



HUNTSVILLE

Tommy Battle
Mayor

Hello, from Huntsville, Alabama!

Do you know that Huntsville is called the Rocket City? Some of you may know and others may wonder.

In the 1960s, America's trajectory changed due to the work of NASA and Dr. Wernher von Braun and his team of German rocket scientists here in North Alabama, who took President Kennedy's challenge to, "... go to the moon...and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard."

Dr. von Braun and his NASA team went on to develop the Saturn V and the Apollo program that put the U.S. on the moon and set the stage for future moon and low earth orbit exploration. And it was Dr. von Braun who gave community leaders the inspiration to establish Cummings Research Park, the University of Alabama in Huntsville, our art museum and symphony. He and his team left an indelible and continuing exploration, cultural and education legacy in our community.

Nearly 60 years later, NASA in Huntsville is continuing the work of Dr. von Braun, developing the next rocket that will take human into deep space and Mars. The Rocket City has also positioned ourselves in the commercial space market as well with Sierra Nevada's decision to land their DreamChaser spacecraft in Huntsville, the recent decision of Blue Origin to build their BE-4 engine in Cummings Research Park, and many others.

But rocket science isn't all we do here in Huntsville. Redstone Arsenal is located here. The Arsenal encompasses 35,000 acres and is home to 42,000 government and contractors who work for the Army's four-star Materiel Command, more than 60 other military commands/agencies/offices, as well as the FBI, ATF and other government entities.

In Huntsville, we're preparing and protecting our country, our soldiers and our allies. It's no wonder that we have the highest concentration of engineers in the U.S. and why we continually rank as #1 in the country for STEM jobs.

Huntsville is also home to the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, which is a global leader in biotechnology and genomic research, which AURP attendees will visit and learn more about. In addition, our community is home to several advanced manufacturers such as Toyota, GE Aviation, and Polaris.

Is Huntsville only full of geeks and geeky things to do? Why, yes...we love our geeks around here. As Mayor, I also like to focus on balance and quality of life attributes that round out our vibrant community. Take Lowe Mill for example. It is the largest private center of the arts in the U.S. and is filled with artists who specialize in pottery, jewelry, ironworks, fine chocolates, graphics, painting, sculpture and more! We are also experiencing the largest craft brewery growth in the state (10!), a thriving downtown full of activity every day of the week, the state's oldest symphony orchestra, and lots of fun and funky places popping up all over town.

For a city our size, we have always thought big. This is a place to dream. Shooting for the moon (and beyond) happens every day. We are inspired by innovation, and I believe Huntsville is the epitome of your AURP International Conference theme, *Launching Cities/Catalyzing Legacies*. That's been and is Huntsville in a nutshell. But don't take my word for it...come check us out for yourself! Book your AURP conference registration, your flight, and hotel, and come see why Bloomberg called Huntsville, "The Next Unlikely City to Power the US Economy". I promise, you'll be glad you did!

See you in the Rocket City in October!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tommy Battle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tommy Battle
Mayor

Star of Alabama