a solid-waste pickup fee (despite generating 50% more solid waste per capita than either of the other two cities, which both have this fee.) Houston also maintains its own health department and sequesters general-fund revenues for public works. Based on the experiences of major cities during past recessions, the report predicts the cities likely will prioritize police and fire services, with park services being the most susceptible to budget cuts.

Transitioning to College and Work (Part 3: Labor Market Analyses in Houston and Texas)

As demand for workers with college degrees rises, Houston and Texas are predicted to fall short of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s (THECB) goals for the next decade by 20 and 10 percentage points, respectively. This report examines supply and demand for labor in Houston and Texas, with data showing that the cost of higher education generally pays off because it leads to higher earnings. Workers with a bachelor’s degree earned 120% more than workers with a high school diploma in 2016, and this advantage is expected to double by 2030. Considerable differences in wages and unemployment insurance benefits based on gender, economic disadvantage, and race and ethnicity were also found for people early in their careers. In particular, women with a degree or certificate continued to earn less than men, and Black and Asian postsecondary graduates earned less than whites.
Urban Development, Transportation and Placemaking

**Community Resilience Initiatives: Building Stronger Neighborhoods in Houston**
This report spotlights the work taking place in Houston’s five pilot Complete Communities to build community resilience. The report also documents how these efforts connect directly to the work of the city’s Complete Communities program and Resilient Houston strategy.

**Near Northside: Safe Streets, Safe Communities**
Staff and volunteers conducted several walk audits to assess the availability and conditions of sidewalks, bikeways and other street elements in Houston’s Near Northside.

**Where Affordable Housing and Transportation Meet in Houston**
This joint report from LINK Houston and the Kinder Institute analyzes where affordable housing and high-quality, affordable transportation presently co-exist in Houston.

Urban and Metropolitan Governance

**The Urban Sun Belt: An Overview**
This report highlights the differences between Sun Belt urban areas and other metros, with the goal of starting a conversation about how large Sun Belt cities might begin to tackle the urban policy challenges specific to them.

**Who’s Policing the Police?: A Comparison of the Civilian Agencies that Perform Oversight of Police in Texas’ Five Largest Cities**
Civilian police oversight groups need more resources, fewer legislative hurdles, and proper experience and training, according to this report analyzing police oversight committees in Texas’ five largest cities.

Texas Flood Registry

**Texas Flood Registry 2020 Report**
This report includes updates on Hurricane Harvey’s long-term impact, as well as recent findings about the health and housing effects of the May 2019 storms and Tropical Storm Imelda.
Houston Education Research Consortium

Strategies for Increasing Access to HISD Pre-K Programs (Part 2)

About two-thirds of Houston Independent School District (HISD) kindergarteners who did not attend HISD prekindergarten during the 2018–19 school year likely qualified for enrollment. This study considers ways to increase preschoolers’ access to nearby pre-K programs, which may increase utilization and enrollment in public pre-K.

Examining Complexity in Student Homelessness: The Educational Outcomes of HISD’s Homeless Students

Compared to their non-homeless peers with similar characteristics, homeless students are at an elevated risk of a range of adverse educational outcomes. The findings in this report highlight the importance of practices that are refined and tailored to homeless students’ unique situations and needs.

Inequalities in Postsecondary Attainment by English Learner Status: The Role of College-Level Course-Taking

An estimated 10% of U.S. public school students currently are classified as English Learner (EL). This report finds there are large gaps in four-year college outcomes for EL status students, but the gaps are explained by differences in sociodemographic, academic and school characteristics.

The Incomparability of Campus-Specific Benchmark Running Records

Campuses across HISD utilize a variety of literacy assessments to measure student growth and achievement. The comparability of these various assessments was the focus of this study.

Summer Melt and Free Application for Federal Student Aid Verification

Summer melt is when high school seniors who appear ready to go to college the fall following graduation do not enroll. FAFSA verification and its role in summer melt is examined in this brief.

Transitioning to College and Work (Part 2: A Study of Potential Enrollment Indicators)

Student attendance, grades and participation in advanced courses are the best predictors for college enrollment, according to this report.
Cycle 1 of HISD’s College Success Initiative and Students’ Preparation
This study explores the relationship between Cycle 1 of HISD’s College Success Initiative (2015–16 and 2016–17) and students’ preparation for, enrollment in and persistence in college. Findings indicate that current efforts by HISD are improving the college enrollment rates of their students, and have the potential to close historic gaps in educational attainment.

School-to-Work Linkages in Texas
School-to-work linkages (the connection between a college major and specific occupations in the labor market) among bachelor’s degree holders in the state of Texas are examined in this report.

Will Tuition-Free College Increase College Graduation Rates?
This report looks at the optimal tuition subsidy necessary to increase two-year and four-year college graduation rates in Texas. The study also estimates the per-pupil and total cost of potential subsidies, and compared how they might affect college graduation rates.

Preparing Today’s Students for Tomorrow’s Texas Workforce
This project pulls together several reports examining the path to and through college and into the workforce for students in the Houston area and the state of Texas.

Pre-K Preferences: How and Why HISD Parents Choose Pre-K Programs
Distance from home and the availability of highly trained teachers and teacher aids are identified in this report as important factors driving parental pre-K choice.

Long-term English Learners (LTELs): Predictors, Patterns & Outcomes (Brief 1: Defining LTEL)
This report aims to standardize the definition of a long-term English Learner to help educators identify students who may need more help learning English.

House Bill 5 and High School Endorsements: How Do They Align to College Admissions?
This brief describes the Texas graduation requirements put into effect through the passage of House Bill 5 in 2013. The brief contends that the introduction of academic endorsements, similar to college majors that help high school students develop specific subject-area knowledge, may create clearer paths to selective college enrollment for students studying STEM.

Kinder Houston Area Survey
Kinder Houston Area Survey: 2020 Results
The 39th annual survey — conducted during February and early March of 2020 before there were clear signs of an impending pandemic crisis — found that residents were most concerned about traffic congestion, flooding and the economy. Support for diversity continued to grow across the board, as did concern for the city’s deepening inequalities in access to health care, economic opportunities and education.
Houston Education Research Consortium

The Houston Education Research Consortium is committed to strengthening the connection between research and decision-making to ensure equitable educational opportunities and outcomes, which are vital to the lifelong success of area students. In 2020, HERC illustrated its mission through its COVID-19 response efforts, including supporting 11 partner school districts through lessons learned following Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Research staff pivoted quickly to embark on work to inform district leaders during the unprecedented period of remote learning for students across the region in 2020, as well as during the transition back to both virtual and in-classroom learning. HERC’s staff also connected districts with funding for students’ urgent technology needs and served as an integral part of the Gulf Coast COVID-19 Community Impact Survey, an effort aimed at helping nonprofit, philanthropic and educational organizations understand the economic and social impacts of the virus. HERC is grateful for ongoing support that makes it possible to continue research that supports the learning needs of Houston-area students during the pandemic and beyond.

Looking Ahead: HERC will focus on studying the long-term impacts of the pandemic on student learning and help districts understand and address inequities magnified by COVID-19. This work will take shape through the COVID Action Research Committee project, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation — an effort to develop actionable research for immediate use by school leaders and decision-makers.

National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships

Founded in 2016, the National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships (NNERPP) is a professional learning organization for research-practice partnerships (RPPs) in education. Currently, there are 49 members in the network. The challenges of the pandemic and renewed urgency around advancing equity and racial justice have shaped many aspects of the network’s work, as well as efforts of its members in 2020:

- At NNERPP’s annual conference, participants gathered virtually for 30 live breakout sessions under the theme “RPP Effectiveness: Adapting and Advancing Toward a New Normal in an Era of Disruption” to examine crucial aspects of partnership work, including adaptability, flexibility, equity and openness to change.
- Articles in NNERPP Extra, NNERPP’s quarterly magazine, explored challenges related to the pandemic and aspects of equity.
- Other NNERPP activities in 2020 included co-hosting a two-day meeting to work on RPP effectiveness measures and hosting a virtual RPP development workshop for teams applying for the National Science Foundation’s Computer Science for All solicitation.

Looking Ahead: In 2021, Paula Arce-Trigatti, director of NNERPP, and Ruth N. Lopez Turley, director of HERC, will teach a new course on research-practice partnerships at Rice University.
Community Bridges

The Community Bridges program addresses urban inequality and poverty issues by combining coursework with fieldwork. Community Bridges Fellows study urban sociology in the classroom and conduct research projects that help local nonprofits make evidence-based decisions in pursuit of their missions.

During the 2019–20 academic year, 22 fellows partnered with 12 nonprofits in Houston. The program welcomed two new partners: LINK Houston and the YMCA of Greater Houston’s South Texas Office for Refugees. Although student projects were halted in March 2020 due to the pandemic, fellows continued to study and write about the intersection of COVID-19 and inequality, producing insightful explorations of the social dynamics at play.

Community Bridges received a record number of applications for the 2020–21 academic year and accepted 21 new fellows. Additionally, the program confirmed new partnerships with Girls Empowerment Network, Urban Harvest, and Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston.

Looking Ahead: In 2021, Community Bridges will explore how student-partner collaborations can contribute to the pandemic recovery efforts in Houston’s communities.

Speaker’s Bureau

In 2020, the Kinder Institute participated in more than 100 speaking engagements. Due to the pandemic, most scheduled engagements converted to virtual programs. The institute’s leadership team spoke on a variety of topics, including COVID-19 and cities, demographic transformations, education, housing, immigration, transportation and walkable urbanism.

Engagements included presentations to the American Planning Association, Bank of America, Chevron, Ernst & Young Middle East, Fort Bend Economic Development Council, HISD Foundation, Houston Association of Realtors, Houston Global Health Collaborative, Texas Adult Protective Services, and United Way of Greater Houston.

The institute’s speaking engagements are booked year-round. If you are interested in having a speaker at your next event, visit kinder.rice.edu.
Houston Community Data Connections

In 2020, Houston Community Data Connections (HCDC) unveiled an updated portal design and created a new demo video to facilitate use of the website — www.datahouston.org.

New data was added to the HCDC dashboard, including 113 indicators that highlight disparities in various dimensions for each of the 143 Harris County neighborhood areas. In all, there were about 12,000 site sessions and more than 30,000 page views.

- HCDC added a wealth of information about housing in the region, including data on housing transactions, evictions and flood risk. The HCDC website now has a 2020 State of Housing Dashboard that displays key neighborhood-level housing indicators drawn from the inaugural State of Housing in Harris County and Houston report, as well as transportation-related data providing information on bikeways and transit availability for neighborhoods.
- The HCDC team provided several data workshops to local foundations, nonprofit organizations, government agencies and academic institutions, including a community Data Walk with residents in Third Ward to democratize community research findings.
- In light of the COVID-19 crisis, the team provided a customized workshop on survey design and best practices to United Way agencies and two data workshops to the city of Houston’s Health Equity Response Task Force.
- In December, the team wrapped up a joint project with Urban Harvest to develop a data-driven strategy for its newly launched Mobile Market. The project was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

**Looking Ahead:** More features and data will be added to the HCDC dashboard, including information related to environmental health.

Urban Data Platform

In 2020, integration of the Urban Data Platform (UDP) with Kinder Institute researchers was a primary goal. To that end, the UDP saw significant changes to its infrastructure, which included adding a hub of publicly available data in the UDP library. This extension of the UDP catalog provides ease of use by researchers. The UDP also saw significant growth in its data inventory.

COVID-19 Registry

Researchers at Rice University partnered with local health departments to launch the COVID-19 Registry. Data collected provide firsthand, real-time information about the spread of COVID-19 over time and the information offers insight into the pandemic’s short-term and longitudinal impact on the mental health, financial security and work situation of participants. The registry was built with the same survey and data-analysis software used to develop the Texas Flood Registry following Hurricane Harvey in late 2017.
In a project led by Rice professor Kathy Ensor, the UDP team worked in collaboration with the Houston Health Department (HHD) and Environmental Defense Fund to create a real-time monitoring system for volatile organic air pollutants such as benzene. Designed to support decisions and communication during events like the International Terminals Co. explosion, fire and chemical leak, the system will run continuously and provide constant support to Houston officials. A key innovation provided by the UDP team allows field measurements to be immediately entered into the “data+science” pipeline, providing decision-makers with the most up-to-date information possible.

Houston Solutions Lab

COVID-19 affected the timing and delivery of Houston Solutions Lab’s third round of projects. Three projects, funded in 2019, were expected to be concluded by spring 2020. With COVID-19 disrupting in-person learning and research, all three projects have been extended.

Project 1: Data-Driven Campaign Design and Evaluation for Census 2020: Get Out the Count (GOTC) in Houston. This project, led by professors Melissa Marschall, Anshumali Shrivastava and Jenifer Bratter, was conducted in partnership with Houston in Action, a community organization focused on civic engagement. The project took a two-pronged approach to study how to garner more participation in the 2020 U.S. Census. The goal was to identify the most effective strategies to increase engagement.

Project 2: Pollution Event Decision Support Tool. This project, led by Katherine Ensor in partnership with the Houston Health Department, is geared toward helping the city of Houston make timely choices amidst chemical and other industrial pollution issues.

Project 3: Human Factors and Safety around METRORail. This project, led by professors Philip Kortum and Claudia Ziegler Acemya, has been disrupted by the pandemic. It aims to examine how people make decisions and process safety messages around the METRO Houston light-rail lines. The goal of the effort is to identify interventions that could help improve safety for all users. The project is expected to be complete in 2021.

Antibody Testing Survey

In September, the Houston Health Department, in collaboration with Rice University, conducted phase one of an antibody testing survey to understand how many people in the city were infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. Results indicated infections may have been four times higher than viral tests previously revealed.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funded the study, which was designed by statistician Kathy Ensor and Loren Hopkins of Rice’s Brown School of Engineering. Ensor also oversees the Kinder Institute Urban Data Platform.

The institute’s communication team, led by Rose Rougeau, provided community outreach for the survey and will support phase two of the project in 2021. The project advances Rice’s mission of extending its reach and impact, which is part of the university’s Vision for the Second Century, Second Decade (V2C2).
In early 2020, our public programs transitioned to a webinar format due to the coronavirus pandemic, which allowed for greater geographic reach.

**May 5**  
**Linking Quality Transportation and Affordable Housing**  
This webinar, presented by LINK Houston and the Kinder Institute, provided a deep dive into the report, “Where Affordable Transportation and Housing Meet in Houston.”

*Online attendees: 300*

**June 11**  
**The Urban Sun Belt: Setting the Agenda**  
This webinar explored findings from a report on the urban Sun Belt, which covered topics such as demographic change, the economy, housing and urban sprawl.

*Online attendees: 211*

**June 23**  
**2020 State of Housing in Houston and Harris County**  
The Kinder Institute revealed findings from its inaugural State of Housing report. Panelists also weighed in on the impact of COVID-19 on housing.

*Online attendees: 349*
August 19

Health & Highways: Impacts of Transportation Infrastructure on Communities

Local and national experts provided insight on transportation projects and how these projects impact community health.

Online attendees: 192

August 26

Texas Flood Registry: Measuring the Long-Term Impacts of Major Storms

Panelists provided an update on the health and housing impacts of Hurricane Harvey and other major storms.

Online attendees: 110

October 15

Workshop: 2020 State of Housing in Harris County and Houston

This workshop solicited input for the Kinder Institute’s 2021 State of Housing report and engaged panelists in a discussion about housing challenges during the pandemic.

Online attendees: 162
Our Urban Reads series showcases recently published works by local and national authors.

**February 12**

**Urban Reads: Steven Higashide**

Steven Higashide, director of research at TransitCenter, explained the powerful impact that fast, frequent and reliable public transit can have on our cities — from providing affordable mobility and equitable access to opportunities, to combating climate change. Higashide also stressed the importance of improving pedestrian infrastructure, since “most bus trips are a walking trip, on at least one end.”

**Attendees: 150**

**June 3**

**Urban Reads: Stephen L. Klineberg**

Stephen L. Klineberg's long-awaited book, “Prophetic City: Houston on the Cusp of a Changing America,” draws on nearly four decades of Kinder Houston Area Survey research to provide a comprehensive view of the city’s extraordinary economic and demographic transformations. Klineberg spoke of the city’s increasing diversity, the transition to a high-tech economy, the growing inequalities (predicated on access to a quality education), and rising social and environmental concerns. “We are living in one of the most interesting and consequential cities in all of America,” said Klineberg. “For better or worse, this is where the future of our country is being worked out.”

Klineberg’s webinar was the highest attended public program in 2020.

**Online attendees: 600**

**October 29**

**Urban Reads: Rucker C. Johnson**

Economist Rucker C. Johnson shared how public education is the primary engine of upward mobility. Specifically, he examined the success of three equal opportunity initiatives: school integration, school finance reform and early pre-K access. “These targeted investments more than pay for themselves down the road in less spending on remediation, public assistance, health care and crime, while having the benefits of equity and value and diversity in our communities,” Johnson said.

**Online attendees: 312**
The Kinder Institute Forum lecture series features thought leaders from around the world who share ideas about important urban issues.

**March 4**
**Kinder Institute Forum: Mitchell J. Silver**
New York City Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver discussed the many benefits of parks and public spaces — from improving mental and physical health to making a city more resilient. In designing such spaces, Silver noted that equity and placemaking are important factors. It’s not simply about building green space, but rather asking, “how do we build an experience in this public space?”

**Attendees:** 225

**September 9**
**Kinder Institute Forum: Richard J. Jackson**
While COVID-19 has amplified existing health risks, the pandemic also presents an opportunity to address health inequities and rebuild systems in more sustainable ways, said Richard J. Jackson, professor emeritus at UCLA's Fielding School of Public Health. He addressed changes that cities will likely see in the post-pandemic future, including more walkability, greater awareness about the environment and investment in public health.

**Online attendees:** 448

**November 11**
**Kinder Institute Forum: Tamika L. Butler**
“I see transportation as this connection to other social issues,” explained Tamika L. Butler, who spoke about equity, inclusion and anti-racism. “If you don’t have access to quality transportation, then you can’t have access to quality jobs. You can’t have access to quality health care. You can’t have access to quality education.” But, the people most likely to use public transit — women, people of color and people with low incomes — are underrepresented inside transit organizations, and especially in agency leadership.

To build equitable systems, we need to uproot systems of institutional oppression, said Butler. “True inclusion requires a shift in power” so that diverse people also have the ability to shape budgets, make decisions and influence culture.

**Online attendees:** 433
Top 10 Posts

The Kinder Institute’s Urban Edge blog covers research and urban issues that are important to Houston and beyond. A post-pandemic world and race relations dominated Urban Edge coverage in 2020. Below are some of the most popular posts published with approximate page views.

1. **What our cities will look like after the Coronavirus pandemic**
   
   *Views:* 48,705
   
   *The most popular post in the Urban Edge’s five-year history.*

2. **Report: Texas is the third least aggressive state in combating COVID-19**
   
   *Views:* 21,582

3. **Racism is hurting the economic well-being of the US and its workforce—including white workers**
   
   *Views:* 21,173

4. **Racism has shaped public transit, and it’s riddled with inequities**
   
   *Views:* 12,239

5. **Amid the pandemic, lessons in what we’ve overlooked**
   
   *Views:* 8,281

6. **Staying at home may have saved 4,533 lives in Harris County so far**
   
   *Views:* 7,803

7. **If you’re lucky enough to work from home, where will home be after the pandemic?**
   
   *Views:* 6,054

8. **Many cities are rethinking the police, but what are the alternatives?**
   
   *Views:* 5,537

9. **As COVID-19 cases surge in Texas, July rent is due for many struggling to avoid eviction**
   
   *Views:* 5,298

10. **Where are Texas’ fastest-growing cities? Check the suburbs**
    
    *Views:* 5,206

---

**COVID-19 and Cities blog series**

COVID-19 changed everything in 2020. As part of our coverage, the institute started the blog series, “COVID-19 and Cities,” which examines the pandemic’s effects on Houston and other regions.
A Reckoning on Race

In the wake of George Floyd’s death in Minneapolis, protests against police brutality and systemic racism ignited across America and around the world.

Protestors called for an end to police brutality and the rethinking of the role of police.

As part of the Urban Edge, posts on race and equity are integral to our coverage. To the right are excerpts from a four-part series that examined the intersection of race, equity and public transit in America, written by transit advocates and experts.

Part 1: Racism has shaped public transit, and it’s riddled with inequities
“Transit systems have racism built into their schedules, their fleets, their route structures and their infrastructure.”
— Christof Spieler

Part 2: What transit agencies get wrong about equity, and how to get it right
“All transit agencies must grapple with committing the resources necessary to effectively identify inequity and address it.”
— Mary Buchanan and Natalee Rivera

Part 3: What transit equity means to a transit-dependent rider in a car-centric city
“If you do not have a car, public transit gives you access to many opportunities, including jobs, medical appointments, education and what I call life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness!”
— Janis Scott

Part 4: To tackle pandemic racism, we need to take action, not just take to social media
“We must face the broken systems in our country and dismantle them completely, then build something new in their place. That includes transportation and transit systems.”
— Tamika L. Butler
**Kinder Institute Luncheon**

Beyond being one of Rice University’s largest events, the annual Kinder Institute luncheon has long been a meeting place for Houston’s leaders, and for good reason. Each spring, thousands gather to hear the latest findings about Houston’s remarkable transformations from Stephen Klineberg’s annual Kinder Houston Area Survey — at 39 years and counting, it’s the nation’s longest-running study of its kind.

With the arrival of COVID-19 in spring 2020, the institute quickly refashioned the spotlight event as the online Lunch-Out, and the community took notice — about 3,000 people in Houston and around the world participated in the virtual event May 18.

Presenting sponsor Kinder Foundation was joined by alliantgroup, Bank of America, Bracewell, CenterPoint Energy, Sis and Hasty Johnson, Memorial Hermann, PNC Bank and hundreds of others to raise approximately $601,150. These funds support the institute’s research and programs on resilience, housing, education and beyond.

In addition to learning about findings from Klineberg’s 39th Kinder Houston Area Survey, updates were provided by Rice’s David W. Leebron, the institute’s Bill Fulton and HERC’s Ruth N. López Turley, in addition to remarks delivered by Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. The institute was also thrilled to honor the Rev. William A. Lawson, which Rice celebrated by naming a beautiful grove of trees on campus in his honor.

**Looking Ahead:** Mark your calendars. The institute’s 2021 event will be in May and will once again be a virtual Lunch-Out to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Kinder Houston Area Survey.
State of the Institute

In February, the third annual State of the Institute event offered donors and stakeholders a first look at the newly built Kraft Hall for Social Sciences, the institute’s new home on Rice University’s campus. Rice President David W. Leebron and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner kicked off the celebration by highlighting the institute’s impactful work over the past decade and acknowledged the transformational support of Nancy and Rich Kinder. The program concluded with updates from Bill Fulton, Ruth N. López Turley and Stephen L. Klineberg.
Kinder Institute Supporters

2020 CONTRIBUTORS

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* Denotes multi-year commitments to the Kinder Institute.
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Gayle and Bob Eury
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The Gillman Automotive Group
Greater Houston Community Foundation
Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center
Houston Area Women’s Center
Houston Association of Realtors
Houston Community College
Houston First Corporation
Houston Grand Opera
Jill and Dunham Jewett
Marianne and Rob Jones
The Kayser Foundation
KTRK-TV (ABC)
Legacy Community Health
Mary Julia and Don Macune†
Ginni and Richard Mithoff†
Neuhaus Education Center

†Includes gifts made through family foundations, donor-advised funds or other organizations.
*Denotes multiyear commitments to the Kinder Institute.
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Carla Knobloch
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Fairfax and Risher Randall
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Texas Southern University
Traffic Engineers, Inc.
The Kinder Institute’s 2020 revenue totaled $4.51 million and expenses totaled $4.47 million. Revenue is a combination of fundraising, research grants and annual distributions from the institute’s endowments. As of June 30, 2020, the institute’s endowments had a market value of $17.4 million. Our annual luncheon, a key fundraising event, grossed $601,150 in 2020.

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 communication and public programs.

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.
Income Statement — Fiscal Year 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>$ 4,519,111</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder Institute Endowment Distribution</td>
<td>879,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Use Gifts from Supporters</td>
<td>1,054,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Programs</td>
<td>2,506,316</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Revenue</td>
<td>79,077</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>$ 4,474,984</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Programs (Grants)</td>
<td>2,506,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Other</td>
<td>509,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>430,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Engagements</td>
<td>265,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>763,288</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net Income—Fiscal Year 2020: $44,127

Kinder Institute Endowment History (Fiscal Years 2013–2020)

<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>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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2016</td>
<td>16,406,868</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>(142,080)</td>
<td>(773,320)</td>
<td>15,591,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2017</td>
<td>15,591,467</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2,391,384</td>
<td>(786,086)</td>
<td>17,196,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2018</td>
<td>17,196,765</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,558,906</td>
<td>(680,802)</td>
<td>18,074,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>18,074,869</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,418,161</td>
<td>(857,804)*</td>
<td>18,635,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2020</td>
<td>18,635,225</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>(328,691)</td>
<td>(879,038)</td>
<td>17,427,497</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This summary 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)

*FY2019 endowment distribution corrected from previously published total

Annual Report 2020
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. 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 to work collaboratively across campus. The committee now has representatives across the university, with a goal of having at least one member from each school who can help inform the institute about 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 provide technical guidance as the institute seeks research proposals across campus and help identify experiential learning opportunities for Rice students interested in urban issues.

### 2020–2021 Faculty Advisory Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMITTEE CHAIR</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Alexander</td>
<td>Professor of Physics and Astronomy</td>
<td>Director, Rice Space Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonardo Dueñas-Osorio</td>
<td>Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farès El-Dahdah</td>
<td>Professor of Humanities</td>
<td>Director, Humanities Research Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James R. Elliott</td>
<td>Professor and Department Chair, Sociology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Lavenda</td>
<td>Professor of Composition and Theory</td>
<td>Shepherd School of Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Pope</td>
<td>Gus Sessions Wortham Professor of Architecture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Schuler</td>
<td>Associate Professor of Business and Public Policy</td>
<td>Jones Graduate School of Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moshe Vardi</td>
<td>Karen Ostrum George Distinguished Service Professor in Computational Engineering</td>
<td>Director, Ken Kennedy Institute for Information Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Klineberg</td>
<td>Professor Emeritus of Sociology</td>
<td>Founding Director, Kinder Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth N. López Turley</td>
<td>Professor of Sociology</td>
<td>Associate Director of Research, Kinder Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Director, Houston Education Research Consortium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 institute’s overall mission.

Kinder Fellows

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

Jenifer Bratter
Professor of Sociology
Director, Program for the Study of Ethnicity, Race and Culture
Rice University

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

Tony Brown
Professor of Sociology
Associate Director, Kinder Institute Urban Health Program
Founding Director, Racism and Racial Experiences Workgroup
Rice University

Justin Denney
Associate Professor of Sociology
William Julius Wilson Distinguished Professor
Washington State University

Casey Durand
Assistant Professor, Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences
University of Texas School of Public Health

James R. Elliott
Professor and Department Chair, Sociology
Co-Director, Social Analytics Cluster, and Steering Committee Member, Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences
Rice University

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

Katherine Bennett Ensor
Director, Kinder Institute Urban Data Platform and Noah G. Harding Professor of Statistics
Rice University

Matthew Festa
Professor of Law
South Texas College of Law Houston

Rudy Guerra
Professor and Department Chair, Statistics
Rice University

Loren Hopkins (Raun)
Chief Environmental Science Officer, Interim Bureau Chief, Bureau of Community and Children’s Environmental Health, Houston Health Department
Professor in the Practice of Statistics, Rice University

Yujie Hu
Assistant Professor
University of Florida
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

Jeffrey Lowe
Associate Professor
Urban Planning and Environmental Policy
Texas Southern University

Melissa Marschall
Professor of Political Science
Director, Center for Local Elections in American Politics
Director, Social Policy Analysis Major, School of Social Sciences
Rice University

Jamie E. Padgett
Stanley C. Moore Endowed Chair
Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Rice University

Anthony Pinn
Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor of Humanities
Professor of Religion
Founding Director, Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning
Rice University

Albert Pope
Gus Sessions Wortham Professor of Architecture
Rice University

Douglas A. Schuler
Associate Professor of Business and Public Policy
Jones Graduate School of Business
Rice University

Kyle Shelton
Deputy Director, Kinder Institute for Urban Research
Rice University

Ruth N. López Turley
Director, Houston Education Research Consortium
Associate Director, Kinder Institute
Professor of Sociology
Founder, National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships
Rice University

Jesus Vassallo
Associate Professor of Architecture
Co-Director, Affordable Housing Lab
Rice University

Senior Fellows

Ed Emmett
Professor in the Practice, Rice University
Fellow, Center for Energy Studies, Baker Institute
Senior Fellow, Kinder Institute for Urban Research

Robert Bozick
Associate Director, Kinder Houston Area Survey
Senior Fellow, Kinder Institute for Urban Research
Kinder Institute Scholars are researchers — including professors, postdoctoral 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

**Elena Craft**  
Senior Health Scientist  
Environmental Defense Fund

**Nataya Friedan**  
Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Anthropology  
Stanford University

**Chris Hakkenberg**  
Postdoctoral Research Associate, School of Informatics, Computing and Cyber Systems  
Northern Arizona University

**Xiao Li**  
Postdoctoral Researcher  
Texas A&M Transportation Institute

**Yehuda Sharim**  
Assistant Professor, Global Art Studies  
University of California, Merced

**Kevin T. Smiley**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology  
State University of New York at Buffalo

**Grace Tran**  
Ph.D. Candidate, Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies  
University of Toronto
Kinder Institute Staff

**Leadership**

**Bill Fulton**  
Director, Kinder Institute

**Stephen Klineberg**  
Founding Director, Kinder Institute

**Ruth N. López Turley**  
Director, Houston Education Research Consortium  
Associate Director of Research, Kinder Institute

**Rose Rougeau**  
Senior Director of External Affairs, University Partnerships and Special Projects

**Kyle Shelton**  
Deputy Director

**Evan Wildstein**  
Director of Development

**Cindy Wilkes**  
Director of Administration

**Jie Wu**  
Director of Research Management

**Ed Emmett**  
Professor in the Practice, Rice University  
Fellow, Center for Energy Studies, Baker Institute  
Senior Fellow, Kinder Institute for Urban Research

**Robert Bozick**  
Associate Director, Kinder Houston Area Survey  
Senior Fellow, Kinder Institute for Urban Research

**Administration**

**Margaret de Sosa**  
Executive Assistant to the Director

**Carol Herbert**  
Institutional Administrator

**Marie Perez**  
Administrative Coordinator

**Communication**

**Sarah Hua**  
Communication Specialist

**Andy Olin**  
Senior Editor and Writer

**Development**

**Chris Bertaut**  
Development Specialist

**Sarah White**  
Associate Director of Development

**Urban Development, Transportation and Placemaking**

**Luis Guajardo**  
Urban Policy Research Manager

**Jenna Lessans**  
Disaster Recovery and Resilience Researcher

**John Park**  
Senior Research Fellow

**Stephen Sherman**  
Staff Researcher
Urban Disparity and Opportunity

Sarah Diez
Senior Research Analyst

Katie Wang
Program Manager

Mingming Zhang
Senior Research Analyst

Urban Data Platform

Kathy Ensor
Director, Kinder Institute Urban Data Platform and Noah G. Harding Professor of Statistics

Bryan Evans
GIS Developer

Hien Le
Assistant Data Manager

Dmitry Messen
Data Manager

Xinyuan (Karl) Zou
Data Analyst

Rashida Callender
Associate in Research
Children’s Environmental Health Initiative

Joally Canales
Community Outreach Coordinator
Children’s Environmental Health Initiative

Houston Education Research Consortium

Leadership

Ruth N. López Turley
Director, Houston Education Research Consortium
Associate Director of Research, Kinder Institute

Terri Arellano
Associate Director of Finance and Administration

Erin Baumgartner
Associate Director for HISD Research and Relations

Dan Potter
Associate Director of Regional Research

Administration

Nehemiah Ankor
Program and Community Engagement Manager

Arania Archoleka
HERC Program Administrator

Megan Dillingham
Communications and Development Manager

Shauna Dunn
Senior Program Manager

Data Team

Kanchanah Kannathas
Data Manager
Research Team
Lizzy Bell Cashiola
Research Scientist
Horace Duffy
HISD Research Specialist
Brian Holzman
Research Scientist
Camila Cigorra Kennedy
Junior Research Analyst
Jie Min
Research Assistant
Kori Stroub
Research Scientist
Jessica Vasan
HISD Research Manager
Research Analysts
Katherine Boa
Patrick Gill
Hao Ma
Gabriela Sanchez-Soto
Kenneth Stice
Tori Thomas
Courtney Thrash
Ming Yin
Graduate Students
Jasmin Lee
Bethany Lewis
Esmeralda Sanchez
Julie Szabo

Affiliated Programs:
Center for Engaged Research & Collaborative Learning
Anthony Pinn
Founding Director, CERCL
Maya Reine
Assistant Director, CERCL
National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships
Paula Arce-Trigatti
National Director, NNERPP
Nina Spitzley
Marketing Specialist
Program for the Study of Ethnicity, Race, and Culture
Jenifer Bratter
Director, PSERC
Urban Health Program
Tony Brown
Associate Director, UHP
Rachel Kimbro
Director, UHP
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— Library Journal (starred review)

“A trailblazing study ... A unique blend of analysis and research that is likely to become a classic work of scholarship on Houston.”
— Kirkus (starred review)

“Essential ... A long overdue urban biography ... Engaging and accessible.”
— The Houston Chronicle

“A detailed, accessible portrait of the changing face of Houston.”
— New Yorker

Mission
The Kinder Institute for Urban Research builds better cities and improves people’s lives by bringing together data, research, engagement and action.