

Celebrating 40 years!



A 40-Year Foundation of Success

BY B. J. SIMON

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Over the course of four decades, the Baytown/West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation has endeavored to make the Baytown / Chambers County region the best move for corporate expansion and relocation.

Our work has focused on facilitating economic growth and the creation of wealth by collaboratively anticipating and addressing regional issues, resulting in many of the most prestigious companies selecting Baytown and Chambers County for new investments, creating broad-based employment for thousands, and a compelling story about continuous capital expansions, job creation, generational broadening and deepening of the tax base, and mastering challenges on behalf of business and industry.

We attribute our success to strong public-private leadership and supportive strategic partners. Guiding the EDF is a 35-member Board of Directors representing major industry, financial institutions, chambers of commerce, local media, citizens, the City of Baytown, Chambers County, and Harris County. Our financial partners include local businesses, Chambers County, Port Houston, the City of Baytown, the Cedar Port Navigation and Improvement District, and Chambers County Improvement District #2.

As we celebrate this important anniversary, we look forward to the future and shaping its evolving realities via the implementation of Project Horizon 2035, a framework of Five Vision Trends to guide our efforts over the next decade.

Vision Trend 1: Continued Strategic Growth and Investment Attraction

The Baytown-Chambers County region, also known as Metro East, has above-average employment growth and is projected to continue outperforming both Texas and national averages through the end of this decade.

Investment trends demonstrate active corporate interests, strong regional demand, and momentum in midstream and downstream petrochemicals, advanced manufacturing, logistics and distribution expansions, and diversified energy projects.

The EDF will continue to serve as an integrator and key intermediary between local government, industry, special purpose districts, and investors, stewarding the acquisition of new investments.

Vision Trend 2: Deepening Industrial & Logistics Cluster Development

Baytown-West Chambers County is already a strategic international industrial region, a core economic spine with substantial assets, i.e., Port Houston, Cedar Port, Ameriport, and Port 10, complemented by accessible integrated multimodal capacity (highway, rail, barge), which appeals to heavy industry and logistics.

Central Chambers County acreage, potential colocation opportunities, and the advent of broadened deepwater capacity are additive to these existing structural advantages.

The EDF will reinforce Metro East's competitive advantage prioritizing industrial expansion, and diversifying investment portfolios, targeting the following sector clusters:

- Energy and petrochemicals (continued expansion of existing complexes);
- Advanced manufacturing; and
- Logistics and supply chain infrastructure.

Vision Trend 3: Workforce & Talent Infrastructure Focus

The region's workforce is described as young, diverse, and skilled, with a sizeable labor shed that extends far beyond Metro East. Workforce training partnerships — supported by Lee College, four ISDs, the Texas Workforce Commission, and industry will become even

more central as the EDF helps employers access skilled labor. EDF will play a central role in promulgating and articulating workforce strategies that:

- Foster strategy & tactics to increase training incentives;
- Promote strategies to attract and retain talent; and
- Partner with education and vocational institutions to align supply with demand.

Vision Trend 4: Strong Public-Private Partnerships

Historically, the EDF has leveraged multi-stakeholder partnerships (i.e., cities, counties, industry, councils of government, regional economic development allies, chambers of commerce, and civic partners) to attract new business and investment. Funding and sponsorship have grown, supported by diverse sources.

The EDF will continue to act as a hub for collaboration across public, private, and nonprofit sectors and engage in public-private programs which support strategic growth through renewed public-private partnerships.

Vision Trend 5: Broader Regional Positioning & Branding

As global supply chains and energy markets continue to evolve, the EDF will highlight Foreign Trade Zones #84 & #171 to attract export-oriented businesses and capital investment.

We will continue to distinguish Metro East within the Greater Houston economic ecosystem, and the Gulf Coast / Texas Triangle megaregion.

Since the beginning, we've believed business — whether an industrial entity, petrochemicals, advanced manufacturing, advanced recycling, wholesale distribution, logistics, healthcare, retail, or commercial development — can tap its individual and integrated potential in the region. We continue to endeavor to assist in that regard.



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Jason Reynolds
Officer
City Manager
of Baytown

A vision for the future and a glimpse of the past

Take a dive into the archives of The Baytown Sun to see what the Baytown - West Chambers County Economic Development

Foundation has been busy with for the past four decades. The next few pages feature some previously published articles, written

by many different people. There were too many to show them all, but this is a sample. We hope you enjoy this glimpse into the EDF's history.



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