



GREETINGS

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Partners for Livable Communities, it is a pleasure to welcome you to the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel for the Ninth Annual Bridge Builders Award Ceremony and Dinner. It is an honor to recognize these leaders who have committed themselves to partnerships that transcend social, cultural, and economic barriers confronting their communities. By reaching across boundaries and building bridges, they exemplify the enterprise and enthusiasm that makes America great. Please join us this evening in offering these community partners the applause they deserve.

GLEND A HOOD
*Former Secretary of State
State of Florida
Chair, Executive Committee
Partners for Livable Communities*

Anheuser-Busch, Inc. is pleased to underwrite the Partners for Livable Communities Bridge Builders Awards. These awards recognize community and business leaders for the creative direction they have taken in crossing boundaries of social, cultural, and economic equity for the well being of their communities. Their initiative has required both professional and personal courage. They represent the best of the American Spirit. Anheuser-Busch is proud to recognize the success of their efforts, and the example they set for the rest of us to follow.

ANTHONY J. JONES
*Senior Director
Community Outreach
Anheuser-Busch, Inc.*

BRIDGE BUILDERS PROGRAM

6:00 PM RECEPTION

COLONIAL ROOM TERRACE

7:00 PM WELCOME

HOST

GLENDA HOOD

Former Secretary of State

State of Florida

Chair, Executive Committee

Partners for Livable Communities

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

CHARLES ROYER

President

Institute for Community Change

7:15 PM DINNER

COLONIAL ROOM

8:30 PM AWARDS PROGRAM

COLONIAL ROOM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

MARY LANDRIEU

US Senator

State of Louisiana

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies CHARLES ROYER

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

BILL WHITE
Mayor
City of Houston, Texas

ROBERT ECKELS
County Judge
Harris County, Texas

KEN WOODLEY
Editor
The Farmville Herald

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Henry Marsh
State Senator

KATHLEEN GUINAN
Chief Executive Officer
Crossway Community, Inc.

DOUGLAS DUNCAN
County Executive
Montgomery County, Maryland

JANE LANG
Trustee
Sprenger Lang Foundation

TISHMAN CONSTRUCTION
CORPORATION OF DC
Jim Sherwood
Vice President

DAVID WALTON
Senior Minister
Belmont Christian Church

CITY OF ROANOKE
Rolanda Russell
Assistant City Manager

DAPHNE KWOK
Executive Director
The Angel Island Immigration
Station Foundation

BRIAN O'NEILL
Superintendent
Golden Gate National
Recreation Area

BOB SANTOS
Executive Director
Inter*Im

LARRY GOSSET
Councilmember
King County, Washington

ROBERTO MAESTAS
Executive Director
El Centro de la Raza

DORRY ELIAS-GARCIA
Executive Director
Minority Executive Directors
Coalition of King County



GLEND A HOOD



Governor Jeb Bush appointed Orlando Mayor Glenda Hood as Secretary of State effective February 2003, where she served until November 2005. As Secretary of State she was responsible for the Department's Division of Administrative Services, Division of Corporations, Division of Cultural Affairs, Division of Elections, Division of Historical Resources, and the Division of Library and Information Services.

In addition, the Secretary of State is Florida's chief elections officer and chief cultural officer.

Prior to her appointment as Secretary of State, Glenda Hood was elected the first female Mayor of the City of Orlando in 1992 and served three terms. From increasing city safety to developing educational programs for children to assisting small businesses, Hood's commendable work in Orlando reflects her dedication to safe, livable neighborhoods and strong local economies. In April 2002, President Bush commended Hood for establishing a Citizen Corps, a new initiative that creates opportunities for individuals to volunteer for disaster preparedness programs in their communities.

Before becoming Mayor in 1992, Secretary Hood served as an Orlando City Council member and was president of her own public relations firm. She has served as past president of the National League of Cities, the Florida League of Cities and the Florida Chamber of Commerce. Secretary Hood's administration reflects a vision for Florida shaped by her years as a businesswoman, her involvement in community work as well as her leadership positions on advisory boards at the national, state and local levels.



CHARLES ROYER



Charles Royer is one of America's foremost urban experts, commentators, executives and enablers. As mayor, he led Seattle through a 12-year period of rapid regional growth and innovation, that ultimately resulted in recognition as the nation's "Most Livable," and "Best Managed" city. A long-time reporter and television personality before entering politics, Royer left the mayor's office to teach at the John F Kennedy School of Government where he also directed Harvard's Institute of Politics from 1990 to 1995.

He is currently the President of the Institute for Community Change, an organization that evolved from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Urban Health Initiative, formerly associated with the University of Washington. The Institute works to improve the health and safety of children across five of the country's most challenging regions. Royer also serves as the on-air host and writer for the American Architectural Foundation's series of television programs, "Saving America's Cities by Design," that appear on PBS.

In 1983, Royer was elected president of the National League of Cities. He chaired the National Advisory Committee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Health Care for the Homeless Initiative, served on the National Commission on State and Local Public Service, was a member of the President's Commission on White House Fellows, and serves as a member of the Aspen Institute's Roundtable on Comprehensive Community Development.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

MARY LANDRIEU



Senator Mary Landrieu began her public service career in 1979 when she became the youngest woman ever elected to the Louisiana State House of Representatives. Eight years later she served as the Louisiana State Treasurer, and in 1996 assumed her current role as Senator for Louisiana. Today she is the state's senior senator, and serves on the Senate Appropriations, Energy and Natural Resources, and Small Business Committees.

In 1999, Senator Landrieu became the first Democratic woman to serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee. She was on the Armed Services Committee just a few months when she negotiated a major compromise that broke a five-year partisan deadlock, allowing the Senate to move forward with a policy for developing a National Missile Defense system.

A leader in dealing with both energy and the environment, Senator Landrieu aggressively fights for Louisiana jobs and continues to guide her colleagues toward development of a national energy policy that will increase domestic production and lessen the country's dependence on foreign oil. She has also been an effective and tireless advocate for saving Louisiana's vanishing coastline and wetlands, for improving education, and for domestic and international adoption.

The daughter of former New Orleans Mayor and U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Moon Landrieu and Verna Landrieu, Senator Landrieu is married to Frank Snellings and they have two children.

THE BRIDGE BUILDERS AWARD

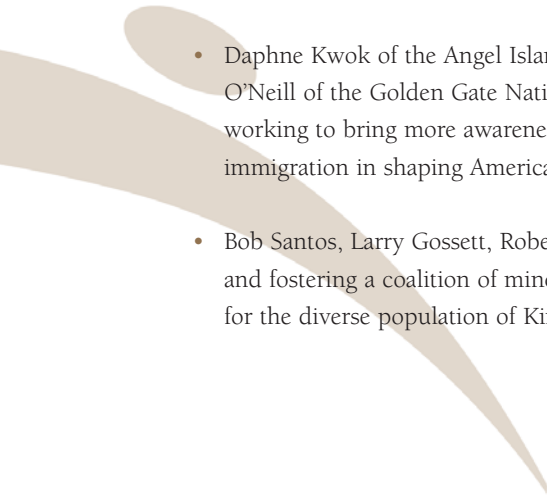
Partners inaugurated the Bridge Builders Awards in October 1997 to recognize outstanding individuals and institutions for building bridges of understanding and cooperation across social, economic, regional, and racial divides and creating fruitful and lasting partnerships for the betterment of their communities.

Inspiration for the award program came from the work of the late Dan Sweat in Atlanta, GA, specifically the contributions he made to improve the fortunes of the inner city through his leadership of Central Atlanta Progress. His remarkable ability to bring downtown business leaders together to form public-private partnerships resulted in vacant land being slated for mixed income housing and beautification of the city. Sweat and his partner in government, the late Maynard Jackson, set a high standard followed by fellow awardees from across the U.S. and abroad. Together, Sweat and Jackson devoted their skills and energies to unite the city's black and white communities, as well as the private and public sectors for the betterment of Atlanta.

In the spirit of Dan Sweat and Maynard Jackson, Partners seeks to shine a spotlight on those who are crossing social and political divides, bringing people together, and creating partnerships that enrich their cities. In each case, award winners have demonstrated a commitment to creating lasting change in their communities based on a strategy of collaboration.



Tonight the Bridge Builders Award is presented to the following individuals and organizations that exemplify the ideals of community partnerships that foster hope and envision a future that transcends the barriers of race, culture, geography and economics.

- Mayor Bill White of the City of Houston and County Judge Robert Eckels of Harris County, TX for their collaboration in coming to the aid of the Hurricane Katrina victims.
 - Ken Woodley of The Farmville Herald and the Commonwealth of Virginia for creating educational opportunity in the form of scholarships to individuals who were denied public education fifty years ago.
 - Kathleen Guinan of Crossway Community and County Executive Douglas Duncan of Montgomery County, MD for creating an education and housing facility that low-income, at-risk families can use as a resource for taking control of their lives.
 - Jane Lang of the Sprenger Lang Foundation and the Tishman Construction Corporation of DC for renovating a community-based performing arts center that has served as the catalyst for the revitalization of Near Northeast in Washington, DC.
 - Reverend David Walton and the City of Roanoke, VA for working together to rebuild the neighborhood of Southeast Roanoke and improve the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors.
 - Daphne Kwok of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation and Brian O'Neill of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area for their leadership in working to bring more awareness of the important role of Pacific Coast immigration in shaping America's past, present, and future.
 - Bob Santos, Larry Gossett, Robert Maestas, and Dorry Elias-Garcia for building and fostering a coalition of minority leaders who work together to best advocate for the diverse population of King County, WA.
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CITY-COUNTY COOPERATION

Collaboration in a Time of Crisis

In a matter of days in late August 2005, over 150,000 evacuees from Gulf Coast states poured into Harris County and the City of Houston seeking shelter and sustenance. City and county relief efforts began immediately as the county-owned Astrodome was turned into a mini-city for 23,000 special needs evacuees within 24 hours.

Amidst the despair at the Superdome in New Orleans and the plight of Katrina victims along that coastal community, the Astrodome became a symbol of safety and refuge. As a result an initial request to house 2,000 multiplied to 23,000. In the end, what would become Reliant City housed over 28,000. Other efforts within Harris County and the City of Houston would house an additional 38,000 people.

The strong leadership and quick response by Houston Mayor Bill White and Harris County Judge Robert Eckels is a national example of successful collaboration in a time of crisis. This partnership worked, not because it was an essential element necessary for the response's success, but because collaboration was a principle already in practice at the top of each administration.

It is this existing spirit of working together that made all parts of the local Katrina operation mesh as smoothly as possible. Judge Eckels and Mayor White also have worked to ensure the effectiveness of direct dialogue by scheduling regular meetings between themselves, their public infrastructure departments and homeland security/emergency management officials. Other city-county actions during hurricane recovery include establishing a local fund that has raised over \$6 million to provide assistance, helping evacuees find homes, schools, and jobs and coordinating city-county appeals to businesses, faith-based groups and volunteer organizations so that the response would have uniform direction and outcomes.

Mayor White and Judge Eckels have found ways to offer shelter and hope in the face of extreme tragedy, and have achieved these goals through an understanding that teamwork is essential to good leadership. Not only has this benefited the evacuees from the Gulf Coast, but in the long run this dedicated partnership will help to create opportunity for everyone throughout Harris County and the City of Houston.



BILL WHITE



Elected mayor of the nation's fourth largest city with 63% of the vote, Mayor Bill White has worked tirelessly to improve the economy, enhance the quality of life in Houston's neighborhoods, and make Houston's City Hall the most efficient and responsive in the nation. White helped attract two major employers to the City, eased expansion of current business by streamlining the building permit process, reduced traffic congestion, used his business experience to put the City's financial house in order, and has plans to build more affordable housing and improve air quality.

Before serving as mayor, White built one of the region's most successful businesses, the investment firm WEDGE group. He has also served as Deputy Secretary of Energy of the United States. For decades, Mayor White and his wife Andrea have helped lead numerous charitable and civic organizations in Houston.



ROBERT ECKELS



County Judge Robert Eckels is the presiding officer of Harris County Commissioners Court. A conservative steward of public funds, he has brought various constituencies together to develop solutions on issues ranging from transportation to public health. Additionally, under his leadership as director of the county's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Harris County has become a national model for preparedness and response to emergency situations.

Eckels, a former State Representative from 1983-1995, also serves as the Chair of the Harris County Juvenile Board and is on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Counties (NACo), where he serves on NACo's Homeland Security Task Force and is past Chair of NACo's Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee. He is past president of the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas and the County Executives of America.

BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Making Up for Lost Opportunity

Almost 50 years ago, the public schools in Prince Edward County, Virginia were shut down to avoid what a Farmville Herald editorial described in 1959 as a “Communist plan to disrupt American life and reduce the white race to impotency.” In an effort to right the wrongs of the past, actions by the current editor of The Farmville Herald and the leadership of the Commonwealth of Virginia have made it possible for over 3,000 persons, who had formerly been denied an education, to go back to school for the first time since the Brown vs. Board of Education decision in 1954.

In 2003, the Commonwealth of Virginia passed a resolution to express profound regret for the school closings. Ken Woodley, the current editor of The Farmville Herald, who felt a degree of responsibility as a representative of the paper that had, before his time, spurred lawmakers to withdraw funding from the schools, supported this motion but decided that something concrete should be offered beyond a formal apology stating regret. Shortly after the resolution was passed, Woodley began securing sponsorship of legislation in the Virginia House of Delegates and State Senate that would make state money available to those who had not been able to finish public school. Woodley led a 17-month crusade that included editorials, letters to legislators, and demonstrations by those affected by the closings for passage of the Brown v. Board of Education scholarship legislation.

In 2004, the proposed \$1 million budget amendment to fund the scholarships was passed by the State House and Senate with support from the governor, numerous other officials, and a \$1 million matching donation by media philanthropist John Kluge. The first Brown v. Board of Education Scholarships were awarded in June of 2005 with 3000 persons eligible to receive \$5,500 each to enroll in a GED program, earn a high school diploma or a two-year or four-year undergraduate degree, or to complete a five-year undergraduate degree.

Ken Woodley and the Commonwealth of Virginia both stand as leaders in a fight that continues to this day. Both have found a way to positively use the power of their positions to try to make up for deeds committed in the past, and offer opportunity and education to those who had it stripped away from them so long ago.



KEN WOODLEY



Ken Woodley, Editor of The Farmville Herald, is the only back-to-back winner of the Virginia Press Association's (VPA) D. Lathan Mims Award for Editorial Service to the Community, and he has won more than two dozen other VPA writing awards. In 1994, then-Governor George Allen appointed Woodley to the administration's Opportunity Virginia initiative and Woodley subsequently co-founded Virginia's Heartland, a multi-county economic development organization in Southside Virginia. In 1999, Woodley conceived Virginia's Uninsured Medical Catastrophe Fund, which was then created by the General Assembly. A bill in Congress proposed in 2003 would create a national fund mirroring the Virginia plan.

The 48-year old Woodley has served on the Boards of the United Way of Prince Edward County, the Southside Virginia Family YMCA, the Farmville Habitat For Humanity Steering Committee, and he is a past president of the Farmville Area Chamber of Commerce.



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

REPRESENTED BY HENRY MARSH



The Commonwealth of Virginia has over 7 million people, making it the twelfth largest state in the United States. Under current Governor Mark Warner, the state has recently passed initiatives to help workers find jobs, embrace healthier lifestyles, improve education, make state government more efficient, encourage public service, provide health insurance to children, reform taxes, and heighten security.

Henry Marsh served on the Richmond City Council from 1966 to 1991 in various roles including becoming the first African-American mayor in 1977. In 1991 he was elected to the State Senate and is currently serving his fourth term in that role. He has been involved with the fight against the policy of "massive resistance" which was Virginia's response to the Brown v. Board of Education case since he first started his legal career in 1961.



CROSSWAY-COMMUNITY, INC

Helping Families to Help Themselves

Operating out of a formerly abandoned Kensington, Maryland school, Crossway–Community, Inc prides itself on using education as the powerful tool that can help families of all ethnicities and cultures take control of their lives. In its fifteen plus years working with Montgomery County, the organization has been successful in transforming the best aspects of homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters and transitional housing programs into true learning communities for low-income, at-risk families on its fourteen acre campus that now includes family support services, a housing complex, and a community center.

Kathleen Guinan's experience as a single mother sparked her interest in creating the Crossway Community program in order to deal with what she saw as the three big issues facing struggling single-parent families: housing, childcare and education. The model she began to pursue required a physical facility and with the help of Montgomery County, Guinan found the perfect setting to start her program. In 1990, she was granted the use of the abandoned school structure by the County who also agreed to maintain the exterior of the facility while Crossway Community controlled the interior and programming. This commitment gave the program an immediate edge in offering clients a campus, fields, 30 units of housing, a school with 10 classrooms, a security system, and the freedom to develop an education plan for each family.

For the past decade, under the leadership of Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan, Crossway Community has thrived. In his position, Duncan has provided ongoing support for Crossway Community which is a testament to his beliefs that a prevention-oriented framework leads to social services that are socially and financially successful. As a result of the partnership that gave the program a home, Crossway Community now serves up to 1,500 families per year throughout the Washington, DC area through services and activities involving the Family Leadership School, the Crossway Community Montessori School, and the Neighborhood Learning Center.

Kathleen Guinan and Douglas Duncan hold similar convictions about the importance of education and attention in helping people improve the quality of their lives. Together, both Crossway Community and Montgomery County stand as innovators in the quest to build effective, prevention-based social service programs that work for the families who need them most.



KATHLEEN GUINAN



Kathleen Guinan is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Crossway–Community, Inc. Under her leadership, Crossway Community has repeatedly earned national recognition, including the Fannie Mae Foundation’s “Transition Award,” designation for two years as a “Community Solution for Education” by *USA Today*, and participation in the Yale School of Management Non-Profit Excellence Program.

In addition, Guinan has been awarded the Metropolitan Life Enterprise Foundation “Best Practice Award.”

Guinan has twenty-five years of experience initiating and managing programs serving families and seniors across socioeconomic lines including Rachel’s Women’s Center, and Bread for the City (formerly Zacchaeus Clinic and Zacchaeus Community Kitchen). She has made numerous appearances in the media, as well as presentations at local, regional, and national conferences and workshops on topics ranging from family support to supportive housing programs.



DOUGLAS DUNCAN



Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan is currently serving an unprecedented third term as the top elected official of Maryland’s largest jurisdiction, and is running for governor of Maryland in 2006. Since his election in 1994, Duncan has provided hands-on leadership to improve educational excellence, strengthen environmental protections, fight poverty and urban blight, and position Montgomery County as an international biotechnology leader. Duncan has led Montgomery County through its transformation from a suburban bedroom community into a thriving urban center recognized for visionary land planning, its global technology industry and vast open space and parks.

Upon graduating from Columbia University in three years, Duncan worked for Montgomery County’s criminal justice commission, and then spent 13 years in the private sector working in the telecommunications industry. In 1982, Duncan was elected to the Rockville City Council, where he served three terms, and was then elected mayor for three terms.

ATLAS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Culture Builds Near Northeast

The historic Atlas Movie Theatre in Near Northeast, Washington, DC closed its doors soon after the 1968 riots devastated H Street following Martin Luther King's murder. With its economic and social hub destroyed, the surrounding neighborhood suffered decades of poverty, crime and neglect. Since 2001, inspired by the vision of one woman and guided by a dedicated construction company, many have joined to support the reinvention of the Atlas as a community-based performing arts center, bringing new life to the long abandoned H Street corridor.

Jane Lang first encountered the deteriorated Atlas building in 2001 as she searched for a small building to convert to a theater where she and other independent producers could work. The Atlas site engendered a larger vision: a facility that would become the cultural cornerstone of a revitalized Near Northeast community, attracting a broad range of performing artists to its multiple venues.

The Tishman Construction Corporation of DC understood this vision and its value to the neighborhood. In consideration of the significance of this unique site to the revitalization of Near Northeast, the company offered its services as construction manager at cost, earning no profit. By foregoing its usual fee, Tishman saved the center \$1 million dollars. Moreover, the Tishman team reached beyond their role in managing the renovation. They committed themselves to working with the community through daily interactions, meetings and events, extending their long days into many nights. Their pride in the Atlas is reflected in their attention to historic detail in the renovation, and in their respect for the cultural and community values inherent in this project.

Through the dedication of Jane Lang, working hand in hand with the Tishman team, and the support of hundreds who have been inspired by the vision, the Atlas Performing Arts Center is nearing completion. Already it houses the African Continuum Theatre Company, Joy of Motion Dance Center and many other performing artists and arts educators. When completed in mid-2006, the Atlas will have the capacity to bring 5,000 people to H Street weekly. The energy and potential of the Atlas renovation have spurred the redevelopment of many neighboring properties and businesses and triggered the revitalization of the eastern end of the H Street Northeast corridor, newly designated by the City as an "arts and entertainment district."



JANE LANG



Before beginning a second career in the arts, Jane Lang was a successful litigator on behalf of victims of workplace discrimination and with her husband, Paul Sprenger, founded the firm of Sprenger & Lang. Together, they garnered hundreds of millions of dollars for minorities, women, older and displaced workers nationwide and effected major changes in employment practices. In 2001, Lang was honored by the Washington Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights with the Wiley Branton Award for lifetime achievements in civil rights.

Lang's second career is channeled through the family foundation she and Paul created in 1997, the Sprenger Lang Foundation. In addition to supporting DC arts organizations, the Foundation produced the Helen Hayes award-winning play *Leaving the Summer Land* and the widely-acclaimed play, *Beyond Glory*. Lang and Paul live in Washington, DC. They have five children and twelve grandchildren.



TISHMAN CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION OF DC

REPRESENTED BY JIM SHERWOOD



Tishman Construction Corporation of DC is part of the world-renowned Tishman Construction Corporation family that has guided the construction process for hundreds of clients and thousands of projects worldwide totaling more than 300 million square feet in base building construction or renovation. Since 1991, Tishman Construction Corporation of DC's construction expertise has contributed to the successful construction and renovation of numerous commercial and cultural projects in the Washington, DC area, including the newly opened Strathmore Music Center.

With 20 total years of experience in the construction industry and nine with Tishman, Vice President Jim Sherwood has consistently taken a lead role in the design, preconstruction and construction efforts of over \$130 million of high complex, fast-track projects throughout the DC metro area. Jim is currently responsible for operations for all projects in the mid-Atlantic region.



SOUTHEAST... BY DESIGN

Revitalization One Community at a Time

A walk down Bullitt or Jamison Avenue in Southeast Roanoke, Virginia a few years ago would have shown massive traffic, dilapidated houses, and empty storefronts. Today, traffic calming measures have been installed, houses are being fixed, and new stores are opening, thanks to the initiative of the City of Roanoke and the leadership of Reverend David Walton.

In 2001, the City Council of Roanoke adopted the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, which aimed to build strong neighborhoods and a strong economy by combining federal housing funds and other city resources to improve one area at a time. When Reverend David Walton heard of this initiative, he approached the city and asked that the community of Southeast Roanoke be the pilot project. The program, titled 'Southeast... By Design,' was up and running in the beginning of 2003 with Reverend Walton as the chair of the program's Steering Committee. The plan was to infuse Southeast Roanoke with \$6.8 million of public and private funds to support programs and construction with the money coming from federal Community Development Block Grants and HOME funds, private lenders, and the city's general fund.

As chair of the committee, Reverend Walton convened meetings and worked with city staff, the City Council, and community members to coordinate activities and keep them informed of the project's progression. City officials hoped that the completion of 'Southeast... By Design' would visibly improve the community, raise the long-term economic value of the properties, and increase the confidence of private investors in the area. By 2004, officials and citizens saw the realization of these goals. Crime is down more than 65%, code violations have dropped 70%, home-buying interest has increased, traffic speeds have been reduced by an average of 5-6 miles per hour, and a new health clinic is in the works.

Through the City of Roanoke's decision to work to revitalize its neighborhoods and Reverend Walton's leadership and encouragement of the project, this Southeast neighborhood has been progressing by leaps and bounds to improve the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors. Furthermore, the collaborating efforts of 'Southeast... By Design' serve as a model for many other communities looking to make their neighborhoods better places for everyone.



DAVID WALTON



Reverend David Walton is the Senior Minister at the Belmont Christian Church in Roanoke, VA. He began his career as a teacher before sensing a call into the ministry. Prior to joining Belmont, he served as Licensed Lay Minister to a small-town church in Louisa, VA. He received his undergraduate degree from Virginia State University, and his Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education.

In addition to chairing the 'Southeast... By Design' Steering Committee, he also serves as the Chair of the Southeast Roanoke Christian Partnership, Chair of the Belmont Community Health Center, Inc., Member of Pastor's Caucus of Faith Works in the Roanoke Valley, and Member of the Board of the Blue Ridge Housing Development Corporation. He and Teresa, his wife of 20 years, have three children.



CITY OF ROANOKE

Represented by **ROLANDA RUSSELL**



A five-time All-America City and One of America's Most Livable Communities, the City of Roanoke is the heart of Western Virginia's center for industry, trade, health, education, travel, and entertainment. Roanoke strives for excellence in areas such as education, the environment, human development, and public safety, and offers a deeper appreciation of life through its strong fine arts programs.

Rolanda Russell has served as Assistant City Manager for the City of Roanoke since 2001. Prior to this, she was Deputy City Manager for the City of Decatur, Illinois, and president of the Community Investment Corporation of Decatur. She is a graduate of the SEI, University of Virginia, and has certifications from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government. She was awarded the Women of Excellence Award for Outstanding Women in Government.

ANGEL ISLAND IMMIGRATION STATION

Sharing Stories of America's Past

While the stories of immigrants at Ellis Island on the East Coast have sparked imagination in all forms of American media and folklore, the history of the West Coast's Angel Island Immigration Station, now part of a state park located on the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), has remained unknown to many people. Brian O'Neill and Daphne Kwok are at the center of a unique partnership to restore Angel Island and bring to light the important role of Pacific Coast immigration in shaping America's past, present, and future.

Since 1976, Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF) has preserved the Angel Island Immigration Station site, a National Historic Landmark, as a place that honors the complex story and rich cultural heritage of Pacific Coast immigrants and their descendants. In 1999, with the support of Brian O'Neill as a representative from the National Parks Service, AIISF signed a rare and historic three-party agreement with California State Parks and the National Park Service to develop plans and programs for Angel Island. As a result, the Angel Island Immigration Station restoration project was able to contract work through the Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation, a National Park Service entity, whose work is restricted to national park partners.

In 2002, the Olmsted Center completed the Cultural Landscape Report for AIISF about the site's historical landscape and the existing conditions, which has become the basis for an Immigration Station Master Plan. As AIISF's new executive director and national spokesperson, Daphne Kwok is working towards developing more opportunities and building stronger partnerships like these with other national organizations and expanding the leadership body of AIISF to include national directors.

The numerous studies done on the historical landscape of Angel Island Immigration Station and the 'doors that were opened' by Brian O'Neill with the three party agreement has made it possible for O'Neill and Kwok to continue to explore ways to bring the story of the Angel Island Immigration Station to greater public attention, secure funding to enact the master plan and open the Immigration Station to the public. By working together on the local, state, and federal level, these organizations are providing the country with a valuable piece of history that was close to being left by the wayside.



DAPHNE KWOK



Daphne Kwok is the Executive Director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF). Previously, Kwok was the Executive Director of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) and of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA). She was also the first elected Chair of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans.

A graduate of Wesleyan University, Kwok became the first Asian American member of its Board of Trustees. She received a Masters in Public Administration from New York's Baruch City College.

Kwok serves as a Board Member of the Asian Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, National Coalition of Asian Pacific American Community Development, Southeast Asian Resource Action Center, and National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. Her views have been featured on national radio and TV programs as well as in major newspapers and magazines.



BRIAN O'NEILL



Brian O'Neill works for the National Park Service as Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, where he oversees 425 staff members, over 15,000 volunteers, and over 30 major facility and program partners. He also provides direction and management to a large resource and visitor facility improvement program and has been a prominent figure over the past several years in transitioning the Presidio of San Francisco from a military installation to national park.

In addition to his regular job, O'Neill is involved with many other projects within the Bay Area, which include serving on the Board of Directors of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's California Advisory Council, San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association, Bay Area Open Space Council, and Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. He has received numerous awards for his service.

MINORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS COALITION

Diverse Coalitions: Stronger than the Sum of All Parts

Thirty years ago, four activists of varying ethnicities and cultural backgrounds joined forces to build a unique coalition to represent and further the needs of the different minority groups in Seattle and King County, Washington. Today, even after many struggles in civil rights and human services activism, this ‘gang of four’ continues to advocate that as a whole, minority groups are stronger than the sum of all parts, and that lobbying for funding should be a united effort instead of a competition.

Bob Santos, Larry Gossett, Roberto Maestas and Bernie Whitebear represent four different organizations and four different communities—Pan-Asian, African-American, Latino and Native American respectively. In the mid-1970s as resources dwindled due to funding cutbacks and the number of agencies serving minority communities grew, competition for resources became more intense. The four men attended many hearings and meetings at the Seattle City Council, King County Council, and Washington State Legislature, not only to present funding requests for their own agencies, but to support proposals submitted by other agencies. They refused to be divided in their quest for funding from the local government pools.

In 1981 they formed the Minority Executive Directors Coalition or MEDC to advocate for broad ethnic communities through public policy advocacy, community education, leadership development and cultural competency training. Dorry Elias-Garcia assumed the Executive Director position six years ago, and has worked with the ‘gang of four’ to foster existing relationships and create new partnerships with funders such as the United Way, the Seattle Human Services Coalition, and the Family Leadership Fund to reduce reliance on government funding, and help expand MEDC membership to over 120 community leaders of color.

Back in the 1960s and 1970s, the ‘gang of four’ activists were able to appreciate the value that working together could bring to them. The formation of the Minority Executive Directors Coalition was a solid step towards increasing the bargaining power of minorities, and that value has only grown with the organization and with the expanding actions and leadership of the ‘gang of four’ and Dorry Elias-Garcia.

Dedicated to Bernie Whitebear who passed away in 2000 and left a legacy unparalleled by any other Native American leader working with the urban Indian community.



BOB SANTOS



Bob Santos is a longtime citizen activist who has devoted much of his personal and professional life to civil rights issues. From the late 1960s on, he helped mentor a generation of young Asian activists, earning him the nickname “Uncle Bob.” From 1972 to 1989, Santos served as Executive Director of Inter*Im (the International District Improvement Community Development Association) and in 1982 helped co-found the Minority Executive Director’s Coalition. From 1989 to 1993, he oversaw the Seattle Chinatown/International District Preservation Authority.

Santos served as Regional Director of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from 1994 to 2001. In 2002, he published an autobiography *Humbows, not Hotdogs!: Memoirs of a savvy Asian American Activist*. Soon after the book’s publication, he returned to his position as Executive Director of Inter*Im, where he continues to work.



LARRY GOSSETT



Larry Gossett is one of Seattle’s most respected and well-known social activists and political leaders. Gossett’s legacy began in the 1960s when he was a student at the University of Washington (UW). He was an original founder of the Black Student Union, which pressured the UW to establish the first affirmative action program in the state, allowing thousands of students of color admission to the university.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s he continued to serve the people, this time as Executive Director of the Central Area Motivation Program, a Seattle social service agency that serves and empowers the inner-city poor. In 1993, Gossett began serving on the Metropolitan King County Council, where he has been re-elected four times and is Chair of the Budget & Fiscal Management Committee and Vice Chair of the Employment Committee.



ROBERTO MAESTAS



Roberto Maestas, executive director of El Centro de la Raza, was born in a small village in Northern New Mexico in 1938. After landing in Seattle, Washington, he became an inner-city high school teacher and University professor during the height of the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960s and early 1970s. In 1972, he led the “unauthorized” occupation of an abandoned and deteriorating three-story elementary school that led to the founding of El Centro de la Raza.

In its 33 years El Centro de la Raza has become one of the most militant and extraordinary grassroots organizations in the nation with ownership of property, an exhaustive array of social, cultural, economic, educational and political programs, and countless prestigious local, state, national and international awards. Against overwhelming odds El Centro de la Raza is a remarkable example of capacity community building.



DORRY ELIAS-GARCIA



Dorry Elias-Garcia has dedicated her life to advocating for social justice and equity for people of color. For the past 6 years, Elias-Garcia has served as the Executive Director of the Minority Executive Directors Coalition of King County. She began her work with MEDC 19 years ago as a volunteer administrative assistant while working for El Centro de la Raza. Prior to MEDC, she held positions at the Atlantic Street Center, the Denise Louie Early Childhood Education Center, United Way of King County, and Seattle’s Park Department.

Elias-Garcia is one of the founding members of the Children of Color Organizers and Advocates and the Children’s Rainbow Fund. She serves on numerous boards including the Atlantic Street Center. She was a member of the Hate Free Zone’s first Advisory Board, the Nonprofit Assistance Center and the Seattle Jobs Initiative.



ABOUT PARTNERS FOR LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Partners for Livable Communities, incorporated in 1977, is a national civic organization working to improve the livability of communities by promoting quality of life, economic development and social equity. Partners helps our nation's communities set common visions for the future, discover and utilize their cultural and natural resources, and build public/private partnerships to realize their goals.

Serving as a national resource and information center, Partners is a catalyst for civic improvements through technical assistance, leadership training, workshops, research, advocacy and public awareness. More than 1,200 organizations throughout North America and abroad comprise Partners' resource network. These alliances produce a powerful force to affect positive change in our communities.