

November 15, 2021 Update

EDUCATION

- Blackshear elementary has a new after-school music program thanks to Boynton United Methodist Church. Rev. Davis has reached out to NSI seeking student volunteers to supplement the music teachers she has participating. A handful of UH students are tutoring the students in between the lessons.
- Operation Love is an annual Blackshear Elementary school holiday celebration that includes a mini-health fair and the distribution of donated gifts, games and food. UHCOM Students and staff will volunteer as well as others from the UH campus.
- Yates Summer Stem Labs -- Dr. Thomas Thesen (UHCOM) and College of Education TeachHouston faculty plan to recruit Yates high school students to work in STEM labs this summer as a way of demystifying science and encouraging the students to think about possible science careers. Dr. Thesen and his colleagues have requested a meeting with NSI to discuss how best to identify community members who could help recruit students and/or join a hoped-for advisory group. That meeting will take place this week.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

SURE Entrepreneurial Training Program

- Fall class is held on Monday nights. 149 participants with about 40 student mentor/consultants. 20 Third Ward affiliated; 9 from Third Ward.
- The Fall Pitch Day is on Monday November 29th and approximately 35-40 entrepreneurs are expected to Pitch.
- Classroom space is still a huge challenge for the SURE program. As of today SURE does not have a confirmed class room for spring 2022 for the SURE program.
- SURE has requested KIVA (Room 101, Farish Hall) from the College of Education but COE can only approve SURE use if none of its classes and events need that space.
- SURE can use CBB Room 328 with the approval from Dean Pavlou, but that would reduce the number of entrepreneurs served.
- Center for Economic Inclusion – The final proposal for the Center has been submitted to the Committee on Academic Centers and Institutes (CACI) for their review and final approval from Provost Short.
- SURE CDFI (Community Development Financial Institution) is in the process of applying to the US Treasury to get *certified* as a CDFI.

HEALTH and SAFETY

- **Third Ward Community Clean-Up around Jack Yates High School, October 31, 2021, was** sponsored by the Yates Alumni Association, Keep Houston Beautiful, and the NFL. The sponsors requested 30 UH volunteers through NSI. Among the UH students volunteers were the 2021 UH Homecoming Queen Jayce Ball and Homecoming King Jordan Booker who participated by mowing grass and planting flowers at Blackshear Elementary School.
- UH College of Medicine (UHCOM) community health workers distributed health literature and had a table at the neighborhood night out at Emancipation Park in early October.
- Two UHCOM students and two community health workers helped provide COVID vaccinations at Trinity United Methodist Church on October 23, 2021.
- St. Paul's Methodist church opened a health clinic for the uninsured residents through a partnership with the UH College of Nursing. Doctor visits will be from the site via telemedicine.
- UH is collaborating with Riverside Methodist Church's **Church and Community Health Initiative (CCHI).** Community health workers trained at UH will be assisting with several CCHI efforts (e.g. health screenings, etc.). CCHI's leader, Jessica Somerville, stated that they will work with Dr. Dan Price of the Honors College on a study on children's brain issues.
- **Third Ward Community Garden** - UH students working through the Wesley Foundation that has an office on the UH campus in the AD Religion Center will be assisting Riverside Methodist Church to build a garden which will be the model for gardens they hope to teach residents to create and maintain. The UHCOM Third Ward Community Working Group meets monthly. Rev. Denise Caulfield, Riverside UMC and UH Wesley Foundation campus minister, will present about the Third Ward Community Garden at its November meeting. A partner appreciation event will be held in December.
- UHCOM will partner with the Tejano Center and Christus Healthy Living Mobile Clinic to offer COVID and Flu vaccines to the community in the East End. COVID vaccines will be available for persons 5 years and older on December 8th or 9th. UHCOM students and staff will volunteer at the event.
- The UHCOM'S Household Centered Care program has enrolled 39 families from Third Ward and 30 families from the East End. Community health workers provide health and social service navigation and support to participants. Students from the UH colleges of Nursing, Social Work and Medicine are part of Inter-professional Education Teams that have started making home visits with the community health workers. The first student visits happened this week.
- Linda Civallero, the UHCOM Director of Community Engagement & Community Health, started participating in Third Ward coalitions, including Northern Third Ward Neighborhood Implementation Project, Third Ward Health Collaborative and Third Ward Community Cloth to support existing efforts.

ART & CULTURE

- There is one 2021 PRH/KGMCA Fellow working in partnership with Project Row Houses. Ms. Shavon Morris has selected for her brain trust: photographer Earlie Hudnall Jr. and artist Delita Pinchback Martin. Through the fellowship program Ms. Morris seeks to examine the concept of "Home" in America, more specifically, the idea of "home as refuge."
- History Preservation – NSI connected Rev. Linda Davis with UH History professor Josiah Rector who has a CITE project that funds graduate student engagement in the community. UH student Walker

Shores prepared applications concerning Boynton United Methodist Church's history with the Houston Historic Preservation office, and the Texas Historical Commission after conducting extensive research. As part of the application process a presentation will be made to the Houston City Council in December. One significant aspect of the church is that it was designed by John Chase, the first black University of Texas (UT) graduate in architecture and the first licensed black architect in the state. Chase designed and built his home in Third Ward and designed several buildings on the Texas Southern University campus.

- Professor Lowe has submitted a thoughtful proposal to the Project Row Houses (PRH) board that would have PRH expand its role in developing social sculptors in a big way if adopted. More universities are graduating students with degrees in social and community engaged art with minimal post graduate opportunities available to them. Under his proposal the KGMCA would provide an academic layer to this greatly expanded residency program at PRH. The residencies would be varied: Long-term live-in residencies; Short-term Nonresidential Residences; Entrepreneurial Residencies; and Neighborhood Artisan Residencies.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- **November 5, 2021** - Dr. Lee and several UHCOM faculty and staff attended the CHANGE HAPPENS Fall Luncheon.
- **November 7, 2021** - Dr. Lee attended the SHAPE Community Center fundraiser and Birthday Celebration for Deloyd Parker, CEO and Founder of SHAPE in OUR PARK adjacent to the center's Live Oak Street building.
- **November 9, 2021** - Dr. Lee attended the Laurence J. "Larry" Payne Servant Leadership Award ceremony at the University of St. Thomas. Larry Payne was the inaugural recipient of the award due to his years of servant leadership that included chairing the Mayor's Task Force of Police Reform that is becoming a model for other police forces.
- **November 12, 2021** – Dr. Lee was one of about 20 honorees at the President's Lifetime Achievement Awards Gala. Honorees were selected by a local committee and received a large certificate signed by President Joseph R. Biden in appreciation "for their lifelong commitment to building a stronger nation through volunteer service."

Elwyn C. Lee
Vice President for Neighborhoods & Strategic Initiatives