

# Plans and Projects for Harris County-Houston Sports Authority

*By R. Wayne Smith, P.E.*

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## I. Authority Structure

Sports Authority Members (HCHSA)  
Staff  
Board Members Responsibility

## II. Current Authorization

Build a Baseball Stadium  
Attract an NFL Team & Build a Football Stadium  
Provide Facilities for the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

## III. Future Project (with voter approval)

Basketball and Hockey Arena  
Other Venues - including the Arts

## IV. Background

Astros USA/HOK/Harris County/City of Houston/ Sports Facilities  
Limited Partnership (SFLP)/Harris County Facilities Development  
Corporation (HCFDC)  
Letter of Intent - September 14, 1996 - Required Legislative & Voter  
Approval November 5, 1996 -  
Voter Approval May 20, 1997 -  
H.B. 9 July 29 & 30 HCHSA Formed  
Prior to HCHSA Creation, HCFDC & SFLP Activities

## V. Funding Sources

\$250 Million Limit  
No Property Tax  
No General Tax  
Hotel-Motel Tax (HOT) 2% (\$10.5 million - First Year)  
Short Term Car Rental Tax 5% (\$12.5 Million - First Year)  
\$24 Million Second Year with 3% Annual Increase  
0% Interest Loan from SFLP

## VI. Projects to be Funded

\$180 Million for Ballpark at Union Station  
NFL Stadium & Rodeo Renovations @ Astrodome  
Future Basketball/Hockey Arena  
Other Venues

## VII. NFL/Rodeo Negotiations

Houston or L A.  
Financing Plans  
NFL Stadium Footprint

## VIII. Ballpark at Union Station

Astros Lease  
 30 Years  
 4.6 Million/Year - Present Value \$53 Million

Site Preparation  
 Environmental - Soils, Lead, Asbestos  
 Archeological  
 Demolition  
 Land Purchase

#### Current Construction

\$229.5 Million w/Brown & Root  
 Chilled Water less 6.5 plus bonus from Northwind  
 (Houston Industries Subsidiary) \$8.7 Million  
 10,000 Cubic Yards per day Excavation First Concrete Pour on Friday,  
 February 27, 1998 of 400 Cubic Yards.  
 Completion Schedule for March 2000

#### IX. Ballpark at Union Station Facts

<http://www.thesportsauthority.org>

The Ballpark at Union Station  
 January 16, 1998

Spectator Facilities Seating Capacity: 42,000 seats\*

#### Seating Breakdown :

Diamond Club:	262 seats
Field Level:	19,174 seats
Right Field Mezzanine:	2,572 seats
Club Level:	4,857 seats
Suite Level:	882 seats
Upper Level:	13,903 seats
Disabled Seating (all levels):	420 spaces

#### Restroom Facilities:

Public Restrooms:	25 Women, 24 Men
Toilet Fixtures:	308 Women, 297 Men
Plumbing Fixtures Ratios:	1:68 Women, 1:71 Men (assuming 50% female, 50% male spectators)

#### Concessions:

Number of Concession Stands:	35
Number of Points of Sale:	197
Average Spectators per Point of Sale:	213

#### Vertical Transportation (Spectators):

Escalators:	11
Passenger Elevators:	8
Public Stairways:	10
Pedestrian Ramps:	1

#### Parking:

Enclosed On-site Parking:	96 spaces
Reserved On-site Parking (includes P): 2,040 spaces	
Off-site parking	

(within 1/2 mile radius, street parking excluded): 25,179 spaces

## Building &amp; Playing Field

## Building Dimensions:

Along Texas/Congress Avenue:	735 ft.
Along Crawford/Hamilton Streets:	897 ft.
Building Height (fixed):	139 ft.
Building Area (new & renovated):	1,261,798 sq. ft.

## Playing Field Facts:

Natural Grass Playing Surface:	6.7 acres
Left Field Foul Line:	315
./19 ft. wall	
Left Field Power Alley:	362 ft./10 ft. wall
Center Field:	435 ft./10 ft. wall
Outfield Deepest Point:	436 ft./10 ft. wall
Right Field Power Alley:	373 ft./ 7 ft. wall
Right Field Foul Line:	326 ft./ 7 ft. wall
Home Plate to First Row Spectator:	min. 49 ft.
1"/3rd Baseline to Nearest Spectator:	max. 43 ft.
1"/3rd Base to First Row Spectator:	57 ft.
Right/Left Field seats to foul line:	min. 5 ft.

## Moving Roof Facts Horizontal Dimensions:

Panels 1 and 3:	120 ft by 537 ft. (64,430 sq. ft.)
Panel 2 :	242 ft. by 589 ft. (142,641 sq. ft.)
Total Moving Roof Area:	271,500 sq. ft. (6 1/4 acres)

## Glass Area at West End of Moving Roof:

Panels 1 and 3:	120 ft. w by 92 ft. h (11,040 sq. ft.)
Panel 2:	242 ft. w by 115 ft. h (27,830 sq. ft.)
Total Moving Glass Area:	49.910 sq. ft (1.14 acres)

## Roof Height &amp; Weight:

Above Short Center Field (clear):	204 ft.
Above Street Level (to top).	242 ft.
Truss Depth at Mid-span:	40 ft.
Approximate \Weight of Steel.	10,000,000 lbs.
Approximate Time to Close/Open:	12-20 minutes.

Final numbers subject to change as design evolves