

DOWNTOWN HOUSTON+

CENTRAL HOUSTON, INC. HOSTS STATE OF DOWNTOWN 40th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

The event celebrated Downtown Houston's past 40 years and previewed of upcoming priorities

HOUSTON, TX – (November 2, 2023) — On Thursday, November 2, Central Houston, Inc. (CHI) hosted the annual State of Downtown 40th Anniversary Luncheon at the Hilton Americas – Houston, celebrating Downtown's journey and looking toward its future. The event featured a welcome from CHI Chair Dilip Choudhuri, the presentation of *The Allen Award for Civic Enhancement* to outgoing Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, and a keynote conversation with Houston Astros Senior Vice President Giles Kibbe which teased upcoming transformational projects around Minute Maid Park. To mark its 40th anniversary, the organization issued a revamped and enhanced Q3 Market Report providing analysis and insight into Downtown's economic rebound.

"40 years of investment in diversifying Downtown has produced a very different place than when Central Houston began," said Central Houston president and CEO Kristopher Larson. "Previously perceived as a business district with limited leisure options, Downtown has evolved into a vibrant destination that offers an abundance of experiences. Today, the number of visitors exceeds employees, and the residential community has surpassed pre-pandemic levels and continues to grow. We are tremendously proud of Downtown Houston's past and even more excited about its future."

At the event, Larson revealed plans for Downtown's future in a State of Downtown address, including the debut of CHI's rebrand as Downtown Houston+. Aligning the collective efforts of Central Houston Inc., Central Houston Civic Improvement, Inc. the Downtown Redevelopment Authority/TIRZ#3, and the Houston Downtown Management District, this new umbrella brand enables a single point-of-entry to all things Downtown and streamlines access for Houstonians and visitors to enjoy everything that Downtown has to offer.

Other upcoming initiatives previewed for Downtown Houston include: the conversion of obsolete office buildings into residential and other land uses; the next phase of More Space: Main Street 2.0 to create a walkable pedestrian promenade enhancing the connection of Downtown's Historic District to the Buffalo Bayou; and increasing the supply of workforce housing.

Find the Q3 Market Report at the link [here](#) and find more information in the press kit [here](#).

ABOUT DOWNTOWN HOUSTON+

Downtown Houston+ stewards the vision of Downtown as a center of global commerce and local culture and Houston's heart for opportunity, excitement, and joy. Its family of aligned entities — Central Houston Inc., Houston Downtown Management District and Downtown Redevelopment Authority — collectively advance a shared mission to champion and enhance Downtown Houston as a connected and thriving place for everyone. For more information, visit downtownhouston.org.

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