

October 17, 2018 Update

EDUCATION

1. Since all the targeted schools Met Standard under the August 2018 TEA accountability ratings except for Yates High School that had a waiver due to hurricane Harvey, the College of Education (COE) and the Board of Visitors (BOV) Task Force discussed the goals for the coming years. There was consensus that working with partners the Third Ward Schools Initiative led by COE should:

- **Maintain** a TEA 2019 rating of Met Standard (MS) in the Cullen Middle school and the four targeted elementary schools.
- **Elevate** the TEA rating of Yates High School to Met Standard in 2019
- **Improve** the Achievement domain scores for all six targeted schools to 60

2. Ascending to Men (ATM) – HISD has launched this large mentoring program for minority HISD males. A training session for mentors was held on October 10th that Dr. Lee attended. The UH Urban Experience Program has grant money to pay UH students to tutor and/or mentor high school students; several of these UEP affiliated students attended the training session. As an ATM Advisory Committee member Dr. Lee is working with others to finalize the curriculum for the high school mentees.

HEALTH

1. 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.

2. Medicine College Issues

Dr. David Buck, the new UH Community Outreach Doctor for the UH College of Medicine toured Third Ward with Dr. Lee, observed the existing health facilities and the inferior food stores. He also was able to meet the community leaders who agreed to help identify families for medical students to partner with. Dr. Buck has asked Dr. Lee to work with him on a PowerPoint that would be used to acquaint medical college faculty and students with Third Ward.



3. Third Ward Cleanup – On October 6th another Third Ward Clean Up was held. Dozens of UH volunteers—students, faculty and staff joined other Third Ward organizations to make the event a huge success. About 300 participated. Dr. Jerry Evans coordinated the UH volunteers who focused on cleaning up around Blackshear because flowers, trees and beautiful surrounding enhance positive psychological states of mind conducive to learning.



4. Free Dental Services coming to Third Ward on May 2019 – Between 650 to 1,000 residents will receive free medical services in May 2019 at Emancipation Park pursuant to a \$650,000 grant obtained from the Texas Dental Association by four Third Ward Methodist ministers. Over 500 volunteers will be needed. As Third Ward partners, NSI and other UH volunteers will help with the planning and execution.

5. Community Health Workers – Dr. Dan Price of the Honors College has been training 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.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

1. The SURE Program

The Saturdays SURE sessions are moving along. Almost all of the 130 prospective entrepreneurs are still attending. This is certainly true for 20 Third Ward affiliated participants who remain enthusiastic.

2. Houston Anchor Collaborative (HAC) The major community partner, the EEDC has been restructuring as a non-profit with a board and a new paid Executive Director. Planning meetings should resume soon.

3. 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.

ART and CULTURE

1. KGMCA –PRH Fellowship

a. Fellow Regina Agu is presenting her work entitled *Psychogeography of Emancipation Park* at an Arts conference in New Orleans. Fellow Eyakem Gulilat has transformed his research into black place making and an investigation of “informal urbanism” where community members are creating spaces of empowerment outside of traditional systems.

b. Both Fellows will present their findings on November 27th; applications are now open for 2019 Fellowships.

c. Rick Lowe and Dean Davis are identifying funding opportunities to expand the program to 2 graduate fellows and 4 undergraduate fellows.

2. Arts Mile and Rick Lowe—Rick and his students are exploring the possibilities of activating the area between Holman and Elgin from Emancipation Avenue to Scott Street with public art and creative activity. Implementation of the ideas may begin in the spring.

3. Third Ward Public Art Map—The Center for Arts & Social Engagement (CASE) is working with the Third Ward Community Cloth to develop a public art and cultural asset map. Mike Guidry, Curator of Art Collection has identified the featured works from UH Public Art to be included. The estimated completion has date is spring 2019.

4. Bridge Celebration – The Houston Parks Board has asked the Office of Neighborhood & Strategic Initiatives (NSI) to help with planning a festive celebration for the opening of the new pedestrian bridge connecting both sides of the bayou at Wheeler and MLK. The Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts (KMGCA) will participate in this planning along with other parts of the campus.

5. Juneteenth 2019 – Several Third Ward groups are coming together to make next year's Juneteenth celebration a huge event. Committees are being formed and NSI hopes to secure UH representation.

Elwyn C. Lee, October 17, 2018

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