

## December 18, 2018 Update

### EDUCATION

#### 1. UH Football Team

On Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> players from the University of Houston Football team visited Blackshear Elementary and had lunch with the students during the lunch hour.



#### 2. Program Space in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Multi-Service Center

The College of Education has acquired approximately 2000 square feet in the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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). Other UH initiatives involving Third Ward may operate out of that space as well.

#### 3. BOV Task Force on Third Ward Schools

After the holidays, the Task Force plans to visit with the principals of Hartsfield, Thompson, and Foster elementary schools. Task Force representatives have already visited with the principals of Yates High School, Cullen Middle School and Blackshear Elementary. As a result the College of Education has offered to (1) assist each school organize and structure a parents organization, (2) provide staff professional development training, and (3) additional tutoring and mentoring support.

### HEALTH

#### 1. Third Ward Cleanup Award



This fall UH volunteers, students, faculty and staff joined other Third Ward organizations to conduct several clean up events during 2018. **That initiative, Team Up 2 Clean UP 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward received a 2018 Mayor's Proud Partner Award.** Dr. Jerry Evans of the College of Technology coordinated the UH volunteers who focused on cleaning up and planting flowers around Blackshear Elementary school. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Citizens on Patrol organization recognized UH, Dr. Evans and Dr. Lee on December 12<sup>th</sup> at an appreciation luncheon.



## 2. Community Health Worker Project Wins Award – Dr. Dan Price of the Honors



College has trained students from the UH Honors College and residents of the Cuney Homes to be community health workers. With grant funding he pays the CHWs \$15 an hour to use the knowledge and skills they have learned. They have worked in HISD schools to assist nurses with vision screening. Additionally, they have educated residents about diabetes, HIV prevention, and asthma prevention. **On November 30 this CHW project received an award from The Houston AIDS Foundation at its annual luncheon.** Present to see Dr. Price receive the award were Community Health Workers from the Cuney Homes, Dean Monroe from the Honors College, Dr. Spann and other College of Medicine staff, and Dr. Lee, Vice President for Neighborhood Strategic Initiatives.



3. Faith in Action Receives Texas Dental Association Grant – The Texas Dental Association has awarded a \$600,000 grant to Trinity East Methodist Church in response to a proposal to provide free dental services to Third Ward residents submitted by four Third Ward pastors. The goal is to serve 1000 residents at Emancipation Park over two days in May 2019. Over 40 dentists from around the state will be volunteering their services. The grant requires a \$60,000 cash match from the Third Ward stakeholders. A successful event will require hundreds of volunteers, marketing, bus transportation, catering, and child care.

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 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 this coming spring. The project area is from I-45 to North MacGregor. A portion of Holman Street in front of the Fertitta Center may be included as well. An additional \$15 million will be used to reconstruct Cleburne from Scott to Tierwester or Ennis streets.

## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

### 1. The SURE Program



a. On Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> participants of the fall SURE Academy celebrated at a luncheon in the Rockwell Pavilion of the UH MD Anderson Library. The room was packed with participants, well-wishers, mentors, and business people who spoke to the participants during the semester. Dr. Richard Scamell from BAUER College, and Dr. Elwyn Lee provided welcoming remarks. The keynote speaker was Brian Swindel, a retired veteran and CEO of a logistics company Troop Industrial, who provided practical advice on how to succeed.

b. Recruiting for the spring SURE Academy has begun. Notices are being sent out to Third Ward partners asking them to identify and recommend worthy candidates.

c. Dr. Saleha Khumawala (SURE Program Director & Founder), the Friends of SURE, and the SURE Advisory Committee are aggressively seeking critical funding to sustain and possibly expand the program. With a couple of seed funders ending their commitments, it is essential that new sources of revenue be identified. Two large foundations have expressed serious interest, however, each would like to see institutional support from UH before committing. SURE is hoping to raise \$500,000 for each of the next three years to cover staff, printed materials for participants, conference travel and scholarships for SURE mentors.

### 2. Houston Anchor Collaborative (HAC)

Staff changes has delayed progress on this initiative. The head of UH Human Resources left for another position. That critical unit is headed by an Interim Director. Similarly, the key community partner, the Emancipation Economic Development Council (EEDC), has been restructuring. It is now a non-profit with a board, new offices, and new Executive Director, Mr. Carey Yates, a well-known former bank executive. However, shortly after his appointment, he was hospitalized. He hopes to be on his feet in early January 2019 and looks forward to working on this initiative.

### 3. EEDC Trying to Launch Businesses

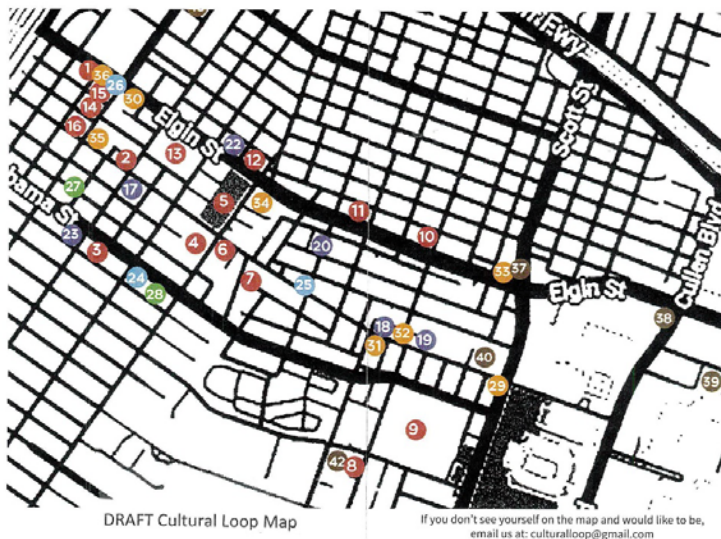
- a. The Emancipation Economic Development Council has launched a cooperative construction company. Two members of the company audited an UH online construction management course this fall.
- b. The EEDC is exploring the idea of starting a coffee roasting worker-owned business in Third Ward. It has asked NSI to identify UH faculty and graduate students in Industrial Engineering who could meet to discuss how best to develop blueprints for such facility.
- c. Finally, efforts are being made to start a professional lawn service.

## **ART and CULTURE**

### 1. KGMCA – PRH Fellowship

- a. Current Fellows Regina Agu and Eyakem Gulilat presented their research on November 27<sup>th</sup> in the UH Fine Arts building. . Agu’s talk was a multimedia performative lecture on Emancipation Park. Gulilat’s talk was an investigation of “informal urbanism” where community members are creating spaces of empowerment outside of traditional systems.
- b. Over 60 individuals applied for the 2019 Fellowships. Half of the applications are from out-of-state with three international applications. Sixto Wagan (UH CASE) and Ryan Dennis of Project Row Houses (PRH) have had to reschedule their meeting to select the new fellows until January.

2. The Cultural Loop – Professor Lowe and his students are exploring the possibilities of activating the area between Holman and Elgin from Emancipation Avenue to Scott Street with public and creative activity. Implementation of the ideas may begin in the spring. A draft brochure and a draft cultural loop map have been prepared by the class.



3. CITE Preproposal - Sixto Wagan of UH CASE, plans to submit a preproposal to UH CITE to support the work in Third Ward. It will most likely include a request for internship funding for colleges who will be mentored by the fellows each year.

Elwyn Lee, Vice President for Neighborhood & Strategic Initiatives