



## **Partnership and Asia Society welcome Madame Liu Yandong, Vice Premier of China to Houston**

The Greater Houston Partnership, along with Asia Society Texas Center, welcomed Chinese Vice Premier Madame Liu Yandong to Houston during a reception in her honor at the George R. Brown Convention Center on Saturday, June 20.

Madame Liu, the third-highest ranking government official in China, led a delegation of 30-40 officials to Houston including 12 Chinese ministers. Madame Liu's trip was the most senior-level delegation to visit Houston since President Jiang Zemin's trip in 2002.

During her remarks, Madame Liu noted Houston's global prominence in energy and aerospace. She also acknowledged Houston as the hometown of George H.W. Bush, who made great strides in advancing the U.S.-China relationship as ambassador to China as well as during his presidency. In fact, the Chinese government chose Houston as the location for its first consulate general in the United States.

"The Greater Houston Partnership is elated that Madame Liu chose Houston as part of her U.S. tour," said Partnership President and CEO Bob Harvey. "The arrival of such a high-ranking Chinese official underscores the key business and cultural relationship that China and Houston share," he added.

From 2004 to 2014, trade between Houston and China increased at a compound annual growth rate of 15.9 percent. In 2013, Air China began non-stop service from Houston to Beijing, China.