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ENGAGING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES IN CONSERVATION 2024 UPDATES

Galveston Bay Estuary Program

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PROJECT THUS FAR:

- BPA has established and signed MOU agreements with three Houston-based environmentally focused non-profits. The partners are Citizens' Environmental Coalition, Greens Bayou Coalition, and White Oak Bayou Association.
- We are collaborating with these partners to create an approved activities list that will help everyone involved understand the goals of this grant: community conservation, watershed health and protection, outreach, and education.
- BPA is collaborating with each partner to develop a job description for their intern that will be specifically tailored to meet each organization's needs and community conservation outreach goals.
- BPA has also created an initial list of training sessions and classes the interns will attend during the grant to enhance their skills for future job opportunities.

PARTNER CHOICES

- Expanding Grant Goals & Deliverables BPA chose each partner to help enhance outreach and community conservation, particularly by supporting under-resourced organizations.
- Building Capacity Selected small, volunteer-led, or board-run organizations that would greatly benefit from increased capacity.
- Established Relationships BPA has strong, long-standing partnerships with each selected organization.

- Greens Bayou Coalition (GBC) Partnered to support the recently created Greens Bayou Protection Plan and assist in its implementation.
- White Oak Bayou Association (WOBA) Addressing ongoing environmental challenges such as I-10 construction, urban sprawl, and bacterial contamination.
- <u>Citizens' Environmental Coalition (CEC)</u> Selected for their mission of connecting Houston's environmental community and providing career and advocacy opportunities.

BAYOU PRESERVATION

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NEXT STEPS

ESTABLISH A DRAFT ACTIVITIES LIST

BPA is collaborating with its partners to create a draft activities list. This list will also serve as a guide for the partners to understand the types of work the intern can perform and to establish tasks that are not appropriate for the intern as well.

INTERN OUTREACH, SELECTION, AND TRAINING

- Develop Intern Job Description: Work with partners to outline intern roles and the skills required for successful community conservation outreach.
- Recruitment & Marketing: Implement outreach efforts to promote intern positions via TXCC, SCA, and UHD.
- Training & Development: Choose and arrange intern training sessions with American Water College, TCEQ, AgriLife, and other pertinent programs.