Certified Retirement Community
Community Assessment
City of El Campo, Texas

This assessment is designed to serve as the basis for our community's marketing and planning efforts. El Campo is very excited about the opportunity to be considered a retirement friendly community.

The City of El Campo has prioritized maintaining the small town charm while providing quality services to its citizens.

A. Community Overview

In 1882 a railroad camp was located where El Campo now stands. The camp was first named "Prairie Switch" and then "Pearl of the Prairie" but was later changed by the Mexican Cowboys to "El Campo" which means "the camp." Ranching was the main industry, and thousands of cattle were shipped annually. At that time El Campo was surrounded by four large ranches; to the north was the Brown Ranch; to the south was the Texas Land and Cattle Company, to the west was the Herder Ranch, and to the east was the Pierce Ranch.

El Campo was incorporated in 1905. The municipal government was composed of a mayor and five aldermen. Mr. Mack Webb was elected mayor, with a salary of $10.00 per month. W. G. McDonald was the first city attorney; W. E. Franz, the first city secretary. Members of the first council were H. G. Beard, E. L. Correll and W. W. Duson.

Soon after the establishment of a formal government, came adequate police protection and a volunteer fire department. Utility services were expanded. The City of El Campo has been the result of a steady and continual growth by citizens who came and saw the great possibilities that El Campo has to offer.

Demographics/Geography

El Campo is strategically positioned mid-way along the Texas Gulf Coast and is poised to partner with your organization for relocation, expansion or strategic implementation of your long-term goals. The City of El Campo covers an area of 6.7 square miles and is the largest city in Wharton County, which covers an expansive 1,115 square miles. El Campo is ideally situated for transportation at the intersection of US High way 59 (future Interstate 69 and NAFTA corridor) and State Highway 71 and only 38 miles from cross-country Interstate highway, I-10. The land area is 8.5 square miles and is approximately 105 feet above sea level. Population density is low, about 1,365 people per square mile. The estimated median household income in 2017 was $42,491. The 2017 cost of living index in El Campo is 85.5 (low compared to the US average of 100).

The following population information was provided by the US Census Bureau:

Year	El Campo	Wharton County
2016	11,766	41,486
2015	11,730	41,486
2014	11,691	41,197
2013	11,608	41,239
2012	11,600	41,151
2011	11,719	41,248
2010	11,602	41,312

General Characteristics		Number	Percentage
Total Population	Male	5,648	48.0%
	Female	6,118	52.0%
Median Age	Under 5 years	988	8.4%
	18 years and older	8,319	70.7%
	65 years and older	1,671	14.2%
Race	White	8,954	76.1%
	Black or African American	1,282	10.9%
	American Indian and Alaska Native	35	0.3%
	Asian	59	0.5%
	Some other race	1,439	11.2%
Households		4,491	
	Owned	2,911	64.8%
	Rentals	1,580	35.2%
Average Family Size			2.84 people

Climate

El Campo is subtropical, with an average temperature of 78.5 degrees; we enjoy mild winters, plenty of sunshine and seldom snow. Winders are variable, but mainly from the south at 7-10 miles per hour except during thunderstorms. The average rainfall is 46 inches a year.

The chart below outlines climate averages:

Month	High Temp	Low Temp	Avg. Temp	Avg. Rain
January	62.0	41.8	51.9	3.4
February	66.1	44.5	55.3	2.8
March	73.3	51.4	62.4	2.7
April	79.6	58.1	68.9	3.2
May	85.7	66.3	76.0	5.2
June	91.3	70.9	81.1	4.7
July	94.3	72.8	83.6	3.1
August	94.8	71.6	83.2	3.6
September	90.0	67.3	78.7	5.8
October	82.4	58.2	70.3	4.6
November	72.5	50.3	61.4	3.6
December	64.5	43.1	53.8	3.2

Source: Intellicast

B. Texas Tax Structure – State and local

The tax structure for City of El Campo residents, including state, county, city and local school tax rates is detailed below. Recognizing the importance to senior citizens, the City of El Campo has adopted an ordinance freezing taxes on homesteads for disabled residents or residents 65 years of age or older, as authorized by Section 1-b (h), Article III, Texas Constitution. By State law, El Campo Independent School District similarly freezes taxes on homesteads for senior citizens. Property values are set by the Wharton County Central Appraisal District. Taxes for the County, schools and cities are collected by the County Tax Assessor. Wharton County does not offer the senior freeze but does offer a $10,000 exemption on homesteads.
Property tax rates are outlined below:

Entity	Rate per $100 assessed value
City of El Campo	$0.6141
Coastal Bend Groundwater Conservation District	$0.0083
El Campo ISD	$1.1980
Emergency Services District #1	$0.0500
Emergency Services District #4	$0.0676
West Wharton County Hospital District	$0.2039
Wharton County Junior College	$0.1355
Wharton County	$0.4750

Additionally, the City of El Campo collects sales tax on eligible items. A breakdown of sales tax is below:

Entity	Percentage
City of El Campo	1.50%
Wharton County	0.50%
State of Texas	6.25%

C. Local Housing Availability, Opportunity and Cost

While there has been a shortage of housing in El Campo, local builders have recently began purchasing lots vacated within the city and building homes available for sale in the $237,500-$250,000 range. There are apartments available for individuals, as well as two retirement communities and assisted living.

In winter of 2018, construction will begin on 100 luxury apartments located near Legacy Park. Rentals will range from $900 (one bedroom) to approximately $1200 (two to three bedrooms). El Campo Village was built in 2014 and features 80 units on the east side of El Campo. The mixed-income community consists of single family homes of three and four bedrooms and single story one and two bedroom apartments. Among the amenities of the gated neighborhood are a clubhouse and pavilion. The single family units include full garages; Energy Star rated appliances and spacious floor plans.

Additionally, both Prairie Village Apartments and El Campo Retirement Center are affordable apartment communities that features handicap accessible residences, including both studio and one bedroom, pet friendly floor plans. All utilities (except telephone), maintenance and activates are included in the monthly rent. All of these apartments meet the ADA requirements and each is sprinkled for fire safety.

Public transportation for senior citizens is through Colorado Valley Transit, which serves all of the county residents for medical appointments and other appointments in and out of the county.

D. Personal Safety, Security and Crime Statistics

The City of El Campo is protected by the El Campo Police Department and the Wharton County Sheriff's Office.

The City of El Campo recently completed construction of a $10.5 million new Public Safety Headquarter, which features Police, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management and Fire. The facility is located in El Campo, along the west loop.

El Campo crime index is 260.9, well below the U.S. average of 280.5 and at only 83.5% of the Texas average of 318.3 (Source: TxDPS 2016 Crime in Texas – Executive Summary).

E. Employment Opportunities

El Campo has many employment opportunities for retirees. Approximately 11% of workers in El Campo work for El Campo Independent School District, 8% work for Greenleaf Nursery and 4% work for El Campo Memorial Hospital. The largest employer in El Campo is El Campo Independent School District with 497 employees, Greenleaf employs 376 and El Campo Memorial Hospital employs 212.

Other top employers include: Wal-Mart, HEB, Prasek's Hillje Smokehouse, Leedo Cabinetry, City of El Campo, Mark's Machine and New ICM. Many opportunities exist for employment in El Campo, as well as surrounding area.

Indeed.com, a job search engine, returned 308 hits for jobs within a 25-mile radius of El Campo. Of these jobs, 256 annually pay $20,000 and above, 114 pay $30,000 and above and 34 pay $50,000 and above. The types of jobs and companies span a gamut, including medical services, fast food, clothing, electronics, hotels, gas stations and other private listings. There are also full0time, part0time, contract and temporary positions. Volunteermatch.org, a website with listing for volunteer opportunities, returned 25 hits within a 20-mile radius of El Campo. These opportunities are areas such as children and youth, health and medicine, community and hunger.

In addition, Workintexas.com provides a network of locally focused job sites. As of January 2018, there were 78 postings for available positions representing all fields, from sales and childcare to numerous healthcare-related positions.

Finally, another key local resource is Wharton County Junior College (WCJC), located 15 minutes from El Campo. WCJC offers many associate and certificate degree programs. Funded in part by the University of Houston, Coastal plains Small Business Development Center (SBDC) promotes small business success by providing management education. SBDC assists small businesses in creating jobs and economic growth by utilizing the elements of quality counseling and training, community involvement and the leveraging of resources.

Unpaid employment opportunities abound in El Campo. Area residents have a strong sense of community and regularly enjoy helping others through a variety of associations, churches, clubs and other groups. For example, "El Campo Bees" is a volunteer organization with a mission to beautify downtown. Other volunteer actives include "Manna Meals" Monday through Thursdays providing hot meals to area residents.

F. Health Services

Irrespective of age, availability of quality healthcare is a factor that affects all citizens, including retirees. El Campo has a fully licensed and accredited acute care general hospital within its city limits, as well as 40 hospitals within 60 miles of any address in the community.

While many counties in rural areas qualify as "underserved" relative to physicians, El Campo is fortunate to have several physicians serving the clinic and hospital staff, as well as multiple specialty physicians who practice in the clinic.

According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, the ratio of total persons to each physician in Wharton County was 1 to 44 in primary care, 1 to 39 in dentists and 1 to 34 in mental health.

There are four pharmacies in the city. One of the pharmacies employs two fulltime pharmacists, while the remaining three employ a pharmacist with back-up assistance.

El Campo has attracted individuals reaching retirement due to its Assisted Living and nursing facility care.

G. Emergency Medical Services

El Campo Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is a non-profit emergency ambulance service subsidized by Emergency Services District #4. El Campo EMS provides 24-hour paid emergency medical service and is fully certified and staffed with qualified personnel.

El Campo EMS began operating September 1, 1971 with three paid personnel and several volunteers. The service began operation with one new suburban and one used ambulance. At that time the level of service was Basic. Herrman Novak was the first EMS Director. Novak was the eighth inductee into the Texas EMS Hall of Fame in 1998. Today, El Campo EMS operates at the Mobile Intensive Care Level; which is the highest level of operation. Cardiac care and respiratory care are also at the highest level of the MICU level.

The training coordinator for El Campo EMS is in charge of planning and conducting the monthly continuing education class. Continuing education ensures proper training of all medics and is essential in re-certification and licensing of the medics. El Campo EMS is actively involved with teaching CPR and first aid. The classes are taught to health care providers, businesses, civic organizations, and interested individuals. Organizations include the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. El Campo EMS also involves local schools, youth groups, and civic organizations in Fire Prevention and National EMS Week.

H. Public Transportation and Major Highways

El Campo maintains a quaint, small town atmosphere with little traffic but has easy access to large city amenities due to excellent transportation systems. For example, access to downtown Houston is less than 75 minutes away.

<u>Major Highways</u>
El Campo is ideally situated for transportation at the intersection of US High way 59 (future Interstate 69 and NAFTA corridor) and State Highway 71 and only 38 miles from cross-country Interstate highway, I-10.

Major Airports

El Campo is within one hour and a half of George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) and William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) so travelers can enjoy direct flights to many destinations around the country and overseas.



Public Transportation

Public transportation is also available for a nominal fee via the Colorado Valley Transit District service. Colorado Valley Transit District is a rural transit district organized under Chapter 458 of the Texas Transportation Code as a political subdivision of the state and an entity responsible for transit services in a 3,200 square mile four-county area surrounding Houston.

Service is provided Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. excluding holiday and safety meeting dates. Dispatchers are available to schedule trips between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

I. Continuing Education

El Campo residents can benefit immensely from the plethora of continuing education available through Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) in Wharton, only 15 minutes from El Campo.

WCJC offers continuing education and workplace development programs in the areas of:

- Computer Applications
- Customized Training classes
- Emergency Medical Services
- Languages
- Leisure Learning classes
- Medical Career
- Online classes
- Professional licensure/certificates
- Technology
- Test Preparation Classes

While WCJC offers courses, there are also many other area colleges and universities to choose from for continuing education, including: University of Houston-Victoria (49 minutes), University of Houston (70 minutes), Rice University (66 minutes), Houston Baptist University (57 minutes), University of St. Thomas (69 minutes) and Houston Community College (58 minutes).

Additionally, the Northside Education Center, in El Campo offers educational resources to El Campo and the surrounding communities. With the support of partner institutions, including El Campo ISD, Wharton County Junior College, and the University of Houston-Victoria, the Northside Center offers college credit courses, continuing education courses, and workforce development training, and tutoring assistance. Additionally, the 9,000 square foot Northside Center provides room rentals of fully equipped classrooms, meeting rooms, and a conference room. The Computer Lab contains eight flat panel computers with internet access and is open to the public.

The El Campo Branch Library is open Monday through Saturdays, from 9:30 to 6:00 p.m. The library features public computers with internet access. In addition to the circulation, the library offers a variety

of programs, including the Adult Summer Reading Program. The library also hosts numerous authors and guests speakers throughout the year to cover topics from gardening to taxes.

J. Leisure Living

El Campo's most important resource is its community and its people. While El Campo may be small, it serves a sprawling area with schools, churches, business and almost 12,000 residents. Abundant service organizations and programs serve the community through various means with the volunteer support of many residents. Wharton County Junior College provides excellent opportunities for higher education with nationally recognized programs.

In El Campo, seniors may very well find that they are busier here than they were before retiring. The Heritage Center is a senior activity center that focuses on mental and physical fitness of the aging population. Physical fitness is addressed by providing an age appropriate fitness center with equipment and exercise classes.

Manna Meals provides a nutritious, healthy dinner, served family style on Mondays through Thursdays. Meals are at no cost to anyone. In addition to dinner, diners can socialize.

There is more leisure living facilities designed for seniors in nearby Wharton, Rosenberg and Sugar Land that offer a variety of activities.

El Campo has 49 restaurants, offering cuisines from around the country, including Cajun, American, Tex-mex, seafood, and a steak house.

K. Recreational Areas and Facilities

El Campo features eight parks, which covers a total of 84.83 acres. These include Alamo Park, 1.9 acres; Delta Street, 2.09 acres; Evans 0.85 acres; Friendship, 28.14 acres; Rotary, 13.22 acres; Second Street, 3.05 acres; Willie Bell, 17.33 acres; and The Park at Legacy Fields, 7.5 acres (4 acre pond; 3.5 acre playground), plus islands, medians and other areas associated with Legacy Fields totaling 18.253 acres.

Friendship Park includes nearly one mile of walking trails, as does Rotary Park.

El Campo also offers the El Campo Aquatic Center. The Aquatic Center, opened in January 2005, is a $1.9 million facility complete with an eight-lane competition pool, a leisure pool with zero-depth entry, 85-foot slide, water mushroom and other water amenities, and a large 20 person hot tub/spa.

El Campo Country Club is a private, family-oriented club that ranks as the number one option for a round of golf in El Campo and the surrounding region. El Campo is a gorgeous facility, that takes great pride in all the aspects of our business, from the picturesque landscape to the fun Family Aquatic Facility.

El Campo County Club hosts the wonderful 9-hole golf course, landscaped with majestic trees and lakes. The course features three different tee distances, making it an ideal round for players of all skill and experience levels. Play from the back tees spans 6,377 unique yards of champion Bermuda greens and 328 Bermuda fairways and tee boxes.
The El Campo Bowling Center is a state-of-the-art, SMOKE-FREE (with a smoking patio) recreational facility providing 16 Brunswick bowling lanes with Switch2 automatic scoring and new Brunswick GS pinsetters. We have a snack bar serving the best hamburgers and cheeseburgers in El Campo. Our Pro Shop has everything you need to improve your game, including bowling balls, bowling shoes, and

bowling shirts. We have three pool tables for your enjoyment. The kids will love our game room and arcade and adults will enjoy relaxing in our Strike Zone Sports Bar and playing a game of shuffleboard while watching the Texans, the Rockets, or the Astros on the wide-screen television.

Showplace 3 Cinema offers 3 screens showing current films. The theater offers a discount on matinee features and costs are very reasonable, especially when compared to their urban counterparts. They offer great early bird specials on Tuesdays ($2 2:00 p.m. Tuesdays).

The Matagorda County Birding Nature Center (MCBNC) covers 34 beautiful acres and is located on the Colorado River in Bay City, Texas and only 29 miles from El Campo. MCBNC has six botanical gardens and three major eco-systems to enjoy. We offer outdoor experiences for people with a passion for nature. People who enjoy gardening, native plants or wildlife can follow a self-guided tour through a butterfly, hummingbird, rose, herb, cactus or palm and bamboo garden.

Their center offers a riverfront location that makes it great for paddlers to both put-in and take-out their crafts. All boating fans from kayakers and canoe enthusiasts to rafters enjoy the river that rolls by the Birding Nature Center. The river provides an ideal setting for introductory kayaking training.

Lake Texana is a reservoir on the Navidad River, 8 miles (13 km) east of Edna in Jackson County, Texas, just 30 minutes from El Campo. The reservoir is formed by the construction of Palmetto Bend Dam, begun in 1968 and completed in 1979. The dam and lake are managed by the Lavaca-Navidad River Authority, and supply drinking water to surrounding communities and industries. Lake Texana is the only reservoir managed by the Authority.

Lake Texana has been stocked with species of fish intended to improve the utility of the reservoir for recreational fishing. Fish present in Lake Texana include catfish, bass, and crappie. A wide variety of native plant species thrive in the lake, including water hyacinth, coontail, spikerush, cattail, pondweed, bull's tongue, pickerel weed, and duckweed. Two exotic, invasive species exist in the lake: hydrilla and giant salvinia. The giant salvinia is presently limited to the Sandy Creek arm of the reservoir.

The lake covers 10,000 acres and has 125 miles of shoreline. Visitors can enjoy camping, picnic sites, hiking trails, outdoor sports activities and more at the Brackenridge Recreation Complex!

Matagorda Adventure Company offers half and full day rentals. Half day rentals are from 8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm. Full day rentals can select any time from 7am-6pm for drop off and pick up, located just 35 minutes from El Campo.

L. Performing Arts

El Campo is located very close to the center of a cultural hub that includes every cultural and performing arts experience you could dream of attending. With a short distance (0-75 miles), everything from classical music at the symphony, theatrical performances and playhouses, pop musicals, outdoor concerts and musical and artistic events.

Greek Brothers, in El Campo
Greeks has been bringing the best live music to its customers since 1985. Everything from Country and Classic Rock cover bands to Original Texas and National Touring Artists. Our famous stage has hosted such artists as Leon Russel, Rodney Crowel, Randy Rogers, Pat Green, Luke Bryan and Eric Church. Greek Bros. offers both floor and balcony seating where you can enjoy your favorite beverage from one of our three full service bars. Greeks also has a wonderful outdoor patio, pool tables, trivia, and did we mention amazing food!?

The Plaza Theatre in Wharton Texas (13 miles away)

The Plaza began life in 1904 as the Plaza Hotel, a two-story brick structure on Monterey Square across from the Wharton County Courthouse. Owned and operated by R.B. Huston and his wife Lula Merriwether Huston, the hotel had a large dining room on the first floor and 20 rooms to let upstairs. It was the site of many community activities, conventions, and civic and club banquets. A third floor added in 1929 expanded the number of rooms and included a small opera house that housed Wharton's first radio station, which first went on the air in July, 1933. Wharton was one of many cities that participated in the World Bridge Olympics in 1934, and the local tournament was conducted at the Plaza.

The lot on which the hotel stood was sold in 1941 to Long-Griffith Theaters. The hotel was gutted and extended to create a Streamline Moderne Art Deco movie theater that opened in March, 1942. One of three movie theaters in Wharton, thePlaza Theatre operated until the 1980s, when it was closed and abandoned. In 1995, the Community Theatre of Wharton, now known as the Plaza Theatre, restored and reopened it as a regional performing arts center.

Smart Financial Centre (45 miles away)

Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land is a state-of-the-art, indoor performance venue, is strategically-located 22 miles from downtown Houston off of Highway 59 and University Boulevard.

Ranked #1 in "Houston's Hottest Music Venues in 2017" by the Houston Press, Smart Financial Centre sets a new standard for live performance venues, hosting a diverse line up of programming including national music and comedy artists, family shows, theatrically-staged Broadway productions, as well as cultural and performing arts attractions.

Designed for flexibility, the 200,000-square-foot, indoor climate-controlled venue incorporates innovative movable walls that can expand and contract to create four different seating capacities that range from an intimate setting of 1,900 seats to a maximum of 6,400, including: 14 luxury suites, corporate hospitality areas, and the latest sound, light and video technology. Other offerings include space to house up to 14 trucks and buses, as well as 2,500 guest parking spaces.

Victoria Fine Arts Center (51 miles away)

Founded in 1977, Theatre Victoria produces musical and play productions, presents professional artists and companies to the regional communities, and supports a theatre education program that includes a two week intensive theatre camp.

Theatre Victoria is registered as Victoria Community Theatre Inc., a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit tax-exempt organization. Theatre Victoria is governed by a 13 member Board of Governors.

Theatre Victoria has grown from a handful of participants, who stored their properties, sets and costumes in borrowed garages and performed only a few times a year, to a core of 150 active volunteers producing five productions annually and filling over 10,000 seats in its home at the Welder Center.

Strongly believing that theater changes lives, Theatre Victoria is building strategic partnerships with local arts organizations, businesses, individuals - setting the stage for excellence in arts education, show quality and patron experience to directly impact the quality of life in this South Texas region.

Theatre Victoria is creating opportunities for students and members of the community to work directly with professional performing artists. These artists are Broadway actors and professional singers and musicians direct from New York City, Grammy winning recording and pop artists, television and motion picture actors as well as directors and choreographers who work regionally, nationally and internationally.

The collaboration with these artists allows Theatre Victoria to demonstrate the value of arts in education to Victoria's diverse and vibrant population from a practical perspective (educational outreach) following through to the end result (performance). This partnership shows from start to finish – training and education → opportunities available → achievable dreams.

Our vision is to be the premier regional theatre of South Texas. As the resident company of the Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts, the partnerships Theatre Victoria builds locally will enhance the professional relationships that are being offered to the region. These relationships are to be cultivated, strengthened and enhanced through active participation and collaboration – locally and nationally. Theatre Victoria and the Welder Center offer opportunities for personal and professional growth in business, education and the arts.

Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts (55 miles away)

The Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts is owned and managed by Victoria College.
In 1992, Victoria Community Theatre identified the abandoned Dunlap's Department Store building on the corner of Main and Goodwin streets as a likely candidate for renovation and new home for the theatre group.

In 1994, a group of medical administrators and doctors moved forward to purchase the building and to expand on the theater's goal by creating a multi-purpose performing arts center.

Victoria Performing Arts Center, Inc. (VPAC) was formed to carry on with the plans and fundraising. The organization's goal was to bring the arts to downtown Victoria, revitalizing the historical district of the community while improving the quality of life for the entire Crossroads area.

Groundbreaking was held in November 2001 and the center was dedicated in December 2004.

The center was named in remembrance of Leo J. Welder, a prominent local rancher, businessman and philanthropist who died in 1996. Welder was a member of the Victoria Performing Arts Center Board of Directors. Robert J. Hewitt, Jr., Chairman of the VPAC Board said that "he [Leo] was one of the instrumental individuals who brought the idea of a performing arts center forward into the community's conscience."

Ownership of the Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts was transferred to Victoria College in June, 2012. Under Victoria College's management, acoustical, multi-media and cinema projection improvements and additions have been accomplished to further expand potential usages of the facility.

Jones Hall (69 miles away)

Since the opening of Jones Hall in 1966, millions of arts patrons have enjoyed countless stage and musical performances at the venue, located at 615 Louisiana Street in downtown Houston.

Dominating an entire city block, Jones Hall is stunning with its curving travertine marble facade, an exterior rectangle of eight-story columns, and a brilliantly lit grand entrance. The classically elegant interior dazzles visitors.

Jones Hall is a monument to the memory of Jesse Holman Jones, a towering figure in Houston during the first half of the 20th century. A key player in FDR's cabinet during America's recovery from the Great Depression, Jones was also a builder in Houston. At one point, he could count 35 buildings he added to the City's skyline. He also owned the Houston Chronicle and was also a prime mover in the dredging of the Houston Ship Channel.

Before his death in 1956, it was Jones' expressed wish to see that Houston had a new opera house. Jones Hall would become his lasting gift to the City. Jones Hall was built on the same location as its predecessor, the old City Auditorium, which was demolished in the summer of 1963. Construction of the new facility began in January 1964. The entire $7.4 million construction tab was paid for by Houston Endowment Inc., a foundation established by the building's namesake. Jesse H. Jones Hall for the Performing Arts was accepted as a gift to the City in civic ceremonies on October 2, 1966.

Brilliant planning by the building architects offers unparalleled versatility, enabling Jones Hall to accommodate several art forms. Overhead, 800 hexagons create a moveable marvel that can be raised or lowered to regroup volumes, alter the physical circumstances of a room, and manipulate acoustics. The auditorium can literally shrink from 2,912 seats to 2,300. The ambience of the hall is enhanced with its vibrant red velvet seating, golden teak walls and a sweeping loge that seems to reach for the stage.

Upon entering the building, visitors will notice the "Gemini II" sculpture hovering just below the lobby ceiling. Commissioned by the Houston Endowment, Gemini II resembles shooting stars as it pays homage to the hall's performers and acknowledges Houston's role in space exploration.

Outside, Jones Hall is just as beautiful, with its curving marble walls and a rectangle of columns. In 1967, Jones Hall won the American Institute of Architects' Honor Award, a national award bestowed on only one building annually. Caudill Rowlett Scott was the architectural firm.

Today, Jones Hall is home to Houston Symphony and the Society for the Performing Arts. More than 400,000 visitors attend some 250 events annually.

The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts (70 miles away)

The vision of the Hobby Center is grounded in the philosophy of serving the entire community and reflecting the contemporary spirit that is unique to Houston. The mission is to bring world-class entertainment and innovative works that reflect the various cultures and expansive diversity within our city to current performing art lovers, and perhaps most importantly, to inspire the next generation of performers and patrons. This outreach effort is ingrained in the Hobby Center's cultural identity.

The intimate 500 seat state-of-the-art theater Zilkha Hall is equipped with spring loaded flooring for dance, an acoustic shell for chamber music as well as house lighting and sound. These specialized features demonstrate the versatility of this beautiful space which is home to many small to mid-size art groups looking to expand their audiences.

M. Festivals and Events

The El Campo Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture hosts their annual Prairie Days, the first weekend in October. With live music all day, a color run, car show, motorcycle fun run, carnival for kids, shopping and plenty of delicious food, this free event draws hundreds to the area.

The City of El Campo host 10 events a year, including two Downtown Dinners, featuring 10 food trucks and live entertainment, with no admission fees. The City also hosts four Farmers Markets, in April, May, June and August. Additionally, the City offers two Kidfish events, promoting the use of the pond at the City's newest Park, Legacy Park. The City has multiple seasonal events including a Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat, National Night Out and Movies in the Park.

El Campo is a caring community of involved citizens. Hundreds volunteer their time and efforts to a large number of organizations. Many of the organizations are no-profit and committed to enhancing the quality of life in the area through civic and cultural improvements. The organizations raise money to support their efforts through special events, sales and other activities. Some of the activities have evolved

into annual events. El Campo takes pride in having the following organizations as viable, contributing parts of our community:

- El Campo Heritage Center
- El Campo Elks Lodge #1749
- Wharton County SPOT
- Wharton County Youth Fair
- Pilot Club of El Campo
- El Campo Lady Lions Club
- El Campo Little League
- American Legion Post #251
- 100 Club of Wharton County
- Boys and Girls Club of El Campo
- The Crisis Center
- Hispanic Education Project
- Disabled American Veterans #2
- Rotary Club of El Campo
- West Wharton County Crime stoppers
- Beautify El Campo Extension
- Knights of Columbus Council #9393
- El Campo Art Association
- Northside Center
- American Cancer Society

N. Sports at all Levels

The El Campo School District has a very diverse sports program for their students, providing many opportunities for participation, as well as volunteering.

The El Campo Little League is a non-profit organization that runs Little League sanctioned baseball and softball leagues for El Campo area youth ages 5-15, averaging about 750 players per season.

The Sugar Land Skeeters is an expansion minor league baseball franchise and competes in the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball and is a quick 45 minutes from El Campo.

The 2017 World Series Champion Houston Astros are an American professional Major League Baseball team, and member club of the American League West division, and play at Minute Maid Park located just 71 miles from El Campo.

The Houston Texans are a professional American football team based in Houston, Texas. The Texans compete in the National Football League (NFL) as a member club of the American Football Conference (AFC) South division. The Texans play at NRG, just 70 miles from El Campo.

The Houston Rockets are an American professional basketball team based in Houston, Texas. The Rockets compete in the National Basketball Association (NBA), as a member of the league's Western Conference Southwest Division. The team plays its home games at the Toyota Center, located in downtown Houston, also just 71 miles from El Campo.

Houston Dynamo is an American professional soccer club based in Houston, Texas. The franchise competes in Major League Soccer (MLS), as a member of the Western Conference. They Dynamo play at BBVA Compass Stadium, also just 71 miles from El Campo.

O. Additional Information

One of the greatest benefits of El Campo, Texas is the lifestyle. Residents enjoy the safety, stability and ease of country living at its finest, knowing that Houston's endless amenities are just 45 minutes away! Treat yourself to all that Houston has to offer, then return home to El Campo and delight in our clean air, abundant high-quality water, and quieter, less stressful working environment.