

APRIL 18, 2018 UPDATE

Elwyn C. Lee

Vice President for Neighborhood and Strategic Initiatives

SECTION I: THIRD WARD INITIATIVE – EDUCATION

Leaders:

Robert McPherson, Dean, College of Education

Jonathan Schwartz, Associate Dean, College of Education

Anne McClellan, Director of Innovation, College of Education

1. **HISD Crisis** – HISD Board of Trustees have not submitted a proposal to the Texas Education Agency (TEA). There have been reports that TEA may defer decisions about some schools at risk of closure due to repeated poor performance because of school damage from hurricane HARVEY. It looks like the situation for the threatened schools will not be fully known until June. TEA did publish its method of determining the new grades for schools. HISD appointed an interim Superintendent, Grenita Lathan, an HISD administrator since 2015.
2. **BOARD OF VISITORS (BOV) Task Force on Third Ward Schools**
 - a. **BOV Task Force on Third Ward Schools** – Wayne Lockett, Task Force Chair, sent TASK FORCE members a status report describing the crisis at HISD. He is hopeful that Task Force members become liaisons to the targeted schools. He expects to call a meeting soon to discuss activities at the schools other than Blackshear Elementary school.
 - b. **Name for the New Building** --After reviewing suggested names for the building to be constructed to house the ACES Institute and other services the President has selected the following name:
3. **Selected Summer Activities**
 - a. COE is working with HISD College Prep to bring Third Ward (middle school and high school students to the UH campus on the week of May 21 -25. They hope to focus on students with an interest in Education or Communications media. The student affair's

Center for Student Involvement and NSI are collaborating with COE.

- b. Dodgeball Fundraiser-Students in Bauer Professor Belinne's class are hosting a dodgeball tournament on campus at the Recreation and Wellness Center to raise money to provide subsidies for children participating in summer programs at the Cuney Homes, the large public housing project adjacent to Texas Southern University.
4. **Yates School of Communications fundraiser April 27th** – The fundraiser is scheduled for 10 a.m. at the Federal Reserve Bank located at 1801 Allen Parkway. BOV member Sonceria Messiah Jiles is seeking financial support for the event.

SECTION II: TWI: ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Leaders:

Saleha Khumawala, Professor of Accounting, Director of the SURE (Stimulating Urban Renewal through Entrepreneurship) Program, BAUER College of Business

Jerry Evans, Professor College of Technology

Christopher Heard, Clinical Professor, UH College of Law

Leonard Baynes, Dean UH College of Law

1. SURE Program

a. Spring Semester Graduation on April 28th

The First Lady of Texas, the honorable Cecelia Abbott, will be the featured guest at the graduation ceremony for over 100 SURE aspiring entrepreneurs.

b. SURE Alumni Organization

This new organization has held two networking sessions providing opportunities for SURE Alumni to network.

c. SURE Panels

Panels are additional educational opportunities organized to give entrepreneurs currently in the program and alumni a chance to hear from other successful entrepreneurs and receive guidance on various business topics. Two panels have been held thus far.

2. BOV Task Force on Third Ward Economic Empowerment

The Task Force held its first meeting on March 12, 2018. Six members participated in person or via telephone and discussed demographic data and employment data. After discussion the members adopted the following objectives.

1. Stimulate vigorous activity in the Third Ward by incubating small-to medium sized businesses in Partnership with the SURE™ program at the C.T. Bauer College of Business.

2. Illuminate the strengths of Third Ward businesses by advocating for increased business activity between the UH business community and Third Ward enterprises.

3. Enhance UH community alliances by providing job and internship placement opportunities for individuals in partner programs including the Young Mothers Residential Program at Project Row Houses.

Next steps included:

1. Taking a tour of Third Ward
2. Meeting the leaders of Project Row Houses (PRH), the PRH Young Mother's Residence Program, (YMRP), and the Emancipation Economic Development Council (EEDC).
3. Meeting with Jack Tenner, UH head of purchasing, and Dr. Khumawala, Director of the SURE program.

3. Houston Anchor Collaborative (HAC)

The language of the MOU had been finalized and approved by the four collaborating organizations. A final document is being circulated for signatures. Another workshop meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2018 from 8 a.m. to noon at the UH Student Center. The Democracy Collaborative consultants will be present. Future sessions will be facilitated by Ms. Shannette Prince, a staff member with the EEDC.

SECTION III: TWI - HEALTH

Leaders:

Ezemenari Obasi, Associate Dean for Research; Chair, Department of Health and Learning Sciences, College of Education

Luis Torres, Associate Dean for Outreach, Graduate College of Social Work

Dan O'Connor, Chair, Department of Health & Human Performance

Stephen Spann, Planning Dean for the UH Medical School

1. **Treating Obesity in Underserved Communities in Houston (TOUCH)** -- TOUCH has provided treatment services to 96 families and 762 individuals. TOUCH has its started its second Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) class at the Houston Texans YMCA earlier this month and is looking to host 10 classes this year. It is still doing outreach with the Third Ward United Methodist Churches and is currently partnering with Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church (WABC) utilizing the TOUCH awareness campaign that raising awareness through print and digital bulletins along with live announcements during service.
2. **Third Ward Clean-Up**-On Saturday, April 7th the 3rd Ward Citizen Patrol spearheaded its second collaborative clean-up of Northern Third Ward. UH students and staff from the College of Technology came out in force and spread mulch and dirt around trees prior to planting flowers at Blackshear Elementary

3. **Central Care Clinic (CCC)**-CCC recently lost its federal FQHC funding, however, it is still operating on a reduced schedule in its same Third Ward location adjacent and east of the Baylor College of Medicine Academy at Ryan. Avenue 360, the FQHC that was awarded the federal funds previously provided to CCC, is rumored to be establishing a clinic on Griggs.

SECTION IV: ART and CULTURE

Leaders:

Andrew Davis, Interim Dean, Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts (KGMCA)

Rick Lowe, Founder Project Row Houses and Adjunct Associate Professor, KGMCA

Ryan Denning, Dir. of Public Art, Project Row Houses

Sixto Wagan, Dir. of the Center for Arts and Social Engagement (CASE), KGMCA

1. **UH CASE-PRH Fellows** –The two new fellows are working on projects that explore aspects of Third Ward church history, culture and place-making practices.
2. **UH Public Art** – Dr. Emily Messa met with Dr. Assasta Richards to explore having the Sankofa Research Institute assess the degree to which Third Ward residents have been exposed to UH public art, so that future progress can be measured.

SECTION – OTHER INFORMATION

1. **Third Ward Complete Communities**-This Mayor’s Initiative is well organized into nine subject matter committees that are meeting regularly. NSI attends the education, health, and economic committee meetings where possible. The safety and security committee has asked if the UH Police Department could send a representative to its meetings.