

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

Problems? Houston Has An Answer

(NAPS)—For anyone with convention problems, Houston, considered to be one of the premier convention cities in the nation, has an answer. Among the reasons many companies are looking to this beautiful Texas city are: big expansion and building plans. These include:



Houston now offers meeting planners an incredible array of things to do and more is coming.

- **A new downtown convention center hotel.** The new hotel, which should be up and running by 2003, will add 1,200 more rooms to the 1,800 hotel rooms currently downtown. This facility will greatly improve Houston's ability to host major conventions. The city hopes to break ground on the hotel this summer.

- **Expansion of the George R. Brown Convention Center.** This expansion will coincide with the construction of the new hotel. The \$110 million, 500,000-square-foot expansion will nearly double the current meeting and exhibit space at the convention center. Last summer the convention center unveiled four new balconies that overlook the Houston skyline. The nearly 4,000-square-foot balconies can accommodate up to 300 guests for a reception and 200 guests for a seated meal.

- **Reliant Park expansion.** Two new facilities are under construction in Reliant Park (formerly the Astrodome), which is already home to Reliant Astrodome. The two new facilities are Reliant Stadium, which will be

the home of Houston's new NFL team, the Houston Texans, and Reliant Center, a new exposition center with more than 700,000 square feet of single-level contiguous exposition space and 72 meeting rooms. Reliant Stadium will play host in 2004 to Super Bowl XXXVIII.

- **Other hotel news.** The Hyatt Regency continues with its multi-million dollar renovation, which updates all 956 rooms and 30 suites. The historic Warwick Hotel has just completed a multi-million dollar restoration and the new 259-room Crowne Plaza is scheduled to open in spring 2001.

Other entertainment options include baseball at the Houston Astros' new downtown home—Enron Field—fine dining at any of the dozens of new downtown restaurants, great performances in the downtown Theater District, Space Center Houston, the Museum District and Galveston's fine beaches.

For great travel packages, call the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800-4-HOUSTON.