



“Illya’s contributions to the Houston Resiliency Innovation Workshop as a planner and co-facilitator were invaluable to the success of the event. His expertise in the realm of resilience along with his passion for community engagement help set the stage for a truly unique workshop.”

- Laura Flannery Sachtleben, AIA, LEED AP BD+C

CHALLENGE

After the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in August 2017, the City of Houston was in search of guidance on organizing its response. Illya reached out to the Texas Society of Architects and AIA Houston to provide much-needed support and connectivity in the days following the event, helping to build networks of recovery and relief between AIA Houston and the city government.

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

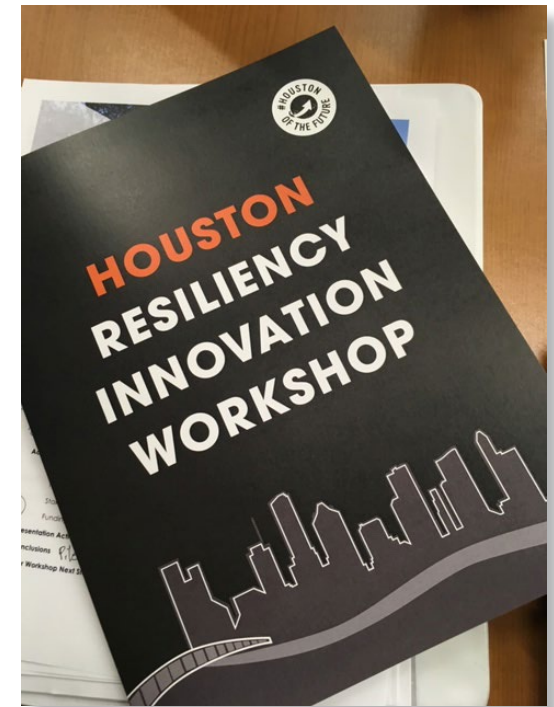
I have personal knowledge of the nominee’s responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included subject matter expert and leader to a common collaborative goal.

Laura Flannery Sachtleben, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Stantec
Workshop Co-Facilitator

ROLE

Illya took on the role of advisor to the city of Houston. As a resilience expert, he led community stakeholder workshops, and contributed to the Resilient Houston strategy. He guided the leadership and connected them with a broad spectrum of resilience experts encompassing water and flood managers from the Dutch Consulate government, Enterprise Community Partners, FEMA Region 4, and other federal agencies. He gave expert advice based on his experiences in New York City and the Northeast after Superstorm Sandy.

Because of these contributions, Laura Schactleben, AIA, and Melissa Turnbaugh, AIA, on behalf of Stantec, invited Illya to run a resilience workshop for the company. He convinced them to expand the training to the Houston design community and subsequently led “Resilient Futures Houston,” a community-based workshop focused on developing concepts to prepare Houston to deal with future climate change-related events. He was instrumental



↑ Program for Houston community workshop of 80 attendees



↑ Left to right: David Irvine, John Keane, Laura Sachtleben, David Robinson, Illya Azaroff, Laura Turnbaugh, Derick Webb, AIA



↑ Houston Resilient Futures workshop with community stakeholders in working groups, launching several ideas and teams



Houston 2020 Visions Jury and AIA Houston Steering Committee.

Left to Right: John Clegg, AIA; Donna Kacmar, FAIA; Jaime Sobrino, FAIA; Antoine Bryant, Assoc. AIA; Bob Berkebile, FAIA; Catherine Callaway, AIA; Rusty Bienvenue, Ilyia Azaroff, AIA; David W. Robinson, FAIA; Janis Brackett, AIA; Maria Nicanor; Elissa Hoagland Izmailyan; and Jeff Hebert.

↑ Launch of Houston Visions 2020, picturing jury members and advisory team

OUTCOME

“Resilient Futures Houston” inspired several design teams to participate in Houston Visions 2020, organized by AIA Houston, which stated, “Overall, the goal is to place design and sustainability at the heart of conversations about planning for a more resilient future.” Ilyia served as an expert advisor to the design competition and resulting exhibition that is currently on display at Architecture Center Houston; it will eventually be a traveling exhibit.

The Lily Pad Resilience Hub Network, identified as one of the visions, is now seeking funding through the National Science Foundation (NSF) and FEMA to realize the first of these projects in Houston and beyond. The NSF team that participated in the hubs project reconvened to look at funding and further studies for resilience hubs in multi-pole cities, building on the strategies of Houston Visions 2020 that take pandemics into account. Ilyia continues to advise the city government, design professionals within the city, and AIA Houston.



With a keen awareness of how disparate parts influence outcomes, Ilyia is a visionary architect who leads communities towards a more resilient future through both design and thought leadership.

*Jack R Morgan, AIA
Louise Blanchard Bethune Fellow*



↑ Vision 2020 Jury convening, hosted by City Councilman David Robinson, FAIA