



Christa Stoneham is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Houston Land Bank (HLB), a governmental nonprofit organization where she leads transformative efforts to convert over \$100 million worth of vacant and underutilized land into affordable housing and vibrant community spaces. HLB's mission is to acquire and revitalize government-owned land to address the critical shortage of affordable housing, working alongside local builders, government agencies, and community partners. As the leader of the largest land bank in the United States, Christa addresses critical urban challenges such as affordable housing, environmental justice, and sustainable development, with a steadfast commitment to empowering underserved communities.

With more than 15 years of experience in architecture, urban planning, and community development, Christa has established herself as a visionary leader in her field. During her eight-year tenure with the City of Houston, she played a pivotal role in advancing \$30 million across 600 transformative projects, directly benefiting over 20,000 residents in 10 neighborhoods. At HLB, Christa has amplified this impact through initiatives such as the *Finding Home Initiative*, which emphasizes affordable, resilient, and environmentally sustainable housing solutions. Her leadership also secured over \$5.5 million in federal grants to address environmental challenges, including the remediation of a 70-year-abandoned former trash incinerator site.

Notably, HLB spearheaded the redevelopment of the former Yellow Cab headquarters, transforming the site into an affordable housing community that includes 40 single-family and over 90 multi-family units. This complex, multi-year project required innovative partnerships with the city, county, and federal government, over \$10 million in land acquisition funding, and four years of cleanup to address contamination.

A proud three-time alumna of Prairie View A&M University, Christa holds a Bachelor of Science in Architecture, a Master of Architecture, and a Master of Community Development. Honored as one of Houston's Top 40 Under 40, she is also celebrated as the youngest CEO to lead a land bank in the nation, standing out among over 300 land banks across the United States.

Christa's leadership philosophy is rooted in collaboration, inclusivity, and innovation. By fostering community-driven design and building partnerships with local and national stakeholders, she creates equitable opportunities and promotes sustainable development. Her passion lies in revitalizing overlooked, blighted, abandoned spaces, amplifying the voices of their communities, and transforming them into thriving, generationally impactful neighborhoods that embody Houston's resilience, pride, and boundless opportunities.