

Press Release

Contact Information:

The Energy Corridor District

Kenzie Copeland

281-759-3800

kcopeland@energycorridor.org



DESIGNWORKSHOP



The Energy Corridor District Accelerates Major Planning Projects with Design Workshop and Halff Associates

Houston, TX - The Energy Corridor District recently kicked off two major strategic planning projects that will impact the future of the Energy Corridor for years to come. The District's Strategic Action Plan will be supported by [Halff Associates](#), and the Design Standards and Streetscape Guidelines will be developed by [Design Workshop](#). Both projects – expected to be completed in 2021 – will greatly benefit the District's service area.

“The Strategic Action Plan and the Design Standards and Streetscape Guidelines projects will guide the Energy Corridor's future opportunity for growth, development, and redevelopment, said the Energy Corridor District's Executive Director, Elijah J. Williams. “These two strategic planning projects emphasize a strong sense of place and identity, sound infrastructure, and visionary – yet practical – planning, which positions us for an exciting and successful future.”

“The outcomes of both important projects will result in actionable strategies and plans to advance key goals related to the District's core services and future outlook. We are excited to work with Halff Associates and Design Workshop, as both firms bring sound expertise and experiences in support of accomplishing our long-term planning objectives,” added Williams.

The Strategic Action Plan will position the Energy Corridor District as one of the most desirable places in the region. Halff Associates will identify implementable strategies to guide future development and redevelopment opportunities, which will help distinguish key objectives to ensure that the District remains competitive in the future. The final report will include a Capital Improvements Plan that will highlight infrastructure projects for the next 15 years in order of priority, establish preliminary cost estimates, and identify partnering agencies.

“As one of the prominent business districts in Houston, the Energy Corridor is evolving into a diverse, mixed-use destination as it reflects emerging global and national trends which are impacting multiple business sectors,” said Aaron Tuley, Director of Planning with Halff Associates. “We are excited about working with the District to anticipate and plan for how we do business in a rapidly changing, post-pandemic, post-carbon economy and how this may impact the character and intensity of the District's built environment.”

The Design Standards and Streetscape Guidelines project involves the development of dynamic design standards and streetscape guidelines for the District in order to support optimal planning, design, and construction of developments and redevelopments by both private groups and public agencies. Ultimately,

this project will define the District's sense of place and allow for more cohesive planning throughout the area, all while enhancing long-term economic vitality within the District and beyond.

“We understand the importance of ensuring that the Energy Corridor remains a desirable place to live, work, play and invest,” said Alex Ramirez, Office Director of Design Workshop's Houston office. “Our team is excited to play an instrumental role in shaping the future of the Energy Corridor by developing guidelines that will positively influence future development and we are committed to facilitating a dialogue with key stakeholders and community members to achieve this.”

Stakeholder and community engagement will be instrumental throughout both projects. The District will identify individuals to take part in the engagement process to ensure a diverse set of opinions from District stakeholders and beyond. Input from those who work and live in the District will be instrumental throughout the planning processes.

Halff Associates and Design Workshop were selected through a competitive Request for Qualifications process. Both firms clearly demonstrated the highest abilities to perform the Energy Corridor District's tasks.

About the Energy Corridor District

The Energy Corridor District is an advocate for one of Houston's premier business centers and destinations. Established in 2001 by the Texas Legislature as Harris County Improvement District #4, the District was created to promote, develop, encourage, maintain employment, commerce, transportation, housing, recreation, arts, entertainment, economic development, safety, and the public welfare within its boundaries. Visit www.energycorridor.org for more information.

About Design Workshop

Founded in 1969, Design Workshop is an internationally renowned design firm specializing in landscape architecture, urban planning and strategic services with eight offices in the U.S. and projects spanning the globe. The firm has been recognized with more than 535 prestigious awards. Design Workshop differentiates its planning and design process through DW Legacy Design®, the integration of art, community, environment and economics in every project. From fragile ecosystems to urban sites in rapidly changing cities, Design Workshop works in challenging environments around the world. For additional information visit www.designworkshop.com.

About Halff Associates

Halff is an employee-owned, multidiscipline professional services firm. For more than 70 years, Halff has provided innovative solutions for clients and communities throughout the United States, offering full-service planning, engineering, architecture, landscape architecture, environmental, energy, right of way, visualization and surveying services. Halff has 25 offices in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas and Florida. The firm was recognized as a 2020 Top 100 Places to Work by the *Houston Chronicle*. For more information, visit www.halff.com and follow us on LinkedIn.