

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UH Law Center to screen “Andrew Young’s Making of Modern Atlanta” documentary

Discussion comparing Atlanta’s growth to Houston’s to follow film

Jan. 14, 2016 – In celebration of Black History Month, the University of Houston Law Center will host a screening of “Andrew Young’s Making of Modern Atlanta” on Feb. 17 at Krost Hall. The film will begin at 6:35 p.m. and will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by UH Law Center Dean Leonard M. Baynes.

“Andrew Young’s Making of Modern Atlanta” shares the story of Atlanta’s rise from a small city into a metropolis with wide-ranging international reach. Andrea Young, a professor of practice at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University and Scholar in Residence at Morehouse College, initiated the project and is the executive producer of the documentary. She is the daughter of noted diplomat and political leader Andrew Young and will be part of a panel discussing the film.

“Atlanta’s transformation from a regional city to an international city is rooted in its legacy as the home of Martin Luther King,” Young said. “Atlanta’s political and business leaders have worked to integrate the economy, bringing minorities and women into the city’s economy. As mayor, Andrew Young used a strategy he calls ‘public-purpose capitalism’ to promote job creation and business joint ventures having public sector leaders set the purpose, while using private capital to implement projects. This was the model for the Olympics -- public vision and private capital with the full participation of minority and women-owned businesses.”

Andrew Young served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1973 to 1977. From 1977 to 1979, he served as the 14th United States Ambassador to the United Nations, the first African-American to serve in that capacity. He was later elected the 55th mayor of Atlanta and served in that role from 1982 to 1990.

“I am delighted that the Law Center will celebrate Black History Month through the historical lenses of examining the progress of Atlanta and Houston into modern American cities,” Baynes said. “At the same time, we will be able to honor the contributions of two living legends— Ambassador Andrew Young and Rev. William Lawson—who were key players in each city’s march toward modernity.”

Joining Young at this event are University of Houston College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences professors Linda Reed and Tyrone Tillery and Rev. William Lawson of the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church. The conversation will examine historical lessons that both Houston and Atlanta might learn from each other as they move forward into the modern era.

“Atlanta shares with Houston a legacy of leaders who chose prosperity over prejudice in responding to segregation,” Young said. “It is important to reflect on that legacy of tolerance and its role in economic growth as our communities become even more diverse.”

A reception will be held after the panel discussion from 8:35 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The screening is co-sponsored by several other University of Houston colleges including the African American Studies department, the Bauer College of Business, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture, the College of Education and the Graduate College of Social Work. The event is open to the public. [Please RSVP here.](#)

Young is co-author of the book “Andrew Young and the Making of Modern Atlanta” to be published by Mercer University Press in the fall. She is an attorney with more than 30 years of engagement in advocacy and program development to promote civil and human rights and is a founding board member for the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. She also authored “Life Lessons My Mother Taught Me” in 2000 and collaborated with Andrew Young on his memoir “An Easy Burden: Civil Rights and the Transformation of America” in 1996.

[Click here for a preview of “Andrew Young’s Making of Modern Atlanta.”](#)

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About the University of Houston Law Center

The [University of Houston Law Center](#) is the leading law school in the nation's fourth-largest city. Founded in 1947, it is a top-tier institution awarding Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) and Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees. The Law Center is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools.