



## City of Houston First Annual Citizenship Week November 16-20, 2009

*Celebrating the Many Faces of Houston*

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**Vision:** The First Annual Citizenship Week consists of a series of events and programs sponsored by numerous community and faith based organizations, businesses, educational institutions and grass roots groups all celebrating the common theme of what it means to be a Citizen of the City of Houston ... a Houstonian.

The City of Houston is increasingly becoming a more globally competitive place to live and work because of our diversity: Our citizens are Houston-born, US transplants, immigrants, refugees, foreign students and international resident workers. The many social and economic contributions and accomplishments made by our vast and diverse immigrant and refugee population will be highlighted throughout the week's events.

**Citizenship:** As a definition representing positive participation in our community as a whole and as a desired legal status, citizenship will be emphasized and celebrated throughout the week's events and in the promotional media campaign during the week.

**Diversity:** Citizenship Week program events will underscore how our diverse ethnic and immigrant communities are integrated into the life of our city and the richness of their traditions and values promotes social cohesion and builds more secure and vibrant neighborhoods. Leaders in our schools and business promote recognition of and respect for our diversity as skills and attitudes necessary for active citizenship, productive workplaces and healthy communities.

**Sponsorship:** We are seeking sponsors and partners from the media, business and educational communities, faith-based and community-based organizations, social service organizations, performing and visual arts organizations, the Consular Corp, our Armed Services, and other governmental entities.

**Event Steering Committee:** Comprised of community leaders, the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Immigrant & Refugee Affairs, Mayor's Office of Communications, Mayor's Office of Special Events, Mayor's Citizens' Assistance Office, Mayor's Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs and other selected partners.

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### Initial List of Sponsors of the First Annual Citizenship Week:

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American Jewish Committee (AJC), AFL-CIO, Catholic Charities, Chinese Community Center, BPSOS, Children's Defense Fund, Ethiopian Community Organization in Houston, Foster Quan, LLP, Houston Area Women's Center, Houston Interfaith Workers Justice, HISD Multilingual Department, Houston Public Library, Lone Star College-Kingwood, Mayor's Advisory Committee on Immigrant & Refugee Affairs (MACIRA), National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), Neighborhood Centers Inc., Office of Justice & Peace/Campaign for Human Development of the Catholic Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, The Nigerian Muslim Association, Work Force Solutions, University of Houston, U.S. Census Bureau, and US Citizenship and Immigration Service.