2018 Impact Awards Judges

Ivy R. Taylor
Mayor of San Antonio 2014-2017

A native of Queens, New York, Ivy R. Taylor, has spent twenty years in San Antonio, Texas as an affordable housing advocate, educator and elected official. Ivy served as Mayor of San Antonio, Texas for three years and as a member of the San Antonio City Council for five years.

Ivy’s career began as a City of San Antonio employee. She then served as Vice President of Merced Housing Texas where she worked to improve family stability for apartment community residents. She spent six years as a lecturer at UTSA in the Public Administration Department. Ivy also served on the San Antonio Planning Commission and was previously a Commissioner for the San Antonio Urban Renewal Agency.

During her time as councilmember, Ivy led a significant community revitalization effort. Through her leadership, the Eastside, a distressed area of San Antonio, was awarded over $50 million in grants. In the summer of 2014, she was appointed as Mayor of San Antonio, per the charter’s requirements following a vacancy of the mayor’s office. In 2015, she was elected by the citizens of San Antonio. The 2014 appointment singled her out as the first African American to serve as Mayor of San Antonio. It also made San Antonio the largest city in the United States to have an African American woman serving as mayor.

Ivy brought together a unique coalition of citizens from the minority community, the business community and the faith community to focus on key priorities. Accomplishments during her mayoral tenure include adoption of a comprehensive plan for the city, a new contract with the police union that saved millions in healthcare costs, and approval of a key water supply project.

Ivy obtained a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1998. In 1992, she received a Bachelor’s Degree from Yale University.

Ivy remains committed to her life’s work which she describes as “connecting people to opportunities”. She is currently on the Board of Trustees for Huston-Tillotson University, an HBCU in Austin, Texas. In recent months, she has had the opportunity to focus on her family which includes her husband of 19 years, Rodney and her daughter, Morgan, who is 14 years old.

Chris Riley

Chris Riley served on the Austin City Council from 2009 to 2015 and has a master’s degree in Urban Placemaking and Management from Pratt Institute. He now consults on land use and city code issues. He also serves as president of the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association, and on boards including the Congress for the New Urbanism–Central Texas Chapter, Bike Austin, and Bike Share of Austin. He hasn’t owned a car since 2008.
John McKinnerney
Principal, Castle Hill Partners

John McKinnerney is a founding principal at Castle Hill Partners and leads the firm’s efforts to acquire value-oriented investments in real property in addition to providing overall strategic direction for the firm.

Prior to Castle Hill Partners, Mr. McKinnerney was a partner with Simmons Vedder Partners for 14 years where he orchestrated the development and acquisition of numerous commercial and multifamily properties in the southeast and southwest United States.

Prior to Simmons Vedder Partners, Mr. McKinnerney was a Regional Acquisitions Partner with JPI and from 1992 until 1996; Mr. McKinnerney was owner of Capital Resources, a land development and brokerage firm.

Mr. McKinnerney is an active member of the Urban Land Institute and served as Chair for the IOPC Gold Product Council and is a past chair of the ULI Austin District Council. He is also a member of the executive council of the University of Texas’ Center for Real Estate Finance. In addition, he is a past member of numerous advisory boards including National Multi Housing Council, HousingWorks and the Real Estate Council of Austin. Mr. McKinnerney attended the University of Texas at Austin and resides in Austin with his wife and two children.

About ULI Austin:
The Austin District Council of the Urban Land Institute was founded in 1999. Today, the Austin District Council includes more than 700 Austin-area professionals in the planning, architecture, design, engineering, investor, landscape, lender, legal, construction, communication and government industries, involved in every sector of real estate development, from residential and retail to commercial and hospitality. For more information, visit https://austin.uli.org/.