

CRITICAL PATH



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
GREATER AUSTIN CONTRACTORS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

40 Years of Service to the Civil Construction Industry Showing Off Our Party Glam to Celebrate

ACEA was established in 1983. It's hard to believe that 40 years have gone by. In that time, ACEA has been fortunate to have the expertise and leadership from the members serving on committees and on the board. It's due to the commitment of these members, and those early founders, that this organization continues to thrive addressing important issues and advocating for all our members.

Members gathered on March 30 at the Norris Conference Center to pay homage to those leaders and to have a little fun celebrating this milestone.



1. Attendees at the 40th Anniversary Celebration tried their luck at the poker tables.
2. Frank Stencer and spouse cutting the rug in the speakeasy. Randy Albaugh was the entertainment.
3. Darrell Seeds served as emcee for the event.
4. Chris Elliott, MLA Geotechnical, enjoyed the presentation.



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SPRING/SUMMER 2023



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**GREATER AUSTIN CONTRACTORS
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Summer (Jul/Aug/Sep), Fall (Oct/Nov/Dec).

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PICTURED ABOVE Carol Stewart, Tommy McClung, and Rich Wilkes all with Atlas Design Services at ACEA's 2023 Symposium.

CITY OF AUSTIN



Watershed Protection Department issued proposed changes in Q3 to the Drainage Criteria Manual, Standards Manual, and the Environmental Criteria Manual. For a complete listing of the proposed changes, contact ACEA at info@aceatx.com.

Austin Water Holds Stakeholder Meeting

Austin Water held a stakeholder meeting on April 5 and provided additions to UCM 2.9.1.F to further clarify CAV location requirements that are installed on reclaimed mains and force mains (4" diameter and larger). Contact Eric Langhout at Austin Water for any follow up questions.

City of Austin Initiates Site Plan Review Process



DSD has embarked on a consultant-led work surrounding the site plan review process, working with McKinsey and Co. to set up a series of focus groups. ACEA is a critical contributor and has been invited to have representatives participate in these focus groups to convey members' experience with the site plan process.

Technical Advisory Review Panel (TARP) Introduced



Councilmember Ryan Alter introduced a resolution to create a "Technical Advisory Review

Panel" of community stakeholders and city staff. The panel will review the city's technical criteria manuals to identify challenges and improvements and, ultimately, work to make the creation of housing a little easier. The ACEA Regulatory Committee has already provided feedback to many of these manuals and will continue to monitor and pursue opportunities to provide input during review of these manuals

Development Service Director Appointed



Following the retirement of Development Services Department (DSD) Director, Denise Lucas, on Jan. 31, 2023, José G. Roig was appointed to serve as interim director. Mr. Roig has worked for the City of Austin since 2007 in several roles. He was serving as the director for the Austin Code Department (ACD), where he provided strategic oversight and leadership to the department since Nov. 23, 2020. Prior to his work as ACD director, he served as a building official, building inspections division manager, inspections supervisor, and commercial inspector for DSD. Jose stays active in the code development community at a national and local level and has recently been elected to the International Code Council's (ICC) Board of Directors. Additionally, he currently holds several International

Code Council certifications, including certified building official, certified code enforcement administrator, commercial and residential building inspector, commercial and residential energy inspector, and property maintenance and housing inspector. He is also CompTIA Project+ certified and a licensed Texas code enforcement officer. As an alumni of Western Governors University, Mr. Roig holds a master of science in management and leadership, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in business management, in addition to an associate degree of applied science in fire science from Kaplan University.

The Regulatory Committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month. If you would like to be notified of upcoming meetings, send an email to info@aceatx.com

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Time Flies When You're Having Fun

Being Board President During ACEA's Busy Season



Francisco Castro, Jr.

To say that the last six months have been busy is an understatement. Not only is this time of year a busy time for anyone in the insurance industry, ACEA has kept us all hopping with events.

We started the year off with the Frostbite Golf Tournament and followed it up with the Chili Cook-off. The Chili Cook-off was a Membership Networking event and several of the members used the event to hold their own internal competition, sending only their best representative entry. This made for a very tasty and fun time for everyone. Shout out to MLA Geotechnical for letting us use their parking lot and for all the help with the permits.

It was my pleasure to be part of the preparations for the 40th Anniversary Celebration held on March 30. The Task Force decided to do something different from previous celebrations and took over the Norris Conference Center. It was so much fun to see everyone in their roaring 20's glam! Members enjoyed the casino and most found the speakeasy, but it might have been too well-hidden! Regardless, the

song stylings of Randy Albaugh even had couples on the dance floor. Others enjoyed the nice evening outside while smoking a great cigar. The raffle at the end provided more fun and everyone went home with a memento from the evening.

I hope you'll consider joining a committee this next year and if called to serve on the board, that you'll give it serious consideration. I promise you'll enjoy the ride!



1. Frank Castro, ACEA Board President, presents the Chairman's Award to Tim Weston, Symposium Committee Chair. 2. Rosalva Castro, Frank Castro, Catherine Seeds arriving at the ACEA's 40th Anniversary Celebration.

April wasn't much slower with the Construction Expo at the City of Austin Public Works yard and the Spring Swing Golf Tournament. The Construction Expo hosted students from Lago Vista High School and thanks to David Neitch with Rain for Rent, we all enjoyed a delicious BBQ lunch.

By the time the Symposium came around on May 11, I have to admit that I was looking forward to the end of my term as president. Don't get me wrong, I've enjoyed every minute of it. I've grown from the experience, learned so much about leadership, and public speaking, but I'm ready to hand the gavel over to our President-elect Garrett Shepperd.

We'll be heading to our annual board retreat soon and I know that the rest of the board members will be helping to set out the direction for the association. I hope you'll consider joining a committee this next year and if called to serve on the board, that you'll give it serious consideration. I promise you'll enjoy the ride!

Thank you for the opportunity and privilege of leading this great organization.

All the best,

Francisco Castro, Jr.
ACEA Board President \ CP

40 Years of Service to the Civil Construction Industry

continued from cover



1. Frank Castro welcomed attendees. 2. Past Presidents of the ACEA: Back row (L-R) Keith Young, Steve Wehmeyer, David Matocha, Darrell Seeds, Greg Shepperd, Walter Hoysa, Tim Weston, Scott Swiderski. Front row (L-R) Scott Budd, Jennifer Paisley, Silvia Pendleton (Executive Director), Danette Shelton, Sarah Dunn-Cantu, Mike Fisher, Justin Lange. 3. The craps table was a fun attraction in the Casino room. 4. Darrell Seeds included photos of the younger versions of the past presidents. 5. Guapo Cigars was a nice addition to the evening.

40 Years and 40 ACEA Board Presidents

Thank you for your service and leadership

1983-1985	Freddie Dippel, Jr., P.E.	2004-2005	Stephen L. Wehmeyer
1985-1986	Clarence Vinklarek	2005-2006	Keith Young, P.E.
1986-1987	Charles B. Graves, Jr., P.E.*	2006-2007	Greg Shepperd
1987-1988	Danny Reiningger	2007-2008	John Banaski
1988-1989	Rick Wheeler, P.E.	2008-2009	King Norris
1989-1990	Joe Bland	2009-2010	Jennifer Paisley, P.E.
1990-1991	David Gray, P.E.	2010-2011	Michael Ehrhardt
1991-1992	Duane McGlaufflin	2011-2012	Scott Swiderski, P.E.
1992-1993	Gary Raba, P.E.	2012-2013	Casey Giles, P.E.
1993-1994	David Smith	2013-2014	Stephen Delgado, P.E.
1994-1995	Lee Solis	2014-2015	Michael Stevens
1995-1996	Jack Garrett, Ph.D., P.E.*	2015-2016	David Matocha
1996-1997	Bobby Finley*	2016-2017	T. Walter Hoysa, P.E.
1997-1998	J. Carroll Faulkner, P.E.	2017-2018	Michael Fisher, P.E.
1998-1999	Roy Kinsey	2018-2019	Sarah Dunn-Cantu
1999-2000	Shelby Eckols, P.E.	2019-2020	Justin Lange, P.E.
2000-2001	Scott Budd	2020-2021	Timothy R. Weston, P.E.
2001-2002	Scott Dukette, P.E.	2021-2022	Darrell Seeds
2002-2003	Danette Shelton		
2003-2004	Freddie Dippel, Jr., P.E.		

*Deceased



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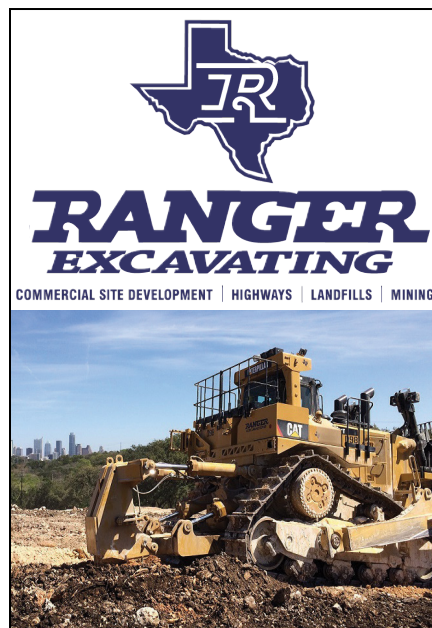
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Hamilton McRae, *Chair*
Frank Castro
Luci Miller
Trish Pulsipher
Darrell Seeds
Garrett Shepperd

6. Jake Straughan, HydroSource, and friend, enjoying the evening. 7. Katie Lange celebrates her win during the raffle drawing. 8. Darrell Seeds and Frank Castro verify Walter Hoysa's winning raffle ticket. 9. Macee Minor and Steven Minor had fun at the photo booth.



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Chili Cook-off 2023! Do Beans Belong in Chili?

The Debate Continues

Saturday February 18 turned out to be a beautiful day. With the weather cooperating, ACEA members gathered in a parking lot on Longhorn Boulevard to try to put the question to rest. Although the games and face-painting distracted folks long enough to keep discussions from getting too heated, no clear-cut answer was provided by the end of the day.

The teams participating were:

- **aci consulting** (ACI Chili Dawgs)
- **Accurate Pavement Striping** (A-CURATE Bowl of Chili)
- **Baer Engineering & Environmental Consulting** (Unbaerlievable Chili)
- **Bleyl Engineering** (Bleyl's Best Chili Bowl)
- **Jones-Heroy & Associates** (MUDders Makin' Chili)
- **MLA Geotechnical** (Cumin Get It)
- **Nitsche Group** (Red Hot Chillies)
- **Rain for Rent** (Poppy's Still Grill)
- **TDI Engineering** (Oak Hillbilly Chili)
- **Texas Heavy Equipment Repair** (TX Heavy Chili)

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

- **FIRST PLACE:**
Accurate Pavement Striping (A-CURATE Bowl of Chili)
- **SECOND PLACE:**
Nitsche Group (Red Hot Chillies)
- **THIRD PLACE:**
MLA Geotechnical (Cumin Get It)

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1



2



3



4



5



6

1. Great turnout for the 2023 ACEA Chili Cook-off! 2. Jeff Shindler, Oak Hillbilly Chili. 3. Attendees voted on their top chili choice. 4. Frank Castro presented top prize to Jonathan McCleery, A-Curate Bowl of Chili. 5. Fun day of chili tasting. 6. Frank Castro presented the People's Choice award to the Oak Hillbilly Chili team.

ACEA

COFFEE CHATS

Connect with ACEA Members on the first Friday of every month. Enjoy a cup of coffee and morning networking with civil engineering and construction professionals. Attendance is free, but please register so we know how many to expect and for your chance to win a door prize!

AUGUST 4

GRAY ENGINEERING OFFICE
8834 N. Capital of Texas Highway, Ste. 140
Austin, TX 78759
TIME: 7:30 – 9:00 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 8

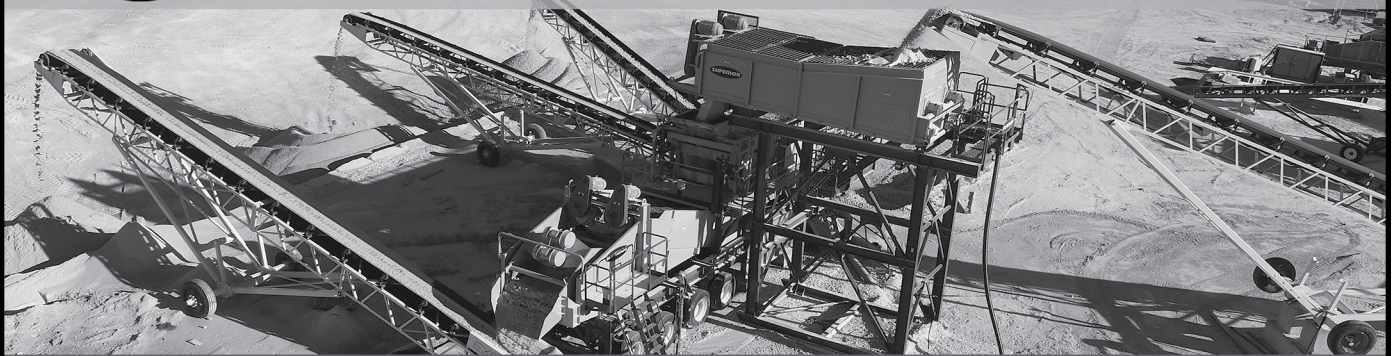
SWINERTON BUILDERS
5707 SW Parkway, Bldg One, Ste. 200
Austin, TX 78735
TIME: 7:30 – 9:00 A.M.

OCTOBER 6

LOCATION TBD
TIME: 7:30 – 9:00 A.M.



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Construction Expo Addresses Workforce Needs

Hands-on Demos Familiarize Students with the Equipment

The Community Involvement Committee once again partnered with the City of Austin (COA) to bring a much-needed program to high school students. Held on April 18 at the COA Public Works yard on Dalton Lane, students from Lago Vista High School visited with the participating member companies who provided hands-on demos. Each participating company had representatives to address questions from the students and explain the many avenues for a career in civil construction. Public works employees also provided a cement pouring demonstration and explained the process.

The committee is in search of a new location which will allow member companies to bring their equipment and employees. We're looking for a two-to-three-year commitment to host the event. It does require a venue that will allow minor drilling and other equipment. Having a known location provides consistency and allows for better planning and engagement.

If you're interested in learning more about becoming involved in the Construction Expo or you're able to host the event, contact the ACEA office at: info@aceatx.com.

Thank you to the companies who provided safety equipment and to David Neitch, Rain for Rent, for lunch.

STATIONS

- **City of Austin:** Simulators Motor Grader, Backhoe Loader, Front End Wheel Loader and Heavy Equipment Demo/Walkaround
- **Pape-Dawson Engineers:** Drone/Survey Equipment
- **MLA Geotechnical:** Drill Rig
- **Tree Mann Solutions:** Use of Survey Equipment to Save Trees
- **RDO Equipment:** Service Truck



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- Lone Star Precast
- Rain for Rent
- Ranger Excavating

- The Nitsche Group
- Travis Materials

1. Attendees included high school students, city personnel, ACEA members and volunteers. 2. Students had a chance to learn about survey equipment. 3. Getting a feel for the big equipment. 4. Students watching and learning during the cement pour demo.



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2023 Symposium Sees High Attendance

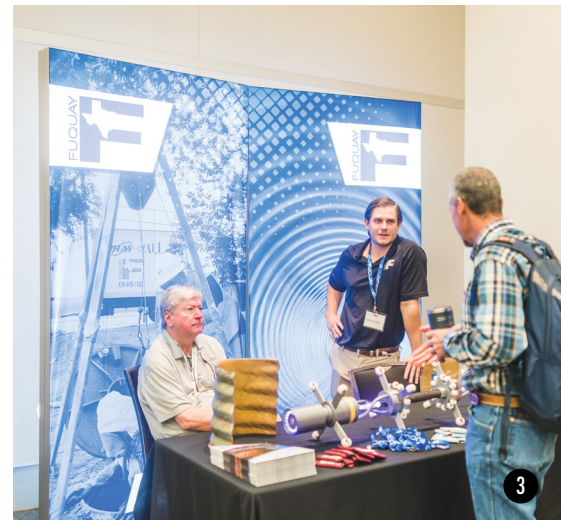
The 2023 Central Texas Infrastructure Design & Construction Symposium held on May 11 at the Austin Convention Center attracted more than 500 attendees. Everyone seemed to be in high spirits and ready to visit with colleagues.

The opening session provided a place for attendees to grab a morning beverage before heading to the first breakout sessions. The session highlighted ACEA's history and featured several of the association's past presidents. Each shared how they were first introduced to ACEA and how they have been involved in the association's growth.

Eight of the sessions were recorded and are available on-demand. Even if you missed the event, it is still possible to register, watch the recordings and earn needed Professional Development Hours.

The Committee is already searching for a new venue for the 2024 Symposium due to the convention center's eventual demolition. The available dates do not work for the ACEA timeline and it will be necessary to find a new location for our event.

We will continue to find ways to produce a quality event for the attendees and will keep you posted on the new location and date. In the meantime, we thank the sponsors and exhibitors who provide their support each year.



1. Attendees enjoyed the Margarita Social at the end of the day. 2. Tim Weston, Symposium Committee Chair, presented keynote speaker John Hofmann with an award. 3. Fuquay was one of the exhibitors. 4. Attendees at one of the 20 sessions presented.





5. The Margarita Social provided beverages and one last chance to catch up with colleagues. 6. Aneil Naik, Drenner Group and Symposium Committee member. 7. Attentive listeners at one of the sessions.





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2023 Symposium



8. Matthew Scrivener, Austin Land Solutions and Symposium Committee member. 9. 2023 Symposium Committee: Anel Naik, Amanda Elliott, Zach Steele, Tiffany Leal, Elizabeth Boswell, Joydeep Goswami, Colby Harris, Matthew Scrivener, Tim Weston. 10. John Hofmann, LCRA. 11. Pirouz Moin, City of Austin. 12. Half Associates gathered for a group photo. 13. City of Austin personnel. 14. Gina Ellison, City of Leander. 15. Randy Lueders, City of Cedar Park.



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ACEA Membership Luncheon Recaps

What You Missed at the Membership Luncheons

JANUARY

The 2023 Membership Luncheons got started with a presentation by Keith Hughes, Zonda, on the “Economic Forecast for Central Texas.” The forecast was mixed, but the information was valuable. Patrick Sapp, Municipal Valve, and Jacob Vandergriff, Markel Surety, received their new member plaques. Sponsor, Stephen Delgado, Atwell, presented the door prize to Jim Huffcut, Pape-Dawson.



FEBRUARY

In February, we welcomed City of Leander Robin Griffin, Executive Director Development Services, and Emily Truman, City Engineer. Walter Hoysa, LJA Engineering, sponsored and provided a door prize won by Jesse Kocher, Terracon Consultants. New Member Kyle Kriegel, MI Homes received his new member plaque.



JANUARY

1. Attendees at the first luncheon for 2023. 2. Keith Hughes, Zonda, guest speaker. 3. Patrick Sapp, Municipal Valve receiving his member plaque from Frank Castro, ACEA Board President. 4. Lyn Williams, Homeaid. 5. Jim Huffcutt, Pape-Dawson Engineers, won the door prize provided by Atwell. 6. Jacob Vandergriff, Markel Surety, was presented with the new member plaque by Frank Castro, ACEA Board President.



FEBRUARY

7. Kyle Kriegel, MI Homes, got his new member plaque from Frank Castro, ACEA Board President. 8. Robin Griffin, City of Leander, Executive Director of Development Services, Emily Truman, City Engineer, City of Leander. 9. Jesse Kocher, Terracon Consultants, won the door prize provided by luncheon sponsor LJA Engineering presented by Walter Hoysa. 10. Walter Hoysa, Robin Griffin, Emily Truman, Frank Castro.



11



12



13



14



15



16

MARCH

Jorge Morales, City of Austin Watershed Protection Director, provided an update on the department's activities and projects. Gail Hamrick-Pigg, CAS Consulting & Services, was the lucky winner of the door prize provided by sponsor Larry Hans, Ferguson Waterworks. Greg Gilley, Hydro Source, won a gift certificate from Star Ranch provided by the ACEA Golf Committee.

APRIL

David Greear, Travis County Public Works Director, was the guest speaker in April. He provided an update on the upcoming Travis County Transportation Impact Analysis. Richard Grayum, DEC, was on hand to provide the sponsor door prize to lucky winner Sydney Lance, SWCA Environmental Consultants. ACEA Board President-elect presented the new member plaque to Shawn Massock, 7Gen Planning & Landscape Architecture, and Bryce Barr, Kimley-Horn

MARCH

11. Jorge Morales, City of Austin, Watershed Protection Department Director. 12. Greg Gilley, HydroSource, won the door prize provided by ACEA presented by Frank Castro. 13. Greg Shepperd, ACEA President-elect, presented the 2nd Place Chili Cook-off award to Frank Castro. 14. David Greear, Travis County Public Works Director with Garrett Shepperd, ACEA President-elect. 15. Shawn Massock, 7Gen Planning, Garrett Shepperd, Bryce Barr, Kimley-Horn with their new member plaques. 16. Attendees at the April luncheon held at the Norris Conference Center.

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JUL \ 13

JUL \ 31

AUG \ 10

SEP \ 28

MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

TIME: 11:30 – 1:00 PM

SPEAKER: Brian Gettinger
VP Tunneling
Southland Holdings

TOPIC: Better Vision for Project Connect

Sponsorship Available.

Norris Conference Center

2525 Anderson Lane
(Northcross Mall)

SUMMER CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

TIME: Registration Opens at 7:30 AM

Tee Time is at 9:00 AM

Welcome Bar and Breakfast tacos at registration

Burger Bar at the Award Reception along with prizes and raffle items.

Twin Creeks Country Club

3201 Twin Creeks Club Drive, Cedar Park, TX

MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

TIME: 11:30 – 1:00 PM

SPEAKER: Katherine Caffrey, Cedar Park
Deputy City Manager

TOPIC: Capital Project Update in Cedar Park: What's Happening Now, and What is on the Horizon

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Norris Conference Center

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TIME: 5:30 – 9:00 PM

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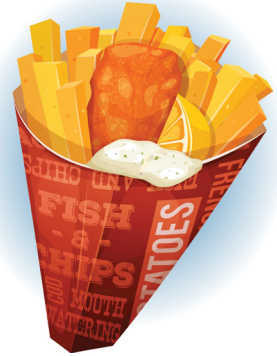
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRAND OPENING



RDO Equipment Co.'s Senior Vice President Cory Kosse, Vice President Mark Garrett and Buda's General Manager Ryan Wagner celebrated the grand opening of the new RDO store on June 1.

APPOINTMENTS

NEW APPOINTMENT



Congratulations to Pape-Dawson Associate Vice President **Jennifer Franklin, P.E.** on her appointment to the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Board for District 9!

RECOGNITION

TOP ACCOLADE



Shishi Chen with HVJ ASSOCIATES has been named by ASCE among the top early-career engineers in the country. Congratulations!

TOP YOUNG PROFESSIONAL



Congratulations to ACEA member **Jonathan Parnell**, Atlas Technical Consultants, for his inclusion in the 2023 Texas & Louisiana Top Young Professional's List!

PROJECTS

WATERLOO GREENWAY

Congratulations to ACEA member Jay-Reese Contractors on their selection for the next phase of the Waterloo Greenway project.

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

KLEINFELDER ACQUIRES DOUCET

Doucet announced that they have been acquired by Kleinfelder, a multinational firm specializing in engineering, design, construction management, construction materials inspection and testing, and environmental professional services. Both organizations are ACEA members.

Do you have member news?

ACEA members are invited to share industry-pertinent news. Please email press releases to info@aceatx.com.

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