

# Spring 2026 Business/Civic Leadership Forum



CENTER FOR  HOUSTON'S FUTURE

# Welcome



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# CLASS of Spring 2026

**Christine Adair**  
TIRR Memorial Hermann

**Ali Al Sudani**  
Interfaith Ministries Houston

**Stephanie Alvarez**  
Interfaith Ministries Houston

**Roben Armstrong**  
Parkhill

**Egmond Boon**  
The Awty International School

**Anna Carpenter**  
Metro

**Cherise Childs**  
New Hope Housing

**Matthew Conner**  
Arete Public Affairs

**Blake Ellis**  
Harris Country Precinct 4

**Jannica Garcia**  
Houston ISD Foundation

**Scott Gillenwater**  
NRG

**Ludmilla Golovine**  
MasterWord Services

**Eddie Hernandez**  
Houston First

**Mandy Hill**  
UTMB Galveston

**Stephen Ives**  
YMCA

**Audra Jesudason**  
Houston Zoo

**Matthew Lamb**  
New Hope Housing

**Lyrís Leos**  
NRG

**Shannon McNary**  
CITGO

**Max Moll**  
Cornerstone

**Satrice Morris**  
Houston City College

**Keri Myrick, Ph.D.**  
Outreach Strategists

**Katie Niemann**  
Houston Endowment

**Ronathan Persaud**  
Harris County Sheriff's Office

**Summer Reeves**  
Greater Houston Partnership

**Jackie St. Germain**  
UTHealth Houston

**Christy Stewart**  
Texas Air Systems

**Christina Tobin**  
Houston City College

**Caroline Verot Moore**  
Regions Bank

## CHF STAFF

**David Gow**, President & CEO

**Russell Richard**, Managing Director,  
Leadership initiatives

**Jennifer Beers**, Senior Coordinator

## FACILITATION TEAM

**Russell Richard** – Co-Facilitator

**Joni D. Goodman, CPTD** – Co-Facilitator

**Kristen McLean** – Graphic Recorder

# Day 1: Welcome/Kickoff Reception

The cohort met on March 24, 2026, for a Welcome/Kick-off Reception at the GreentownLabs Houston offices. Russell Richard, Managing Director of Leadership Initiatives, welcomed the class and thanked everyone for their participation. Cindy Yeilding, CHF Former Board Chair, and David Gow, CHF President & CEO, informed the cohort about the great work of the Center.



## Day 2: Galveston Retreat-Networking Reception & Dinner

On Tuesday, March 31, the cohort met at the Tremont House Hotel in Galveston, for a reception and dinner with guest Mayor Craig Brown, City of Galveston.



# Houston Region History Presentation

After dinner, Russell took the cohort on a journey through the Houston region's development from the bold and improbable founding of Houston by the Allen brothers in 1836 to the current day as the fourth largest and most culturally diverse metropolitan area in the nation. Russell, guided the discussion and together the cohort examined the role civic leadership has played in the growth and success of the region.



## Day 3: Galveston Retreat - Morning Reflections



## Day 3: Galveston Retreat - Speed Networking



## Day 3: Galveston Retreat Discovery Excursions



## Group 1: Excursion Presentation



## Group 1: Highlights



## Group 2: Excursion Presentation



## Group 2: Highlights



## Group 3: Excursion Presentation



## Group 3: Highlights



## Group 4: Excursion Presentation



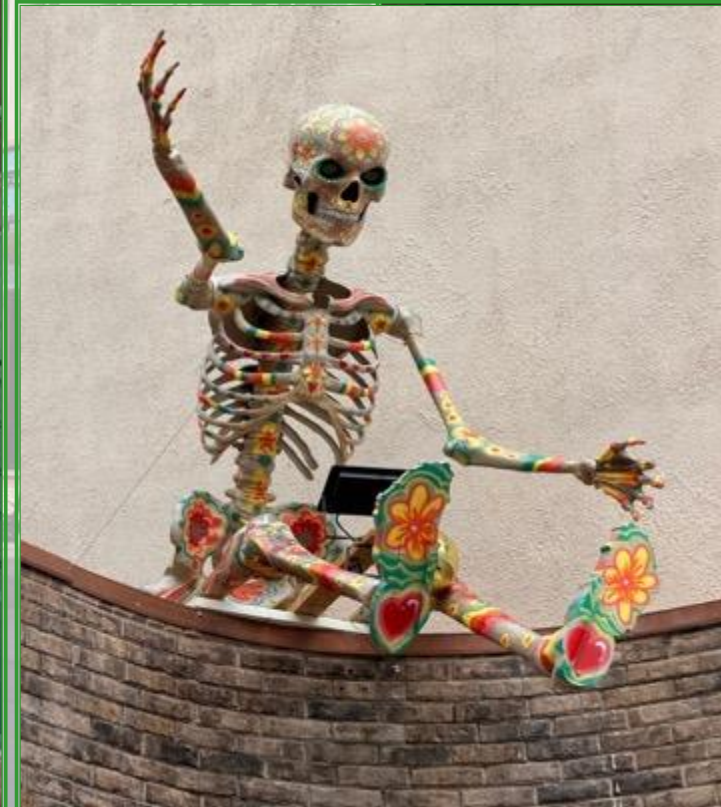
## Group 4: Highlights



## Group 5: Excursion Presentation



## Group 5: Highlights



## Day 4: Mindfulness, Houston's Business Climate, and Learning Journey Selection



# Health Museum Houston John Arcidiacono, President & CEO



## Mindfulness

Dr. Jei Pearcey, National Sports Association of  
Wellness & Mental Fitness



# Mindfulness

## Dr. Jei Pearcey, National Sports Association of Wellness & Mental Fitness



## Advancing Opportunity

Steve Kean, President & CEO - Greater Houston Partnership

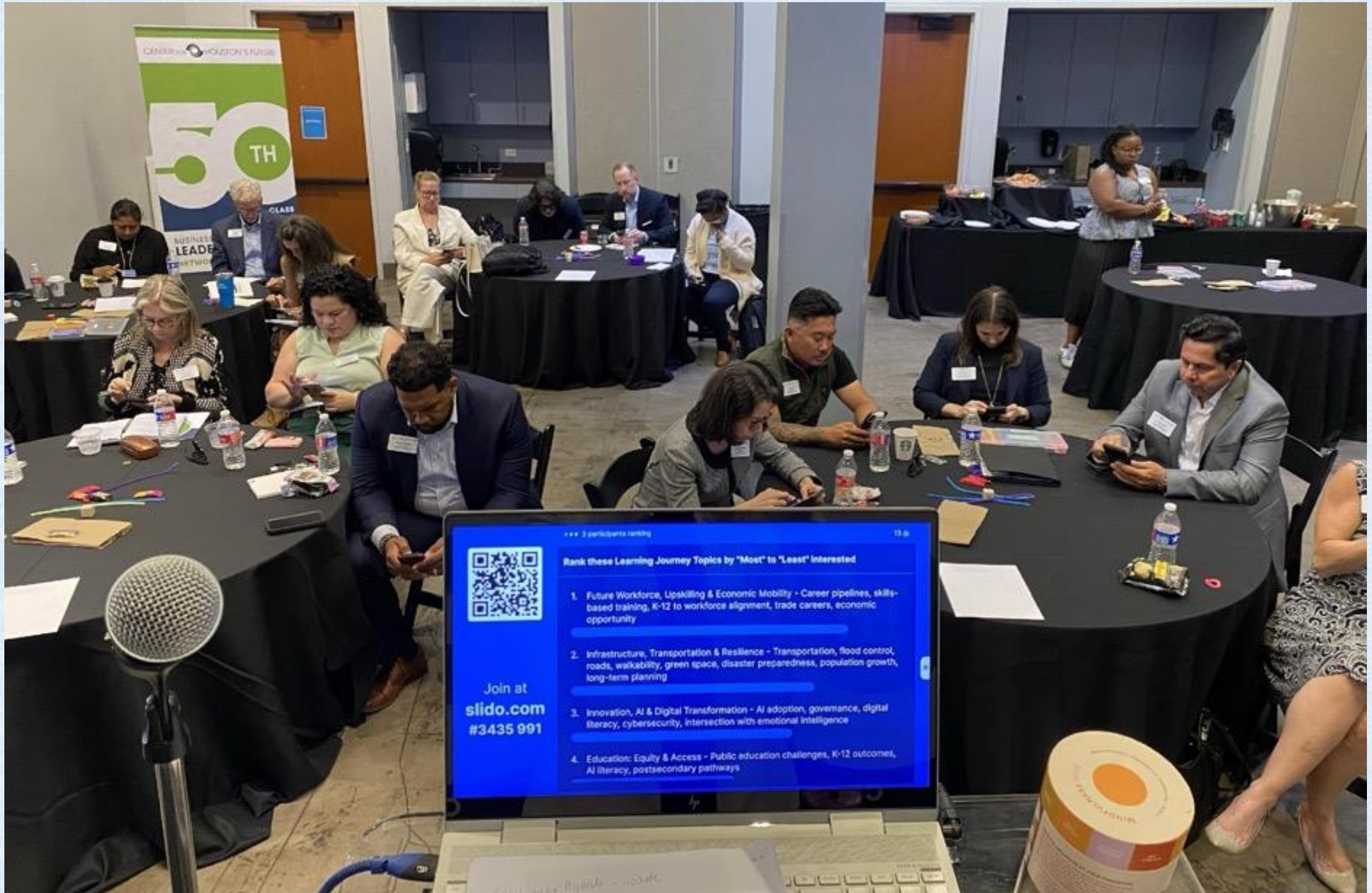


# Advancing Opportunity



# Learning Journeys

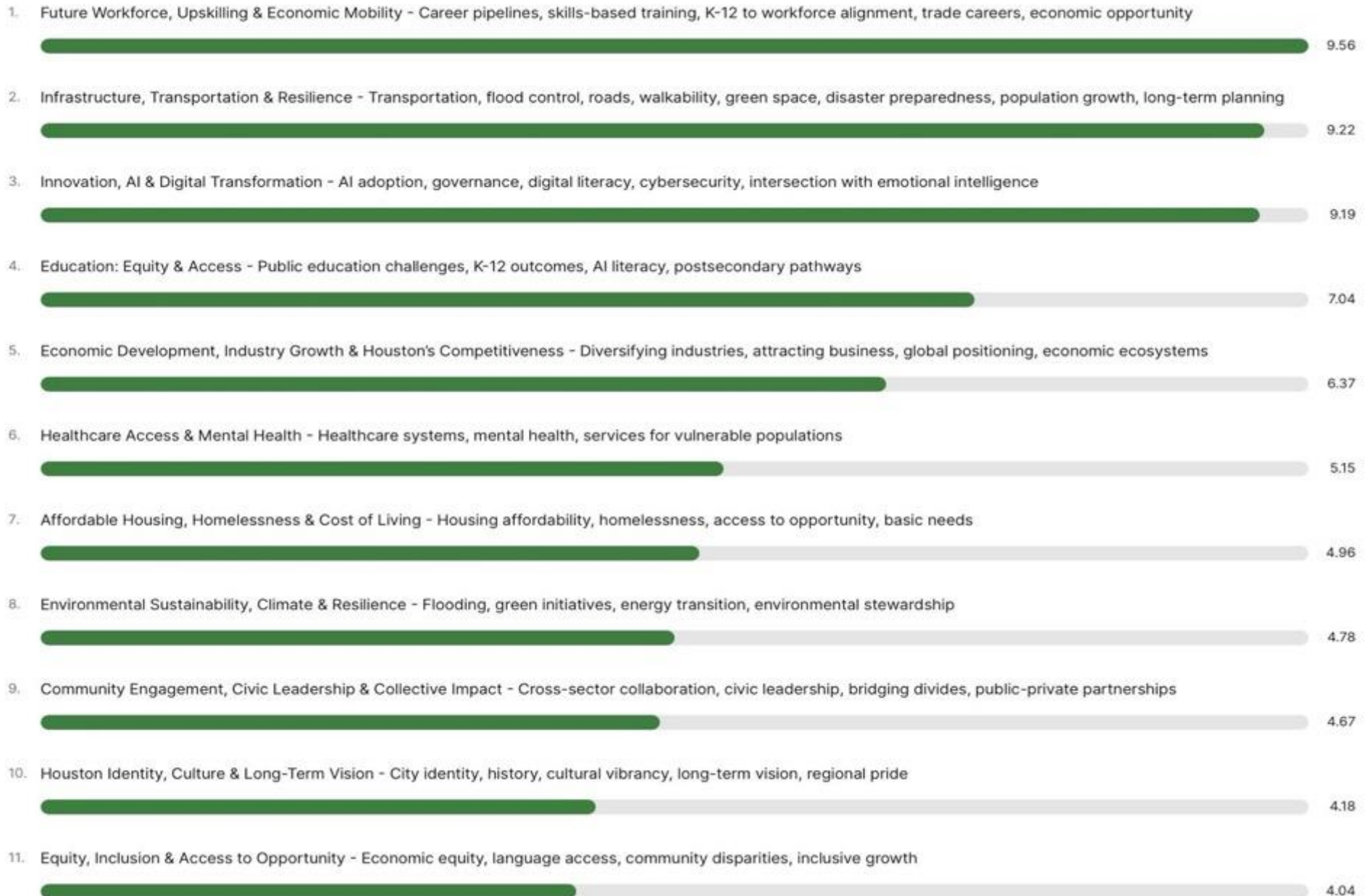
## Making The Most Of Your Leadership Forum Experience



# Learning Journeys

## Choosing the Topics

Rank these Learning Journey Topics by "Most" to "Least" interested



# Day 5: Population Insights and The Importance of Early Childhood Education

Daron Peschel, Federal Reserve Bank of Houston



# Population Insights

Dr. Dan Potter, Kinder Institute for Urban Research



# Population Insights

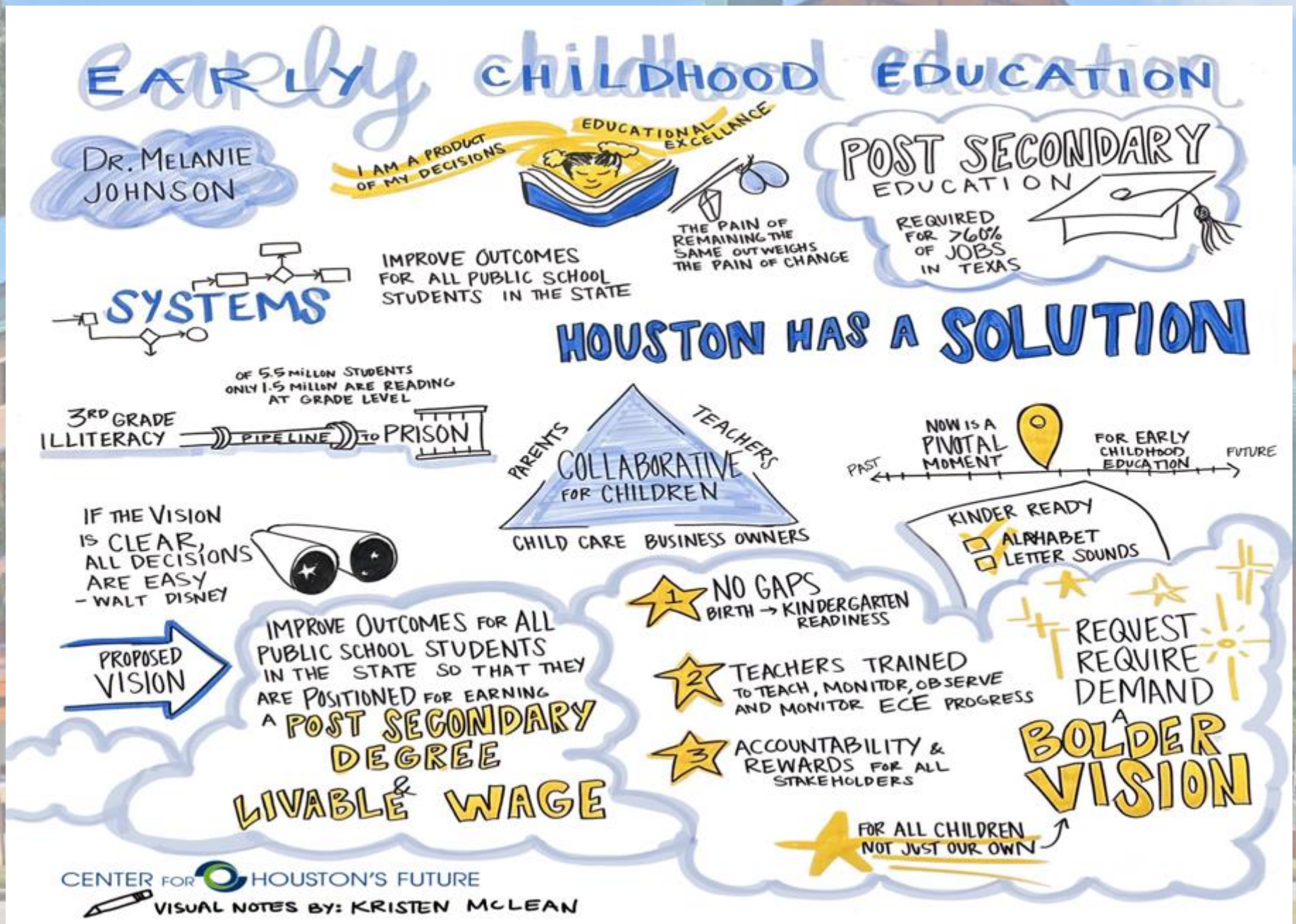


# The Importance of Early Childhood Education

## Dr. Melanie Johnson, Collaborative For Children



# The Importance of Early Childhood Education



# Tour: Federal Reserve Bank of Houston



# Day 6: Affordable Housing & Artificial Intelligence The Ion Houston

John (JR) Reale, Executive Director, Rice Alliance



# Affordable Housing

## Tamara Foster & Katie Lamb, New Hope Housing



# Affordable Housing



# Artificial Intelligence

## Debbie Richards, Creative Interactive Ideas



# Artificial Intelligence



## Day 7: Understanding the Impact of Immigration

Hosted at The Marek  
office with host and  
guest speaker Stan  
Marek discussing  
immigration



## Day 7: Understanding the Impact of Immigration



# Day 8 - Learning Journey Presentations Houston City College – Eastside Campus

Dr. Frances Villagran-Glover - President



# Learning Journey Presentation

## Future Workforce, Upskilling, Economic Mobility, & Education



# Future Workforce, Upskilling, Economic Mobility, & Education

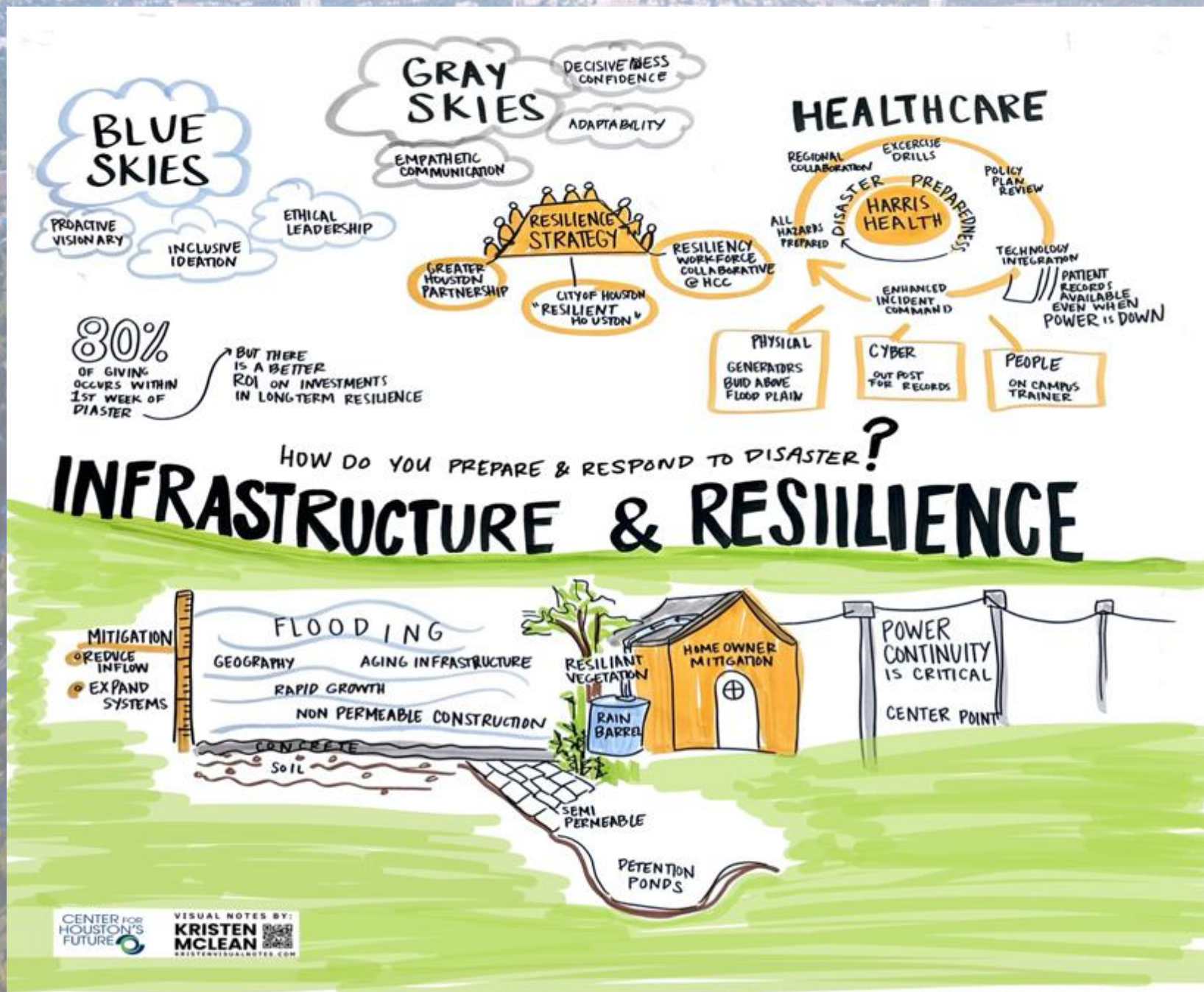


# Learning Journey Presentation

## Infrastructure Resilience

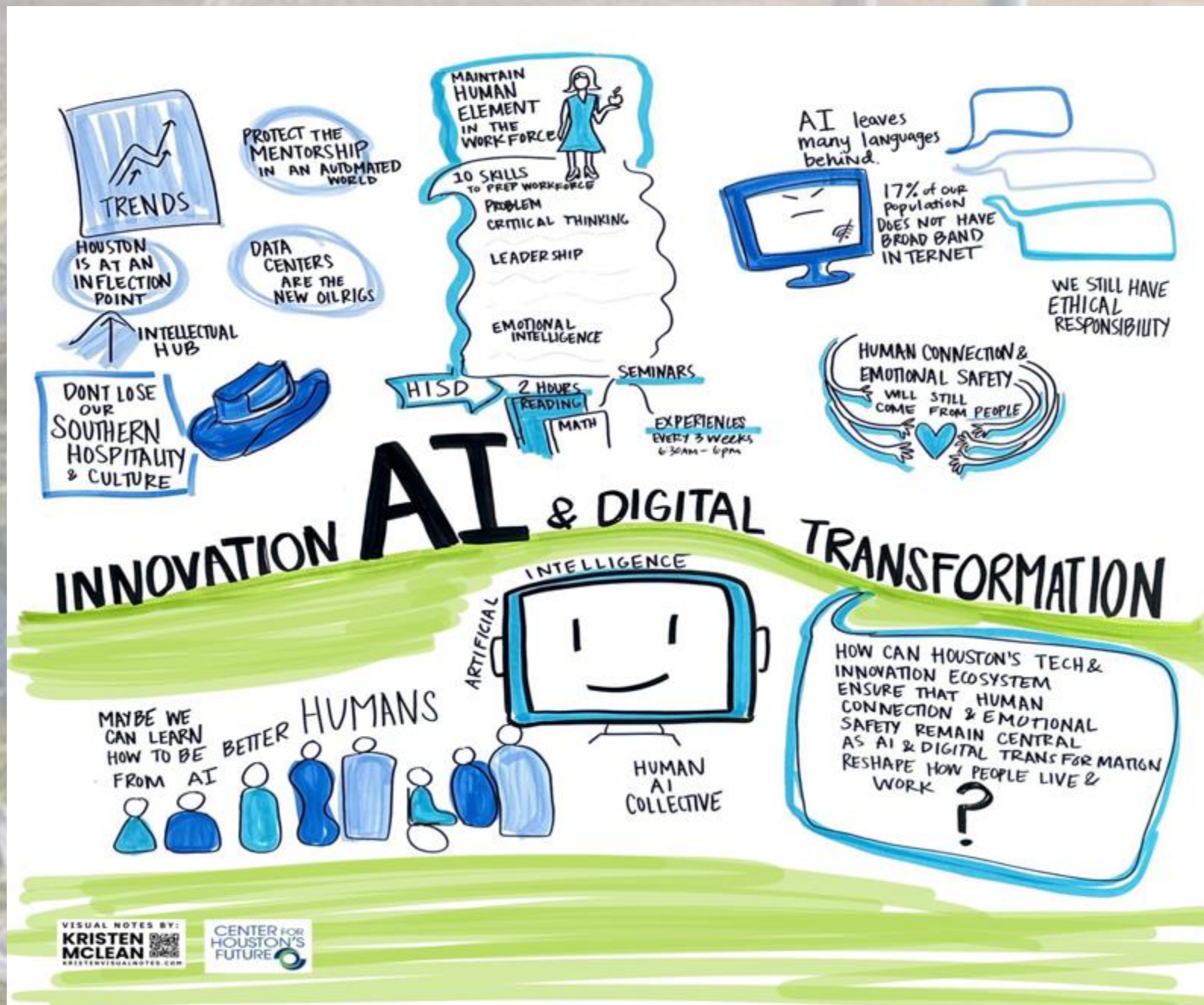


# Infrastructure Resilience





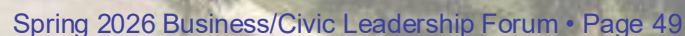
# Innovation, AI & Digital Transformation



# Learning Journey Presentation

## Transportation



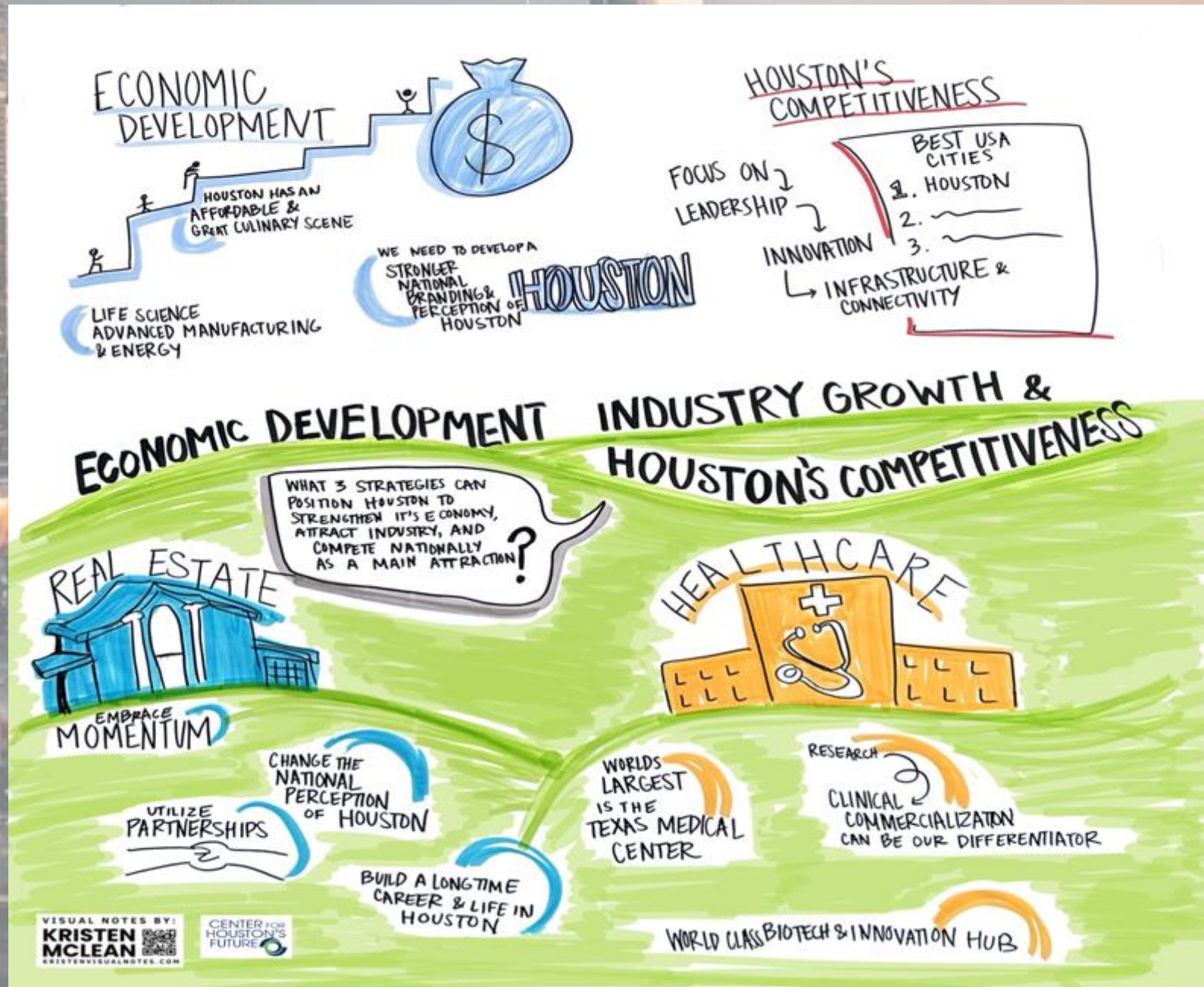


# Learning Journey Presentation

# Economic Development



# Economic Development



# Community Day – Kids' Meals

The cohort participated in a Community Day at Kids' Meals, where they prepared over 2,000 sandwiches for preschool-aged children facing food insecurity across the Houston region.



# Community Day



# Day 9: Project Metis, Community Leadership, and Commencement Ceremony Greater Houston Partnership Tower



# Welcome Address

## Y. Ping Sun, CHF Board Chair



# Project Metis

## David Gow, CHF President & CEO



# Community Leadership Mayor John Whitmire, City of Houston



# Honorary Acknowledgement

David Gow, CHF President & CEO, Y. Ping Sun, CHF Board Chair, and Russell Richard, CHF Managing Director, Leadership Initiatives acknowledged Mayor John Whitmire as an honorary member of the Spring 2026 cohort.



# Graduation



# Graduation



# Graduation



# The Green Tie Contingent



# Congratulations CHF Class of 2026

