OVERVIEW OF FEEDBACK FROM BBP EAST SECTOR MASTERPLAN PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS, FEBRUARY 6 & 7 - REVISION 1

MAJOR THEMES

Gathering Spaces
Almost every group mentions gathering space for events of a wide range of scales – from family picnics to large outdoor festivals, concerts, and movies. Facilities include everything from BBQ pits, picnic tables, and small gazebos/pavilions to large amphitheaters for concerts. Groups focused on gathering spaces of a number of types: farmers/street markets; places for food trucks/vendors and pop-up shops; spaces for restaurants, entertainment, stores, nightlife, coffee shops, breweries, and local retail; music/arts/cultural/community centers; dog parks; beach areas/swimming hole. A number of groups also mentioned that particular events that should take place along the bayou: Juneteenth, Feast of the Virgin Guadalupe, 4th of July, church bazaars, Christmas pageants, Rodeo trail ride meeting point, a Wheatley HS alumni reunion, 5th Ward community picnic, Critical Mass, a tamale festival, Dinner en Blanc, and outdoor movies/concerts/dance parties.

Green Spaces
Almost every group also mentioned some kind of green space. Green spaces could either be natural park spaces or urban farms/community gardens/coops. Some groups specifically mentioned nature trails along the bayou. Others just talked about natural areas without focusing on a specific type of space (i.e. larger natural park spaces vs. nature trails.) Many of the groups that spoke about urban farming/community gardens also mentioned developing related education programs for the local youth. A few groups also mentioned spaces for birdwatching including one group that specifically wanted architectural blinds/towers to view birds. There were a lot of ideas related to education programs focused on nature.

Activity/Recreation Spaces
Most groups also suggested various forms of activity spaces. These include sports facilities like soccer fields, basketball courts, skate parks, and baseball diamonds as well as bike and running paths. Many groups also suggested activity spaces for children like playgrounds, splash parks, and areas for kids to run around. A number of groups also mentioned having workout facilities/fitness stations as well as spaces for group exercise classes like yoga and Zumba.

Connecting To and Across The Bayou
Almost every group suggested creating stronger connections to and across the bayou. Groups also mentioned north/south connections frequently. Creating spaces/places that focused neighborhoods towards the bayou was another common suggestion. Other frequent proposals included extending trails, sidewalks, and bike paths into the neighborhoods; building pedestrian bridges across the bayou; ample parking; bike rentals or B-Cycle stations; bike racks; and wayfinding and signage to direct people to the bayou. A few groups specifically mentioned creating enhanced esplanades along major N/S routes.

Water Access
Water access was also a common theme among most of the groups. Groups focused on different types of water access with water taxis and kayak/canoe/boat launches and rentals being the most common suggestions. A few suggested having boat tours. Some mentioned providing employment opportunities for local youth at boat rental facilities.
Preserving Neighborhood Character
Preserving the character of neighborhoods was also a common theme that took various forms. Many groups wanted to maintain the gritty/industrial character of the area. Others focused on affordability to allow local residents to remain. Groups also focused on food used to celebrate culture and connect neighborhoods. Many participants wanted commercial establishments (restaurants, retail, coffee shops, etc.) to reflect the neighborhood. Events along the bayou should also reflect the neighborhoods. Many groups suggested somehow capturing and commemorating local history whether through monuments, signage, markers, apps, recorded histories, etc. A few groups proposed creating some sort of community board to help guide programming along the bayou that reflects the adjacent neighborhood. Tours of local neighborhoods also came up a few times.

Local Art
Many groups focused on art created by local artists to reflect the local culture. The art could be in the form of murals, sculpture, installations, mosaics, street art/graffiti, and industrial sculptures. Some people recommended art being incorporated into the designs of particular amenities like benches, shade structures, and pavilions. Some people recommended more temporary art events and art festivals. Others recommended incorporating local art into wayfinding or other signage programs. Some groups talked about specific locations for art including along bridges and down by the bayou itself. Pop up markets for art were also mentioned. Providing artist studios was also mentioned several times.

Safety
Safety came up at a number of tables. Suggestions related to safety included: emergency poles/boxes/phones, police storefronts/officer stations, increased patrols, police officers patrolling on bikes, community policing, increased lighting, increased visibility.

OTHER COMMON SUGGESTIONS
- Shade (mentioned frequently)
- Programs/systems for cleaning the bayou or preventing trash from reaching it
- Apps/web resources that focus on neighborhood resources, walking tours, local history
- Wheelchair accessibility
- Activities/spaces for seniors
- Spaces should be welcoming to everyone. There shouldn’t be spaces that are accessible or feel welcoming only to certain types of people.

INTERESTING/UNUSUAL IDEAS
- Co-housing
- A cable car/gondola connecting one end of the bayou to the other (CM Cisneros mentioned she heard this suggestion in one of the groups)
- A 125’ wide land bridge to connect the two sides of the bayou
- Places to observe osprey and kingfisher nesting areas from Jensen to York
- Celebrating Harrisburg as the “Original” Houston and commemorating it through historical markers.
- Festive boats (colored and gondola style) along the bayou indicative of culture
- A flower market
- A culinary school
- An East End history museum
- A fisherman’s wharf near Turning Basin
- A dance hall
- A boardwalk like in Jersey or like the old piers in Galveston
- Turkey Bend as some sort of amphitheater/attraction/destination (mentioned several times)
- Zip lines across the bayou
- A ropes course
BOARD 1

3 Big Ideas

1. Transportation/Access
   a. Ample and easy parking
   b. Public accessibility
   c. Pedestrian bridges

2. Safety
   a. Surveillance
   b. Lighting
   c. Emergency phones

3. Large, Multi-use Park
   a. Discovery Green
   b. Affordability
   c. Connecting different communities
   d. Festivals/events to bring communities together

Other ideas
- Bird Blind – architectural towers/viewing platforms to educate people about migratory and local birds.
- Use industrial sites as locations for incorporating temporary or permanent public art and installations
- Figuring out catchment systems/“sieves” to prevent trash from collecting along banks of the bayou.
- Use recycled rubber tires for jogging trails.
- Illuminate bridges at night with colored lights
- Bags for dog cleanup located along trails

BOARD 2

3 Big Ideas

1. Transportation
   a. Create a unified bayou experience
   b. B-Cycle stations along the bayou

2. Integrate communities through nature, arts, and education
   a. Large, open areas to allow large gatherings
   b. Docks with access to the bayou
   c. Nature preserves/trails/“Hiking adventure trails”

3. Cultural and business center
   a. Concerts
      i. Concert venue similar to Miller Outdoor Theater with river access on Turkey Bend
   b. Boat rentals
   c. Restaurant/cafes
   d. Retail

Other ideas
- Hotels along bayou
- Midrise senior housing
- Community library

BOARD 3
3 Big Ideas
1. Safe for everyone – walking, biking, running, etc.
   a. Trails/sidewalks that connect to existing trails as well as extending into neighborhoods.
   b. B-cycles stations and bike racks along the bayou
2. Bridges across the bayou
3. Organize diverse local programming and businesses
   a. Food festivals
      i. Dinner en Blanc
   b. Flea markets
   c. Restaurants (mom and pop, small food vendors/stands, not national brands)
   d. School groups
   e. Affordable snack shacks with local vendors
   f. Event venues
      i. Outdoor cinema + concerts
         ii. Mid-sized (think Tamale Festival, not Free Press Summer Fest, i.e. thousands of people.)

Other ideas
- Water taxi/ferry
- Affordable housing (not Section 8)
- Public art/installations
   o Benches/shade areas/pavilions
- Sports activities
   o Fitness stations
   o Basketball courts
   o Soccer fields
- Pedestrian bridges
- Dog park
- Focus on nature
   o Nature talks/walks lead by naturalists/biologists
   o Environmental education areas
   o Minimize use of concrete
- Boats/activities on water
   o Transportation up and down bayou for boating
   o Kayak rentals
   o Water sport training (kayak, canoe, etc.)
   o Swimming area
   o Recreate Austin’s Ladybird Lake connecting activities with water

BOARD 4
3 Big Ideas
1. Create destinations and gathering spaces
   a. Improve what’s there while bringing new uses
2. Celebrate and reveal the area’s deep history
   a. Bayou as a face for cultural engagement
   b. Building on the momentum of Lyons Festival
   c. Art installations
i. Murals
ii. Metal art
iii. Industrial sculpture

3. Safe connections and trails for pedestrians and cyclists

Other ideas
- Research historical and archeological sites. Build pride by connecting local residents to their past
- Movie night/events at the silos
- More housing in communities with access to parks/ Affordability for local residents
- Urban farming/farmers market
- Connections over I-10 that are separated from trucks
- Food truck park
- Restrooms
- Learning center/nature park
- Activities: canoes/boating, biking, camping, soccer in Tony Marron Park
- Don’t replicate west
- Learning center/nature park
- Pop-up shops/flexible spaces
- Light festival with local artists
- Sculpture garden
- Playgrounds

BOARD 5

3 Big Ideas
1. Accessibility
   a. Parking
   b. Signage
   c. Biking routes that are safe from cars
   d. Pedestrian bridges
   e. Boat launches
2. Maintaining/highlighting the identity of local communities
   a. Unique and creative ways (i.e. light shows @ industrial sites, community gardens)
   b. “Super Saturdays”
   c. Murals/outdoor art
   d. Outdoor performances
      i. Music
      ii. Theater
   e. Are there any industrial spaces like the Cistern to make an attraction?
3. Activities
   a. Recreation
   b. Walking
   c. Cycling
   d. Boating

Other ideas
- Benches/quiet spaces to enjoy nature
- Co-housing spaces/commune neighborhood
- Arches/gateways made of metal into bayou areas
- Community gardens
- Pop-up shops
- Nature parks/water parks/skate park

**BOARD 6**

**3 Big Ideas**

1. **Community spaces w/ local input**
   
a. Community centers w/ police storefronts, social services, senior activities, spaces for community clubs to meet, place to find out what is going on in the community
   b. Local neighborhoods have input on programming along bayou
   c. Engage with local residents on safety

2. **Natural/quiet spaces**
   
a. Zen/meditation spaces
   b. Community gardens
   c. Nature/adventure hiking trails

3. **Community gathering spaces**
   
a. Convergence, congregate, inclusion
   b. Accommodate/focus on food at all congregation areas
   c. Large scale gatherings
      i. Church bazaar, Christmas pageants, Rodeo trail ride meeting point, Wheatley HS alumni reunion, 5th Ward community picnic, Critical Mass, outdoor movies/concerts/dance parties
   d. Small medium sized gatherings
      i. Family picnics, spaces for weddings or other ceremonies
      ii. Barbeque pits and picnic sites everywhere
      iii. Bible study areas
      iv. Gazebos/pavilions
   e. Activity spaces
      i. Baseball fields
      ii. Basketball courts
      iii. High ropes course
      iv. Swimming hole

**Other ideas**

- Dog parks
- Bayou access
   - Boat/canoe rentals, water taxis, boat tours, hire local youth for boat tours
- Biking
   - B Cycle stations, bike trails, bike rentals
- Markets
  - Affordable farmer market
  - Street market
- Preserve views to downtown
- Maintain the industrial feeling of the bayou
  - If it is too sterilized, it doesn’t feel like the 5th Ward
- Make sure it feels like everyone is invited. Do not create areas that feel like they are exclusive and only some people are allowed
- Public access
  o Easy access to the bayou
  o Pedestrian bridges
  o Parking
- Murals/artwork by local artists
- Lighting and safety

BOARD 7
3 Big Ideas
1. Celebrating the neighborhood story through food and culture
   a. Food co-ops
   b. Farmers markets
   c. Cultural centers
2. Programs geared towards health and wellness
   a. Skate parks
   b. Bike rentals
   c. Free fitness activities
   d. Running trails
3. Transportation and accessibility
   a. Water taxies/ferries
   b. Parking
   c. Bike/pedestrian/public transit friendly
   d. Boat tours

Other ideas
- Recycling center
- Dog parks
- Restaurants, entertainment, stores, nightlife

BOARD 8
3 Big Ideas
1. Maintain natural landscape
   a. Native plants and wildlife
   b. Nature trails
   c. Place to learn about natural history of the bayou
   d. Shaded places to rest
   e. Beautiful trees
2. Accessibility and safety
   a. Make sure trails connect to the neighborhoods with good sidewalks
   b. Connect to local trails like Harrisburg trail as well as places like schools and transportation links like Metrorail
   c. More north/south connections
   d. Brightly lit at night.
   e. Police presence on bikes + better sense of security
   f. Parking for trails
3. Reinforce local culture and history
   a. Food trucks
b. Arts that represent the area’s culture
   c. Maintain industrial feel of the neighborhood

Other ideas
- Design with influence and input from local communities

BOARD 9
3 Big Ideas
1. Community Land Trust
2. Pedestrian bridges and N/S connections
   a. Lyons Ave. to bayou
   b. Bridge from Japhet Creek to Tony Marron
   c. Use abandoned rail connections
   d. Quality pedestrian connections over Hirsch and Lockwood
3. Cultural preservation and showcase history

Other ideas
- Create gathering places
- Web tech/apps
  - History of the neighborhoods
  - Info on local activities
- Development needs to be incremental
- Swimming hole to be a gathering point for the 5th and 2nd Wards
- Connect new and longtime residents
- Places to observe osprey and kingfisher nesting areas from Jensen to York

BOARD 10
3 Big Ideas
1. Recreation/fitness
   a. YMCA or exercise facility
   b. Paddle boats/canoes
   c. Bike trails, bike rental
   d. Outdoor workout equipment
   e. Pavilions for workout/Zumba/yoga classes
   f. Community soccer fields for Dynamo + kids
   g. Short loops off linear trail – 1 mile or less
   h. Canoe, kayak, and paddle launches spaced out along bayou
   i. Swimming hole
2. Entertainment/arts
   a. Boat tours along bayou
   b. Performance area for concerts
   c. Restaurants along the bayou
3. Local food & marketplace
   a. Community farms/gardens
      i. Teach kids to grow and prepare foods
b. Covered spaces for vendors to set-up along bayou to sell cultural items

4. Workforce training along bayou – partner with Port

Other ideas
- Safety
  o Safe play area for children
  o Officer station somewhere in the middle of the park
- Ecology/Nature
  o Native plan restoration
- Develop abandoned industrial properties for commercial use
- Arts and culture
  o Use local businesses or students to help develop art projects
  o Interpretive signs for history, culture, and nature
    ▪ Latino and Italian history
- Tony Marron to be state of the art like Emancipation Park
- Vendors and businesses to have colorful look of rich history of the East End
- Festive boats (colored and gondola style) indicative of culture

BOARD 11
3 Big Ideas
1. Event spaces to draw people in
   a. Illuminated with colors
   b. Amphitheater like Miller Outdoor Theater for music and theater performances
   c. Outdoor movie nights
   d. Convert former industrial spaces along the bayou into farmers/spice markets like Seattle or Portland
2. Bridges, boats, trails to provide access and connectivity
   a. Connect bayou trails to existing hike/bike trails (Harrisburg/Sunset trail)
   b. Preserve E/W trail connections after I-45/I-69 freeway expansion project
3. Natural areas and urban farming
   a. Bird habitat east of Tony Marron Park
   b. Separate hiking trails focusing on nature, perhaps with mulch pathways
   c. Nature center or arboretum
   d. Flower market
   e. Water harvesting tanks
   f. Tree nursery
   g. Nature Center + farming opportunities

Other ideas
- Expand murals to bayous
- Restaurant/bar area like the Riverwalk in San Antonio
- Culinary School
- East End history museum

BOARD 12
3 Big Ideas
1. Interconnectivity
   a. Bike paths
   b. Water taxi
   c. Bridges
2. “Discovery Green 2”
   a. Dog park
   b. Stage/amphitheater for performances
   c. Local restaurants/breweries
   d. Food coop
   e. Restaurants/shopping/small scale Riverwalk
   f. Free events
3. Post-industrial spaces used as art spaces
   a. Spaces to be used like cistern
   b. Water treatment plant as a place for art

BOARD 13
3 Big Ideas
1. Attractions/facilities that are of multiple types and sizes for events that are connected to the neighborhoods
   a. Neighborhood parks spaced along length of bayou
   b. Active walking “museum”
   c. Continual hike and bike trails that connect to downtown and into neighborhoods, safe crossings across railroad tracks;
   d. Network of high comfort bike paths along streets
   e. Boating piers along bayou
   f. A wide boardwalk
   g. Water/splash park/aquatic entertainment
   h. Amphitheater
   i. Boat rides
   j. Community pools
   k. Soccer fields
   l. Amusement park like Galveston Pier
   m. Zip lines across bayou
   n. Outdoor movie/concert theater
   o. Pavilions that let families/groups have picnics
   p. Dance hall
   q. Restaurants with views to bayou
2. A community board
   a. Give communities ownership
   b. Ensure programming is for the benefit of the neighborhoods
3. Engineered green space
   a. Preserves/protect nature as much as possible
   b. Integrate facilities into green park
   c. Landscaping in a smart way
   d. Bridges, bikeways, and sidewalks for connectivity
   e. Ensure healthy flow of bayou
   f. Support people and critters
   g. Urban forest
h. Farm areas and community gardens  
i. Meditation spaces  
j. Rain gardens  
k. Natural detention/natural runoff filtering

Other ideas
- Neighborhood connectivity  
  o Boulevards with wide esplanades that link both sides of the bayou  
  o Maximizing connectivity while minimizing cars  
  o Pedestrian bridges across bayou  
  o Water taxis that are staffed by neighborhood residents  
  o Streetcar loop to connect bayou to Metrorail  
  o Bicycle vendors
- Opportunities for boat rides
- Support local culture and arts  
  o Big scale events  
  o Local artists, sculptors, murals, and mosaics  
  o Build on Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe event along Navigation (Dec. 12)  
  o Arts market/pop up shops  
  o Latin culture  
  o Vendors on boats  
  o Mobile/bike food vendors (raspas, popcorn, corn/mango)
- Dog parks
- Security & safety  
  o Well-lit paths  
  o Emergency phones
- Mixed use development  
  o Redevelop industrial buildings  
  o Shipping container residences  
  o Architectural preservation

BOARD 14
3 Big Ideas
1. Safety  
   a. Lighting  
   b. Open spaces  
   c. People/activities  
   d. Call buttons for police  
   e. No tent cities
2. Mix of attractions  
   a. Stations/nodes along bayou to have a variety of experiences  
   b. Boat access for kayaking/paddle boats  
   c. Playgrounds for kids/splash parks  
   d. Kayak from Shepherd to Lockwood with ability to drop boat off at Lockwood  
   e. Coffee shop that sells local coffee  
   f. Farmers market
3. Connectivity
a. N&S and E&W
   i. Pedestrian bridges
b. Integrated into neighborhood
c. Free shuttle service
4. Reflective of neighborhood
   a. Culture
   b. History
   c. Industrial heritage
d. Community event board
5. Place to meet neighbors
   a. A place to mix and be friendly with one another

Other ideas
- Shade
- Flat grassy land (similar to Eleanor Tinsley Park)
- Education & training for the community
- Kinetic art

BOARD 15
3 Big Ideas
1. Safe connected trails/streets
   a. Wayfinding and trails to bayou from neighborhood
   b. App for walking tours
   c. Separate pedestrian/bike trails
d. Call boxes
2. Places to access/get on the water
   a. Kayaking
3. Gathering places with food, drink, activities, and a view.
   a. Bars, breweries, & restaurants with Bayou City views
   b. Public promenade with downtown views
c. Arcade like Jersey
d. Observation decks/towers
e. Activities and access to water’s edge
f. Beach area and/or swimming hole
g. Amphitheater/movie screen
h. Water gardens
   i. Create an East End bat colony by making one of the bridges more bat friendly
j. Affordable farmers market
k. Community gardens
l. Bird watching facilities
m. Locally operated food trucks
n. Skate park
   o. Pop up/rotating installations
   p. Dog park

Other ideas
- Shade
- Community land trust

BOARD 16

3 Big Ideas

1. Green/recreation spaces
   a. Kayak launches
   b. Paddle board
   c. Parades and public water festivals
   d. Pleasure tours/tourist boats
   e. Trees
   f. Dog parks
   g. Reclaimed nature preserves
   h. Arboretum

2. Physical/community connectivity
   a. Semi-permanent cart/food truck area with different vendors and restrooms
   b. Connectivity to light rail
   c. Connect Navigation Esplanade to bayou
   d. Outdoor installations & public art spaces
   e. Spaces where alcohol is allowed
   f. Restaurants/commercial/retail spaces
   g. Connect to EaDo
   h. Pedestrian and bike Bridges
   i. Shipping containers for shops
   j. Bayou facing commercial spaces

3. Community continuity
   a. Affordable housing
   b. Protect neighborhoods and homes in “historic” areas
   c. Prevent displacing longtime residents
   d. Affordable commercial property

BOARDS WHERE 3 BIG IDEAS WERE NOT WRITTEN

BOARD 17

- Security and safety
  o Lighting at night
  o Police call boxes
  o Police substation and regular patrol
- Trails and sidewalks
  o Running, walking, biking
  o Bike rentals
- Local art
  o Artwork along bridges
  o Recognize local heroes, local cultures (Latino, African American, Vietnamese, etc.)
  o Quarterly sidewalk chalk art events
  o Graffiti/mural walls
- Neighborhood gardens/coops
  o Youth education on food sustainability
Engage elderly
- Quiet/meditation zones and gardens
- Amphitheater for outdoor concerts and movies
  - Hildalgo Park
- Community centers for classes, readings
- Kayaks to rent @ Guadalupe Plaza
- Skatepark
- Boat facilities from Yolanda Navarro to Downtown
- Local vendors on boats
- Revitalization of the dock near 76th and 77th. Attractions for families similar to Kemah.

BOARD 17
- Education
  - Apps that help with identifying vegetation
  - Sites for educational/experiential learning
  - Educational/geographical markers along trails
  - Totems marking neighborhood history
- Pedestrian bridges between 2nd/5th Wards
- Areas with shade
- Amphitheater
- Fisherman’s Wharf near Turning Basin
- Public boat/canoe launches
- Netted soccer field
- Connections to existing trail networks
- Waste removal
- Do not narrow the bayou
- Areas for users to post community/neighborhood info
- Interactive playgrounds with water features

BOARD 18
- Green spaces/community gardens
- Gathering/activity spaces
  - Water park/swimming hole/splash pads
  - Picnic tables
  - Farmers market
  - Community garden
  - Wheelchair friendly
  - Children’s playscapes
  - Covered pavilions
  - Soccer fields
- Biking/pedestrian trails
- Repurpose existing structures/preserve industrial character
- Art spaces – studios, galleries, classrooms
- Retail spaces/restaurants
- Emergency poles
- Affordable housing
- Community centers
- Harrisburg/"Original" Houston historical markers
- Inclusive gatherings for whole neighborhoods – Juneteenth, Feast of Guadalupe, Cinco de Mayo, 4th of July

**BOARD 19**
- Green spaces
  - Maintain natural landscapes
  - Community gardens/coops/urban farms
- Gathering spaces
  - Amphitheater
  - Music/cultural center
  - Destination space at Turkey Bend
- Safety
  - Patrols
  - Constable/HPD storefront
  - Panic boxes
  - Citizen patrols
- Pedestrian bridges
  - Living bridge connecting parks on both sides – 125’ wide
- Access/connections
  - Pedestrian/bike trails that connect to the neighborhoods
  - Link back into neighborhoods
  - Transit connections
- Preserve local character
  - Local tours/neighborhood highlights marked
  - Celebrate local stories by engaging local people in collecting stories from the neighborhood
  - Create outside museum spaces that capture the history of the area’s cultural beginnings
- Maintain architectural character
  - Preserve industrial structures, new structures to echo old industrial
  - Keep historical elements and make them visible (cleats for ships, industrial structures)
  - Support local retail
- Focus neighborhoods towards the bayou rather than away from them
  - Restaurants and businesses along the bayou
  - Water taxis/boat transportation
  - Floating performance spaces
- Promote art
  - Memorials
  - Murals
  - Artist studios
- Affordable housing
- Headquarters for neighborhood and non-profit organizations
- Senior community center
- Bike/walking/Segway tours
- Coffee shops
- Community activity calendar