

February 28, 2020 Update

THIRD WARD INITIATIVE (TWI) PRIMARY LEADERS

Education:	Robert McPherson , Dean, College of Education
Health:	David Buck , Associate Dean for Community Health, College of Medicine
Economic Empowerment:	Paul Pavlou , Dean, Bauer College of Business
Art & Culture:	Andrew Davis , Dean, Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts

EDUCATION

1. **College of Education Joins ROSES Mentoring Program** – As part of COE's strategic plan, COE is participating in HISD's youth mentoring program for men and women. The COE volunteers that include faculty and students will focus on Cullen Middle School and Jack Yates High School. HISD provides the one-hour required training. The mentoring is group mentoring, often at lunch time.
2. **Hartsfield Assistance** – UH-ACES sponsored faculty and volunteers are assisting Hartsfield with its robotics program.

COE Seeking Funds for Tutors – The COE has decided not to re-apply for an AmeriCorps grant due to the grant requirement that the program provide 98 members/tutors in the fourth year, that is nearly fifty percent increase that is beyond COE's supervisory capacity. COE is seeking philanthropic funds for the program. This would take approximately \$750,000 over three years. Dr. Michele Verma and some BOV Task Force members are organizing a luncheon designed to identify potential supporters. The Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation has given an operational gift to support the program and is also working on an additional gift. Several of the schools have committed a small per dollar hourly wage as a match.

3. **BOV Task Force on Third Ward Schools** – On the 14th of February the Task Force met and discussed the following items:
 - a. **Field Trips to UH Events** – With assistance from the COE, the task force is exploring the feasibility of inviting students from Third Ward Schools to UH basketball and/or football games. Due to NCAA rules, the focus will be on the middle school and the elementary schools. The UH Athletic Department seems open to providing free or discounted tickets to certain games. It was suggested that the group explore trips to cultural events as well.
 - b. **Fundraising for Tutors** – To assist the COE in its goals of funding future tutors, Task Force Chair, Dr. Michele Verma, and others are organizing a luncheon for about 25 individuals designed to identify potential donors.

HEALTH

1. College of Optometry



Lucy Kehinde, OD, PhD, faculty member in the College of Optometry, received a grant to develop a workshop/lecture series, designed to teach faculty and students from UH Health Profession programs principles of community engagement and enhance their cultural competency. As part of this effort, on Feb. 20th, Dr. Elwyn Lee spoke to students on “**UH and Third Ward Relations: Past, Present and Future.**” In addition to the students Dr. Ruth Bush Associate Dean, College of Medicine was also in attendance.

2. Brays Bayou Greenway Bridge & 100 BCycle Station Celebration – The ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at MLK and Wheeler. It celebrates the recently completed bridge that will connect the main campus with the site on which will be built the new College of Medicine. It also celebrates the installation in MacGregor Park of the 100th BCycle Station. The community and students will be able to use the bridge and the bikes.

3. Safety Advisory Council Established –The Department of Justice and the Houston Police Department are piloting a program entitled “Strengthening Police and Community Partners.” The kick-off meeting was October 19th with about 40 stakeholders and law enforcement representatives in attendance. Several UH students and Dr. Lee participated in the discussions. The second meeting was held February 22nd at which an Advisory Council was established and action plans identified. One key action item is the development of an Implicit Bias Workshop.

4. Implicit Bias Training – The College of Education in conjunction with other partners is sponsoring a speech by implicit bias expert, Dr. Bryant T. Marks of Morehouse College, to be followed by a full day of training. Members of the Houston police department and educators will attend, March 5th and 6th at the UH Hilton Hotel.

5. Community Clean-Up held on February 22nd – The UH Black Law Students along with other UH volunteers joined community members in cleaning up the blocks surrounding SHAPE community Center near the corner of Alabama and Live Oak.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

1. **Bauer College to be honored for Entrepreneurial Success** – The BAUER College was recently lauded nationally for its outstanding entrepreneurs program. On March 3rd at 1:30 pm, the Houston City Council and Mayor Sylvester Turner will announce “Bauer College of Business Entrepreneurship Day at City Hall.”

2. **SURE and Dr. Khumawala Invited to Economic Development Meetings** – The Mayor’s Office of Complete Communities has invited the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) to engage with economic development leaders in Third Ward. The IEDC is the largest non-profit assisting economic developers with creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth and enhance wealth. Dr. Khumawala has been invited to this 2-day schedule of meetings that will focus on small business development, business attraction, corridor revitalization, opportunity zones, and workforce development. The meetings will take place Feb. 24th - Feb. 26th at Midtown Redevelopment Authority, room 312, 410 Pierce Street, Houston, Texas 77002.

3. **Incubation of Aspiring Chefs Expands** – SHAPE community center recently sent out



announcements of four chefs operating on various days at its 3815 Live Oak building. Dr. Lee is a new member of the SHAPE board of directors and has championed this type of support. The SURE program is attempting to facilitate the HUB certification of Third Ward entrepreneurs like these. Also, Suzie’s Transitional Fusion Cuisine has relocated to Trinity United Methodist Church where she will operate a restaurant three days a week. The UH Law Center clinic on entrepreneurship and community development has assisted Suzie’s with all the legal documents needed to establish her business.

C. **BOV Economic Development Task Force**



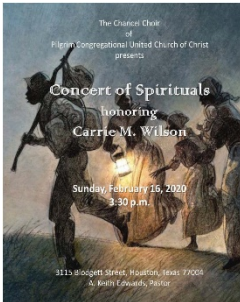
Mr. Aylwin Lewis, former Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President, Potbelly Corporation, Kmart and Sears is now the Chair of the Third Ward Economic Empowerment Task Force. He has scheduled a Task Force meeting for early March that will focus on the following proposed projects.

- a. Webpage Optimization –With collaborating UH internal programs develop a workshop for Third Ward entrepreneurs on how to improve the effectiveness of their business websites. Potential partners: the Valenti School of Communication and the College of Technology.
- b. Food and Service Industry – Since many local entrepreneurs are in the food or service industry, develop a workshop outlining best practices in labor, fundraising and how to increase effectiveness. Potential partners: Hilton College of Hotel & Restaurant Management, and BOV members with food industry businesses.
- c. Financial Literacy – Working with all ages (elementary, high school and adults) to share how to think about budget development and how to read a financial document. Such training would create a foundation for the future. These are details often absent from traditional school systems. Potential partners: BAUER College and the UH Alumni Association.

ART & CULTURE

1. **New Undergraduate Fellows**-This spring there will be four undergraduate fellows who will be mentored by Professor Rick Lowe and Sixto Wagan as they work to develop and complete Third Ward Cultural Loop projects researched and developed by Professor Lowe's Community Engaged Art Class. The generous support from the Office of the Provost CITE (Cougar Initiative to Engage) has made this possible.

2. **UH Concert Chorale Performs in Third Ward** – The award winning UH Concert Chorale performed three arrangements at a Concert of Spirituals sponsored by the Pilgrim Congregation United Church of Christ. In addition to the church's choir, there were performances from the TSU choir, the Prairie View AM Choir, the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church Choir, and several other churches. The church was packed and attendees were effusive in their praise of the UH choir.



Elwyn Lee
Vice President for Neighborhood & Strategic Initiatives