

Houston to celebrate third annual Citizenship Week

From CITY OF HOUSTON | Posted: Wednesday, November 9, 2011 3:23 pm

Mayor Annise Parker is urging Houstonians to participate in the City of Houston's Third Annual Citizenship Week. This year's observance runs November 13-19 and will feature more than 180 events and activities across the city celebrating what it means to be a Houstonian, including student poetry contests, art exhibitions, citizenship workshops, discussions about Houston's history, and other events and performances representing many culturally-diverse communities.

"We just completed the most important act of civic engagement and citizenship with yesterday's election," said Mayor Parker. "Unfortunately, this right is often taken for granted. With that in mind, I hope all Houstonians will renew their citizenship commitment by participating in Citizenship Week."

Citizenship Week will kick off with an opening Ceremony at the Houston Ballet Center for Dance at 6 pm on Sunday, Nov. 13, organized as a thank you for the many community members sponsoring events throughout the week.

Citizenship Week is sponsored by the City of Houston and many prominent community organizations and businesses, including: The Catholic Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Neighborhood Centers Inc., University of Houston-Downtown, Houston Community College, Lone Star College-Kingwood, Boat People SOS, American Jewish Committee, United Nations Association-USA Houston Chapter, Society of Iranian-American Women, NALEO Educational Fund, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Department of Neighborhoods/Office of International Communities, University of St. Thomas, US Citizenship and Immigration Services, Foster Quan LLP, the Consular Ladies Club and many others.

This is the first accomplishment of the new Office of International Communities. Mayor Parker thanked the many volunteers who have worked with the OIC to make Citizenship Week possible. She also thanked the team of honorary co-chairs:

- First Lady Kathy Hubbard
- Angela Blanchard, President and CEO, Neighborhood Centers Inc.
- Former Mayor Lee Brown
- Bill Flores, President, University of Houston – Downtown
- Charles Foster, Consul General of the Kingdom of Thailand
- Former Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia
- Robert Ivany, President, University of St. Thomas
- Renu Khator, Chancellor and President, University of Houston
- Former Mayor Bob Lanier
- Stan Marek, President and CEO, The Marek Family Companies

- Laura Murillo, President and Chief Executive Officer, Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Former Houston City Council Member Gordon Quan
- Former Houston City Council Member Judson W. Robinson
- Dr. Mary Spangler, Chancellor and President, Houston Community College System
- Harriet Wasserstrum, President, American Leadership Forum

This is the first year an Honorary Co-Chair committee has been established. The purpose of the committee is to enhance visibility and provide advice and expertise to make the program a more comprehensive citywide signature institution next year and beyond.

To learn more about Citizenship Week and the weeklong event schedule, visit www.citizenshipweek.org, <http://www.houstontx.gov/neighborhoods/citizenshipweek2011.html>, email citizenshipweek2011@houstontx.gov, or call 832-393-0939.

http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/bellaire/living/houston-to-celebrate-third-annual-citizenship-week/article_d06e0aeb-f131-5a12-9198-746a395a4837.html