



**For Immediate Release**  
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**PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY**  
**AND BUFFALO BAYOU PARTNERSHIP**  
**LAUNCH TRASH SKIMMER *MIGHTY TIDY***

**Houston** -- The Port of Houston Authority (PHA), along with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, the Harris County Supplemental Environmental Program and the Harris County Flood Control District, is pleased to announce the launch of the trash skimmer *Mighty Tidy*, a vessel specially designed to skim litter and debris from Buffalo Bayou.

“The Port Authority is proud to deliver an innovative solution to the problem of visual pollution we have experienced along Buffalo Bayou,” said Jim Edmonds, PHA Chairman. “The skimmer boat is a part of our continuing commitment to good environmental stewardship.”

Funded in part by a joint grant from the Harris County Supplemental Environmental Program and the Harris County Flood Control District, the skimmer will be in operation five days a week along the banks of the bayou from Shepherd Drive to the East Loop 610. In addition to capturing debris washed into the Buffalo Bayou from storm drains and street runoff, the boat will be equipped with special attachments to remove trash from trees and along the bayou banks. Once the trash has been loaded via conveyers, it will be hauled onto dumpsters for off-site disposal.

“By participating in this project, Harris County can further control litter along this important watershed and manage flooding of Buffalo Bayou,” added Mike Talbott, Director of the Harris County Flood Control District.

The *Mighty Tidy* is also a public art project created by The Art Guys. This bright pink whimsical creature is an industrial vessel transformed by artists Michael Galbreth and Jack Massing for the public to enjoy.

The name was chosen after an extensive contest underwritten by Whole Foods Markets and involving hundreds of area elementary school children. Proposed by Haley Hendrix, a student at Lamkin Elementary, the name *Mighty Tidy* won its submitter a \$500 savings bond donated by Southwest Bank of Texas.

“As people canoe down Houston’s waterway or take a walk along hike and bike trails, often they have been alarmed by the quantity of trash and debris in the Bayou,” stated Anne Olson, President of the Buffalo Bayou Partnership. “We are pleased to bring together this public/private collaboration to clean our waterway and enhance our park spaces.”

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#### **About the Port of Houston Authority**

The Port of Houston Authority owns and operates the public facilities located along the Port of Houston, the 25-mile long complex of diversified public and private facilities designed for handling general cargo, containers, grain and other dry bulk materials, project and heavy lift cargo, and other types of cargo. Each year, more than 6,600 vessels call at the port, which ranks first in the U.S. in foreign waterborne tonnage, second in overall total tonnage, and sixth largest in the world. The Port Authority plays a vital role in ensuring navigational safety along the Houston Ship Channel, which has been instrumental in Houston’s development as a center of international trade. The Barbours Cut Container Terminal and Central Maintenance Facility are the first of any U.S. port facilities to develop and implement an innovative Environmental Management System that meets the rigorous standards of ISO 14001. Additionally, the port is an approved delivery point for Coffee “C” futures contracts traded on the New York Board of Trade’s Coffee, Sugar & Cocoa Exchange. For more information, please visit [www.portofhouston.com](http://www.portofhouston.com).