



P.O.Box597 CorpusChristi,TX78403 www.boldfuturecoastalbend.org

## Coastal Bend Community Visioning Project

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### **BoldFuture for the Coastal Bend Developing Action Plans, Identifying Partners for Phase III**

*Action teams now addressing vision strategies identified through community input over past year*

Twenty-four outstanding community and business leaders are directing Phase III of BoldFuture for the Coastal Bend, a vision initiative focused on charting the future for the region.

Their charge? To provide leadership for six Action Teams, each composed of about 20 volunteers representing civic, business and community interests from the region.

The teams are meeting bi-monthly through mid-November to develop Action Plans for the vision strategies in their respective areas. With each Action Plan, lead partners in the community will be identified.

Action Team leaders include:

#### **Vibrant Economy**

Chair, **Pablo Vegas**, AEP-Texas; co-chair, **Ann Vaughan**, Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce; facilitator, **Debbie Lindsey-Opel**, Three Dimensional Development, L.L.C.; and vision champion, **Bud Harris**, Del Mar College Center for Economic Development.

#### **Thriving Education, Arts and Entertainment**

Chair, **Dr. Mark Escamilla**, Del Mar College; co-chair, **Dr. Linda Villarreal**, Education Service Center-2; facilitator, **Melinda Eddleman**, Del Mar College; vision champion, **Dr. Mary Sherwood**, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

#### **Well-Planned Region**

Chair, **Tom Niskala**, Metropolitan Planning Organization; co-chair, **Mary McQueen**, Texas State Aquarium; facilitator, **Sandra Thaxton**, City of Corpus Christi; vision champion, **Gabriel Rivas III**, Gabe Rivas Photography.

#### **Sustainable Environment**

Chair, **John Michael**, Naismith Engineering; co-chair, **Trey McCampbell**, American Bank; facilitator, **Bill DeFries**, Corpus Christi ISD; vision champion, **Dr. Scott Sherman**, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

#### **Safe, Healthy Communities**

Chair, **James Mobley**, MD; co-chair, **Dr. Nancy Vera**, Corpus Christi ISD; facilitator, **Tamatha Jackson**, Del Mar College; vision champion, **Patricia Townsend**, Del Mar College.

#### **Community Identity and Leadership**

Chair, **Sandra Alvarez**, AT&T Texas, co-chair, **Nick Jimenez**, retired, Corpus Christi Caller-Times; facilitator, **Mary Afuso**, Del Mar College; vision champion, **Claudia Jackson**, Del Mar College.

Community co-chairs for the BoldFuture vision initiative are **Dr. Flavius Killebrew**, president of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; **Dr. Mark Escamilla**, president of Del Mar College; and **Robert J. Gonzalez**, local attorney and chair of the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce.

Since its formation, funding for the BoldFuture initiative has come from the City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, San Patricio County, San Patricio Economic Development Corp., Coastal Bend Community Foundation, Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Port of Corpus Christi. Del Mar College and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi have also provided in-kind support, which is on-going.

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**BACKGROUND on BoldFuture for the Coastal Bend:**

- The vision project was announced in May 2008. Phases I and II have been completed, creating a community profile that answered the question “Where are we now?” and soliciting vision ideas and value statements from more than 1,800 residents who reside in the region and who answered the question “Where do we want to be?”
- Currently in progress, Phase III answers the question “How will we get there?”
- More than 70 community meetings were held from August to December 2008 as part of the process to receive community input.
- From the vision ideas received, six focus areas were created and an overarching vision statement, as well as focus area vision statements, were written. The six focus areas were announced at a Community Summit in February 2009 with more than 300 community members in attendance.
- During the Summit, more than 170 vision ideas received from community input in Phase II of the vision project were prioritized, and 146 strategies were accepted.
- Once the work of the Action Teams is completed, the Action Plans will be reviewed and announced during an April 2010 community event.

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