

September 25, 2018 Update

EDUCATION

UH Football Team Speaks to Blackshear Elementary-The Office of Neighborhood and Strategic Initiatives (NSI) facilitated two visits to Blackshear Elementary school by UH football players who spoke about the importance of academics, taking responsibility and taking initiative. On September 21st, 10 players and NSI staff had lunch with the students and signed autographs.

- Blackshear students and their parents attended the UH vs. TSU football game on September 22nd through the generosity of UH Athletics.
- Ascending to Men (ATM)-Under the leadership of Dr. Kenneth Davis, the new Assistant Superintendent for Equity & Outreach, HISD has launched ATM, a large mentoring program for minority HISD male students. The August 31st kick-off meeting was held at Yates high school and attended by 200 individuals. Dr. Lee serves on the Advisory Committee for ATM and is assisting with structuring the curriculum for the students.
- Board of Visitors (BOV) Third Ward Schools Task Force-The task force is attempting to arrange a meeting with Yates high school principal Tiffany Guillory, to see what assistance it can offer since Yates was not rated due to a waiver based on Hurricane Harvey impacts. The 5 other targeted schools all Met Standard.



HEALTH

TOUCH diabetes project-The Advisory Committee met on September 7th to discuss expanding into the East End. TOUCH has hired a new liaison who is well connected in the East End. TOUCH will retain the current coordinator who will continue to facilitate outreach in Third Ward.

Since the March, 2017 announcement of the United Health Foundation's \$2 million grant steady progress has been made in providing obesity prevention and diabetes services in Third Ward. The latest numbers show:

- Total people reached: 1573
- Prevention Screenings services: 1336
- Treatment (BOUNCE Program and YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program): 237

September 8th Community Health Lymphoma Awareness Walk-NSI facilitated a 3 mile walk on the UH campus in partnership with City Cathedral church located on Elgin across from the UH track and softball field.

ART AND CULTURE

The Colour of Music Festival (COMF) -The Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts and CLASS, with the support of the Provost sponsored the COMF that involved several performances by black classical musicians on the UH campus. HEB made a significant contribution to UH to assist with the COMF and Mayor Sylvester Turner made direct contributions to COMF.

Community and Student Exposure-NSI worked to create a broader audience for the COMF; as a result:

- Three *free* performances were held at Emancipation Park at the end of August.
- COMF musicians visited HISD schools and several dozen HISD students attended a performances at UH.
- The Lawson Academy, Pilgrim Congregational Church, and the LINKS organization all brought children to performances.
- COMF performed at Wheeler Avenue Baptist church at the 9 a.m. service on September 16th.

Accolades for COMF Musicians-Attendees at the various performances raved about the music. They used such terms as fabulous, spectacular, amazing and breathtaking. Attendees of note included Lillie and Beth Robertson; Kase and Eileen Lawal; Winell Herron of HEB; Cheryl Creuzot; and Mayor Sylvester Turner and several of his senior staff.



- Third Ward Cleanup-NSI has reached out to student organizations to increase the participation since these cleanups will occur regularly. The next cleanup is Saturday October 6th; 84 UH student volunteers have signed up.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- The SURE Program-The first meeting this fall was held on September 15th at the KIVA room in Farish Hall. The room setting was ideal and allowed SURE to accommodate 130 potential entrepreneurs. Twenty are Third Ward affiliated.
- Houston Anchor Collaborative (HAC)-The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is now fully executed and the committee work can begin to move faster. This pilot project is designed to explore whether the Anchor Institutions-UH, TSU, Memorial Hermann and Houston First can work together to increase job possibilities for Third Ward residents and create equitable opportunities for Third Ward and minority companies.
- Cooperative Construction Company-Thanks to the College of Technology two members of the EEDC's Cooperative Construction Company are auditing an online construction management course this fall.
- Senator Boris Miles Spot Bid Fair-Senator Miles requested that various institutions attend the fair and have in hand contracting opportunities that vendors could bid on. UH's HUB office was one of the sponsors of the event which was held on Thursday, September 20th at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Elwyn Lee, Vice President for Neighborhood & Strategic Initiatives