



RICE | KINDER
INSTITUTE FOR URBAN RESEARCH

Building Better Cities
Building Better Lives

Annual Report 2019

Think and



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Tank

REPORT UNDERWRITER:



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Nancy & Rich Kinder



Photo: Karen Sachar, courtesy of the Kinder Foundation

In 2019, the institute’s researchers published reports, which examined a number of critical issues that impact Houstonians. From the effectiveness of a rent subsidy program and the obstacles many of the city’s small manufacturing businesses face, to the quality of infrastructure such as streets, bikeways and sidewalks and its impact on residents’ safety and mobility. Much of the analysis was novel, such as a look at how local artists and cultural organizations are resources underutilized by city leaders in addressing communities’ most pressing issues.

In its 38th year, the Kinder Houston Area Survey (KHAS) continued to reveal important information about the evolving attitudes and demographics of the millions of people who call Houston home. And as we marvel at the continuation of KHAS, we await the release of founding director Stephen L. Klineberg’s upcoming book, “Prophetic City,” — a book about Houston as the American city of the future.

Meanwhile, the Kinder Institute’s Houston Education Research Consortium (HERC), which began in 2011 as a partnership with the Houston Independent School District, has now expanded to 11 area school districts. HERC’s research is helping schools develop data-driven policy that addresses our education system.

As we reflect on the achievements of 2019, we also look ahead to 2020 and the 10-year anniversary of the institute. The past decade has been transformative with the institute at the center of informing stakeholders and policymakers about issues important to our region.

We are excited about the future and the institute’s ongoing role in helping to solve the problems that affect our cities and our communities.

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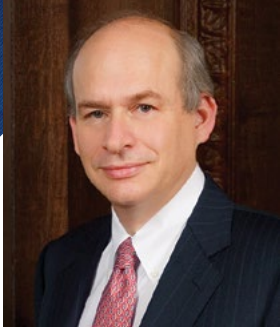

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Central Houston, Inc.


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Chairman
Bracewell LLP

President's Message



The Kinder Institute for Urban Research is, without a doubt, one of the most important additions to Rice University in the past decade. It has played a central role in our strategic plan, namely to engage with and empower the success of the city of Houston. The Kinder Institute is working to understand the challenges that Houston and other cities face and is offering innovative research-based

solutions to issues surrounding education, transportation, housing, economic development and urban disparity. The institute also contributes in important ways to the university's goals to offer the best in undergraduate education, increase opportunity for all, and support a diverse and inclusive campus and city.

Successfully partnering with our home city is essential to Rice University's continued success. To do that, we must fully engage the Houston region — learning from it, contributing to it and helping to improve it through a better understanding of our city. The groundbreaking Kinder Houston Area Survey is a prime example of how we are achieving this goal. Over the years, the survey has tracked and documented the evolution of this city to a degree unseen anywhere else. It is an essential resource for expertise and insight on critical urban issues in Houston and the surrounding area.

As the institute itself continues to evolve, the breadth and depth of the research have expanded beyond the flagship survey. Rice faculty members are leading the Houston Education Research Consortium, which is collaborating with 11 school districts in and around Houston. HERC's partnership research model is yielding timely, relevant findings that address inequalities in education here in Houston and beyond.

Through its Community Bridges program, the Kinder Institute provides Rice undergraduate students experiential opportunities that contribute to a transformative education. The institute also works closely with partners on campus, including Rice University's School of Architecture, the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, and the university's Severe Storm Prediction, Education, and Evacuation from Disasters Center (SSPEED).

Houston continues to make progress toward being an exemplary 21st-century metropolis. The Kinder Institute is providing city and civic leaders, community organizations and other academic institutions with data, analysis and policy tools that are driving efforts to make Houston and cities across the country better for residents. Our university is proud to be the home of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research. Through its work we are contributing in multiple ways to the success of our city and to increased opportunity for all who live here.

David W. Leebron

President

Rice University

Director's Message



Nearly 10 years ago, the Kinder Institute set out to become the go-to think tank for urban issues in the Houston region. I think we can check that box now.

Over the past decade, Houston has come into its own as a major urban metropolis in the United States. As Houston has matured, so have we.

Unlike some think tanks, we're not focused only on producing reports. Whatever topic we are looking into, we're focused on producing results — improving Houston and other cities as places to live and work. Our output in 2019 shows the progress we're making toward that goal.

The work of the Houston Education Research Consortium, the education research arm of the Kinder Institute, was especially inspiring in 2019. HERC has vastly expanded its reach from partnering only with the Houston Independent School District to now partnering with 11 school districts to tackle difficult issues. HERC's work with local school districts shows what a research institute can do in partnership with civic and governmental leaders to change policy and practice.

While HERC was expanding, the rest of the Kinder Institute was pushing forward on two related topics, highlighted by Hurricane Harvey as major issues — housing and resilience. In conjunction with the Greater Houston Flood Mitigation Consortium, we tackled these two issues together. A report on multifamily housing in the Houston region highlighted the fact that a vast number of apartments are located in the flood plain, making their occupants vulnerable to flooding. We also found that people who hold federal housing vouchers tend to escape flood risk when they move, suggesting vouchers are a good strategy to improve people's lives. After reading our report, the Houston Housing Authority

agreed to include flood information in the briefing of new housing voucher holders.

One of the biggest highlights of the year was our participation in the Understanding Houston project, a Greater Houston Community Foundation (GHCF) regional indicators initiative. Houston has never had a real, rigorous indicators report that highlights different data points about different topics to show how we're doing. The Kinder team worked closely with GHCF to produce the report, released in November. And we're planning to work with GHCF to update the report every two years.

In 2019, we produced material on a variety of subjects, including barriers that small manufacturing companies in Houston face when they try to grow. We provided testimony in front of the state legislature in Austin on both education and urban issues, and our Kinder Institute Forum and Urban Reads public programs consistently drew close to 400 people. We're also proud that former Harris County Judge Ed Emmett joined the institute as a senior fellow.

Next year, our 10th anniversary will be even better. We are set to move into the brand-new Kraft Hall building on Rice campus, and Stephen L. Klineberg, our founding director, will publish his book, "Prophetic City: Houston on the Cusp of a Changing America." Our annual luncheon, where Klineberg will unveil the results of the Kinder Houston Area Survey, will honor the Rev. William A. Lawson. And we will work closely with our city and county partners on housing and resiliency.

It's been a great 10 years as we look toward 2020. We can't wait for the next 10!

Bill Fulton

Director

Kinder Institute for Urban Research

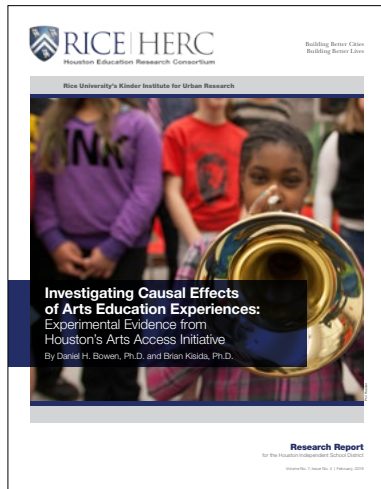
Year In Review

In 2019 ...

The Kinder Institute, which includes the Houston Education Research Consortium, helped shape critical conversations on important urban issues.

We conducted research that:

- Focused on measures to best support the growth of small manufacturers in the region.
- Assessed college advising needs among high school students.
- Examined street and bike safety in Houston neighborhoods.
- Revealed the benefits of an arts education.



Most Popular Report

Investigating Causal Effects of Arts Education Experiences: Experimental Evidence from Houston's Arts Access Initiative

Our most popular research report in 2019 garnered almost 18K page views and was downloaded nearly 15K times.

Most Page Views:

17,778

Most Downloads:

14,947

International Study

The Houston Independent School District is the only U.S. district selected to participate in an international study on social and emotional skills. The study, led by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), is in partnership with the Houston Education Research Consortium. The study will measure a set of social and emotional skills and is taking place in nearly a dozen sites around the world.



Public Programs

The popularity of our Kinder Institute Forums, the institute's signature lecture series that brings thought leaders from around the world to Houston, allowed us to deepen our brand and extend our reach into new communities.

We consistently welcomed standing room-only crowds. For the first time ever, attendance at our KI Forums soared to nearly 400, led by Rose Rougeau, the institute's director of communication.



Understanding Houston

The Kinder Institute serves as the strategic research partner for the Understanding Houston project initiated by the Greater Houston Community Foundation (GHCF). This regional indicators project provides donors, community leaders and residents with access to data and information about eight topics, including education, health and housing that they can use to bring positive change to their communities. Led by Jie Wu, our director of research management, the Kinder team worked closely with GHCF to produce a pathbreaking website and a summary report. The Kinder Institute is planning to work with GHCF to update the report every two years.



Senior Fellow

Former Harris County Judge Ed Emmett returned to Rice University as a professor in the practice with a focus on public policy and as a senior fellow at the Kinder Institute. Emmett graduated from Rice in 1971 with a degree in economics.

These are only a few of our accomplishments.

You are encouraged to continue reading to learn more about how we engaged and delivered impact throughout our communities.

Investigating Causal Effects of Arts Education Experiences: Experimental Evidence From Houston’s Arts Access Initiative



Photo: rawpixel on Unsplash

Researchers found that arts-learning experiences for students reduce disciplinary infractions, improve writing skills, increase school engagement and college aspirations, and increase their empathy for others. The study compared student data and survey results from schools that participated in Houston’s Arts Access Initiative and those that were on an arts waiting list. “We find that a substantial increase in arts educational experiences has remarkable impacts on students’ academic, social and emotional outcomes,” the researchers write. “In terms of our measure of compassion for others, students who received more arts education experiences are more interested in how other people feel and more likely to want to help people who are treated badly.”

Housing Choice Voucher Mobility in Harris County

The Housing Choice Voucher program, which subsidizes rent for low-income households, aims to help recipients move to neighborhoods with greater opportunities they could not otherwise afford. The Kinder Institute analyzed three years of Houston voucher data (2015–17) and found that about 10% of recipients moved to areas with higher incomes and less flood risk. Female-headed households, households with children, households with larger family sizes, and non-Hispanic black households were among the most likely voucher holders to relocate. On average, most moved about five miles from their original residence. The report recommends the Houston Housing Authority and other agencies continue to work with voucher holders and other clients to ensure they are aware of flood risks and are able to cope with any potential impacts of gentrification and neighborhood change.



Photo: Mike Lapidakis/Flickr

Transit Adjacent Development and Neighborhood Change in Houston



Photo: Texas Watchdog/Flickr

Transit investments are critical to connecting people to opportunity, but they can also alter the development trajectory of an area. This study explores how land use has changed between 2010 and 2016 in transit adjacent development (TAD) areas, defined as census block groups within one mile of transit hubs — light rail stations, transit centers and park and ride locations. Overall, the report finds that TAD areas are experiencing gains in commercial and single-family lots. There is also growth in undeveloped lots and newly platted lots. Neighborhood changes are most dramatic in areas that previous Kinder Institute research identified as gentrifying or likely to gentrify. As development occurs and housing prices rise, addressing potential displacement will require collaboration with public and private housing developers as well as creating policies to bring multiple levels of affordability into areas of investment.

Urban Development, Transportation and Placemaking

Safe Streets, Safe Communities: Walking and Biking Infrastructure in Houston

This report evaluates existing walking and biking infrastructure conditions in Houston’s Gulfton neighborhood and suggests areas for future investment.

Artist-Planner Collaborations: Lessons Learned From the Arts and Culture Ecosystems of Three Sun Belt Cities for a New Model of Inclusive Planning

Comparing three peer cities — Houston, Denver and San Antonio — this report shows how artists and urban planners can collaboratively promote positive neighborhood change and equal access to the arts.

Housing Choice Voucher Mobility in Houston

An analysis of the moving patterns of Housing Choice Vouchers recipients reveals that about 10% of Houston-area recipients are moving to higher income, less flood-prone areas as the program intended.

Transit Adjacent Development and Neighborhood Change in Houston

This study finds that the vast majority of land-use changes in many gentrifying communities is occurring along transit lines and near transit centers.

Urban and Metropolitan Governance

The Maker Economy: The Growing Demand of Small Urban Manufacturers in Houston

Significant barriers for small manufacturers identified in this report include space affordability, insufficient capital to scale operations and difficulty finding qualified workers in Houston.

Research

Urban Disparity and Opportunity

Challenges of Social Sector Systematic Collaborations: What's Cookin' in Houston's Food Insecurity Space?

The lack of ready access to healthy foods, combined with low incomes and other factors related to transportation, time, ability and proclivity to cook make food insecurity and food deserts a reality for more than 700,000 individuals in Houston. Researchers studied nonprofits, government programs, businesses and schools to see how they can better collaborate to serve these individuals. Institutional barriers, such as funder or government policies and politics, were found to be significant challenges, which often resulted in fragmented and narrow interventions that ultimately failed to improve impact at the community level. “If the goal is to address the problem of food insecurity, it should not matter which organization does this or receives credit for it,” the researchers argue in the report. “We encourage nonprofit organizations to share more of their knowledge and to create and adopt user-focused collaborations with other organizations.”

Houston Education Research Consortium

HISD's Decentralization Reform (Part 3: Decentralization and Student Achievement)

Part 3 of HERC's decentralization research shows what decentralization in the 1999–2000 school year caused, specifically with state testing.

HISD's Decentralization Reform (Part 4: Funding)

Part 4 of HERC's decentralization research addresses the Houston Independent School District's (HISD) general fund budgeting strategy to see how much money schools received and how the funds were used during the 1999–2000 through 2015–2016 school years.

Harris County's College Advising Needs

HERC's college advising needs assessment reveals a strong need to expand college advising efforts in districts surrounding HISD, particularly for the most economically disadvantaged districts.

The Effects of HISD Summer School

This report examines how HISD's 2016 summer program benefited students who were promoted or retained.

The Role of College Prep Course Offerings and Course-Taking in Long-Term Educational Outcomes

This study looks at how college-prep course enrollment relates to long-term educational outcomes.

Availability of and Equity in Access to HISD Pre-K Programs (Part 1)

This study attempts to identify the spatial distribution of HISD's prekindergarten programs across the district and better understand how program location may be associated with access and equity.

Finishing What My Parents Started: College Aspirations Among EMERGE Students

The EMERGE fellowship is an intensive college access program that targets talented but underserved students. This report looks at what motivates EMERGE students to attend college.

Who Applies to EMERGE?

This report looks at the profiles of students who are invited to an EMERGE information session and those who applied.

Kinder Houston Area Survey

The 38th annual Kinder Houston Area Survey (KHAS) measures residents' perceptions on a wide range of topics, including the local economy, higher education, school funding, immigration and Houston's growing diversity. KHAS is the longest-running survey of its kind.

Go beyond the highlights:
kinder.rice.edu/research

Kinder In Action

Houston Education Research Consortium

The Houston Education Research Consortium is a research-practice partnership between Rice University and 11 Houston-area school districts. HERC research is developed directly alongside district leaders with findings shared with decision-makers, which culminates in long-term, equity-minded solutions, opportunities and growth for Houston and beyond.

With support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Hewlett Foundation, Houston Endowment and Kinder Foundation, HERC saw tremendous growth in staff and research in 2019. Researchers completed 20 briefs or reports on issues ranging from equity in prekindergarten to the role of college-prep courses on long-term educational outcomes in partnership with the Houston Independent School District (HISD).

The 11 independent school districts include: Aldine, Alief, Cypress-Fairbanks, Friendswood, Houston, Katy, Klein, Pasadena, Sheldon, Spring, and Spring Branch.

HERC's pre-K research empowered decision-making in 2019 at the state level. HISD shared initial research findings related to pre-K benefits and availability with state legislators in an effort to maintain pre-K funding available to Texas school districts. In turn, the legislature voted to expand funding from a half to a full school day. Also, HISD opened 38 new pre-K programs in fall 2019 and utilized research in determining where to open new locations.

Improving STEM college readiness in HISD Advanced Placement (AP) Physics and AP Biology courses among minority students through deep study of intrinsic learning factors and behaviors, as well as social, demographic and environmental

indicators, is the focus of Project Equip — a research effort with HISD, HERC, OpenStax and the Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies at Rice University. The pilot research effort launched in fall 2019 with 17 HISD teachers and 765 students.

HERC also began the second phase of the International Social and Emotional Skills Study organized by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with Houston serving as the only U.S. site. Between October and December, HERC surveyed about 6,500 students, 1,100 parents, 1,400 teachers and 111 principals to complete data collection.

Looking Ahead: In 2020, HERC will continue to conduct research and report findings on new and existing projects, including student homelessness, pre-K and summer melt among college-bound students. Also, an international report with data from the OECD/Social and Emotional Skills Study will be released in December 2020.

National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships

In 2019, the National Network of Education Research-Practice Partnerships (NNERPP) had 15 new members join the network, for a total of 43 members. In July, the network hosted its annual conference, the NNERPP Annual Forum, at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, with the space being graciously provided by Patti and Jonathan Kraft. In all, 141 participants attended, 81 for the first time, representing 40 Research-Practice Partnerships (RPPs) as well as a number of relevant foundations, research centers and other education organizations. Under the theme “The RPP Journey: Learning Together in Pursuit of Equity and Excellence,” the agenda featured a record number of 30 sessions.

In 2019, NNERPP launched NNERPP Extra, a quarterly magazine that aims to deliver key insights from the intersection of education research, policy, and practice. NNERPP also hosted two RPP development workshops to support research-practice partnership teams applying for National Science Foundation’s Computer Science for All solicitation.

Looking Ahead: NNERPP will kick off the new year by hosting a meeting for leaders in the RPP community, who seek to develop measures to assess constructs related to effective partnering.

Community Bridges

The Community Bridges program is a service-learning fellowship for Rice undergraduate students. It aims to strengthen Rice University’s relationship within the Houston area through active fieldwork and academic coursework. During the 2018–19 academic year, 17 fellows provided more than 2,000 service hours at 10 partner sites in the Houston community, which included Fifth Ward, East End, Near Northside and Gulfton. We’re happy to share that the number of fellows and the average service hours per student significantly increased from the prior academic year, which had 13 fellows.

The research projects conducted by Community Bridges Fellows are uniquely designed to meet the needs of community organizations and their constituencies.

- In collaboration with Air Alliance Houston, fellow Aurora Kesler investigated the community’s involvement in the North Houston Highway Improvement Project by exploring how to engage communities in Health Impact Assessments (HIAs). Kesler also conducted workshops with community members affected by the highway expansion, visualized the lived impact of the

highway expansion and provided recommendations to Air Alliance about how to improve future HIA processes.

- In partnership with Avenue CDC, fellow Bharathi Selvan worked to answer the research question: *What is the spatial concentration of existing resources, opportunities, coming investments and plans provided by Avenue CDC and its partners?* Selvan used ArcGIS to map and analyze the locations of existing resources in the Near Northside neighborhood and, in turn, to identify gaps in services across Avenue CDC’s constituent communities.

Community Bridges continued to expand the cohort to 23 fellows for the 2019–20 academic year. Additionally, the program confirmed new partnerships with LINK Houston and the YMCA of Greater Houston’s South Texas Office for Refugees.

Looking Ahead: In 2020, Community Bridges will explore new partnerships to better serve the community.

Go beyond the highlights:
kinder.rice.edu/bridges

Data Driven Decisions

Houston Community Data Connections

During the 2018–19 academic year, the Houston Community Data Connections (HCDC) dashboard saw nearly 5,000 unique external users and nearly 8,000 site sessions. The dashboard provides more than 100 indicators that highlight disparities in various dimensions for each of the 143 neighborhood areas in Harris County. In collaboration with affiliated researchers and community organizations, the team added neighborhood specific indicators for Gulfton, Third Ward and Fifth Ward. The team also created stories about Opportunity Zones and the demand of small urban manufacturers in Houston through data visualization.

Thanks to a seed grant from Civic Switchboard, the HCDC team partnered with Rice University’s Fondren Library and offered two data literacy workshops in Third Ward and Fifth Ward and a “train-the-trainer” workshop to United Way agencies. The workshops explored the fundamentals of data literacy and how to make sense of data. To reach a broader audience, the team also hosted two webinars in 2019 to facilitate the use of the HCDC dashboard and other data tools. Training materials and opportunities can be found at www.datahouston.org/learn.

The team processed more than 50 data-related requests from nonprofits and local agencies in the Greater Houston area. These requests focused on topics such as demographics, workforce and unemployment, opportunity youth, housing, access to health care, food insecurity and gentrification.

Urban Data Platform

The Kinder Institute’s Urban Data Platform (UDP), under the direction of Rice statistics professor Kathy Ensor, brings together hundreds of datasets about the Houston area, including demographics, housing, health, education, transportation, environment and other urban-related issues.

The UDP, developed with support from Houston Endowment, hosts a large cohort of georeferenced curated data as a resource to researchers and practitioners studying Houston. Much of the data is developed by the UDP team, but the UDP infrastructure also allows for other data developers to publish and share their data through the site.

Houston Solutions Lab

The Houston Solutions Lab, a partnership between Rice University and the city, is part of the larger MetroLab Network, which pairs universities and cities to use academic research to address city problems.

In its second year, the program supported the work of three faculty-led efforts. Each project wrapped up in late 2019.

Project 1: The first project focused on street-level flooding and the use of a sensor system to measure it. With support from several colleagues, engineering professor Gary Woods led the team, which developed and refined the street-flooding sensor and used Rice campus as a testbed. They have since been working with the city of Houston to identify other test sites and to implement the sensor approach.

Project 2: Professors Dan Cohan and Laura Schaefer worked closely with Houston's chief sustainability officer to examine the status of the city's vehicle fleet. Their research looked at what a transition to electric vehicles could look like and how it could help shape a more sustainable and efficient fleet for the city.

Project 3: Professors Bob Stein and Rick Wilson conducted two surveys intended to inform emergency response and infrastructure investments. The first survey was done in conjunction with the Houston Fire Department. The survey collected information from department members about flood-prone areas and compared that knowledge to larger flood models. The second survey solicited opinions about the city's stormwater action team interventions in communities. Both surveys will help inform city decisions moving forward.

Funded Projects in Round 3:

- 1) Professors Philip Kortum and Claudia Ziegler Acemyan will be looking into street safety practices and issues along the METRO red line light rail.
- 2) Professor Kathy Ensor is leading a project about the creation of a decision support tool that aims to help city officials better respond to air pollution events.
- 3) Professors Melissa Marschall, Anshumali Shrivastava and Jenifer Bratter are working to identify areas of likely undercounted populations to support the city's census collection efforts.

Speaker's Bureau

In 2019, the Kinder Institute participated in more than 100 speaking engagements in Texas, and traveled as far as California, Rhode Island, Washington D.C., Florida and Oxfordshire in the U.K. Members of the institute's leadership team spoke on a variety of topics, including education, immigration, health care, transportation, housing, walkable urbanism and demographic transformations.

The Houston engagements included presentations to BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Baylor College of Medicine, the Mexican Consulate, Houston Grand Opera, Houston Association of Realtors, PNC Bank, Compass Bank, Cadence Bank, Texas A&M University, Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce, Houston Community College, KTRK-TV (ABC), KHOU-TV (CBS), YES Prep, United Way of Greater Houston and Johnson Space Center.

Go beyond the highlights:
kinder.rice.edu/speakers-bureau

Public Programs

January 28

Rice University Symposium on Data Privacy

Speakers discussed the current practice, challenges and research in data privacy and protection. Keynotes were given by Deborah Frincke, director of research for the National Security Agency, and Simson Garfinkel, senior computer scientist for confidentiality and data access at the U.S. Census Bureau. The Kinder Institute's Urban Data Platform served as host.

Attendees: 225



April 11

The Future of Urban Mobility

Experts discussed the future of urban mobility in Houston and other cities – the challenges, opportunities and how to best balance changing technologies with the need to create more walkable, bikeable and transit-friendly cities.

Attendees: 150



April 18

HCDC Talk: Understanding Local Transportation, Infrastructure and Safety Concerns (Webinar)

This interactive webinar shared highlights from two Kinder Institute reports, “Planning From Inside Out” and “Safe Street, Safe Communities.” Both reports looked at existing walking and biking infrastructure in Houston’s Gulfton neighborhood.

Online attendees: 25

February 21

HCDC Talk: Understanding Gentrification in Harris County (Webinar)

This interactive webinar offered a deep dive into the Kinder Institute’s “Neighborhood Gentrification Across Harris County: 1990–2016” report.

Online attendees: 95

February 27

Urban Reads: I-45 Meets the Walkable City



City planner Jeff Speck shared his perspective on what the I-45 freeway expansion means for Houston.



Attendees: 350

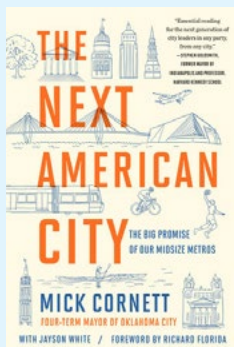
April 22

Urban Reads: Mick Cornett



Four-term Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett highlighted the midsize cities that will lead the United States in the coming years.

Attendees: 225



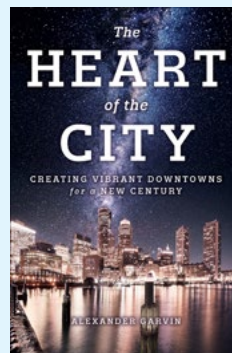
June 25

Urban Reads: Alexander Garvin



Urban planner Alexander Garvin identified shared elements of great downtowns and opportunities to ensure they thrive in the future.

Attendees: 210



Kinder Institute Forums

The Kinder Institute Forum lecture series brings thought leaders from around the world to Houston to share ideas about important urban issues. In 2019, the Kinder Institute welcomed four well-known speakers, who addressed key urban issues on residential segregation, equitable development, affordable housing and social infrastructure investment. The annual average attendance for the forums have continued to increase significantly to standing room-only crowds.

February 13

KI Forum: Richard Rothstein



Government-created residential segregation is at the heart of a number of inequities, argued Richard Rothstein, a scholar of education and housing policy

and distinguished fellow at the Economic Policy Institute. Rothstein pointed to past laws that boosted white homeownership, segregated neighborhoods, and ultimately denied generations of blacks the right to raise and educate their children in areas where they were more likely to succeed. Today, while the average black income is about 60% of the average white income, white families have roughly 10 times as much wealth as black families. “We need to develop the new civil rights movement,” said Rothstein. “We must demand policy changes. The segregation that we have created is responsible for the most serious social problems we face in this country.” Rothstein is the author of “The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America.”

Attendees: 380

May 22

KI Forum: Maurice Cox



Maurice Cox, director of planning and development for the city of Detroit, discussed creative design and community engagement as strategies for

long-term equitable development.

“Unless you have created a recovery in the neighborhoods, you really haven’t recovered at all,” Cox told a packed auditorium. The once-bankrupt city is now on the upswing, with new construction and housing developments in downtown and midtown, but work remains to be done in the city’s hard-hit neighborhoods. To encourage an inclusive recovery, Cox and his team incorporated community feedback in their plans to make neighborhoods more walkable, bikeable and commercial friendly. They made transformative changes by rehabilitating vacant homes and transforming vacant lots into parks and gardens. Other empty tracts of land were stitched together to create greenways and shared spaces. “Detroit is trying to do something that is aspirational, and that is to build one city for all of us,” added Cox.

Attendees: 330

October 23

KI Forum: Henry Cisneros



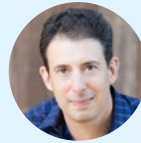
Former Mayor of San Antonio and former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros discussed strategies for building equitable cities.

Issues like poverty, homelessness, a widening income gap and access to opportunity will not be solved by the federal or state government, but instead by local policies, argued Cisneros. With a federal government that is “too bogged down,” Cisneros pointed to cities taking on a larger role, such as Atlanta rebuilding and modernizing their public housing and San Antonio funding pre-K education for all children. For Houston, Cisneros advocates that creating an equitable city would entail investing more in education, supporting small businesses (the Ion development in Houston holds incredible potential), building affordable housing connected to a reliable transportation system, and creating multimodal transit for all users. “Imagine if a city put all the equity pieces together and said, ‘This is our purpose. This is why we exist as a community,’” said Cisneros. “This is the next evolution of city governments in our society.”

Attendees: 225

December 4

KI Forum: Eric Klinenberg



Sociologist Eric Klinenberg contends that the health of our democracy depends largely on the quality of our social infrastructure — shared spaces like

public libraries, child care centers, bookstores and parks that shape the way people interact. When social infrastructure is robust, it strengthens social ties and turns communities into lived experiences. He gave examples of playgrounds that bring neighborhood families together, religious organizations that help communities rebuild after disasters, and libraries that offer free programs, resources and services to the public regardless of their social class, race or ethnicity. “We built social infrastructure that makes us who we are at our best moments today,” he said. He also pointed out that not enough is being done to maintain and improve what already exists for the generations to come. Building walls and social media will not create meaningful community engagement, argued Klinenberg. Instead, we need to invest in physical places that are open to the public. “It’s not a luxury,” Klinenberg said. “Our future depends on it.”

Attendees: 375

Go beyond the highlights:
kinder.rice.edu/events

Urban Edge

Popular Posts

The Kinder Institute's Urban Edge blog covers important research and delivers regular content, which we hope will enrich and enlighten our readers. Here are only a few of our most popular posts, published in 2019 along with approximate page views:

- **Experts to share what TxDOT's I-45 project means for Houston***
Views: 5,635
 Bill Fulton
- **Opportunity Zones: Gentrification on Steroids?**
Views: 3,655
 Bill Fulton
- **Houston among the most politically polarized cities in America, analysis finds**
Views: 3,340
 Heather Leighton
- **Urban tree distribution reveals neighborhood inequalities within cities, including Houston**
Views: 3,147
 Christopher Servidio
- **The big picture for a big plan***
Views: 2,849
 Quincy D. Allen, P.E.
TxDOT Houston District Engineer
- **Public libraries are the crazy, radical ideas that might save society**
Views: 2,741
 Andy Olin
- **Dallas is whipping Houston in population growth, Census numbers reveal**
Views: 2,390
 Bill Fulton
- **In 2019, Houston faces tough challenges, big opportunities**
Views: 2,201
 Leah Binkovitz
- **There are less than six months until the 2019 city of Houston elections**
Views: 2,055
 Mark P. Jones
- **What's 'good' about the North Houston Highway Improvement Project***
Views: 1,747
 Sylvester Turner
Mayor, City of Houston
- **North Houston Highway Improvement Project offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity***
Views: 1,549
 Bob Eury
President, Central Houston

Page views captured from Jan. 1, 2019 to Dec. 31, 2019.

* Denotes post was part of a series on the I-45 project, published in June 2019.

Excerpt from one of the most popular Urban Edge posts in 2019:

Opportunity Zones: Gentrification on Steroids?



Photo: Flickr user Eric Allix Rogers.

BILL FULTON

A new federal program meant to spur investment in underserved areas could bring positive changes. Or it could hasten gentrification, particularly in Houston.

The Opportunity Zone program is probably the most important new federal program to address urban revitalization in decades. It's a program that holds great potential to help Houston's underserved neighborhoods — and also holds great risk in accelerating gentrification, especially inside the Loop.

The opportunity zone idea is basically an attempt to lure investors who are sitting on unrealized capital gains to invest in underserved, mostly urban neighborhoods. If you invest in these neighborhoods, you can defer capital or reduce gains, and if you wait long enough you don't have to pay any capital gains at all. The idea is that, because investors are trying to avoid paying taxes on capital gains, there are a lot of investors sitting on the sidelines with capital to invest. Opportunity zones hold the potential to lure those investors into underserved areas. Already, many investment funds have been created to take advantage of opportunity zones.

Go beyond the highlights:
kinder.rice.edu/urban-edge

Fundraising Highlights

Kinder Institute Luncheon

The 2019 Kinder Institute luncheon held on May 13 welcomed over 1,700 guests. This yearly gathering of Houston’s business, nonprofit and community leaders is one of Rice University’s largest annual fundraising events, raising more than \$750,000 in 2019. Presenting sponsors Chevron, Hines, Kinder Foundation, and Sis and Hasty Johnson were joined by hundreds of other donors to make the event a tremendous success.

Each year, guests are among the first to hear findings from Stephen L. Klineberg’s annual Kinder Houston Area Survey — the nation’s longest-running study of its kind for 38 years. In addition to honoring Jeff Hines for his years of service to Houston, gracing the stage were the institute’s Bill Fulton, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Rice’s David W. Leebron.



Bill Fulton and Jeff Hines, the 2019 Klineberg Award Recipient



Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo



Stephen L. Klineberg presenting the 2019 Kinder Houston Area Survey



Rich and Nancy Kinder, and Y. Ping Sun and David W. Leebron

State of the Institute

On Feb. 6, the institute's second annual State of the Institute was the first of many events for 2019. Created for institute donors and stakeholders, the 2019 event got underway with a welcome from Rich Kinder, followed by Rice University President David W. Leebron, and the Kinder Institute's

Stephen L. Klineberg, Ruth N. López Turley and Bill Fulton. The gathering celebrates some of the institute's key accomplishments, while also looking forward to the slate of offerings to follow for the year.

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*Includes gifts made through family foundations, donor-advised funds or other organizations.

†Denotes multiyear commitments to the Kinder Institute.

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2019 CONTRIBUTORS

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*Includes gifts made through family foundations, donor-advised funds or other organizations.

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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Kinder Institute's 2019 revenue totaled \$6.29 million and expenses totaled \$6.13 million. Revenue is a combination of fundraising, research grants and annual distributions from the institute's endowments. As of June 30, 2019, the institute's endowments had a market value of \$18.6 million. Our annual luncheon, a key fundraising event, grossed approximately \$751,000 in 2019.

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.

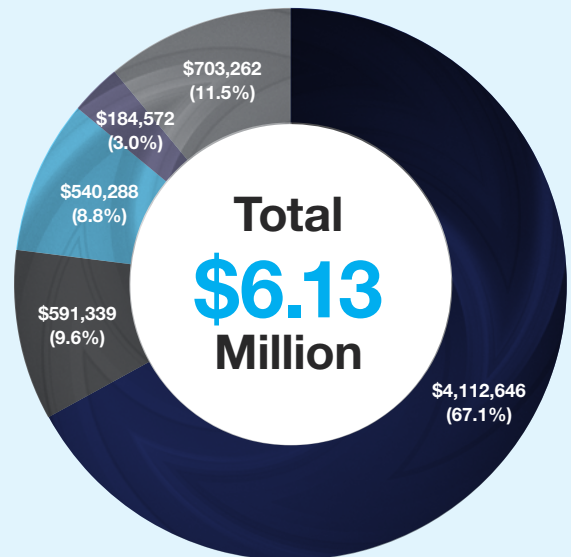
The fiscal year of Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research corresponds to that of the university, running from July 1 to June 30.

Revenue — Fiscal Year 2019



- Kinder Institute Endowment Distribution
- Contributed Revenue*
- Sponsored Research

Expenses — Fiscal Year 2019



- Sponsored Research
- Research Other**
- Fundraising
- Public Engagements
- Operations

*Contributed Revenue includes gifts and contributions

**Research Other is research supported by nonsponsored research programs

Income Statement – Fiscal Year 2019

Revenue	\$ 6,288,746
Kinder Institute Endowment Distribution	879,038
Contributed Revenue*	1,297,062
Sponsored Research	4,112,646
Expenses	\$ 6,132,107
Sponsored Research	4,112,646
Research Other**	591,339
Fundraising	540,288
Public Engagements	184,572
Operations	703,262
Net Income–Fiscal Year 2019	\$ 156,639

Kinder Institute Endowment History (Fiscal Years 2013–2019)

Fiscal Year	Beginning Endowment Value	Gifts Added	Investment Earnings	Earnings Distributed for Operations	Ending Endowment Value
FY2013	\$ 4,293,652	\$ 5,230,977	\$ 806,301	\$ (412,287)	\$ 9,918,643
FY2014	9,918,643	2,594,625	1,806,196	(475,830)	13,843,635
FY2015	13,843,635	2,659,699	671,042	(767,508)	16,406,868
FY2016	16,406,868	100,000	(142,080)	(773,320)	15,591,467
FY2017	15,591,467	—	2,391,384	(786,086)	17,196,765
FY2018	17,196,765	—	1,558,906	(680,802)	18,074,869
FY2019	18,074,869	—	1,439,394	(879,038)	18,635,225

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)

Faculty Advisory Committee

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.

2019–2020 Faculty Advisory Committee

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Professor and Department Chair, Sociology

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Professor Emeritus of Sociology
Founding Director, Kinder Institute

Ruth N. López Turley

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 institute's overall mission.

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Director, Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences
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Professor of Sociology
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Associate Director, Kinder Institute Urban Health Program
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Casey Durand

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University of Texas School of Public Health

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Co-Director, Social Analytics Cluster, and Steering Committee Member, Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences
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North Park University

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Kyle Shelton

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Rice University

Ruth N. López Turley

Director, Houston Education Research Consortium
Associate Director,
Kinder Institute for Urban Research
Professor of Sociology
Founder, National Network of Education
Research-Practice Partnerships
Rice University

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

Kwangyul Choi

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Metropolitan Growth and Change
University of Calgary

Elena Craft

Senior Health Scientist
Environmental Defense Fund

Chris Hakkenberg

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Northern Arizona University

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Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology
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Aimee VonBokel

Independent Scholar and Historian
Department of History
Houston Community College

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Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Rice University

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Director, Houston Education Research Consortium
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Kanchanah Kannathas

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Katherine Yang Bao

Research Analyst

Lizzy Bell Cashiola

Research Scientist

Patrick Gill

Research Analyst

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Manager, Research Data Operations Team
Site Program Manager, OECD

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Camila Cigorra Kennedy

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Kori Stroub

Research Scientist

Courtney Thrash

Research Analyst

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HISD Research Specialist

Jessica Vasan

HISD Research Manager

Postdoctoral Fellows

Ming Yin

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& Collaborative Learning

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Maya Reine

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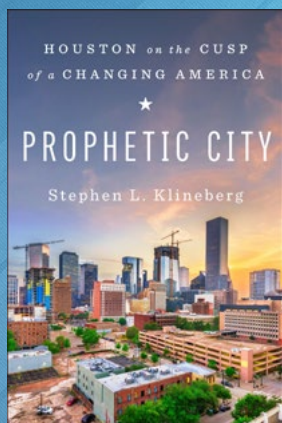
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Looking Ahead: 2020



The Kinder Institute turns 10!

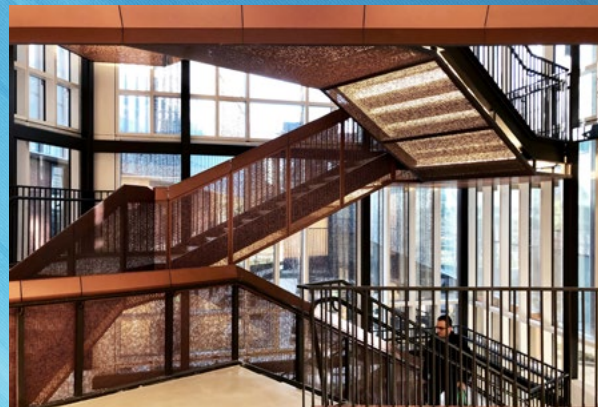


"It's taken 38 years, but the book about the Houston surveys is finally here. "Prophetic City" tells the story of Houston largely through the perspectives of the people of Houston, speaking both through the annual scientific studies and in the wide-ranging interviews we conducted for the book. It traces Houston's recovery from the 1980s' recession into the major transformations that are redefining all of America in

the 21st century — the growing inequalities in a knowledge-based economy, the epic demographic transition, and the new importance of quality of place. Houston, we claim, is where you can see the American future emerging. I am deeply grateful for the support and encouragement from so many good friends over these many years that have made it all possible."

Stephen L. Klineberg

Founding Director, Kinder Institute for Urban Research
Professor Emeritus of Sociology
Rice University



Kraft Hall

"The Rice campus is known internationally for its campus plan and quality of buildings. It is a remarkable honor to return to my alma mater and design the new Kraft Hall for Social Sciences, the new home for the Kinder Institute. I think my years spent on campus and since I was a student, have endowed me with a sense of what a Rice building is — and what a Rice building needs to be for the 21st century."

Rob Rogers, BA '81, BArch '83



Kraft Hall

Rice University/Public Affairs



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W: kinder.rice.edu



Mission

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

Rose Rougeau
2019 Annual Report
E: rose.rougeau@rice.edu

Published: April 2020