



Education
Healthcare
Public Services

AFT CONVENTION
HOUSTON 2024 JULY 22-25

CONVENTION GUIDE

**REAL SOLUTIONS
FOR A BETTER LIFE**

#RealSolutions

AFT CONVENTION

HOUSTON 2024 JULY 22–25

We are excited to welcome you to Houston for the 88th AFT convention!

The materials in this packet are intended to make your experience as a convention delegate as easy as possible. On the following pages, you will find details about:

- **Tickets for AFT-sponsored breakfast and lunch events**—Don't delay! **The deadline for ticket sales is Friday, July 5**, and tickets will not be sold in Houston.
- **Tentative Convention Program**—What's happening when? Check for details here.
- **Proposed Constitutional Amendments and Resolutions**—You will want to pay special attention to the proposed constitutional amendments and resolutions, **which can be downloaded here**.
- **COVID-19 safety**—We've included a few reminders that are in line with current recommendations. Be safe in your travels to Houston.

All convention documents can be accessed from your mobile device, laptop or tablet, with paper copies also available for pickup in Houston. From the program to the resolutions, everything will be available online, and new information will be posted regularly to our convention hub. And there's Free Wi-Fi in the convention center, too!

To access the convention app, download **Cvent Events** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. Search for "AFT Convention 2024."

For additional information, visit aft.org/convention. We're updating this site regularly, so check back often!

SO LONG, PINK CREDENTIAL CARDS!

AFT convention veterans may recall the pink credential cards that were once mailed to delegates to present at registration. Now, you just need to present your photo ID and the QR code in your confirmation email for scanning at registration. We can scan from your mobile device or from a paper printout.

This QR code is unique to you, so don't share it with others.

COVID-19 SAFETY

The AFT continues to follow the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide a safe environment for members and guests at AFT meetings.

Please take note of these safety reminders and recommendations:

- **Each person is strongly encouraged to take a COVID-19 test** before traveling to Houston.
- **The AFT encourages attendees to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations**, including the updated 2023-24 vaccine, to protect against serious illness.
- **Masks are optional and voluntary.** Please be respectful of those who choose to wear one.
- **If you are feeling unwell**, do not attend convention meetings or events.
- **Self-administered rapid antigen tests** will be available upon request at the convention for any attendee who feels they need one.

JOIN THE FREEDMAN'S TOWN BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT!

Help Restore and Celebrate Houston's Historic Fourth Ward

Let's come together to celebrate and preserve the rich heritage of Freedman's Town. See you there!

Freedman's Town, a historic community in Houston established by freed black families, is a cornerstone of our city's rich heritage. This neighborhood, with roots tracing back to Afro-Caribbean settlers who spoke Spanish, represents a vital piece of our diverse history.

JULY 21 7:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

Restoration of a Prayer Labyrinth

Revitalize a significant community space where a historic church once stood. Help re-rock the labyrinth and create a place for contemplation and prayer.

Lily Planting

Assist in re-planting historic lilies originally imported from Africa and cultivated by the community for over 100 years. Preserve this beautiful, living history.

Archaeological Laboratory Work

For those who prefer indoor activities, support our efforts in the air-conditioned archaeological lab.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. SIGN UP NOW!

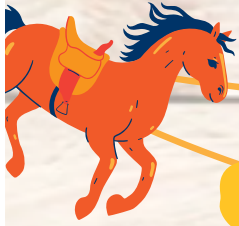
Be part of this meaningful effort to honor and preserve our history. Lunch provided on-site with a historian sharing details of the community's rich history. The event is located close to the convention center and transportation will be provided.



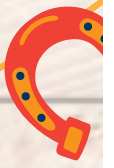
Scan the QR code to volunteer.



REAL SOLUTIONS
FOR A BETTER LIFE



WELCOME TO
TEXAS



THIS AIN'T OUR FIRST RODEO, Y'ALL...
IT'S OUR 88TH (CONVENTION)!

GET ALL GUSSIED UP IN YOUR BEST TEXAN GEAR—THINK BIG BOOTS,
BIG HATS, BIG HAIR, BIG BELT BUCKLES—FOR THE

Delegate Reception

MONDAY, JULY 22 *at* 6:30 – 8 P.M.

HILTON-AMERICAS HOUSTON



PRIZES FOR THE BEST TEXAN OUTFITS



SECOND CITY PERFORMANCES



TEXAN FOOD STATIONS AND LIBATIONS



DJ AND LINE DANCIN'



COME MIX 'N MINGLE, Y'ALL!

Tentative Program

All events take place at the George R. Brown Center unless otherwise noted.

Saturday, July 20 Pre-Convention Activities	Sunday, July 21 Arrival Day	Monday, July 22 First Day
<p>3 p.m. – 5 p.m. AFT Executive Council Meeting</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. Sergeants-at-Arms Training</p> <p>10 a.m. – noon Credentials and Elections Committee</p> <p>10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Citizenship Clinics <i>(HCC Southeast College)</i></p> <p>1 p.m. – 5 p.m. AFT Community Fair <i>(HCC Southeast College)</i></p> <p>1 p.m. – 7 p.m. Registration and AFT Real Solutions Hub open</p> <p>3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Sergeants-at-Arms Meeting</p> <p>4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Orientation for New Delegates</p>	<p>8 a.m. – 9 a.m. AFT Real Solutions Hub open</p> <p>8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Registration open</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Opening General Session</p> <p>Noon – 6 p.m. AFT Real Solutions Hub open</p> <p>1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Divisional Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFT Higher Education • AFT Nurses and Health Professionals • AFT PSRP • AFT Public Employees • AFT Retirees • AFT Teachers <p>3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Convention Committee Meetings</p> <p>6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Reception for Delegates and Guests <i>(Hilton Americas-Houston)</i></p>
Tuesday, July 23 Second Day	Wednesday, July 24 Third Day	Thursday, July 25 Fourth Day
<p>* 7:30 a.m. AFT Public Employees Jim McGarvey Breakfast</p> <p>* 7:30 a.m. AFT Higher Education Breakfast</p> <p>* 7:45 a.m. AFT PSRP Breakfast</p> <p>* 8 a.m. AFT Nurses and Health Professionals Breakfast</p> <p>8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Registration open</p> <p>9:30 a.m. General Session</p> <p>Noon – 2:30 p.m. AFT Real Solutions Hub open</p> <p>* 12:30 p.m. AFT Human Rights Luncheon</p> <p>2:30 p.m. General Session</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Nominating Session</p> <p>9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Registration open</p> <p>10 a.m. General Session</p> <p>2 p.m. General Session</p> <p>4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Election voting <i>(ranking delegates pick up ballots in registration area)</i></p>	<p>* 7:30 a.m. AFT Women’s Rights Breakfast</p> <p>9 a.m. until close of convention Closing Session and Installation of Officers</p>

* Ticketed events; visit [AFT.org/convention/mealtix](https://aft.org/convention/mealtix) for details.

Ticketed Meal Functions

Don't delay! **The deadline for ticket sales is Friday, July 5.** Tickets will not be available for purchase in Houston. All functions take place at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Purchase tickets via the online registration system, or visit www.aft.org/convention/mealtix to download a ticket order form.

AFT Public Employees Breakfast

Tuesday, July 23 | 7:30 a.m.—Buffet breakfast

Ticket price (advance purchase only): \$25 per person

This year, we celebrate a major milestone: the 20th anniversary of the first Jim McGarvey Public Employees Breakfast. [Click here](#) for more information about the legacy of Jim McGarvey and the Public Employees Breakfast. This year's topic is **Artificial Intelligence and the Future of American Labor**, featuring **Steven Greenhouse**, labor journalist and author of *Beaten Down, Worked Up: The Past, Present, and Future of American Labor* and *The Big Squeeze: Tough Times for the American Worker*.

AFT PSRP Breakfast

Tuesday, July 23 | 7:45 a.m.—Plated breakfast

Ticket price (advance purchase only): \$25 per person

Paraprofessionals and school-related personnel are known for their grit, determination and passion for the work they do. But the fight for dignity, respect and a living wage, among other things, is a work in progress. Join us at the PSRP Breakfast as our panel shares modern-day stories of heroism and union power, and honors the work of civil rights and union activists Velma and Norman Hill, authors of *Climbing up the Rough Side of the Mountain*. After the rough climb, the view from the top can give us all hope.

AFT Higher Education Breakfast

Tuesday, July 23 | 7:30 a.m.—Plated breakfast

Ticket price (advance purchase only): \$25 per person

Join us for a conversation with **Astra Taylor**, writer and co-founder of the Debt Collective, about the meaning and practice of solidarity in an unequal world. Taylor is the co-author of *Solidarity: The Past, Present, and Future of a World-Changing Idea*. Many factors in academia promote individualism and isolation, especially as colleges and universities are increasingly brand-conscious, customer-serving and debt-leveraged. As we face attacks by extremists in our state capitals and Washington, D.C., higher education will need fresh approaches to the fundamental concept of solidarity.

AFT Nurses and Health Professionals Breakfast

Tuesday, July 23 | 8:00 a.m.—Buffet breakfast

Ticket price (advance purchase only): \$25 per person

This year's breakfast features **Wendy Dean, M.D.**, a leading expert on the issues of burnout, stress and moral injury in healthcare. Dean is the author of a book on this topic called *If I Betray These Words: Moral Injury in Medicine and Why It's So Hard for Clinicians to Put Patients First*. She's also the host of two podcasts and a renowned researcher. You won't want to miss the breakfast.

AFT Human Rights Luncheon

Tuesday, July 23 | 12:30 p.m.—Plated luncheon

Ticket price (advance purchase only): \$35 per person

The Human Rights Luncheon will bring together delegates, community partners, and allies to celebrate historical and contemporary advancements in civil and human rights. As the country approaches a significant national election, the luncheon emphasizes the role of diverse communities (African American, Hispanic/Latinx, immigrant, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Indigenous, women, LGBTQIA+ and young people) in pursuing a better life. The luncheon honors the efforts of activists and organizations with Drum Major of Justice Awards, includes a keynote panel discussion on diverse community action and civic engagement, and reaffirms AFT's commitment to equity and justice.

AFT Women's Rights Breakfast

Thursday, July 25 | 7:30 a.m.—Plated breakfast

Ticket price (advance purchase only): \$25 per person

The Women's Rights Breakfast and Living Legacy Awards will unite delegates, community partners, and allies to celebrate historical and contemporary advancements of the AFT, members and leaders, community leaders and women's rights advocates. The breakfast will emphasize the role of women in pursuing a better life, focusing on themes of feminism, fair pay, bodily autonomy and choice, and the power of working women. The event honors the efforts of AFT's own women leaders and others, as well as workers on the frontlines in our classrooms with the Living Legacy Awards. This event will include a keynote address, awards presentation, and inclusion of women artists and authors.

Divisional Meeting Agendas

Divisional meetings will be held Monday, July 22, at 1 p.m.

AFT Higher Education

- Facilitated discussion with leaders running Real Solutions for Higher Education campaigns
- Group work on campaign pillars

AFT Nurses and Health Professionals

- Updates on Code Red and the work ahead
- Code Red StorySLAM

AFT PSRP

- State of the Division
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on PSRP work
- PSRP Bill of Rights and poster-making activity
- Introduction of PSRP-related resolutions

AFT Public Employees

- Public Employees activities update
- Use of algorithms, machine learning and AI in government service: table dialogue with delegates
- Resolution roundup: Public Employees
- Committee meetings process and resolution floor procedures

AFT Retirees

- National program overview
- Panel discussion
- Q&A

AFT Teachers

- Guest speaker: Josh Cowen, professor and author
- The voice of educators on the role of AI in schools and on improving assessment
- Update on Real Solutions for Kids and Communities

Transportation Information

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) is about 22 miles from the George R. Brown Convention Center. The approximate **taxi fare** is \$58, not including gratuity, to downtown Houston for up to four people in a cab. There is a late-night surcharge of \$1 per trip (8 p.m.-6 a.m.).

William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) is about 10 miles from the GRB Convention Center. The approximate **taxi fare** is \$31, not including gratuity, to downtown Houston for up to four people in a cab. There is a late-night surcharge of \$1 per trip (8 p.m.-6 a.m.).

Ride apps Uber and Lyft are also available at both airports. You can also book a **SuperShuttle**.

WHILE YOU'RE IN HOUSTON

The city of Houston has a flat taxi fare of \$6 for all trips anywhere within the Central Business District. No surcharges apply to the fare, which can accommodate multiple riders under the \$6 rate.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HOUSTON TRANSPORTATION, VISIT:

<https://www.visithoustontexas.com/travel-planning/getting-to-and-around-houston/>



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Houston Community College's Southeast College
6815 Rustic St., Houston, TX 77087

Shuttle service from the George R. Brown Convention Center,
Avenida South Garage at 1710 Polk Street to
Houston Community College available 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

JULY 21

10 A.M.-5 P.M. | Citizenship Clinics
1-5 P.M. | Community Fair



JOIN US FOR TEXAS TOGETHER WE RISE

CITIZENSHIP CLINICS & COMMUNITY FAIR



FREE BOOKS

Children's multicultural
and bilingual books



SUPPLIES

Student backpacks
and school supplies



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Bilingual resources for
parents and students



HEALTH

Blood pressure, cholesterol
and glucose screenings



FOOD

Lunch and snacks



APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Labor unions and
building trades

**While supplies last*



**Come and see citizenship clinics
in action, providing free legal
assistance and support**



**Scan to
volunteer!**

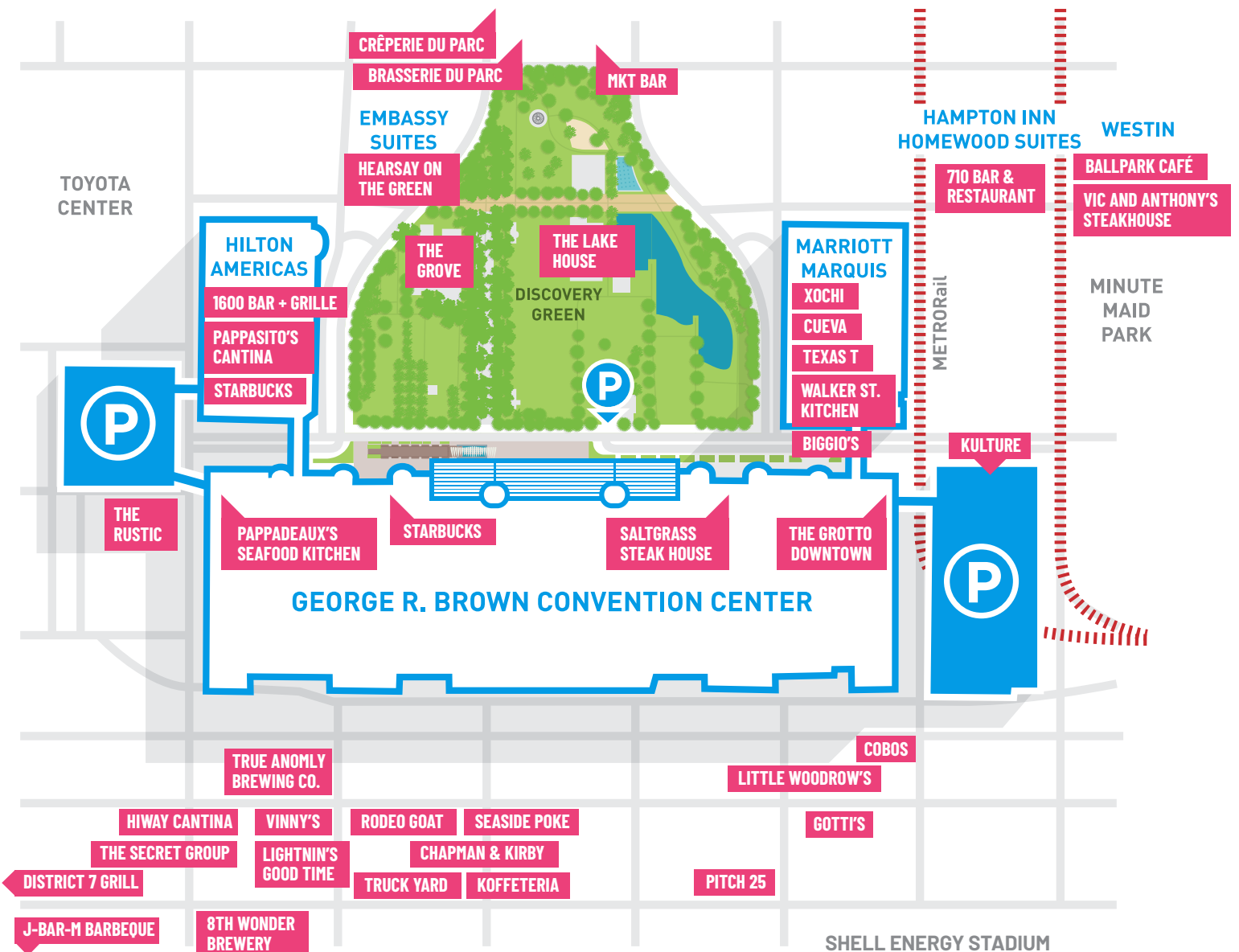


AVENIDA HOUSTON

Avenida Houston is Texas' largest convention and entertainment campus located in the heart of downtown – here, you are only steps away from dining, shopping, live music, nightlife, and professional sports venues.

COME READY TO PLAY!

www.avenidahouston.com



BRING YOUR BOTTLE

We each play a part in protecting our environment. Refillable water stations are located throughout the GRB to:

HELP THE PLANET

On average, Americans buy 167 disposable plastic water bottles each year. Only about 23% of those bottles are recycled.

Using refillable bottles keeps millions of tons of plastic out of our landfills and oceans.

Source: earthday.org



PROMOTE HEALTH

Our refillable water stations are hands-free, reducing contact transfer of germs and viruses. Grab your bottle and drink to your health!

REDUCE COSTS

While bottle water can cost an average of \$1.11 per gallon, piped water can cost less than half of one cent.

Refillable water stations save money for our facility and for you.

Source: beyondplastics.org



To learn more about sustainability initiatives at the GRB, please visit grbhouston.com/planners/green-facts/.

