



## Partnership hosts Mayor Annise Parker for final State of the City address



The Greater Houston Partnership hosted the annual State of the City event on Thursday, April 16 at the Hilton Americas. After six years of leading the City of Houston, Mayor Parker outlined her plans for the remainder of her term and reflected on her time at City Hall.

“Houston is better off today than we were five years ago,” said Mayor Parker. “The state of our city remains strong and we are well-prepared for the future.” She touted several of her administration’s

accomplishments including the restoration of Buffalo Bayou, transformation of the Houston Airport System, and bringing jobs to the region. She concluded, “I want the next mayor to fight to keep Houston first.”

Bob Harvey, Partnership President and CEO, addressed the City’s growing pension issue during his opening remarks. “It is critical for the business community to play a constructive role on issues that could affect the long term success of our region,” he said. “We must take a look at our unfunded pension liabilities and overall cost of post-retirement benefits for city employees.” He noted that leaders have been good about managing these annual shortfalls with small strategic fixes, but it’s time all the stakeholders come together to tackle the issue head on.

Partnership Chair Gina Luna also delivered remarks, providing historical context to the long-standing collaboration between the Mayor’s Office and the Partnership. She noted, “The City of Houston has been a vital partner in the Partnership’s work to make Houston greater.”

Gwendolyn Zepeda, Houston’s own poet laureate, also made a special appearance to recite a poem dedicated to Mayor Parker.