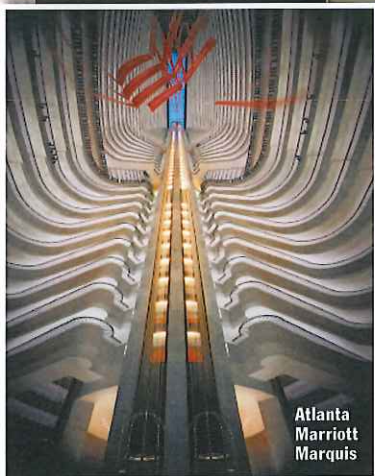
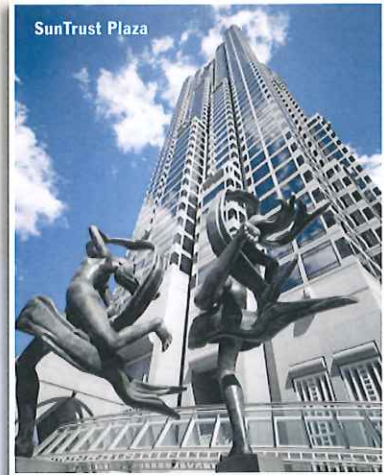


**ATLANTA  
BUSINESS  
CHRONICLE**  
SPECIAL SECTION



## The Council for Quality Growth honors John C. Portman Jr.

The Four Pillar Tribute is an annual event held by the Council for Quality Growth that honors outstanding individuals in metro Atlanta who exemplify the council's mission of promoting balanced and responsible growth. The leadership award and tribute gala celebrate the recipient's philanthropy as well as his or her significant contributions to economic development and quality of life.



The council considers the four pillars of leadership and success to be quality, responsibility, vision and integrity. Past recipients have included U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson, Gov. Roy Barnes, Ambassador Andrew Young, Mayor Kasim Reed, Mayor Shirley

Franklin, Arthur Blank, George Berry and Attorney General Sam Olens.

This year the Council honors John C. Portman Jr., legendary architect and developer, artist and designer, whose steadfast pursuit of the truths that shape the human condition continue to transform the city of Atlanta and the world beyond. Inside, you will find stories about Portman's successful portfolio of companies, and alumni of his companies who are now Atlanta leaders, **Page 2C**; his transformative vision in architecture, **Page 4C**; how he helped Atlanta navigate desegregation, and his accomplishments as a multi-medium artist, **Page 6C**.



**Also:**

- Council for Quality Growth's Four Pillar Tribute honors exemplary leaders **8C**
- Balanced, responsible growth is the Council for Quality Growth's mission **10C**
- Atlanta Advisory Committee offers guidance on development issues **11C**
- Viewpoint: Time for the metro Atlanta region to rise up **12C**



# Portman's businesses showed the world Atlanta

By Leslie Johnson

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Timing, vision and sweeping historic change contributed to the blossoming of both John Portman's business interests and Atlanta as a solid urban center with international reach.

"If you really look at the collection, obviously the concentration of real estate product in the central core is really unmatched," said Central Atlanta Progress President A.J. Robinson, a former president of Portman Holdings, Portman's real estate development, investment and management company. "There is the skyline effect, the mix of product, the creative architecture... the impact of the Mart system. There's probably not one thing. That whole engine he created that began in the 1950s, '60s and '70s, over a 50-year period really helped grow Atlanta on many different planes. It's a combination of economic development, skyline, civic pride, celebration of creativity, trade and commerce. It's on all different kinds of scales."

Portman's projects have dotted the globe, from Jin Hongqiao International Center and the Expo Hotel complex, both in Shanghai, to the Westin Charlotte, Lane Field North in San Diego, and Songdo Block A1 Residential in South Korea.

"I helped participate in the globalization of the Portman name and Portman's contribution really is global, not just Atlanta," Robinson said.

At a panel discussion posted on YouTube that followed the showing of the film "John Portman: A Life of Building," Mack Scogin, a principal of Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects Inc. in Atlanta, said Portman's innovative architecture has "absolutely piqued the imagination and lifted the spirit with I guess what would now be millions of people. That's a legacy."

States the Council for Quality Growth's



John Portman: The companies he founded in Atlanta today have a global reach.

announcement about Portman being the Four Pillar Tribute honoree. "Mr. Portman is well known for his urban mixed-use complexes wherein his understanding of people and their responses to space translates into enhanced environments and award-winning architecture which has had great impact on the cities in which they were built including Atlanta, New York, San Francisco, Singapore, Beijing, Shanghai, Dallas, Warsaw, Los Angeles, Detroit, Brussels and others. Most of these projects have had a socio-economic impact on the revitalization of the urban landscape in which they were located."

But it is Atlanta that saw Portman's first grand vision, and where past Four Pillar honorees have made their mark — including Charles Loudermilk, Arthur Blank, Shirley Franklin and Sam Massell.

John Portman & Associates was established in 1953, as was the corporate headquarters of Portman Holdings, according to company literature, making 2013 their 60th anniversary.

Also at that time, change was coming to Atlanta in a big and sometimes volatile way in the form of desegregation. In addition, areas of downtown Atlanta were in desperate need of attention — and life.

It's hard to imagine it now, but 60 years ago Portman was "a young architect trying to get work," said Mickey Steinberg, senior adviser at Portman Holdings. "He decided that to get work he needed an older partner." That person was H. Griffiths Edwards. "They wrote down their agreement between them on a yellow tablet," Steinberg said.

The development of the trade mart got underway in 1956; five years later, in 1961 — the same year Steinberg joined the company — the first AmericasMart building opened its doors, positioning the city as a major convention player, according to company information.

The Hyatt Regency Atlanta — slated to host the Four Pillar tribute on Oct. 10 — opened in 1967. Then there was Peachtree Center, Atlanta's largest mixed-use development covering 14 city blocks downtown. Portman Holdings worked with Prudential and Ehrenkrantz Ehrenkrantz & Schultz to finance the development and build it in phases over 50 years. Today the multiple-award-winning complex includes 10 office buildings, three hotels, four trade mart buildings, a retail mall, a health club, four parking garages and a transit station.

"He was willing to do it," Steinberg said of Portman's vision for Peachtree Center. "He changed Atlanta."

Portman was doing something else in those years, too. By spearheading the architect-developer role, he produced an efficient and logical business model that

## Portman companies

- John Portman & Associates — architectural design firm
- Portman Holdings — real estate development, investment and management company
- Atlanta Decorative Arts Center — 550,000 square feet
- AmericasMart Atlanta — 7.7 million square feet

Source: John Portman & Associates (www.portmanusa.com)

transformed the industry. "He changed the view that the architect couldn't be involved in the development also. Now it's part of the business," Steinberg said.

But Portman's influence on Atlanta goes beyond the skyline he helped create. Associates laud him for being among the small but determined band of the time to take a stand for racial equality, moving the city forward.

Metro Atlanta Chamber President Sam Williams said Portman communicated and worked with Maynard Jackson, Atlanta's first African-American mayor, when it wasn't a popular thing to do. "A lot of the business leaders did not want Maynard to get elected," Williams said. "I would say John was instrumental in helping Atlanta get on its feet as a biracial city."

Ambassador Andrew Young, in making a case to the Atlanta City Council in 2011 to rename Harris Street to Portman (an appeal found on YouTube), said, "In terms of Mr. Portman, I don't think we have a better citizen." Young talked of Portman's humble beginnings, including the hurdle he overcame to get into Georgia Tech. "What he's done for this city has never been done by any other citizen in any other city to my knowledge."

## Leaders: 'What I learned working for Portman'

By Leslie Johnson

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

To work for John Portman is to learn about tenacity, breaking barriers and thinking quite literally outside the box.

And for some, the experience led to a prosperous future outside the organization as prominent civic and corporate leaders.

For Sam Williams, a very basic but life-changing lesson played out during more than two decades working with the architect-developer.

"John taught me when you really decide you want to do something, you never, never, never, never, never give up. That was one of his core philosophies," said Williams, a former partner at Portman and president of the Metro Atlanta Chamber.

The most memorable stick-to-it example: the Times Square hotel project, the New York Marriott Marquis.

Williams said Portman worked at least 14 years on the "extremely difficult" effort.

"In those days Times Square was a crime-ridden area you didn't want to walk through," Williams said. "He had a lot of people that didn't believe in it."

Williams recalls a time when few believed in downtown Atlanta's potential.

"[Portman] was the only developer doing a whole lot of work in downtown Atlanta in the 1980s," he said.

He quipped that he started out as Portman's "flunky — basically doing anything he wanted me to do and following up on things he wanted to do."

Williams witnessed an already successful entrepreneurial effort blossom during his time at Portman.

"I worked just about everywhere at one point or another," Williams said. "John was one of the first architect-developers in the entire United States. Portman was one of the first companies based in Atlanta, a hometown company. He was the first owner of a major company in Atlanta that really went global."

Williams, a previous president of Central Atlanta Progress, moved on to various other roles and duties, including international work that spanned China and the Middle East.

"John was one of the first people to really help the people embrace internationalism," Williams said.

Much like Williams, Kay Younglove,

senior vice president, national director at Jones Lang LaSalle Inc., said the most

important lesson she came away with from her former employer was learning "to maintain a vision of what you want to achieve and to never give up," she said through email correspondence.

Younglove was hired at Portman in spring 1986 as vice president of leasing for Peachtree Center.

"I was in my late 20s and had only leased suburban office parks prior to that time, so it was my first opportunity to lease urban, high-rise office towers," she said.

"I learned a lot about structuring larger, more complex agreements, since law firms were a large portion of the tenant base. It was also my first opportunity to work with a wide variety of international tenants, given that Peachtree Center was a hub for consulates and trade offices."

Other influential and award-winning former Portman leaders include developer Hal Barry of Barry Real Estate Cos. and Bert Sanders of Newmark Grubb Knight Frank.

A.J. Robinson's 22 years with Portman included the role of Portman Holdings president.

## A sampling of Portman alumni

They are among Atlanta's most influential leaders, veterans of real estate development and architecture whose careers at the Portman companies opened new doors:

- Hal Barry, Barry Real Estate Cos.
- A.J. Robinson, Central Atlanta Progress
- Bert Sanders, Newmark Grubb Knight Frank
- Sam Williams, Metro Atlanta Chamber
- Kay Younglove, Jones Lang LaSalle Inc.

Source: John Portman & Associates

Robinson, now president of Central Atlanta Progress, is on the board of Portman's AmericasMart.

"I learned a lot of lessons. I think in this context, John Portman really taught me that the urban core, the center of cities, are like hearts," Robinson said. "If you take care of your heart the rest of you will flourish. He literally had an expression like that. The core is so important to the rest of the body."



Williams  
Metro Atlanta  
Chamber



Younglove  
Jones Lang LaSalle



# FOUR PILLAR



QUALITY RESPONSIBILITY VISION INTEGRITY



PHOTO: EUP CHALFANT



The Council for Quality Growth Board of Directors

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**Mr. John C. Portman, Jr.**

2013 FOUR PILLAR TRIBUTE HONOREE

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# Portman's designs incorporate light, water, art

By Leslie Johnson  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**C**rucial to the design elements that define the innovation of John Portman is a consideration of the people that will experience them — and how they'll do so.

"If reality lies in the mind, how does the human being receive information and take it in?" Portman said during a recent interview. "All the things we take in and build the treasure chests of our mind, it comes through the five senses and it's the five senses for everyone."

The hotel atriums, water features, display and celebration of art provide stimulating sensory encounters that are among the hallmarks of the Atlanta architect-developer's design vision that have won him accolades over the world and for several decades.

The Design-Build Institute of America lists the American Institute of Architects' Silver Medal for Innovation in Hotel Design among Portman's myriad awards.

A common theme mentioned among Portman associates, industry experts and observers is his ability to elevate design elements to a grand, breathtaking scale, always keeping people in mind. And he was among the leaders in his industry over more than half a century to take that kind of leap.

That "wow" factor first appeared in his initial Atlanta hotel project, the Hyatt Regency — an often-cited work for its innovation — that opened 46 years ago.

In the High Museum of Art's release about the exhibit "John Portman: Art and Architecture" it states that the Hyatt "is globally renowned as the first modern atrium hotel."

Similarly, Ric Garrido wrote for Loyalty Traveler: "Fans of the hotel atrium can thank architect John Portman and Hyatt Hotels for reintroducing this design element to US hotels." (Garrido cites a other older hotels that had incorporated atriums at one time.)

But, of course, Portman didn't limit his design approach with the Hyatt.

"All of Portman's work is theatricality. There's a flamboyance to most of it. He thinks very much in terms of how you move through it. It's cinematic in a way," said architecture critic Paul Goldberger, in the release for the documentary "John Portman: A Life of Building," by Ben Loeterman.

Apparently the same drama Portman presented in public spaces can also be found in his residences, including Entelechy II, his Sea Island home.

His impressive homes "served as the



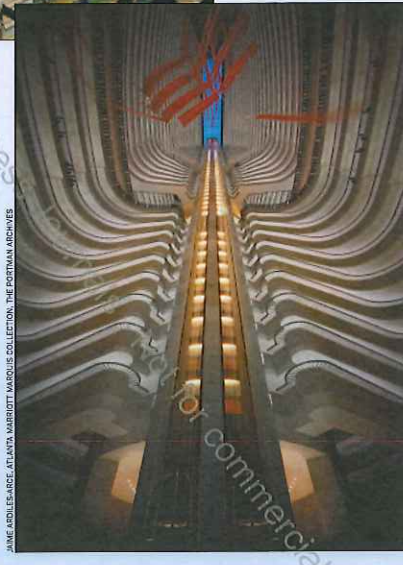
TIMOTHY HURBULEY, HYATT REGENCY/ATLANTA COLLECTION, THE PORTMAN ARCHIVES



MICHAEL PORTMAN, WESTIN PEACHTREE PLAZA COLLECTION, THE PORTMAN ARCHIVES



MICHAEL PORTMAN, SUNTRUST PLAZA COLLECTION, THE PORTMAN ARCHIVES



JAMES BOLENGER, ATLANTA MARRIOTT MARQUIS COLLECTION, THE PORTMAN ARCHIVES



PHOTO BY BRAD

**Risk-taker:** John Portman took chances in the grand scale, theatricality of his designs.

laboratories where he first experimented with design ideas later played out in cityscapes from New York's Times Square to San Francisco's Embarcadero Center," according to the release for the documentary.

Portman described to The New York Times an idyllic picture that came to mind at the beach for Entelechy II, of an umbrella and blanket in the sand with people reading books underneath. "I wanted something where architecture and nature would come together. It's not architecture with a few trees planted around it," he said in the 2011 article.

### 'Genius at design'

Portman is "very much an architect and very much a genius at design," said A.J. Robinson, president of Atlanta downtown booster Central Atlanta Progress.

"It was not always recognized at the time. Many of his projects were so different than [what] existed, sometimes people didn't accept change so quickly. That was rare," he said. "In most places it was pretty much

embraced as a whole new way of looking at a hotel or an office building."

Using elements such as art, plants and water inside the structure was "pretty groundbreaking, I believe," Robinson said.

While these visual stunners are now the norm, "they are only ubiquitous since architect-developer John Portman, FAIA, almost single-handedly changed the hospitality typology from blah boxes into spectacular spaces," wrote Lindsey M. Roberts in an Architect magazine article about the Portman documentary.

The elements that have brought Portman recognition are undoubtedly here to stay. For example, the 88-story Tianlong Fortune Center in China, for example, a John Portman & Associates design, includes a five-star atrium hotel.

### A pioneer

Fifteen of Portman's architectural projects were part of the exhibition at the High Museum of Art nearly four years ago.

Jeffrey Grove, then-curator at the High, said of Portman in the exhibit release: "His

### Awards for design

John Portman & Associates has won many design awards over the years. Here are a few:

- **Design in Steel Award** — Embarcadero Center, American Iron and Steel Institute (1975)
- **Silver Medal for Innovative Design** — Hyatt Regency Atlanta, American Institute of Architects, Atlanta Chapter (1981)
- **Resurgens Award** — Design of Peachtree Plaza Park, Atlanta Downtown Partnership (1991)
- **Award for Excellence in Urban Design** — SunTrust Plaza, Atlanta Urban Design Commission (1993)
- **Award for Excellence in Energy Design** — SunTrust Plaza, Atlanta AIA and Georgia Power Co. (1992)
- **Award for Excellence in Design** — SunTrust Plaza, The American Institute of Architects, Georgia (1994)
- **The Best Architecture Award** — Shanghai Centre, selected by 10 organizations including: The Shanghai Construction Commission, Jie Fang Daily and The Shanghai Tourism Board (1995)
- **Emporis Skyscraper Award** — Design and Functionality — Tomorrow Square, Emporis.com (2004)
- **The Sixth Modern Decoration International Media Prize** — Annual Hotel Space Award, John Portman & Associates for the Renaissance Schaumburg (2008)

Source: John Portman & Associates

**Skyline-builders:** Portman's Atlanta masterpieces include, from top left, the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Westin Peachtree Plaza, Atlanta Marriott Marquis and SunTrust Plaza. The 73-story Peachtree Plaza was the tallest hotel in the world when it opened in 1976.

reconsideration of how architecture should function and the experience it should offer visitors completely changed the industry."

In a September 2009 post on the website Deep Glamour titled "Hotel Week: How John Portman Reinvented the Lobby with Visual Excitement" Virginia Postrel wrote: "Portman in effect reinvented the American hotel lobby as it had been experienced in the 19th century, a trend that has intensified over the past decade or so, even as Portman's once-radical designs have come to seem somewhat old-fashioned."

The award-winning designs that became symbolic of Portman's approach are one part of the whole Renaissance man.

"John was a visionary way before his time — civil rights, architecture, international business," said Sam Williams, president of the Metro Atlanta Chamber. "I think he gave Atlanta a sense of pride and character that laid the foundation for people like Billy Payne (Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games president) to do what he did. John never fit a mold. He was a pioneer."



## ANNUAL COUNCIL EVENTS

The Council for Quality Growth hosts numerous events throughout the year including the following annual events. Visit our [website](#) for updated information on speakers, event locations and dates.

### 2013 EVENTS



QUALITY RESPONSIBILITY VISION INTEGRITY

#### OCTOBER

2013 Four Pillar Tribute  
October 10, 6:00pm-9:30pm  
Hyatt Regency Atlanta

#### NOVEMBER

Annual CID Event

#### DECEMBER

2013 Annual Meeting  
and Economic Forecast  
with  
Dr. Donald Ratajczak  
December 10, 2013  
11:30am - 1:30pm  
Atlanta Marriott Gwinnett Place

### COMING IN 2014

#### JANUARY

State of Gwinnett County  
with County Commission Chair Charlotte Nash

State of DeKalb County  
with County Leadership

#### FEBRUARY

State of Cherokee County  
with County Commission Chair Buzz Ahrens

#### MARCH

Spring Meet & Greet  
with County Commission Chairs and  
Metro Region Mayors

#### APRIL

General Membership Meeting

#### MAY

Cumming-Forsyth  
State of the Community  
with County Leadership

#### JULY

Annual CID Event

PROMOTING **balanced** AND **responsible** GROWTH



# Fostering brotherhood in 'city too busy to hate'

By Michael Hunter  
STAFF WRITER

When you ask John Portman about what Atlanta was like in the 1960s and the role he played in keeping Atlanta cool while Birmingham and other Southern cities were erupting in violence, he will talk first of his love for Atlanta and the philosophy that has guided his firm since its inception.

"The vision comes from: I love it," said the architect. "I've never not loved Atlanta and I've been all over the world. There's something about this place that's special to me, anyway."

"At the bottom line, I don't think anyone is better than anybody else," said the architect. "Our whole philosophy has been built around people and how we can contribute to the enhancement of life for all the people, not some of the people. When you do that, you bring people together."

Bringing people together is what John Portman has been doing since he opened the Atlanta Market Center in 1961, which has evolved into AmericasMart, a three-building, 7 million-square-foot campus. The city, too, has evolved as a result of Portman's efforts.

"It would be a mistake to think of him as just a guy who has developed 19 blocks in town. There is no one who has done more for Atlanta," said former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young. "He was instrumental in the racial transition. He and [African-American contractor] Herman Russell were doing joint ventures before anyone else in town."

Young remembers the restaurant at AmericasMart, **Top of the Mart**, was the first to be integrated in Atlanta, a fact that gave Portman credibility with the black leaders of Atlanta.

In 1971, Portman became part of the

**Atlanta Action Forum**, a biracial group of 20 Atlanta businessmen co-chaired by C&S Bank CEO Mills Lane and black real estate executive Bill Calloway.

"Jesse Hill, president of Atlanta Life, Herman Russell, America's largest African-American contractor, Paul Austin, **Coca-Cola** CEO, developer Tom Cousins and others met once a month at the Midnight Sun, Portman's Danish restaurant in Peachtree Center," said **Metro Atlanta Chamber** President Sam Williams, who served as the first staff member for the group. "The conversations were very candid with the goal of successfully tackling racial issues that had divided other cities."

"John was one of the originators," said Charlie Loudermilk, founder of **Aaron's Inc.**, of the Atlanta Action Forum. The group, Loudermilk continued, insisted on "absolutely no publicity."

The group created an air of collegiality among the businessmen. "We, in the white community, learned about the leadership in the black community," Loudermilk said. "It was very informal. We would say, 'What do you think about that, White John (referring to Portman)?' and 'What do you think about that, Black John (referring to Delta Air Lines Inc. executive John T. Cox)?'"

"The Atlanta Action Forum set the pattern of development for the city," said Andrew Young. "It was not primarily black and white. It was also rich and poor and business and politics."

Portman again played a role in bringing business and politics together when Young ran for mayor in 1981. Many business leaders had supported state Sen. Sidney Marcus in the election, but Portman and Loudermilk called a meeting to be held at the Top of the Mart to rally the leaders to retire Young's campaign debt.



Together: John Portman with Shirley Franklin, Andrew Young and John Lewis.

"That's where I had my first meeting with the business community," Young said. "Eighty-five CEOs showed up. I told them I couldn't get elected without them, but I couldn't run Atlanta without them."

Sam Williams recalled that "many CEOs from around the country visited to take ideas home about the 'Atlanta way' of dealing with biracial harmony and progress."

According to Young, a key to understanding Portman's vision of equality is his humble beginnings.

"Portman, Loudermilk, Herman Russell all came from the wrong side of the tracks," Young said. "He had trouble as a young, bright white boy getting into **Georgia Tech**. He had to go into the Navy first."

Still, the developer from the wrong side of the tracks had an international vision for Atlanta. Portman attributes that to the city's role as a transportation hub for the Southeast.

"That gave Atlanta the base," Portman said. "We have been bringing the world in."

Young concurred, "In terms of the need to be international and multicultural, he brought that with him in his DNA." Young marveled that when he was calling as mayor for Atlanta to become an international city, Portman had already built trade centers in Brussels and Shanghai. "He's always been one of the global forces in Atlanta."

To Portman, it all goes back to the '60s. "The '60s were the most significant decade in the 20th century," he said. The enlightening end of that decade still continues today, he feels.

"The whole society has been moving this way. That's what nature does, it evolves. What I like to do is deal with the evolution of things. Things that happen, happen from a natural way. We can mess with it, to try and encourage it, but there's a bigger force that's going to shape it. Understanding the forces that are going to shape it and then molding it in the right direction — that's what we do."

Reach Hunter at mhunter@bizjournals.com.

## Portman: Art is an expression of 'inner spirit'

By Leslie Johnson  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

John Portman discusses art — his own creations and those of others — with fluid thoughts that reveal a deep respect for the subject, the importance of introspection and the connection between the two.

"Painting is an expression of one's inner spirit and it speaks in silence, and hopefully it communicates from one human being to another," Portman said. "It communicates on that inner level."

Portman, whose myriad awards include an honorary doctorate of fine arts from **Atlanta College of Art**, feels strongly that there's also great value in taking in a painting, sculpture, even architecture — solo.

He shared an experience that helped him form his opinion. During a trip from Israel many years ago, Portman's plane stopped to refuel in Athens, Greece. Portman took advantage of the hours-long wait to take a taxi to the ancient Acropolis of Athens.

"I ran up and to the top of the Acropolis and saw the Parthenon, and I was by myself and that's when I began to realize to understand something like that or to get a feel for it, being alone and having the privilege of taking a swim with it was really very meaningful for me. That's when I came to the conclusion that anytime you want to see something that you haven't



Speaking in silence: John Portman's works include "La Pieta."

seen before, if you want to understand how it responds to you, make a point to try to do it alone," he said.

Four years ago, an exhibit at Atlanta's **High Museum of Art** entitled "John Portman: Art and Architecture" included his paintings as well as furniture, sculpture and architectural works.

High Museum Director Michael Shapiro has described Portman to Atlanta Business Chronicle as "an extraordinarily talented major figure in architecture and art in our own hometown."

### Recognition

John Portman's art-affiliated honors include:

- Academician of the National Academy, Museum and School of Fine Arts in New York (1997)
- Member of the Senate of the Accademia Internazionale d'Arte Moderna (1996)

Portman has held the following titles:

- Board member, Atlanta College of Art
- Trustee Emeritus, Atlanta Arts Alliance
- Director of the Atlanta High Museum of Art

Source: John Portman & Associates

The exhibit was also featured in Shanghai and Beijing in 2011.

Portman works with a variety of mediums including oils, acrylics and metal. "I do a lot of what I call abstract sculptural, manufactured pieces," he said.

Although Portman had always been interested in art, a trip to Europe in the early 1980s with his wife to visit their daughter helped open new floodgates.

While on a jaunt that included Venice, he visited with friend and glass artist Egidio Costantini, who wanted Portman

to create a special piece for an upcoming exhibit, "something done in the religious spirit of the cathedral."

Portman can't recall exactly how he responded to his friend's request. But sitting on a plane, he started sketching ideas.

"Flying home I decided what the hell, I'll give it a try," Portman said. "Back home, I got oils and canvases and all the equipment one might need and stood in front of my first blank canvas, which was scary as hell."

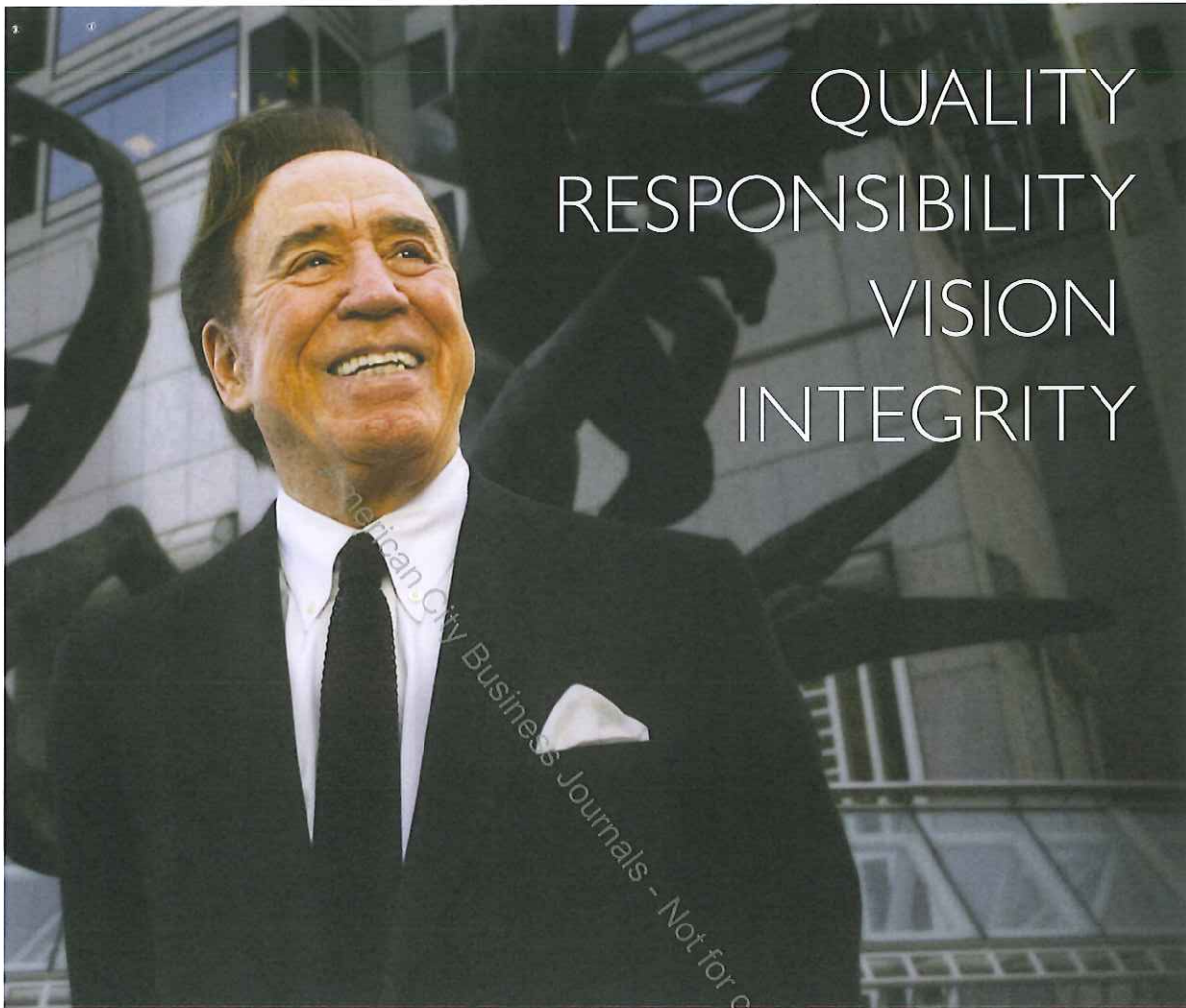
He modeled the form he wanted, fine-tuning and refining what would become the glass piece, "La Pieta."

Costantini loved it, Portman recalled.

When asked if he's working on anything currently, Portman said, "I'm always working on something. I don't have anything near completion at the moment."

Portman said that he doesn't take a random, haphazard approach to art.

"I have to have reasons but reasons have to come from my own inner spirit when it comes to painting," he said. "Painting is about the most personal thing you can do. Taking a journey into oneself is kind of a troubling thought. I don't like arbitrary things. I like things to have a raison d'être. Painting is an expression of one's inner spirit and it speaks in silence, and hopefully it communicates from one human being to another."



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# Four Pillar Tribute honors visionary leaders

By **Tonya Layman**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For 24 years, the **Council for Quality Growth**, a nonprofit trade association, has paid tribute annually to an outstanding individual in the metro Atlanta region who best exemplifies the council's mission of promoting balanced and responsible growth through an annual leadership award and tribute gala.

The Four Pillar Award and Tribute is a unique honor that celebrates the recipient's philanthropy as well as that person's significant contributions to economic development and Atlanta's quality of life. This prestigious award and tribute is unparalleled in the Atlanta region and has come to be known as the highest honor bestowed for the aforementioned contributions, said Michael Paris, president and CEO of the Council for Quality Growth.

"Past recipients have been exemplary leaders that have set the bar high and have undoubtedly made the world around them a better place," Paris said.

The council considers the "Four Pillars" of leadership and success to be quality, responsibility, vision and integrity.



**Sam Massell:** The former Atlanta mayor, now president of the Buckhead Coalition, received the Four Pillar Tribute honoring quality, responsibility, vision and integrity in 2012.

together and pay tribute to them."

The event takes a "This is Your Life" format in which colleagues and family members contribute to the celebration of the honoree.

"Though this event is a strong revenue-generator for the council, recipients have shared that it proved to be a wonderful experience that allowed them to look back over their life and realize just how much they had done to impact the lives of so many. They've shared that it was an event that those closest to them truly enjoyed being a part of, and it gave them cherished time to gather and share memories with old friends about their accomplishments together. The council keeps the event focused solely on the honoree and works hard to make it one their entire family will remember for a lifetime," Paris said.

Before it became known as the Four Pillar Award, the honor was originally the Button Gwinnett Award. The first 14 winners were Gwinnett County leaders. In 2005, the award was renamed and the council began to cast a wider net for potential recipients. This coincided with the Council for Quality Growth's decision to address concerns regionwide from its original sole Gwinnett County focus.

"This was a natural evolution as we did our soul-searching and realized that we had impact across the region," Armstrong said. "The issues and topics that we were involved in were not unique to Gwinnett County — they were important across the region, and our membership was not solely located in Gwinnett — it was becoming very regional."

It made sense that the award would take a more regional scope, as well.

"Since this tribute was one of our cornerstones and one of the more visible public things we did, we decided to rename the award from the Button Gwinnett Award to something that recognized the quality and traits that our honorees embodied with the four pillars of leadership and success," Armstrong said, adding that even the earliest honorees were influential and made impacts beyond Gwinnett County.

Selecting an honoree is a year-long process, Armstrong said.

Throughout the year, the council begins to compile names of individuals who leaders think are worthy of consideration. They also reach out to their broad cross-section of board of directors members, from whom they solicit nominations before ultimately selecting that year's honoree.

"Atlanta has been blessed with a number

of people worthy in this honor," Armstrong said. "Some years we wish we could select two or three. It can be a challenge and difficult to pick just one, but ultimately each year someone rises to the surface and it is just the right time to honor that person."

U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson, 2005 honoree, was the first Four Pillar winner, when it was renamed.

"Receiving the award meant a great deal to me, as did the ceremony. Having so many of my lifelong friends and business associates participate, along with my family, was truly moving," he said. "To be placed in the company of so many leaders I admire and respect, such as Virgil Williams, George Busbee, Louise Radloff and others, was a real honor. I hope that I continue to live up to the principles of the Four Pillar Award: quality, responsibility, vision and integrity."

John Wieland, retired chairman of **John Wieland Homes and Neighborhoods** and current CEO of the newly formed **Chattahoochee Enterprises**, was the 2006 honoree and called the recognition a highlight of his business career.

"To me the four pillars of quality, responsibility, vision and integrity are fundamental core values for success in business," he

said. "To be recognized publicly for devoting one's business career to these values is an honor gratefully received. To be part of the Four Pillars group, representing some of the finest people who have contributed to Atlanta's growth and quality, makes the honor even more rewarding."

Arthur Blank, owner and CEO of the **Atlanta Falcons** and co-founder of **The Home Depot Inc.**, received the honor in 2010 and said because of the principles and values the award stands for, it was a special recognition.

"Through my own experiences, I've learned that the pillars of quality, responsibility, vision and integrity are important not only to business success, but to shaping character and leading productive and meaningful personal lives," Blank said. "They also closely align with the values Bernie [Marcus] and I instilled at Home Depot that served as a compass for the way we ran our business."

He added the acknowledgment was a humbling experience.

"Most definitely, it's an honor — and humbling — to be listed among many of the great leaders of our city, people whose many contributions have shaped the success of metro Atlanta," he said. "And there are many others who are more deserving than me; so much so, that I remember accepting this award on behalf of all of the people in this community who work for the betterment of our city and region."

Former Atlanta Mayor Sam Massell, president of the **Buckhead Coalition**, was last year's recipient.

"The impression of the Four Pillar Award is easily measured by the strength of the awarding nonprofit, by the stature of

earlier recipients and by the size of the audience in attendance. The value of such an honor bestowed is the civic heights to which the participant strives to deserve," Massell said.

This year, the council will honor architect and developer John C. Portman Jr. on Thursday, Oct. 10, with the Four Pillar Award. Since the event venue changes each year, the organizers thought it was only fitting to host the event in a facility designed by Portman. Hence, this year's gala will be at the landmark Hyatt Regency Atlanta.



"The honoree knows this event supports our efforts so they honor us by allowing us

to honor them. The result is a spectacular evening where the honoree is awarded a nice commemorative statue, but more importantly is an opportunity for an entire community of people to come together and pay tribute to them."

**Kerry Armstrong**  
Council for Quality Growth

The past recipients list is somewhat of a who's who in Atlanta's development community. These are the people who have made numerous contributions to Atlanta's growth and made names for themselves through business success and support of the community.

The council's staff works closely with each recipient and his or her family, colleagues and friends to customize the program and incorporate the honoree's unique style and passions and to reflect how they live focused on the four pillars. This tribute goes far beyond the presentation of just one more trophy for the shelf, Paris said.

Kerry Armstrong, director and past chairman for the Council for Quality Growth, called the award a collaborative process between the honoree and the organization.

"The honoree knows this event supports our efforts so they honor us by allowing us to honor them," he said. "The result is a spectacular evening where the honoree is awarded a nice commemorative statue, but more importantly is an opportunity for an entire community of people to come



**Wieland**  
Chattahoochee Enterprises

## Past award recipients

1990	1999	2007
Steve Reynolds	A. Ray Weeks	John A. Williams
1991	2000	2008
Wayne Shackelford	Louise Radloff	Tom Cousins
1992	2001	2009
J.W. Benefield	F. Wayne Hill	Mayor Shirley Franklin
1993	2002	2010
D. Scott Hudgens	Gov. George Busbee	Arthur M. Blank
1994	2003	2011
Wayne H. Mason	Richard L. Tucker	R. Charles Loudermilk Sr.
1995	2004	2012
Virgil R. Williams	Charlie Brown	Mayor Sam Massell
1996	2005*	2013
Paul A. Duke	U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson	John C. Portman Jr.
1997	2006	
Jim Cowart	John Wieland	
1998		
J.D. Caswell		

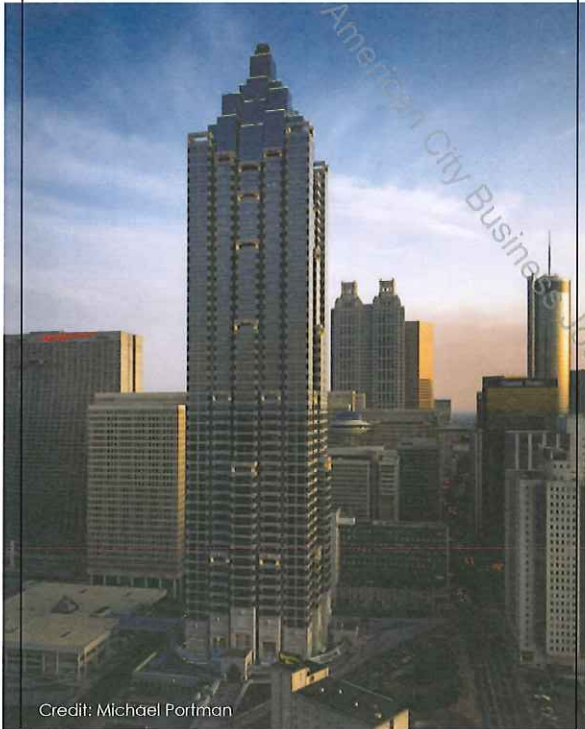
(\* Award renamed The Four Pillar)



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# Council promotes responsible growth

By Christine Hall  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Council for Quality Growth is honoring John C. Portman Jr. as its Four Pillar tribute, celebrating his philanthropic efforts as well as contributions to the Atlanta metropolitan area's economic development and quality of life.

The organization, a not-for-profit trade organization, promotes balanced and responsible growth in the region and state with a focus on quality, responsibility, vision and integrity.

It promotes the long-range planning and adequate delivery of government services, serves as a catalyst for consensus on growth issues and provides a forum for discussion of responsible development and economic or technical expertise.

Georgia Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle has worked closely with the Council for Quality Growth for nearly two decades in both his current position as well as when he was a state senator on the Natural Resources and the Environment Committee and chair of the Finance Committee.

"I've worked closely with them now on a whole host of issues," he said. "They are one of the great resources in terms of public policy, for providing information to legislations and advocating for the industry. They do a phenomenal job."

One of the benefits of the council is its diverse membership, which spans a number of industries, enabling people to get perspectives that can help, particularly around economic development issues and how industries are growing, not just about



Meeting new Beltline CEO: Michael Paris, Paul Morris and Gerald Pouncey.

the development industry, Cagle said.

It also aids on a broader scale in terms of how certain communities are planning for growth. He recalls the council helping with ways to better prepare and design roads and with water issues, particularly with reservoirs. When the state experienced a drought in recent years, Cagle said the council was instrumental in helping plan how the state would conserve water and be able to capture more of it.

"Usually they are ahead of the game even around issues pertaining to growth," he said. "In the area of the roads, they are often cutting-edge with that."

When Cagle was a state senator, the council was a resource when the state was working on stream buffer variances, which

involved special development where there are large industrial sites.

Many of the ditches didn't have running water on them, so a law needed to be changed to allow for an industrial site to be developed and for the appropriate degree of mitigation to occur, he said.

"The way they helped made a significant impact in the communities and helped development and job creation," Cagle said.

Cindy Jones Mills, Forsyth County commissioner for District 4, has found the council to be a good partnership. It not only looks at issues that will affect the business community, but also tries to produce credible, factual information.

In her position as county commissioner, Mills said, her job is to create a balance, and that becomes a challenge when all rules and ordinances affect property owners, citizens and the business community. Because the council works with so many jurisdictions, she finds it a good tool for finding out how other counties have dealt with similar issues.

"It is wonderful to have someone in the business community that can say you need to look at this case, and they give facts to back it up," she said.

Formed in 1985, the Council for Quality Growth has served as the development industry's soapbox, a sounding board for critical information on growth and development policy and a forum for education.

"We are in a unique position of having a 30-year history of sustained relationships," said Mason Zimmerman, senior vice president of **Pope & Land Enterprises Inc.**, and chairman of the council. "We aim to seek out organizations so we can be at the switch of regional issues."

As part of its advocacy, the council often acts as intermediary, translator or facilitator for issues important to members, he said.

In addition, the council hosts advisory

committee meetings for members, giving them the opportunity to interact with state and local elected officials as well as county and city managers and staff, including representatives of planning and zoning, transportation, economic development heads and watershed management departments. On the education front, the council sponsors the Quality Growth Institute, enabling professionals to keep up with changing technologies in growth and development by way of continuing education courses in the fields of architecture, engineering, construction, real estate, government or law, many of which are accredited by one or more professional organizations.

"We try to be a clearinghouse to provide information that members can't get, so they can get it through us," Zimmerman said.

The organization has steadily been making changes, which include a new look and a new home.

Some have been calling it a rebrand, but Zimmerman said it's more that the council is working to communicate more effectively what it does.

"The organization grew out of Gwinnett County, and we have played that role for a long time," he said. "As needs arose in the region, we thought about doing that on a broader scale about 10 years ago — to be able to say we were a regional organization. Now we are more deliberate about talking that way."

Over the summer, the council moved to 5901-C Peachtree-Dunwoody Road in Atlanta from Duluth.

Zimmerman said the move was important to the council, which wanted to be more centrally located so it could use its office to foster regional dialogue from adjoining counties so they could talk about what they have in common, as well as strengths and weaknesses.

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# Committee advises city leaders on development

By **Tonya Layman**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**M**embers of the **Council for Quality Growth's** City of Atlanta Advisory Committee say they believe that by working with city leaders, great progress can be made in promoting quality development and growth in Atlanta.

While this group is one of seven advisory committees supported by the overarching Council for Quality Growth around the region, it is one of the most diverse and accomplished committees within the organization.

"The Atlanta Advisory Committee is one of the most active advisories in the metro region," said James Touchton, manager of policy and government affairs for the Council for Quality Growth. "The real strength comes from council members every month interacting with elected City Council members, such as Council President [Ceasar] Mitchell, Councilman Kwanza Hall, Alex Wan, Aaron Watson, House of Representatives Minority Leader Stacey Abrams to unelected officials such as InvestAtlanta President and CEO Brian McGowan and top city staff such as Commissioner James Shelby and Building Director Don Rosenthal."

He added the group's casual dialogue on a series of wide-ranging topics allows council members and elected officials a venue to come together and solve issues in a productive and purpose-driven manner.

Scott Selig, vice president of **Selig Enterprises Inc.** and council board member, has been an extremely active member of the advisory committee for more than 10 years. He said what is unique about this group is that it looks at issues that may affect all areas of development in all industries.

"Council for Quality Growth members are also members of other organizations, like the Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors, the International Council of Shopping Centers or the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, among others, but this group looks at issues on a more regional basis — not how it affects a specific genre of real estate. For instance, a stormwater ordinance will affect property that is retail, office, educational and residential. It can affect growth regionally. So we have the ability to call on the members of the council who are also members of these other organizations and everyone can come together," Selig said.

That forum results in progress for the city.

"This has become a true partnership with the city in propelling the real estate industry forward," Selig said. "A lot of cities around the region are now actually copying what we have done in the city of Atlanta. What we are creating in the city of Atlanta with permit reform and the Office of Buildings will be looked at all over the country because Mayor [Kasim] Reed is not just interested in being the best in the area — he wants to be the best in the country. People look at this committee and want to emulate what we have done."

Doug Dillard, a partner at Weissman, Nowak, Curry & Wilco P.C. who handles zoning and land use law cases, a former



**City of Atlanta Advisory Committee:** Meets the first Wednesday of each month at Selig Enterprises on Spring Street.

council chairman and active member of the advisory committee, said the interaction allows parties to reach mutually acceptable rules and regulations affecting development.

"It is beneficial to me to know what is going on and to help make the changes we need to make as we grow the region. If this region is going to remain competitive, it will take great leadership to set those rules and regulations that will affect development. The council provides a great forum for those changes, and I want to be a part of it," he said. "And it works. We have been part of some effective changes and have made a significant difference."

The open forum of dialogue allows for members' voices to be heard by elected political leaders and government department staff members.

At the request of the mayor, council members and staff were asked to participate in the Mayor's Permitting Task Force, Selig said.

They successfully worked with Reed to change the city's building permit process with the passage of the Building Permit Reform.

As a result of this reform package, the council worked for the passage of legislation that established an Enterprise Fund for the Atlanta Office of Buildings that has allowed fees charged for services to remain in the Department of Planning and Community Development's Office of Buildings for technology upgrades and staff training.

"We need to be able to hire the best and most competent people to push permits through. We need permits out fast, advanced technology and specialized inspectors," Selig said. "Efficiency — that is what the real estate market wants. I want to know when I can get my permit. I want to count on it. I want it quickly. The earlier I get my permits, the faster I can start collecting rent and the less construction interest I will pay on the back end."

Several of the group's members also participated on the selection committee for the director of the Office of Buildings for the city of Atlanta, which led to the hiring of Don Rosenthal two years ago.

The advisory committee has also worked with the city to create and implement the Office of Buildings' Technical Advisory Committee to advise the mayor and city officials on the permitting process, to recommend the cost for various fees, and provide feedback on matters related to the Office of Buildings and the Enterprise Fund. That included a permanent appointment for a Council for Quality Growth member to the Technical Advisory Committee.

The group has also had a hand in changes to the city's stormwater ordinance and ultimately played a role in the defeat of

the city's proposed Sustainable Building Ordinance during Mayor Shirley Franklin's term because it would negatively impact the real estate development community. This action came after more than a year of trying to negotiate the terms of the ordinance to serve both parties' needs. Ultimately, the group couldn't stand behind the final draft, Selig said.

"Within the city of Atlanta, that was the defining ordinance that really changed how the city and real estate community work together. That put the council at the forefront of all legislative actions that affect the industry and made us the go-to group," Selig said.

Opportunities for public and private parties to collaborate like this shouldn't be missed, said Mitchell, the City Council president.

"I think it is a great partnership," he said. "You never want to turn away people who make civic commitments and are willing to help advance the ball on issues like permitting that helps in our building and construction industry in the city. That is at the heart of our ability to be successful from an economic development standpoint."



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Atlanta City Council



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# Atlanta's call to action: Rise up, region

**D**ysfunctional, unresponsive, untrustworthy and polarized. These words are frequently used to describe the federal government. They could just as easily characterize the political bickering that too often occurs in metro Atlanta.

We have numerous examples of well-run and financially stable local governments in the region, but the Great Recession exacerbated already delicate relationships between the numerous cities, counties and other jurisdictions that comprise the metro region. Parochial squabbles and unnecessary and counterproductive turf battles are short-sighted and constrain growth and progress. Yet they seem to be increasing instead of decreasing in frequency and magnitude. How did we get here? How can we change for the better?

Like a family legend passed through

generations, it has been said many times that Atlanta's rise to prominence in the '60s, '70s and '80s was driven by a relatively small number of risk-takers. They had the confidence, vision, capital, access, decision-making power, authority and desire to take bold steps for the greater good. It has been said that they didn't care who got the credit as long as Atlanta got

the deal. Legend? Myth? Regardless, we should pay closer attention to those legendary roots of our family tree. Our region is the home of the busiest airport in the world. Coca-Cola, CNN, Chick-fil-A and Home Depot were born here. Atlanta is a city of Olympic dreams and boundless optimism. Yet this shining star of the Southeast risks everything if we continue to think small. The whole of the region is always greater than the sum

of its parts. We compete as a region — not just individual jurisdictions — for new jobs and economic development.

Rise Up. More than the Falcons' rallying cry, it should be Atlanta's call to action. It is time to put aside our differences and focus on such common interests as a vibrant economy, a high standard of living, consistent educational improvement and enhanced quality of life for all. Such lofty aspirations are grown from small seeds of mutual respect and open, honest communication. We cannot be divided by artificial barriers such as inside and outside the Perimeter. We cannot tolerate an us-and-them business-and-community mentality.

The Council for Quality Growth was established to promote balanced and responsible growth in the metro Atlanta region. One of the Council's core objectives is to help foster open and honest communications between various parties throughout the region. Without effective dialogue, how can those inside the Perimeter know what is important to those outside the Perimeter, for example, and vice versa? Is there a way to apply the

redevelopment successes of East Lake, the Old Fourth Ward and West Midtown to South Cobb, East Gwinnett or South Fulton? How can we harness political energy and shape public policy for the greater good instead of simply trying to score points against our rivals? Answers come from questions and questions come from conversation. A conversation is different from a lecture. All parties contribute in effective conversations and effective conversations often lead to equitable solutions. The Council for Quality Growth strives to foster equitable conversations regarding issues of regional importance.

With better regional cooperation, metro Atlanta can once again lead the nation in job growth, innovation and quality of life. It's not too late. In fact, this is the perfect time for the region to Rise Up.

Paris is president and CEO of the Council for Quality Growth. Zimmerman is chairman of the board of directors of the Council for Quality Growth and senior vice president at Pope & Land Enterprises Inc.



**VIEWPOINT**  
Michael E. Paris and  
Mason Zimmerman

## Transportation, water among regional issues council addresses

By H.M. Cauley  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**I**t sounds like one of those perplexing SAT math questions: If Commuter A boards a plane at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport for New York City 860 miles away, and Commuter B takes public transit to travel the 40 miles from Kennesaw State University to the Gwinnett Arena in Duluth, who will finish the trip first?

Georgia Sen. Brandon Beach's answer: It's faster to deal with Hartsfield security lines, parking and a flight to reach New York. Beach knows because he made the Kennesaw to Duluth journey by multiple buses and two trains, and it took almost four hours. In addition, he was required to buy separate tickets from Cobb Community Transit, MARTA and Gwinnett Transit.

Beach, who represents Milton, Alpharetta and a slice of Cherokee County, made the journey to prove a point.

"It showed that we have a very fragmented system," Beach said. "Though each system on its own did very well, going from system to system is not an easy journey. We need to rebrand into one regional entity. The person who gets on transit in Marietta to go downtown doesn't care who's on the board of directors or what the name of the bus is."

Beach, who chairs a Senate committee on regional transit, has also been pushing for changes as a member of the Council for Quality Growth. As president and CEO of the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce, he joined the group 10 years ago and has been proactive on transportation issues.

"The council is one entity that can bring the region together on major issues," he said. "It can connect chambers of commerce, CIDs and elected officials to work

on water, transportation and education issues that we need to get ahead of."

But branding a regional transit system may take longer than other transportation projects in the pipeline. What will get underway first is a public/private partnership to create 26 miles of reversible, managed lanes along the northwest corridor of Interstate 75 and I-875.

"The state will begin working on that in the first quarter of next year, and it's quite promising," Beach said. "I think it will be the start of other managed lane projects."



Sen. Beach  
Georgia Senate

Tad Leithead, chairman of the Atlanta Regional Commission, said the council has been working to identify areas around the metro area where transportation is most needed, and what type of transit will be the most efficient, be it sidewalks or rail lines. A six-year improvement plan exists that includes reconfiguring the I-285 and Georgia 400 interchange, possible expansion of MARTA lines and Beach's plan to create one transit agency. But council members admit that funding is its biggest challenge.



Leithead  
Atlanta Regional Commission

"We don't know what to expect in terms of federal funding beyond September 2014," Leithead said. "So we have to focus on how to prioritize the financial investment because there certainly is not enough funding at a level — state or local — to make all the investments we want. Prioritizing and planning for the biggest impact of investment dollars is key, and that means figuring out where the concentration of people is going to be and what their mobility needs are."

But Leithead cautioned that turning ideas and studies into reality takes considerable time that the metro area doesn't have.

"While we're fiddling, Rome is growing, as it were," he said. "Last year, we added 40,000-plus people to the region, and that was a low year. And most of those people bring at least one car with them. We can't simply talk about transportation investment; we have to target it, and in that respect the interests of the ARC and the council very closely align."

Another major issue the council is working to address is the metro area and state's water supply, a problem that experts say can directly impact growth. But finding solutions is not easy or immediate.

"Our prediction is that the population of the metro region will double in the next 30 years to almost 10 million," Leithead said. "For that to happen, we must come up with a solution. Conservation can reap great benefits, but you can't conserve your way out of a drought. Building reservoirs is very time-consuming and complicated. And many times, people don't feel the urgency to do something about it; it's not like traffic that you deal with every day."

State Attorney General Sam Oles, who has been part of the council for 15 years, said the future of water availability may hinge on Florida suing Georgia in court over water distribution.

"We've been in litigation for more than 20 years, but Georgia is now in a better position than when the governor and I took office," Oles said. "But a new action for equitable proportionment of the state's water can adversely affect the whole state. What should happen is it should be negotiated instead of being in the courts for the next three to five years."



Oles  
Georgia Attorney General

Oles said the council has planning down to an art form, but action is slow.

"Still, the council is one of the better organizations to push action," he said. "Through various networks, they're able to get input from different points of view to collaboratively solve some of these issues."

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# Advisory panels link developers, government

By Christine Hall  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many of the Atlanta metropolitan area's development growth plans have included input from the **Council for Quality Growth's** advisory committees.

The council is made up of leaders in real estate and other industries, such as attorneys, bankers, engineers and architects.

Each month, the council holds advisory committee meetings for members to interact with state and local officials in each county as well as the city of Atlanta. Members and elected officials as well as county and city staff have the opportunity to discuss topics ranging from planning and zoning, transportation, economic development and watershed management.

Tim Lee, chairman of the **Cobb County Board of Commissioners**, said in his experience with the committees, they have been a benefit.

"If I am seeking opinion from the development community, the council is one I can turn to for reasonable comments," he said. "Especially when I am discussing code amendments or development standards, I make sure they are included in the review because they bring balance."

He recognizes that part of the council's goal is to be an advocacy group for the development industry, but he doesn't consider the committee meetings to be "over the top in that regard."

In fact, he said, it is a group of folks who have a vested interest in making sure the region grows in a balanced way and isn't stifled.

"I can come up with 100 ideas that are great to me, but they will come back and tell me that if I do 'XYZ,' here is the impact, and if it will be negative, people will take their business elsewhere," Lee said.

Cobb County's advisory committee is one of the more exciting ones, James Touchton, manager of policy and

government affairs for the Council for Quality Growth, said.

The council recently hosted the likes of Smyrna Mayor Max Bacon and Kennesaw State University Athletic Director Vaughn Williams. It aims to have a speaker of interest, and it turns out the meeting with Williams was the first one following the school's announcement of its new football program's head coach decision.

One of the reasons there is a good list of speakers is because of the amiable relationship between the advisory committees and the local governments, Touchton said. The council aims to start a new meeting in the late fall or early spring that will bring together county and city planners for a planning forum that will serve as an idea exchange.

The advisory committee meetings are a chance for members to get out to other areas and for local governments to show off what they have been doing as well as what they are currently doing. It brings together all different industries and perspectives in an effort to hear what is going on and to get the thoughts of those in the industry, he said.

"There's a great dialogue between elected officials, staff and the members,"



Labovitz  
McKenna Long &  
Aldridge LLP

Touchton said. "Some people's businesses are far-reaching, so they want to go to all of the meetings. Others come when there is a particular interest."

Recent key accomplishments by the committees over the past year have included providing input on a draft amendment package for Cobb County and working with the city of Marietta on their current tree ordinance.

In **DeKalb County**, members were asked to provide input as part of an overhaul of its permitting process. Steve Labovitz, a partner with **McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP**, who sits on the council's executive board, said the council suggested looking at best practices around the country, and



Meet and greet: Mike Bodker, from left, Dana Maine, Liz Hausman and Dieter Franz.

the county hired someone to do that.

He also recalls a meeting in North Fulton regarding the vision of **Sandy Springs**, its new city hall and the development around it. In addition, the advisory committee discussed how the city could attract developers and economic incentives that could be offered.

It's also a rare opportunity to get these kinds of sit-downs with high-level officials, Labovitz said.

"It's wonderful to have elected officials speak honestly to a small group, talk about issues important to them and get feedback from members," he said. "They can talk about what's coming, what's bothering them and it gives the development community a heads-up on what is being considered."

Labovitz called the advisory committee meeting "truly a two-way street." Public officials know the council, with regard to good growth, is a sounding board for ideas that they may want to try or could be appropriate, he said.

The council also attempts to come at issues the other way as well: When members hear about different issues going on, they proactively reach out to the community to help resolve them, he said.

In **Forsyth County**, members provided input on various issues relating to planning and zoning.

## Key accomplishments by the Council for Quality Growth

■ **North Fulton County:** Worked with city staff and the City Council on the city of Roswell's Comprehensive Plan.

■ **Gwinnett County:** Worked with county officials and council members to develop new Tax Allocation Districts, which will help spur redevelopment opportunities.

■ **DeKalb County:** Ten Council for Quality Growth members were appointed to the DeKalb County Permitting Task Force, which is charged with overhauling the permit process in DeKalb County.

■ **Cobb County:** Worked with Cobb County staff to represent the development industry during the code revision process and provided numerous recommendations for changes.

■ **Cherokee County:** Hosted the first Council for Quality Growth and Cherokee County "Economic Development Update" with Chairman Buzz Ahrens and the Cherokee Office of Economic Development.

Source: Council for Quality Growth

Touchton said many of his favorite accomplishments are the "little wins you may not read about" such as turning the talk into actions.

For example, in Cherokee County, the officials talked about having a development forum, which turned into an economic development forum.

"It was neat because between the city and the small advisory group, we now have a 'state of the community' or a 'state of the county,' something they had not had before," Touchton said.

## Council for Quality Growth

### Advisory Committee Meetings 2013 Master Schedule

#### CHEROKEE COUNTY

Second Wednesday Each Month  
Noon-1 p.m.

Location: Cherokee County  
Administration Building  
1130 Bluffs Parkway  
Canton, Ga. 30114

#### CITY OF ATLANTA

First Wednesday Each Month  
8:15 a.m.-9:15 a.m.

Location: Selig Enterprises  
1100 Spring St., Suite 550  
Atlanta, Ga. 30309

#### COBB COUNTY

Fourth Wednesday Each Month  
Noon- 1 p.m.

Location: Itraton Homes  
720 Kennesaw Ave.  
Marietta, Ga. 30060

#### DEKALB COUNTY

First Thursday Each Month  
8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Location: Druid Hills Country Club  
740 Clifton Road N.E.  
Atlanta, Ga. 30307

#### FORSYTH COUNTY

Second Thursday Each Month  
Noon-1 p.m.

Location: Forsyth Conference Center  
(Azalea Room)  
at Lanier Technical College  
3410 Ronald Reagan Blvd.  
Cumming, Ga. 30041

#### WINNETT COUNTY

Fourth Tuesday Each Month  
8:15 a.m.-9:15 a.m.

Location: Andersen, Tate & Carr  
One Sugarloaf Centre  
1960 Satellite Blvd., Suite 4000  
Duluth, Ga. 30097

#### NORTH FULTON COUNTY

First Friday Each Month  
7:45 a.m.-8:45 a.m.  
Location: Pete Hendricks' Office  
6085 Lake Forrest Drive, Suite 200  
Atlanta, Ga. 30328

### Four Pillar

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A.J. Land Jr.  
R. Charles Loudermilk Sr.  
A.J. Robinson  
Herman J. Russell  
Steve Green  
Stanley "Mickey" Steinberg  
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John Wieland  
Alvin P. Nash  
James B. Williams  
Attorney General Sam Oles  
Sam A. Williams  
William Pate  
Mason Zimmerman  
Billy Peebles



# PORTMAN'S PROGRESSION

A look at some of the architecture, designs and artwork that make up the extensive portfolio of Atlanta's own Renaissance man.

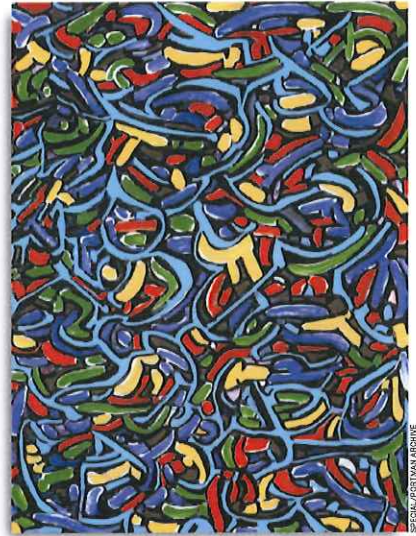


PHOTO BY MICHAEL PORTMAN



PHOTO BY MICHAEL PORTMAN

**Peachtree Center, 1961-ongoing**  
"Peachtree Center was the first and largest urban mixed-use complex in the United States, and it's still going."



SPRING/PORTMAN ARCHIVE

**Untitled, 1995** • Acrylic on canvas  
Image/Plate: 23 x 18 in. Collection of the artist

◀ **Entelechy II, 1986** • Sea Island, Georgia "It's the best work I've ever done. It's the most holistic where everything is taken into consideration — the furniture, the landscaping, the hardware. Everything is unique, but it's unique in an indigenous way unto itself. It all wants to be one thing."



PHOTO BY MICHAEL PORTMAN

◀ **Entelechy Series: Dining or Side Chair**  
Leather and chrome:  
27 1/8 x  
28 7/8 x 21 in.



BURTON E. SMALL



**Songdo Landmark City Master Plan  
and Incheon 151 Tower, 2015**  
Incheon, Republic of South Korea  
"It will be the second-tallest  
building in the world."

**Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel, 1985**  
"It was a synthesis of the Regency and the  
Plaza, and it was influenced by the character  
of Peachtree Center. It's sculpture."

PHOTO BY JAIME ARDILES-ARDE



PHOTO BY JAIME ARDILES-ARDE



**Untitled, 2003**  
Stainless steel Overall:  
15 x 14 x 7 in.  
Collection of the artist  
Photo courtesy Haigwood Studios,  
Photography, Inc.

**Embarcadero Center, 1971-1989**  
San Francisco  
"That was my  
third atrium hotel.  
It's probably my  
best atrium hotel."



PHOTO BY ALEXANDRE GEORGES



PHOTO BY MICHAEL PORTMAN

**Entelechy I, 1964** · Atlanta  
"This house was the beginning of my architectural philosophy."



DIGITAL RENDERING BY JOHN YANG

**Zhe Jiang Fortune Finance Center, 2010** · Hangzhou, China  
"It's a project I'm very proud of.  
It's two towers that become one  
in their relationship. It's a refined  
sculptural presence on the skyline."



DIGITAL RENDERING BY JOHN YANG

**Jin Hongqiao International Center, 2011** · Shanghai, China  
"It's a very iconic building that serves  
as a gate. There's a village behind it."

DIGITAL RENDERING BY JOHN YANG





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