



Art exhibit in Buffalo Bayou East. Photo: Courtesy of Buffalo Bayou Partnership.

HIGH LINE NETWORK CASE STUDY

Fostering Board and Community Committee Connection

Organization: Buffalo Bayou Partnership

Park: [Buffalo Bayou East](#)

Location: Houston, TX

Infrastructure type: Waterfront / Waterway

Theme: Community Engagement

Project phase: Open / Ongoing

“This will unfold over decades, but we are committed to delivering a place that offers new economic, social, and environmental improvements that benefit Buffalo Bayou East, its existing communities, and Houston as a whole,” says Anne Olson, president of the Buffalo Bayou Partnership (BBP), of the ambitious plans for a four-mile waterfront stretch in the area east of downtown. Two communities there, with deep Hispanic and African American roots, have long been underserved in regards to public space access.

As they implement their Buffalo Bayou East Master Plan, BBP plans to form three community-led groups. One for arts and culture, the second for health and wellness, and a third focused on economic development. They started with the arts and culture committee in 2020. BBP has worked to ensure these groups have real influence and decision-making power in their organizational structure.

For example, BBP already had an arts committee composed primarily of Board members. So they knew they needed to navigate power sharing and incorporate input from both committees as they work on decisions about including public art in the project. The community-led committee was encouraged to offer input on which neighborhood artists should be represented. The Board-led committee has focused on an existing commitment for BBP to include international artists.

BBP's power sharing among all stakeholders is evolving organically. The Board-led art committee and the East Sector Arts and Culture stakeholder group currently meet separately. BBP staff are ensuring alignment between the two. The committees will provide each other with feedback throughout the art nomination process, as members slowly learn about each other.

Related Resources:

[CFT Case Study: Fostering Board and Community Committee Connection](#)

WHO WE ARE

Presented by the High Line, the High Line Network is a group of infrastructure reuse projects—and the people who help them come to life. As cities become denser and land for traditional parks becomes more scarce, residents are finding creative ways to bring greenspace to their neighborhoods. Projects in the High Line Network transform underutilized infrastructure into new urban landscapes. Redefining what a park can be, these hybrid spaces are also public squares, open-air museums, botanical gardens, social service organizations, walkways, transit corridors, and more. For more information about the High Line Network, please visit network.thehighline.org