

February 21, 2019 Update

EDUCATION

1. Program Space in the 3rd Ward Multi-Service Center

The College of Education has acquired approximately 2000 square feet in the 3rd Ward Multi-Service Center through an agreement with the City of Houston Health and Human Services Department. The space will be the location of after school tutoring, training, and workshops sponsored by the Advancing Community Engagement & Services Institute (ACES); however, the services are not operational at this time.

2. BOV Task Force on Third Ward Schools



The Task Force is continuing to pursue its goal of meeting with each school principal. On February 8th, representatives met with Principal Johnson of Hartsfield. It is the only animal environmental science elementary school in HISD. Unlike Blackshear, Cullen, and Yates the enrollment is growing; it is now at 413. Other comments from Principal Johnson:

- Hartsfield needs staff to teach robotics and STEM subjects.
- Hartsfield's major challenge is underfunding.
- Reading is his first academic concern, with math as his second.
- He needs corporate partners who can provide exposure to the children and possible funding.
- He would like a Geo-Dome built on the campus.
- He wants HISD to establish a magnet middle school for Animal Environmental Science.
- The five UH student teachers are a "blessing" and "make all the difference in the world."

HEALTH

1. Community Health Worker Project Expands – The UH Community Worker Program is expanding by establishing training space at the Riverside United Methodist Church adjacent to the UH campus at Cullen Blvd. and North MacGregor. The program will also be establishing a Food Pantry in partnership with the church.



2. **Grocery Store Changes - On February 16, 2019 HEB broke ground** on new signature grocery store located near the intersection of highway 288 and North MacGregor. Over 300 people attended the groundbreaking. When the store opens a year from now, the HEB on the corner of OST and Scott will close. Many on the southern side of the Greater Third Ward lament the loss of the OST store because it serves residents in South Park as well as Third Ward; it is also close to a metro transit center and the Scott street bus line. The new HEB will have far greater inventory and variety. METRO is looking at ways to assist shoppers without cars to reach the new store.

3. Dental Fair Scheduled for May 17th and 18th. – Half of the \$60,000 matching funds required to be raised has been received. In addition over 300 of the 800 needed volunteers have registered. Dr. Buck, Associate Dean of the UH College of Medicine and others on campus have met and are considering offering assistance with parking for shuttles, recruiting volunteers and recruiting patients.

4. Sight for Success – This collaboration between the College of Nursing, the College of Optometry and the Honors College operated in fall of 2018 to improve the vision screening process in several schools. The project team hopes to expand that program and has submitted a preproposal for \$24,641 to the UH CITE program.

5. Safety and Cullen Boulevard – With \$15 million made available by County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, Cullen Boulevard will be completely redone with new sewer infrastructure and surfacing beginning in May. The project area is from I-45 to North MacGregor. Cleburne Street from Scott to Ennis streets will be reconstructed as well. A community meeting is scheduled for February 21st at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church.



COMMUNITY MEETING

Harris County Street Reconstructions

Cullen Boulevard: I-45 to N. MacGregor
Cleburne Street: Scott to Ennis

When
Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Where
Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church (WABC)
Christian Life Center Building
3826 Wheeler Ave.
Houston, TX 77004

Parking
WABC Parking Lot
3800 block Ruth St.

Sponsors

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6. Third Ward Health Summit Scheduled for Feb. 23rd. – Several members of the UH College of Education will attend the summit organized by the *Families, Children, and Seniors* subcommittee of the Northern Third Ward Project. The NTW project is funded by a \$750,00 five year grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation. UH assisted in the grant application development.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

1. The SURE Program



The spring SURE entrepreneurial academy is proceeding with over 100 participants. A major problem is the parking rules and enforcement which have resulted in several participants receiving tickets due to confusion about where to park.

Dr. Saleha Khumawala (SURE Program Director & Founder), has submitted grant proposals to two large foundations in the hope of obtaining critical funding to sustain and possibly expand the program. These funds will cover staff, printed materials for participants, conference travel and scholarships for SURE mentors over the next three years if received.

2. PRH Launching a Financial Opportunity Center – With grant funds and assistance from LISC, Project Row Houses will soon be launching a Financial Opportunity Center. The Center will have staff that will coach families so that they will be able to successfully pursue employment and business opportunities. They will also learn money management skills as well as the process for applying for educational and other loans. The center will be modeled after centers LISC has launched across the country.



ART and CULTURE

1. KGMCA – PRH Fellowship—Each summer the fellows mentor college students for six weeks in partnership with Project Row Houses. Recently the UH Cougar Initiative to Engage (CITE) grant program approved funds to support this work during the summer of 2019.

2. Public Art – Efforts to increase the campus and Third Ward exposure to public art is increasing:

- A survey of faculty, students and Third Ward residents is being conducted to assess the level of current engagement with public art and future desires.
- The development of a Third Ward Public Arts Map is continuing.
- A grant proposal has been submitted to the UH CITE program to fund Prof. Rick Lowe's proposed Cultural Loop that will involve installing art activations at 8 Third Ward sites.

Elwyn Lee, Vice President for Neighborhood & Strategic Initiatives