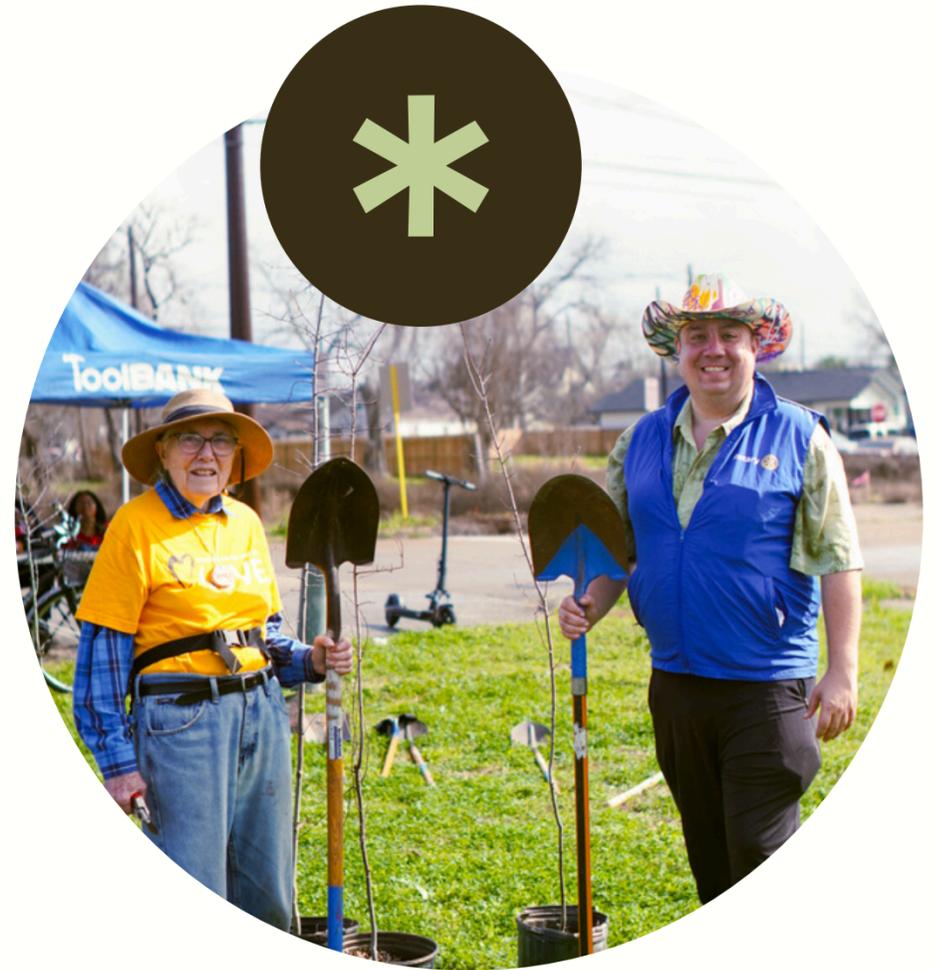


# HOUSTON SHADE BRIGADE



**Presented to:  
City of Houston  
Resilience Committee**



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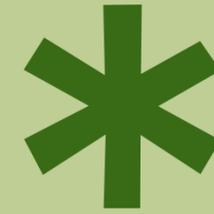
# Vision

A Houston where a thriving tree canopy, native plants, and sustainable infrastructure protect our neighborhoods, foster health, promote environmental justice, and uphold environmental accountability.



# Mission

To hold Houston accountable for its tree canopy expansion and shade equity goals, fostering transparency, education, and environmental justice through vigilant advocacy and strategic community partnerships.



# The Three Pillars of Houston Shade Brigade

Our three goals set us apart by combining grassroots community power with bold policy advocacy and watchdog accountability—ensuring trees are not just planted, but protected and equitably distributed. While many groups focus solely on greening efforts, we go further by demanding transparency, tracking impact, and mobilizing residents to shape a just, resilient urban forest.



## Champion Policy Reform

Push for updates to city ordinances and development plans that prioritize tree preservation and expansion.



## Audit Tree Commitments

Monitor tree planting efforts for transparency and impact—exposing gaps, greenwashing, and broken promises.



## Engage and Educate

Lead interactive activities that highlight the benefits of trees for health, climate resilience, and neighborhood vitality.



# Policy Advocacy & Watchdog Priorities



Requested Ordinance Change: Amend Chapter 33, Section 33-110 (Ord. No. 03-159, Sec. 5, 2-12-03; Ord. No. 04-1015, Sec. 24, 9-27-04) to increase the tree planting requirement from two trees to four trees.

Advocate for stronger integration of tree planting and green stormwater infrastructure in updates to Houston's Infrastructure Design Manual—Chapter 9 (Stormwater Design) and Chapter 17 (Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Transit Design).

Coordinate tree planting with FIFA 2026 Sustainability Committee and subcommittees

Increase procurement and utilization of mobile water trucks to improve tree survival

Promote public access to the Tree Planting Portal and Inventory to verify city-reported data.

Hold agencies accountable to using verified actual planting data—not projections or estimates.

# Climate Action Plans

## Our Role

Houston Shade Bridge plays a vital role in shaping, executing, and evaluating city, county, and regional climate action plans by promoting tree planting, expanding green infrastructure, and advancing shade equity through community-rooted priorities, proven strategies, and long-term impact.

## Existing and Proposed Climate Action Plans

City of Houston  
Climate Action  
Plan & Resilient  
Houston Plan

Harris County  
Climate Action  
Plan & Climate  
Justice Plan

Houston  
Galveston Area  
Council Climate  
Action Plan (In-  
Development)

# Priority Projects & Partnerships



Provide input and monitoring support to HARC's ForUsTree initiative, expanding tree canopy and resilience in underserved communities across Houston and Harris County.

Advise Art & Environmental Architecture Inc. on tree planting and coastal restoration as part of the James Bute Park master planning process with Harris County Precinct 2.

Collaborate with the Houston Climate Movement on joint campaigns, including the citywide annual Climate Summit.

Partner with Friends of Columbia Tap to develop a shaded linear forest and green infrastructure corridor along the Columbia Tap Trail.

Explore partnerships to mitigate urban heat in Spring Branch (eg, Freed Park) through targeted tree planting and green infrastructure projects.

Engage a broad network of stakeholders—including Trees for Houston, Wilderness Houston, HGAC, HARC, Native Plant Society of Texas, Sierra Club, and others to inform, support, and amplify our initiatives.

We envision our partnership with the City of Houston Resilience Committee as a collaborative effort to advance climate equity, expand urban canopy, and ensure all communities have access to cooling, green infrastructure, and long-term resilience solutions.

# Partnering for a Cooler, More Resilient Houston



**Collaborate on equitable tree planting and shade infrastructure initiatives to address urban heat and climate vulnerability in frontline communities.**



**Advocate for stronger integration of shade equity and green infrastructure in citywide resilience planning and capital improvement projects.**



**Support data collection, community engagement, and monitoring efforts that align with the City's Resilience Strategy and climate action goals.**





## Who We Are



**German  
Ibanez**



**Nancy  
Edwards**



**Sherre  
Aguirre**



**Elizabeth  
Abrahams**



**Ed  
Pettitt**



**Briony  
Gannon**



# Conclusion

Together, through strategic partnerships, community-driven action, and a shared commitment to climate equity, the Houston Shade Brigade is planting the seeds for a cooler, greener, and more resilient future for all Houstonians.



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# THANK YOU!

