

April 19, 2022 Update

EDUCATION

- ACES building is almost complete may be ready for occupancy in early June.
- UH Tutors are still going strong.
- Yates summer program is partnering with the College of Medicine on exposing about 10 high school students to real science lab work.
- Summer Leadership Institute of the Teen & Police Service Academy (TAPS) will take place on campus June 13 – July 1, 2022 through a collaboration with NSI. Dr. Everett Penn, UHCL professor leads TAPS.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- The BAUER Center for Economic Inclusion (CEI), the new home for SURE, is scheduled to launch at a kick-off luncheon on May 7th. CEI is the first Center of this kind at a Higher Education Institution. Former Mayor of San Antonio, Henry Cisneros is the confirmed speaker for the event.
- SURE Pitch Day is Monday April 25th. About 40 entrepreneurs are expected to compete.
- SURE graduation is paired with CEI launch during National Small Business Week, May 1 – May 7th, a great time to celebrate entrepreneurship, community engagement, diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- The SURE CDFI application has been filed.

HEALTH

- Third Ward Dental Fair, Emancipation Park, April 29th & April 30th.
 - Free Dental services will be provided to an estimated 500 residents.
 - The Office of Neighborhood & Strategic Initiatives (NSI) and the College of Medicine (COM) is providing a tent for the event.
 - NSI is also (a) identifying potential patients for pre-screening, and (b) recruiting student, faculty, and staff volunteers.

- **Expanding Gardens**-NSI and the COM are working with community organizations to expand gardening and the use of existing gardens.
 - April 9, 2022 – Gardening 101 was taught at Alabama street Garden two blocks from SHAPE community center. Primary sponsor was Healthy Outdoor Communities.

 - May 21st, Spring Wellness Event at Riverside United Methodist church. Program includes garden tour and tips on how to grow your garden as well as a cooking demonstration.

- **Creating Healthy Outdoor Spaces** – There is increasing emphasis on activating park and outdoor spaces to improve health in the greater Third Ward. NSI works with the various organizations that are engaged in this work.
 - Friends of Riverside Park Houston – has truly made the park a magnet for children with a kid’s rodeo and a wildly successful Easter egg hunt this past weekend. The park is adjacent and north of Good Hope Baptist Church.

 - MacGregor Park – is extremely busy on the weekend, but speeding cars and motorcycles along with excessive loud noise is attracting complaints from nearby residents concerned about safety. VP Lee has participated in several virtual meetings involving the park staff, the Houston Police, the Constables from Precinct 7 & and residents to discuss possible solutions to the problems.

 - Saturday, May 7th, noon – 4 pm. – Third Ward on Tap -The Columbia Tap jogging and bike trail runs north and south through the center of Third Ward but is underutilized. To rectify this a coalition of groups are holding a block party along Velasco Street between Holman and Elgin. The idea is to engage the community in fun along the trail while engaging them in discussions on how to make trail better such that it will attract more users. Involved organizations include Change Happens, Houston Parks Board,

- Healthy Outdoor Communities, Northern Third Ward Implementation Project, and others.
 - Health Fair, April 23, 2022 at Trinity United Methodist Church
 1. Fresh Produce distribution

2. Vaccination shots and more.
3. COM Healthy Connections is participating

- Healthy Start in search of Volunteer Moms for DOULA Services The University of Houston Healthy Start program is in search of "MOMS" who are in their 3rd Trimester of Pregnancy (presumably between 34-40 weeks) who are interested in a "NO Cost" Doula service. Services are available in English and Spanish. The need is for Moms willing to let Doula Trainees be present at their births and provide prenatal and postpartum doula support. Moms DO NOT have to be a part of the Healthy Start Program. NSI is publicizing this need.

ART AND CULTURE

- Emancipation Park Conservancy is planning two days of fun, music and learning to celebration the park's 150th anniversary. The Conservancy Board chair has approached VP Lee about getting UH faculty/students involved.
- Publicizing Yard Works.
- April 30th ground breaking ceremony for the 8 million dollar renovation of the Eldorado building.
- Juneteenth Documentary on Houston to include SHAPE Community Center

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