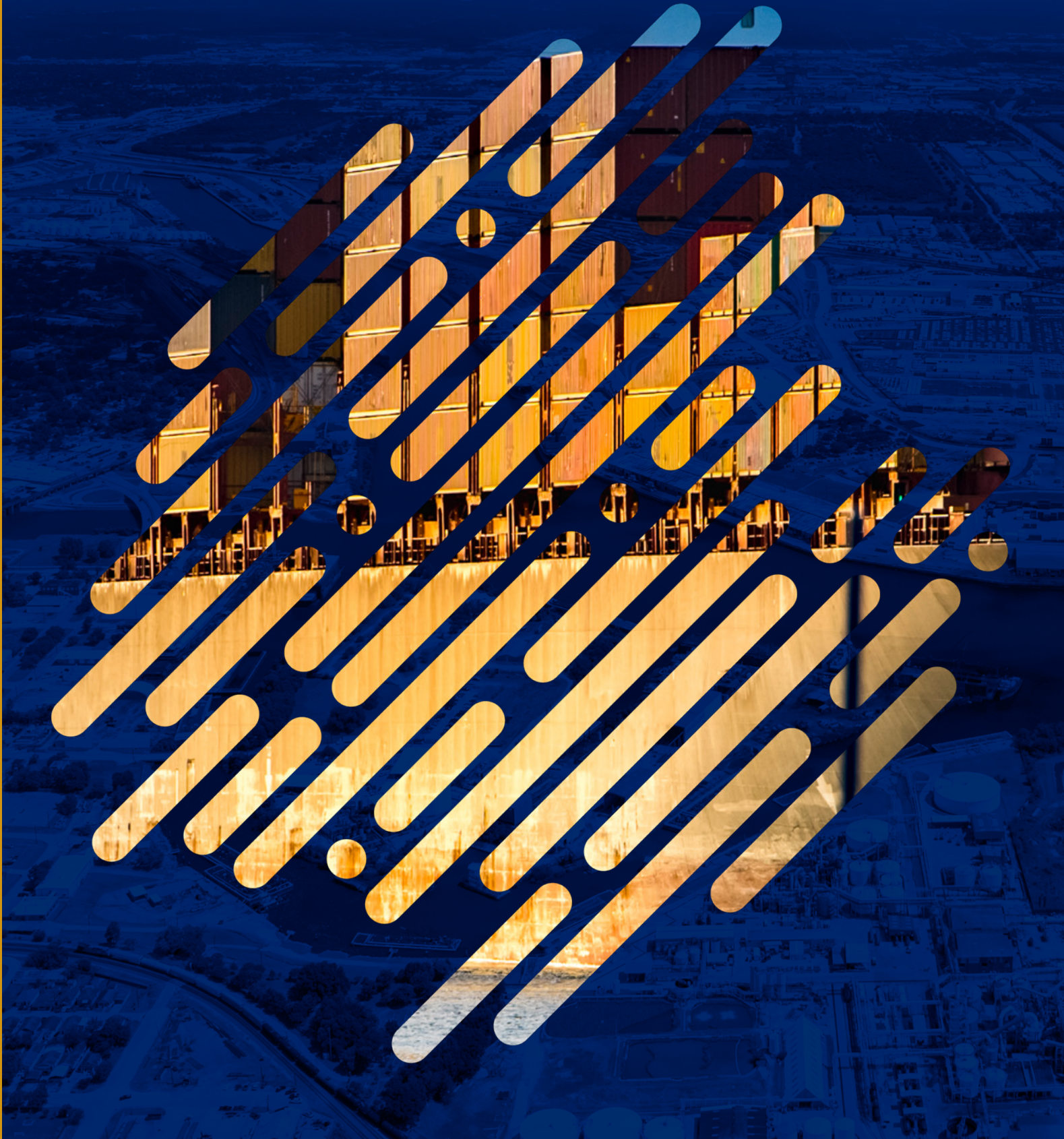




PORT HOUSTON™

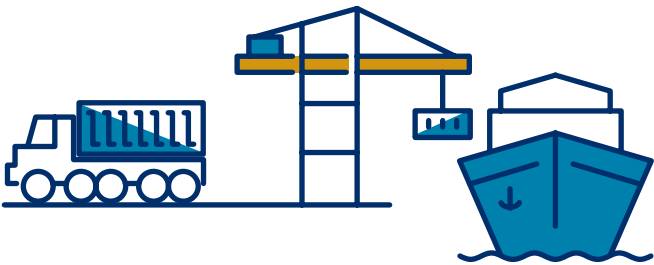
2023

# ANNUAL REPORT





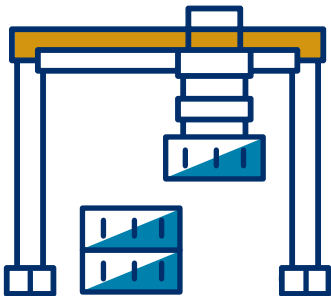
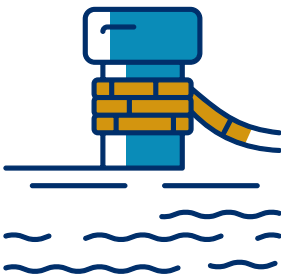
# PORT HOUSTON 2023



OWNS AND OPERATES  
**8 PUBLIC TERMINALS,**  
including 2 container terminals

**MORE THAN  
3.8M TEUs**

crossed our docks—biggest year ever for exports



ORDERED  
**26**  
HYBRID-ELECTRIC  
RTG CRANES



**5TH LARGEST CONTAINER  
PORT IN THE U.S.**



TOTAL TONNAGE OF  
**49,930,546**  
SHORT TONS

## OUR MISSION

To move the world and drive  
regional prosperity

## OUR VISION

To be America's distribution hub  
for the next generation

**\$799M**  
IN LANDSIDE INFRASTRUCTURE  
IN PAST FIVE YEARS

**49 CONSECUTIVE  
YEARS OF FINANCIAL  
EXCELLENCE** awarded by  
the Government Finance Officers  
Association



**\$96M**  
IN AWARDS AND  
COMMITMENTS  
TO S/MWBEs

**83%**  
OF PROJECT 11  
FUNDED



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## MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROGER GUENTHER

Another year has quickly come and gone, and 2023 was loaded with change and a new set of challenges. Once again, the Port Houston team delivered beyond expectations to open opportunities for the future. As historic demand in global trade of the previous two years leveled off, our team rallied together to boost our efforts and priorities through community engagement, accelerated development of infrastructure, maintaining excellent customer service, and strengthening partnerships for the near and long term.

“

*In spite of constant change in the business at Port Houston, the commitment to our goals and core values remains steadfast.*

”



In spite of constant change in the business at Port Houston, the commitment to our goals and core values remains steadfast. **As an organization, we continue to place emphasis on our mission to move the world and drive regional prosperity, with unwavering dedication toward our strategic goals in the areas of People, Infrastructure, Partnerships, and Stewardship.** We made great strides toward these priorities in 2023: we were recognized by Gallagher as a Best-in-Class employer; we made nearly \$66 million in awards and commitments to minority or woman-owned businesses; we had a 100% up time for the suite of technology applications that support our operations and a 99% wharf crane uptime; we continued to prioritize a strong safety culture, achieving a lost time incident rate well below industry standards; and we expanded our reach in maritime education programs by adding two more local school districts to promote future workforce opportunities. These are just a few of the many successful initiatives accomplished in 2023.

In terms of Port Houston's terminals, we jumped from number seven to the number five container port in the nation. Container volumes reached 3,826,157 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in 2023, just 4% shy of the record-shattering volumes seen in 2022. However, the number of loaded container TEUs remained constant, driven by robust exports of regionally and locally produced commodities. In fact, 2023 was our best year ever for container exports. Historically cyclical steel import volumes, which were strong in 2022,

declined in 2023, as did our total tonnage. That said, overall cargo tonnages in 2023 were consistent with our forecast for the year.

Trade may ebb and flow some, but global demand will continue to grow over the long term. To support future demand, our investments remain significant and strategic. In 2023 we executed \$381.5 million in capital projects. We were thrilled to celebrate the completion of the newest wharf at Bayport Container Terminal, Wharf 6, which was a culmination of more than five years of planning. We received three new electric ship-to-shore (STS) cranes to work vessels at this wharf and now we can, for the first time, work four container vessels at once at Bayport. **We continue to plan and prioritize investments to deliver the assets needed, when we need them, to serve our customers.**

They say change is the only constant in life and I know more changes are in store for us as our industry makes advances in sustainability, efficiency, and technology. I am confident the Port Houston team will respond with the same dedication and commitment to excellence we achieved in 2023. I hope you enjoy reading more about our year in this Annual Report.

**ROGER GUENTHER**  
Executive Director

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As I look back over 2023, I am proud of the progress made by the Port Houston team, particularly in the priority areas outlined in the strategic plan: People, Infrastructure, Partnerships, and Stewardship.

We expanded our Business Equity outreach so that more local businesses can participate in our economic engine. We have kept sustainability and safety front and center as we executed on \$381.5 million in capital investments. The Port Houston team delivered on all aspects of our strategic plan. This work was underpinned by sound financial management, which you will see in this Annual Report. I want to congratulate the team on being awarded the Government Finance Officers Association award for the Port's 2022 annual comprehensive financial report. This is the highest form of recognition in government and financial reporting, and Port Houston has received this honor for 49 consecutive years!

One of the biggest and most impactful projects currently underway remains the Houston Ship Channel Expansion, known as Project 11. It is not an exaggeration to say that this expansion will benefit our entire region. It will bring jobs, commerce, and economic value, in addition to enhancing the safety and efficiency of our waterway. I am pleased to report that today this vital work is on schedule and on budget, which is quite an accomplishment for a project of this size and complexity. That doesn't mean the hard work is behind us though. At 87% funded, we still need \$154 million in federal funding to complete Project 11.

**The value of the Houston Ship Channel cannot be overstated. In 2023 we commissioned a new economic study and this third-party analysis showed that the Houston Ship Channel supports \$906 billion in economic value and 3.37 million jobs in America. It supports \$439 billion in economic value and 1.54 million jobs in Texas.**

The progress we've made toward expanding the Houston Ship Channel to help secure this vital economic engine for the future has been done in partnership with many other entities, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Houston Pilots, the Coast Guard, and those who work in industry along the Channel. On behalf of the entire Port Commission and Port Houston staff, I thank you for your partnership, your dedication, and your continued advocacy for our region.

I want to recognize Commissioner Roy Mease, who retired in 2023 after 10 years of service to the Port. He was a passionate advocate for his constituents in the city of Pasadena and I thank him for his dedication. In October we welcomed a new but familiar face to the Port Commission. Mr. Alan Robb is a 47-year veteran of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA). The members of the ILA are critical to the movement of cargo at our docks, and Alan's perspective and expertise are welcomed on our Port Commission. I look forward to working with him and all our Port Commissioners and staff as we continue toward our vision to build Houston into America's Distribution Hub for the Next Generation.



**RIC CAMPO**

*Chairman of the Port Commission*





**DEAN E. CORGEY**  
*Commissioner*

**Dean E. Corgey was appointed to the Port Commission in January 2013, representing the City of Houston.** Corgey chairs the Port Commission Community Relations Committee and serves on the Business Equity Committee, Pension & Benefits Committee, and Dredge Task Force.

He has more than 40 years of maritime experience, including working as a merchant mariner, elected union official, regulatory advisory board member, and maritime industry advocate. Corgey has been Vice President of the Seafarers International Union (SIU), responsible for the Gulf Coast region since 1990. He supervises SIU activities from Charleston, S.C. to Brownsville, Texas, including Puerto Rico, and hiring halls and offices in Houston, New Orleans, Jacksonville, Mobile, Port Everglades, and San Juan.



**CLYDE FITZGERALD**  
*Commissioner*

**Clyde Fitzgerald was appointed to the Port Commission by Harris County Commissioners Court in June 2013.** Fitzgerald chairs the Pension & Benefits Committee and serves on the Community Relations Committee, Compensation Committee, and the Dredge Task Force.

He is a 63-year veteran of the Houston waterfront. He joined his father on the wharves of the Houston Ship Channel in 1959. In 1969, the International Longshoremen’s Association Local 28 elected him president, and he served in that capacity for 20 years.

In 1991, he was elected secretary-treasurer of the ILA South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District, which stretches from North Carolina to Brownsville, Texas. In 2002, he was elected president of the District and, in July of 2010, was re-elected to that position without opposition for another four-year term. In July 2015, he became president-emeritus of the district. Fitzgerald is also a member of its Executive Council.



**STEPHEN H. DONCARLOS**  
*Commissioner*

**Stephen H. DonCarlos was appointed by the Harris County Mayors and Councils Association as Port Commissioner in September 2013.** DonCarlos chairs the Governance Committee and serves on the Business Equity Committee, Community Relations Committee, and the Dredge Task Force. DonCarlos was elected as Mayor of the City of Baytown in May 2006 and served in that capacity for twelve and a half years. He is an attorney with Reid, Strickland & Gillette, L.L.P. He is a member and past president of the Baytown Rotary Club.

DonCarlos previously served as Chairman of the Harris County Hospital District and on the Board of Directors of the Texas Medical Center.



**WENDOLYNN “WENDY” MONTOKA CLOONAN**  
*Commissioner*

**Wendy Montoya Cloonan was appointed to the Port Commission by Harris County Commissioners Court in June 2019.** On the Port Commission, Cloonan is chair of the Business Equity Committee and serves on the Community Relations Committee, Compensation Committee, and the Dredge Task Force.

Cloonan is the founder and shareholder of The Law Office of Wendy Montoya Cloonan, PLLC. She is an experienced attorney, having worked in public finance and public law at Vinson & Elkins LLP and Andrews Kurth LLP and as Director of Legal at the Houston Endowment.



**CHERYL D. CREUZOT**  
*Commissioner*

**Cheryl D. Creuzot was appointed to the Port Commission in March 2020, representing the City of Houston.** On the Port Commission, Creuzot serves on the Audit Committee, Community Relations Committee, Governance Committee, and the Dredge Task Force.

Creuzot, a 36-year industry veteran, is currently President Emeritus of Wealth Development Strategies, LLC, since stepping down as President and Chief Executive Officer, a position she has held since 2000. She is involved in numerous civic and charitable endeavors. She serves as Vice Chair of the University of Houston Foundation (Chair, Investment Committee). Additionally, she serves on the Board of Visitors of the MD Anderson Cancer Center (Government Relations Committee), as well as the Vice Chair of the Board of The Frenchy’s Companies, a 50-year-old family-owned restaurant and food processing organization.



**ALAN A. ROBB**  
*Commissioner*

**Alan A. Robb was appointed to the Port Commission by the City of Pasadena, effective October 1, 2023.** Robb was unanimously elected Assistant General Organizer, International Longshoremen’s Association, AFL-CIO at the Union’s quadrennial convention in July 2015 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and re-elected in both 2019 and 2023 in Hollywood, Florida.

A native of Houston and a 47-year veteran of the ILA, Robb was also elected in July 2015 by the Executive Board of the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District to fill the unexpired term as District President, following the retirement of Clyde Fitzgerald from that position, and was elected to his first full term as President in 2018 and re-elected again in 2022 in San Diego, CA.

Robb began his career as an ILA longshoreman in 1976 as a laborer. He quickly established himself as a leader in the organization and was elected chairman of his Local union’s Executive Board in 1984, a position he held for the next 15 years.

Robb’s career continued to advance in 2001 with his election to Local President. In 2001, he was also elected as a Vice President and Executive Board member of the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District, ILA. This District represents ILA members on the Atlantic Coast from North Carolina to Florida and along the Gulf Coast from Florida to Texas.

PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY

Condensed Statements of Financial Position as of December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021

(in thousands)

	Restated		
	2023	2022	2021
<b>Assets</b>			
Current and other assets	\$1,952,927	\$1,725,449	\$1,495,883
Capital assets	2,590,310	2,118,625	1,959,817
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	\$4,543,237	\$3,844,074	\$3,455,700
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current liabilities	148,757	121,593	96,234
Long-term debt (including current portion)	1,304,769	915,469	957,592
Other non-current liabilities	487,994	486,574	401,735
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	1,941,520	1,523,636	1,455,561
<b>Net position</b>			
Net investment in capital assets	1,710,445	1,476,612	1,394,024
Restricted assets	89,810	71,179	111,407
Unrestricted assets	801,462	772,647	494,708
Total net position	2,601,717	2,320,438	2,000,139
<b>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Net Position</b>	<b>\$4,543,237</b>	<b>\$3,844,074</b>	<b>\$3,455,700</b>

Condensed Statements of Net Position and Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021

(in thousands)

	Restated		
	2023	2022	2021
Operating revenues	\$585,070	\$651,274	\$516,568
Operating expenses	394,917	376,498	323,174
Operating income	190,153	274,776	193,394
Net nonoperating revenues	42,384	4,520	(5,115)
Net nonoperating revenues related to property taxes	24,167	30,973	28,794
Income before capital contributions	256,704	310,269	217,073
Capital contributions from federal agencies	24,575	10,030	16,287
<b>Change in net position</b>	<b>\$281,279</b>	<b>\$320,299</b>	<b>\$233,360</b>
<b>Condensed Statements of Cash Flows</b>			
Cash provided by operating activities	\$187,859	\$346,330	\$195,026
Cash (used in) noncapital financing activities	(2,543)	(9,843)	(13,779)
Cash (used in) provided by capital and related financing activities	(53,246)	(178,608)	307,394
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities	671,042	(567,436)	(84,449)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	803,112	(409,557)	404,192
Balances at beginning of year	231,951	641,508	237,316
<b>Balances at end of year</b>	<b>\$1,035,063</b>	<b>\$231,951</b>	<b>\$641,508</b>

# SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENTS FOR FUTURE GROWTH AT PORT HOUSTON

In 2023, we made significant investments in Port Houston's facilities to continue to expand capacity and attract global customers. During the summer, Port Houston achieved a major milestone with the addition of Wharf 6 at Bayport Container Terminal. To help celebrate this, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Maritime Administrator Admiral Ann Phillips, along with other federal, state, and local officials, partners, stakeholders, and customers attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The USDOT invested nearly \$80 million toward the wharf and yard space at Bayport. This investment builds on other efforts to expand the terminal's capacity and improve efficiency, such as rehabilitating the north side container yards, wharf three, and the truck gate.



Preceding the completion of Wharf 6 and the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the terminal, Port Houston received three new neo-Panamax ship-to-shore (STS) cranes following a 72-day voyage on the Zhen Hua 29, a specialized heavy-load carrier vessel. The ZPMC cranes traveled nearly 16,000 nautical miles to reach Houston.

**These particular cranes are 158 feet tall under the spreader bar and have an outreach of 22 containers wide. Furthermore, they are equipped with complete electric motors, gears, and control systems, thus emitting zero diesel emissions and aligning with Port Houston's commitment to reach carbon neutrality by the year 2050.**

With cranes of this size, Port Houston's Bayport Container Terminal is well-equipped to facilitate working on the 15,000 TEU ships expected to call upon the completion of the Bayport Channel of the Houston Ship Channel Expansion – Project 11, which is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2024.

As we closed out 2023, we received seven new hybrid-electric rubber-tire gantry (RTG) cranes to our Barbour's Cut Container Terminal. Overall, Port Houston now has a fleet of 29 STS cranes and 123 RTG cranes among both its container terminals. These hybrid-electric RTGs reduce NOx, PM, HC, and CO by 90% compared to diesel models. The new equipment will help facilitate cargo movement at Port Houston.

# PORT HOUSTON SPEARHEADING COLLABORATION AT **HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONFERENCE**

We hosted our second annual Houston International Maritime Conference (HIMC) in 2023 at the Hilton Americas in downtown Houston. The event, held from October 30th to November 1st, was a massive success with more than 500 attendees from various maritime professions such as shippers, BCOs, NVOCCs, 3PLs, ocean carriers, motor carriers, and many others, making it more than twice the size of the previous year's inaugural event.

HIMC was completely sold out and offered guests the opportunity to network with peers and supply chain leaders, as well as hear from distinguished experts and keynote speakers addressing the challenges and trends shaping the future of the supply chain and maritime industry. Additionally, the International Longshoremen's Association-South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District (ILA-SAGCD) was honored with our first Lone Star Award at the conference. Throughout HIMC, common themes emerged across various panels, including the importance of collaboration, investing in infrastructure, and embracing technology advancement and adaptability while nurturing a skilled workforce.

HIMC 2023 was a resounding success, and we are proud of its direction as we continue to emphasize relationship-building and strive for progress and growth within the industry. **Make your plans now to join us for HIMC24, held at Hilton Americas, from November 6th to November 8th, 2024.**



## THANK YOU TO OUR HIMC23 SPONSORS

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**Your support played a crucial role  
in making this conference a success.**

# PORT HOUSTON'S ULTIMATE GUIDE TO STEWARDSHIP

As a dynamic force within the maritime industry and the fifth-largest container port in the nation, Port Houston recognizes the importance of shifting the conversation toward creating a more sustainable world. We understand the importance of promoting sustainability and are committed to achieving success in this area. To this end, we work closely with our industry partners and community neighbors to take the lead in implementing initiatives that help us be good stewards of the environment.

In 2023, we updated our Environmental, Social, Safety, and Governance (ES<sup>2</sup>G) report, which was initially published in 2021. The report provides an account of Port Houston's current and future interactions with stakeholders. We cover our efforts at various levels, including eliminating paper tickets at the exit gates of our container terminals and improving drainage on Port Road. We also detail financial investments, such as the purchase of hybrid-electric rubber tire gantry (RTG) cranes to further reduce emissions, and our commitment to improving green spaces in the surrounding areas. Our ES<sup>2</sup>G report also outlines the expansion of our maritime education outreach efforts and our small, minority, and woman-owned business programs.

Additionally, this report emphasizes safety, and in 2023 we achieved a Lost Time Incident Rate of 0.41. At Port Houston, we will continue to put in the work to prioritize the health of the ecosystem regarding our carbon footprint and as a dedicated neighbor within the community.

## ACTION PLAN TO CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2050



### ALTERNATIVE FUEL DRAYAGE

Port Houston hosted two Clean Energy Trucking Workshops and an Agency Stakeholders Emission Reduction Workshop with regional local governments this year. At these, we asked our top 50 drayage companies how we could support the transition to zero emission trucks. We offered resources, information, and education, and connected people from transport, fueling, infrastructure, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), local government, nonprofits, grants, and planning.



### CARGO HANDLING EQUIPMENT (CHE) ELECTRIFICATION

Port Houston is doubling the number of hybrid-electric RTG cranes working at our Bayport and Barbours Cut Container Terminals from 28 to 59. These hybrid-electric RTGs reduce NOx, PM, HC, and CO by 90% compared to diesel models. We are studying the capacity of electricity needed now and in the future for the terminals to continue this electrification and a master plan is underway.

**To delve into the full report, visit:**  
[www.porthouston.com/environment](http://www.porthouston.com/environment)



## ENERGY SHIFT ON THE HORIZON: HOUSTON AND THE COUNTRY OF BELGIUM CELEBRATE MOMENTOUS AGREEMENT

In December, the Prime Minister of Belgium H.E. Alexander De Croo visited Port Houston for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing on Energy Transition Cooperation. The agreement was signed by three Belgian partners and three Houston-based organization representatives to enhance cooperation between Europe and the U.S. toward green energy practices transition. The six organizations involved in the agreement are the Center for Houston's Future, Waterstofnet, Port Houston, the Port of Antwerp-Bruges, Exmar, and the Blue Sky Maritime Coalition. They have agreed to explore a mutually beneficial partnership that focuses on an import-export coalition for renewable and low-carbon molecules, a green shipping corridor, and the exchange of best practices, knowledge, and research in the industry.

Houston and Antwerp are the most prominent petrochemical clusters in the world; many Belgian and U.S. companies are present on both sides, and the long-standing commercial maritime connection between both ports is a backbone for cooperation. The signing of this MOU is a first step in solidifying such a partnership between crucial stakeholders based in countries that are strategic allies.

De Croo and Belgian delegates arrived to Port Houston's Executive Office Building for a briefing with Port Houston Commissioners and Executives, followed by a tour of our Bayport Container Terminal, one of the nation's most efficient container terminals. Port Houston's container terminals rank fifth in the nation for container activity.

# PROGRESS ON THE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL EXPANSION – PROJECT 11

The Houston Ship Channel Expansion, also known as Project 11, is progressing according to schedule and on budget. The project consists of six segments and twelve major construction packages that incorporate the use of new work-dredged material for beneficial use. Project 11's main objective is to widen the channel from 530 feet to 700 feet, deepen certain upstream segments, and make other improvements that are necessary for safe navigation of the Houston Ship Channel. The improvements are crucial for maritime commerce and economic growth, benefiting the many users of the channel, the facilities alongside it, labor, and the local, state, and national economy.

Port Houston and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are committed to environmental stewardship, creating benefits for wildlife and habitat through this project. Almost 100% of the non-silt material dredged, which amounts to over 15 million cubic yards, will be utilized to create nearly 10 acres of bird islands, 800 acres of marsh, and 324 acres of oyster reefs. Additionally, the project is expected to improve regional air quality by increasing vessel movement efficiency and reducing congestion in the channel. Mitigation measures, such as vibration-dampening walls and rotating smokestacks away from communities, have been implemented to minimize disruptions to nearby areas as the project construction progresses. In 2023, Segment 1A of the channel was completed, constituting 11.5 miles in the Bay, and Segment 2, covering the Bayport Ship Channel, or 4 miles in length, was also completed.

**At the end of 2023, 83% of the project is funded. Segments 1B and 1C are expected to be fully complete by late 2024, and Segments 4-6 in 2027, subject to federal appropriations.**



## Project 11 Progress:

- Segment 1A, Bolivar to Redfish, was completed and opened to two-way traffic in Q1 2023.
- Segment 1B, Redfish to Bayport, construction is underway and expected to be completed by Q4 2024.
- Segment 1C, Bayport to Barbours Cut, was advertised in Q4 2023.
- Segment 2, Bayport Ship Channel construction was completed on time and on budget in Q3 2023

**Stay up-to-date on Project 11 at:**

[www.expandthehoustonschipchannel.com](http://www.expandthehoustonschipchannel.com)

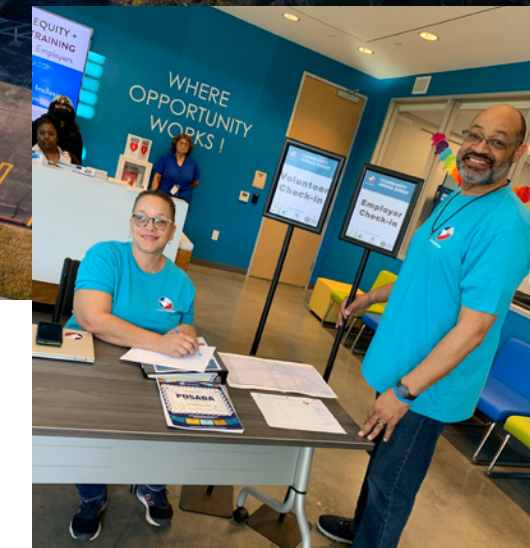


## WORKING TOWARD **YOUR DREAM** AT PORT HOUSTON

Port Houston is a marine terminal operator that values efficiency and hands-on employee interactions. Our philosophy of valuing people extends to all areas of our organization. In 2023, Gallagher & Co. recognized Port Houston as a best-in-class employer for our commitment to our people and our strategic approach to benefits, human resources, and compensation practices. This accomplishment is a result of our dedication to continuously improving the company, whether through job fairs, employee engagement, or morale.

**In August 2023, we hosted a career fair at Port Houston's Executive Office Building that provided more than 200 individuals with the opportunity to explore a career.** We offer a diverse range of jobs, including operations, accounting, logistics, first responders, IT, and commercial. All of these career paths support the movement of the region's cargo and sustain our business for the future. **Additionally, we collaborated with SERJobs, Precinct2, and Houston East End Chamber to host a community hiring event focused on the maritime industry that was held in the SER Jobs WRTC Training Center, and approximately 300 were in attendance as they eagerly came to find the career of their dreams.**

Working at the Port offers challenging and rewarding opportunities, respect among colleagues, competitive pay, benefits that protect you and your family, and a work environment that recognizes contributions while helping employees reach their career goals.



## GROWING BUSINESSES THROUGH OUR BUSINESS EQUITY PROGRAM

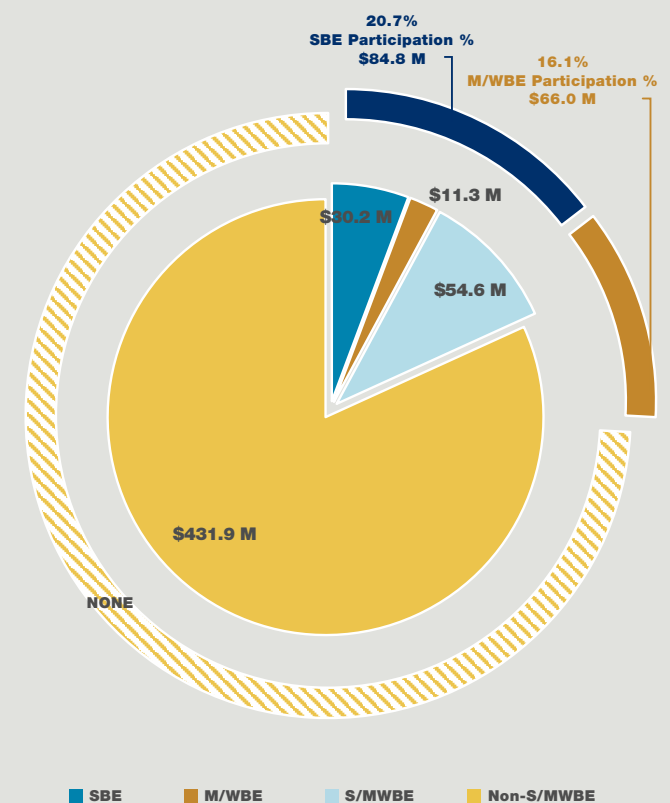
Port Houston is dedicated to fostering an environment that encourages equal access to procurement opportunities. As part of our ongoing efforts to support minority and woman-owned business enterprises (MWBEs) in our procurement and contracting processes, the MWBE program was launched in 2021. It operates in conjunction with our long-standing small business program to create a more diverse and supportive ecosystem for S/MWBEs.

**In 2023, \$524.1 million in total awards and commitments were granted by Port Houston; of those, \$96.1 million formal procurements were awarded to S/MWBEs.**

As of December 2023, 1,651 S/MWBE businesses were enrolled in the Business Equity program. Within this pool, 23.4% of these vendors have multiple certifications that can qualify for both the Small Business and MWBE programs. "Our aim is to create a dynamic environment where small, minority, woman-owned, and disadvantaged business enterprises can thrive. By working together, we can promote diversity, encourage innovation, and establish long-term partnerships that benefit all members of our supply chain and procurement process," said Dr. Sabeeta Bidasie-Singh, Director of Business Equity.

Additional efforts to assist the S/MWBE business community include our Opportunity U training component. The 10-week comprehensive training program helps build the capacity of local S/MWBE vendors and positions them to gain opportunities within and outside of Port Houston. **Overall, Port Houston had 58 businesses graduate from the Opportunity U program in 2023.**

### TOTAL AWARDS AND COMMITMENT BY CERTIFICATION TYPE



*"We believe that by increasing the participation of minority and woman-owned businesses, we can create a more inclusive and equitable business landscape. Each of these businesses brings unique strengths, and by nurturing their growth, we not only expand our pool of vendors but also contribute to a more prosperous economy."*

**Dr. Sabeeta Bidasie-Singh**  
Director of Business Equity

# PORT HOUSTON PUSHES COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FORWARD

Port Houston has remained dedicated to supporting the communities and people that live near and around the Houston Ship Channel. We help youth learn about maritime, supply chain and logistics through our comprehensive maritime education program, for example. We also invest in green spaces and community gathering spots.

Through these efforts, we have stayed consistent with our goal to invest in meaningful projects and programs that enhance the livelihood of our neighbors along the waterway.

In 2023, we hosted our annual community resource fair, called Posada, at Baggett Community Center in the East End. The Posada’s continued purpose is to bring resources, such as workforce opportunities, healthcare enrollment, and food access, to neighbors, families, and individuals in an effort to connect the community to industry, service partners, and local officials. **The number of attendees tripled from the previous year, with 1200 individuals in attendance this year.**

In addition, the Port Houston teams actively participated in several initiatives that beautified and enhanced our nearby neighborhoods. We invested more than \$2 million in parks, completing both Oak Meadows Park and Hidalgo Park in 2023. Port Houston team members also volunteered in local cleanup events and green space improvement projects in the Greater East End to improve the quality of life by promoting exercise and wellness in the entire community.

But our work doesn’t end there. We have taken our community engagement to the next level through our Community Grants Program. We take pride in the positive impacts of this program, as it helps the Port identify and invest in meaningful projects that align with our outreach priorities. **In 2023, Port Houston awarded a total of \$395,000 to 18 organizations doing exemplary work in their communities, including workforce development, education, and environmental stewardship. Since its inception four years ago, the Community Grants Program has awarded \$1.25 million and we will continue our financial commitment to support more projects and programs in 2024.**



## 2023 COMMUNITY GRANTS RECIPIENTS:

- Rebuilding Together Houston**  
Community Revitalization Program: \$50,000
- SER-Jobs for Progress of the Texas Gulf Coast, Inc**  
CDL Training and Wraparound Services: \$30,000
- STEM-E Youth Career Development Program:**  
STEAM-focused Workforce-Development Programs: \$30,000
- Educational Programs Inspiring Communities Inc.**  
(dba The H.E.A.R.T. Program)  
HEART Program Vocational Training: \$25,000
- Bay Area Council on Drugs and Alcohol (BACODA)**  
Second Century Vision Program: \$15,000
- Ronald McDonald House Charities**  
Ronald McDonald Care Mobile: \$25,000
- Houston Community Toolbank**  
School Beautification and Tool Lending: \$40,000
- SPARK Park**  
Port Houston Elementary SPARK Park: \$25,000
- Momentum Education**  
STEAM Career Success Mentorship Program: \$5,000
- Harris Health System**  
Food Rx Program at Strawberry Health Center: \$20,000
- Our Promise for West Baytown, Inc**  
Seeds of Promise: \$20,000
- Clothed by Faith**  
School Partnership Programs: \$7,000
- Bayou Preservation Association**  
Improving Waterways through Action & Education: \$13,000
- City of Pasadena**  
Floatable Capture Gates and Work Force Training: \$30,000
- Young Audiences of Houston**  
Full STEAM Ahead! with Young Audiences of Houston: \$15,000
- Urban Harvest, Inc.**  
Piloting Collaborative Pathways for East End Families: \$20,000
- Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans**  
Career and Technology Workforce Development Program: \$20,000
- The Rose**  
Empower Her Health Program: \$5,000

# RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

**Congratulations on retirement!**  
The team at Port Houston wants to recognize and sincerely thank these team members for their commitment to moving the world's cargo.

- 18 Years  
**Steven F. Barber**  
*TB Maintenance*

13 Years  
**Dawn E. Bufford**  
*Maintenance Administration*

16 Years  
**Rodney A. Crosby**  
*Fire*

32 Years  
**Paula H. Driscoll**  
*Finance*

19 Years  
**William F. Gontaruk**  
*BCT Maintenance*

31 Years  
**Jack L. Hinds**  
*Police*

12 Years  
**Larry E. Jones**  
*Police*

16 Years  
**Mark McKinney**  
*BPT Maintenance*
- 12 Years  
**Karen Pulpan**  
*BPT Maintenance*

21 Years  
**Kay B. Schleicher**  
*Finance*

12 Years  
**John Schreffler**  
*TB Maintenance*

40 Years  
**Barbara H. Smith**  
*PCM*

12 Years  
**Robert Tanner\***  
*Real Estate*

27 Years  
**Charles M. Thomas**  
*BPT Maintenance*

*\*Our condolences to family and friends on his passing since retirement*



## **PORT HOUSTON**

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