2015 Citizen of the Year — Donna Buchanan

presentation by Mike Easley, 2002 Citizen of the Year

The Houston Heights Association’s Citizen of the Year award is an award of special recognition. It is not something you win. It is something you earn. Generally, the old-fashioned way, through hard work. Most recipients have spent thousands of hours and multiple years in a consistent, unselfish effort to make Houston Heights a better place.

The annual recipient is selected by vote of all prior recipients of the award. That this recognition is measured and appreciated by those who have stood in similar shoes makes the Citizen of the Year award even more special.

This year’s Citizen of the Year award is in some ways a lifetime achievement award. Over the last 30 years, I can think of no other person who is responsible for bringing more people of every age into Houston Heights and making them smile. Over this thirty-year span, this person is responsible for employing hundreds of smiling faces right under your noses.

If you look up and down any street in Houston Heights, and look at almost every one of your neighbors’ homes, this person’s lifework makes an indelible, favorable mark on the appearance of our neighborhood. Take a breath; yes, even the oxygen we enjoy is part of this person’s labor of love. They were green before green was “cool”.

...continues on page 3

MONTHLY MEETING & HAPPY HOUR

Attendees at the March general meeting heard from some of the groups planning to participate in the Heights Kids Day of Music and were serenaded by some of the performers.

Monday April 11: Hidden Treasures in the Heights

Discover Heights hidden treasures at the monthly Monday Mixer and Meeting at the historic Houston Heights Fire Station. Meet program speakers during the Happy Hour Mixer over refreshments with your neighbors and friends.

The Heights is filled with unique resources to enrich your life in our marvelous neighborhood. Some of them will be joining us in April, including representatives of the Houston Community ToolBank and Historic Houston.

Learn about your Heights Association activities and parks at the welcome table. The meeting is open to all - everyone is invited!

...continues on page 10
Yale Street Bridge Replacement Starting

The Yale Street bridge over White Oak Bayou, which has been operating at a reduced load limit for a couple of years, is being replaced.

Yale will be closed across the bayou on April 18 for demolition and construction of a replacement bridge. The new bridge, which is designed to retain the appearance of the 1931 bridge it replaces, is not expected to be complete until the end of next year.

During the demolition and construction period, northbound Yale traffic will be diverted on Koehler Street to Bass Court and the I-10 eastbound feeder. Southbound Yale traffic will detour on the I-10 eastbound feeder to Heights Boulevard.
The recipient is:
• A past HHA board member,
• A Silver Sponsor of HHA multiple times,
• The donor of countless guest gifts for all the HHA Spring Home Tour Kick-Off Parties,
• An annual seller of HHA home tour tickets, and
• Multiple organizer and benefactor for the Ladies' Night Out auction item at the Candlelight Dinner.

A consistent community business leader, this person has long been active on the business committee of the HHA. This person helped found, form, and manage “Heights First Saturday” - a long-running Heights business and community event where people from all around Houston come to the Heights on the first Saturday of every month to “buy local” and be “eyes on” as to what this area’s historic preservation and gentrification was all about.

In 2014, The Leader newspaper reflected back on 60 events that helped shape Houston Heights. The opening of this person’s business at a time when one in seven Houstonians had lost his or her job was significant.

Google Buchanan’s Plants, and you return about 105,000 hits. Narrow that search down to Buchanan’s plus the Heights, and you still get over 71,000 hits. One link you will find is how Houston’s world-renowned Chef Monica Pope thought it was really great to take her puppy to grab a hot dog from the Good Dogs food truck that was parked at Buchanan’s on Sunday afternoon. Good Dogs went on to prosper and now has a bricks-and-sticks place on Studewood, but it is illustrative of the wide and varied impact that the energy of Buchanan’s has had on our neighborhood.

Voted by the readership of the Houston Press as “the best place to buy plants in Houston” in 2015. In July 2015, the Houston Press wrote an article entitled “20 Businesses Houston Can Not Afford To Lose” and named Buchanan’s Native Plants as one of the 20 saying, “One of the wonderful things about living in a rain-forest-like climate is all of the greenery. And when you want to stock up on plants that thrive in Houston, Buchanan’s can steer you in the right direction.”

My point is that Buchanan’s, on a daily basis, helps put Houston Heights on the maps of thousands of consumers. It is a resource for free courses on how to enjoy the greener things in life, conveniently available in an incredible inner-city setting. The trickledown, positive effect to our community has been, and continues to be, extremely significant.

If you own a radio in Houston and have it tuned in any given Saturday to AM 740 and Randy Lemmon’s GardenLine, you will notice that Randy mentions “Buchanan’s in Houston Heights” just about every other sentence. 1.4 million Houston radio listeners are reminded of where Houston’s sweet spot is.

I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing Donna Buchanan as a friend, gardening resource, accounting client, and co-volunteer. Donna Buchanan has numerous accreditations within her industry. Early on, Donna became a master gardener. She currently serves in her fourth year as board member of the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, helping guide policy decisions and strengthening this industry in Texas.

The independent Garden Center Group is an alliance of over 100 independent garden centers across the nation. Buchanan’s Native Plants is recognized as one of the best-of-the-best within this group. This September, Buchanan’s will help host the Association’s national annual fall event right here in Houston, specifically to take a look at how to replicate the success of Buchanan’s.

In short, her industry peers are astonished that Donna can produce such amazing sales results from such a tiny space, while competing head-to-head with big box stores, in an inner-city location. To my eyes, the answers are pretty simple.

Donna has taken her understated but highly successful approach to business and applied it in a very unassuming way in championing the countless supporting efforts required to continue to make Houston Heights a success. She channels her energies and resources as quiet, but effective tools, ...continues on page 10.
2015 Marcella Perry Award — Carol Welter

presentation by Danae Stephenson, 2010 Citizen of the Year

The Marcella Perry Award is given to an individual or business that supported the Houston Heights Association in a manner distinguished beyond that of our average member, business member, or volunteer. Different from the Citizen of the Year Award or Corporate Citizen Award, the Marcella Perry Award is given to a person or business who contributed through their profession in a behind-the-scenes style.

The award is named after Marcella Perry, who was a founder of the Houston Heights Association in 1974. Marcella was President of Heights Savings Association and through her banking contacts could accomplish whatever needed to be done behind the scenes for the HHA. Beginning in 1989, this award was initiated to recognize an individual or business who contributed to the betterment of the Houston Heights Association in the style of Marcella Perry.

This year’s recipient works tirelessly behind the scenes to make the Houston Heights Association stronger in a variety of ways.

She has worked for too many years now to count as a devoted member of the Candlelight Dinner’s Silent Auction Committee and served as the Silent Auction Chair.

She has worked on the Holiday Home Tour’s Patron Party, soliciting and organizing food from area restaurants to save the cost of catering and to showcase a variety of our wonderful neighborhood eateries.

She’s worked on the Shuttle and Membership Committees.

She’s a person who is always there when asked to help, always with a smile and a great positive attitude.

She is determined to make events a success even if it means covering the cost out of her own pocket when others have backed out.

She has served as the Board Secretary.

She brings her organizational skills and hard work ethic to the Heights Association that she displays by day at Barclays Capital.

Please join me in congratulating Carol Welter on receiving the 2015 Marcella Perry Award!

A Big Thank You

by Janet Buchheit, Silent Auction Chair

As I write these words of thanks and appreciation to the Silent Auction Committee, the 2016 Houston Heights Association Spring Home & Garden Tour and the Candlelight Dinner & Auction is still a work in progress. I appreciate the committee that met, took those non-cash donation forms around town, and schemed and collaborated to put together great auction items and fun parties and dinners. Thank you:

Beth Goodner, Carol Welter, Danae Stephenson, Dee Melancon, Geri Adler, Julie Pettit, June Barth, Katy Kyrish, Katie Pearson, Kenny Terrell, Kim Nelson, Kit Davis, Leslie Rash, Linda Eyles, Liz Spencer, Marianne Terrell, Melody Bohlmann, Peggy Gilbert, Stacey Courville, Suzy Jennings and Tom Buchheit. We had a lot of fun getting together and making it all happen!!!

Sunday Streets Back

On White Oak

The final Spring 2016 Cigna Sunday Streets event will be on May 22 from Noon to 4:00 PM. White Oak Drive will be closed from Heights Blvd. to Watson Street so residents can walk, skate, bike, or jog where cars, trucks, and buses usually rule.

For more information, visit www.gohealthyhouston.org/sundaystreetshtx or email info.sundaystreets@houstontx.gov.
2015 Rising Star Award –
Marianne & Kenny Terrell
from a presentation by Janet Buchheit, 1999 Citizen of the Year

It goes without saying that every year the Association welcomes any and all who have jumped in and taken a lead in chairing a committee, serving on the board, and simply volunteering everywhere it is needed. These volunteers also have jobs, families, and other organizations they have made commitments to. Nevertheless, when you have a deadline to meet, a home tour to chair, a party to plan, a head docent position to fill, or a committee that needs volunteers, they are there as a team – both with smiles on their faces. Nothing is too daunting whether it is trying to reinvigorate the Urbanites group, volunteering at the Fun Run, pitching in at the Bike Rally, being brand new Head Docents on the Spring Home Tour, or taking the difficult responsibility of chairing the Holiday Home Tour and throwing a party to kick that tour off. Most recently they took on the task of planning the Kick Off Party for the Spring Home & Garden Tour and Candlelight Dinner & Auction.

You have probably seen their pictures in the paper or on Facebook because they seem to be the social couple of the neighborhood. Kenny and Marianne Terrell have raised money for Opera in the Heights, and Marianne serves on that board. Kenny grew up in Houston and in his youth achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He serves on the Houston Heights Association board. Marianne was named Miss Texas Czech Slovak Queen in 2007, and being a fellow Czech from Shiner, Texas I can appreciate that!! Kenny is a veteran of the United States Air Force and served in the 17th Special Operation Squadron while Marianne received the honorary title, Admiral in the Texas Navy, for her work as a goodwill ambassador as Miss Texas Czech Slovak Queen.

I guess you could say that they have a strong work ethic, believe in team work and a mission to make their neighborhood a really great place to live, work and play. Thank you Marianne and Kenny, and we honor you with the recognition of being our 2015 Rising Star recipients.

New Members
Please welcome these new members to the Houston Heights Association.

- Kelly D. Brown
- Elizabeth & Fred Butler
- Maggie & Charles Dunham
- Kim Garcia
- James & Laura Gibney
- Amy Gray & Frank Close
- Stuart & Jill Harlin
- Heights Church of Christ
- Mary Anna Hill
- Todd & Jennifer Hoffman
- Kendall L. Hopper
- Houston Hair Transplant Center
- Johnson, Johnson & Baer, P.C., Dane Johnson
- Erin & Erik Kritz
- Justin Levine
- Megan Lister
- Ben & Amy Lloyd
- Steven & Tracy Mossman
- Crystal Parker
- David & Julie Peart
- Brad Pollock
- Emily & Marc Schkud
- Erin & Manuel Silva
- Todd & Carmen Stacy
- David & Brandy Tatum
- Tyler Flood & Associates, Inc.
2015 Community Improvement Awards  
from a presentation by Brie Kelman, CIA Chair

Almost two dozen commercial and residential properties in our area were nominated this year for awards for new construction and external renovation completed in the past three years.

Individual citizens nominate structures. The Chair compiles a summarized list and hosts a judging session. The panel of judges narrow down to at most three finalists for each category. Then the judges go on a driving tour to cast their votes on a scale of 1–10 using the criteria below for each structure. Everyone returns to the host’s house to see who won after adding up all of the judges’ ballots.

All finalists are judged on Architectural Integrity and Appropriate Style, Compatibility with the Neighborhood, and Site Planning and Landscaping. Commercial finalists are also judged on Economic and Environmental Factors.

The judges were Pam August, Donna Bennett, Jeff Cox, Marty Hajovsky, Lauriel Hindman, Mark Williamson, David Seeberger, Steve Folkes, and Brie Kelman (Chair).

**Commercial New Construction Finalists**

One structure received a total of two nominations.

2233 Yale (Texas Loan Star; architect/designer Brown McGregor/Creole Design; builder Rohe & Wright) — Winner

**Commercial Renovation Finalists**

(Nine structures received nominations.)

1548 Ashland (apartment complex; renovation by Light Hill Partners)

835 Heights (apartment complex; renovation by Light Hill Partners)

350 W 19th Street (Torchy’s Tacos, Heights General Store, Ali’s Pizzeria; architect Baker Katz, Jamie Weaver; builder Baker Katz) — Winner

**Residential New Construction Finalists**

Eight structures received a total of nine nominations.

1636 Cortlandt (architect/designer Creole Design; builder Southland Homes)

917 Columbia (architect/designer Creole Design; builder Southland Homes) — Winner

1616 Columbia (architect 2Scale; builder Southland Homes)

**Residential Renovation Finalists**

Four structures received a total of six nominations.

544 Harvard (architect Lamar Adams; builder Bicycle Bungalows) — Winner

1648 Cortlandt (architect/designer Creole Design; builder Southland Homes)

1811 Harvard (architect/designer Creole Design; builder Southland Homes)
2015 Community Improvement Awards continued

Special Recognition for Revitalization

This year, the judges felt a special award was deserved for a developer who went over and beyond with a complete transformation of not one but FIVE dilapidated apartment complexes throughout the neighborhood. The pictures below speak for themselves. Thank you, Light Hill, for your tremendous work.

1548 Ashland
835 Heights
427 W 16th
214 W 17th
1222 Heights

Awards Dinner

The 42nd Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Dinner was held on Sunday, February 28, at the Fire Station. This issue includes the presentation speeches for many of the awards given that evening.

Thanks to event chairs Bill Baldwin and Andrea Sharp, emcee Bill Baldwin, Community Improvement Awards chair Brie Kelman, volunteer awards chair Angela DeWree, the CIA judges listed on page 6, program designer Thomas Wheaton, and caterer Butter & Co. for the wonderful evening, which was themed “Building a Sustainable Future.”

Fun Run — June 4

June is right around the corner, and so is the 31st Annual Heights Fun Run on June 4. Join the fun and run/walk along Heights Boulevard, starting and finishing at beautiful Marmion Park.

The cost stays the same: 5K Fun Run & Walk $25 through May 31, $30 June 1–4; Kids 1K $15 through May 31, $20 June 1–4. Participants receive a commemorative t-shirt and get to take part in a great After-Race Party!

Online registration is open now at https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/houston/HoustonHeights5KRun. Run packets will be available for pick-up at Luke’s Locker on June 2 and 3. Registration will also be open on the day of the run beginning at 6:15 AM.

If you’d like to volunteer to help with this fun event, email volunteer@houstonheights.org.
President’s Award — Anne Sloan

presentation by Mark Williamson, 2015 HHA President

We often write these presentation speeches to build up suspense in the listening audience. It’s hard to do that for the person to whom I’m giving my President’s Award, because each of her accomplishments is well documented and known to many of you.

She’s been a teacher and a business owner.

She’s been involved in one way or another with preserving our history for many years, getting recognition for a number of historic sites in our area and the placement of historic markers, most recently at the site of the former Cooley School.

She’s a published author several times over. Her historical novels have been set in Houston Heights and elsewhere around Houston. She authored a photo book about the early days of Houston Heights, allowed HHA to share authorship and reap the profits, and has a second one in progress.

During her term as Chair of the Education Committee, she and her committee have instituted a series of cultural and educational enhancement field trips for students in our area schools that I am proud to count among our outreach programs.

Nearest to my heart, she organized the observation in March 2015 of the Centennial of the dedication of this very building, the Houston Heights City Hall & Fire Station.

I am pleased to present the 2015 President’s Award to Anne Sloan.

Donations

Our thanks to these donors for their generous support of the programs of the Houston Heights Association.

BP Foundation Matching Fund
Stephen Brossart & Gerrod George - Boulevard
Frizell Group International, LLC, David Frizell
Justin & Sandra Graves - Boulevard & Parks
Kroger Community Rewards
Ben & Amy Lloyd
Julie & Byron Pettit - Donovan Playground
Don Sanders & Katherine Butler - Boulevard
Shell Oil Foundation Matching Gift of Ryan M. Kistenmacher

Outgoing President’s Remarks

remarks by Mark Williamson, 2015 President, at the Awards Dinner

Presidents don’t do it alone, as we’ve just heard. We just head the team.

I want to thank all the officers, directors, committee chairs, committee members, and event volunteers whose time and energy made HHA’s various functions possible in 2015. Some of their names are in your program; many more are not.

Thanks also to all of the dues-paying members, donors, sponsors, and event ticket buyers whose financial support was essential.

To all of them – all of you – thanks.

I can’t get to all of you individually, but before the orchestra “plays me off,” I would like to name a few people whose support has been crucial:

• Lauriel Hindman, doing her usual extraordinary job as Business Manager, volunteer, and organizational “glue.”
• Stacey Courville, as President-Elect and for stepping in as co-VP of Communications toward the end of the year.
• My wife, Kathleen Williamson, for organizing a tour of Houston Heights for the Neighborhoods USA conference and for her general support over the years.

Again, thank you all.
Heights Garden Club News

April Garden Tour

Saturday, April 9, 10:00 AM — 802 West Cottage St. — Lynne Lahoefer’s Norhill corner lot features native plants and trees with beds that spill blooms into the street. This is a garden in progress where seedlings and experimental plantings are placed around the garden for sun, not show. Behind the house is private space with a small fountain surrounded by interesting plants and unusual garden elements.

Coming in May: We will be touring David Morello’s beautiful garden recently featured in Southern Living magazine.

March Garden of the Month — 1435 Cortlandt Street

The Smiths were fortunate to inherit some good “bones” and hardscape in their front yard when they moved in more than five years ago. They have gradually refreshed and revised plants over the last few years, culminating in a major refresh last year by Kevin Topek at Permaculture Design. The front beds are anchored by Awabuki Viburnum and David Cuphea, with butterfly-friendly plantings of salvias, lantanas, turk’s cap, and Indian Mallow. The theme continues between the street and sidewalk with Almond Verbena, Cestrum, Pentas, and others. They love the combination of beauty and hardiness in the front yard, which allows them to devote their limited gardening time to growing vegetables and fruits in their back garden area.

April Garden of the Month — 1401 Herkimer Street

As an Interior Designer, Gilbert Perez has created rooms within his garden. He has an eating area, a sitting/visiting area, and a prayer/meditation area. He uses landscaping to provide privacy so that he can keep his window treatments open to be able to enjoy views of his garden from within his home. His garden is layered outside his fence with Crape Myrtles, pine trees, Indian Hawthorne, Hibiscus, knockout roses, and an assortment of perennials. Inside the gate, he has an assortment of ornamental trees and perennials which include azaleas, gardenias, a Jerusalem Thorn Tree, and several oak trees. When you are in the neighborhood please drive by and see this beautiful garden. We want to thank Joshua’s Native Plants for donating a gift certificate for the April Yard of the Month.

If you see a beautiful garden we should feature, send your nominations to us on our website www.heightsgardenclub.com or by email to info@heightsgardenclub.com or gardenclub@houstonheights.org.

Recycling Reminder — No Glass In The Bin!

Under the City’s new curbside recycling rules, glass is no longer allowed in the green recycling bins. Glass is still accepted at neighborhood depositories and recycling centers, such as the one at 9003 N. Main.
never demanding center stage. For three decades, Houston Heights has been fortunate that she has balanced her work life and married her sense of community to it. Sadly, only because we will miss their constant company, Donna Buchanan and Dan Hogan will be moving to South Carolina soon to assist with Buchanan’s from afar. We hope they will visit us often as they enjoy “semi-retirement” and return to visit their granddaughter, Ella Rose.

Happily, Donna’s son Zach and his wife Heather will assume an even more important management role at Buchanan’s Native Plants. That green oasis, Buchanan’s Native Plants, that is synonymous to many with Houston Heights, should continue to prosper for many more years to come.

Citizen of the Year from page 3

April General Meeting from page 1

Houston Community ToolBank (houstontoolbank.org)

Equipping helping hands with the tools to make a difference. The Houston Community ToolBank is a nonprofit tool lending program serving other nonprofits by putting high-quality tools in the hands of the volunteers who are painting schools, repairing seniors’ roofs, landscaping public spaces, and more – guaranteeing that every volunteer is equipped with the tools they need to get the job done.

For three pennies on the dollar, the Houston Community ToolBank provides fast and easy access to large volumes of high-quality tools to increase the impact of service projects and community revitalization efforts.

Historic Houston (historichouston.org/salvage-warehouse.html)

Meet Lynn Edmundson, Executive Director of Historic Houston, Library, and Salvage Warehouse.

Historic Houston is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to conserving and preserving Houston’s historic architecture and architectural resources through scholarly research, education, and advocacy of sustainable design.

Looking for information about your Houston neighborhood? Want to peruse a back issue of Architectural Digest or This Old House Magazine? Need to thumb through books for ideas on remodeling or incorporating salvaged materials into your home? Come visit the Catherine Cage Bruns Resource Library located inside the Historic Houston offices. The Resource Library provides information on local and regional architecture as well as information about Houston’s neighborhoods and various resources on remodeling and renovating older buildings.

All of the material at Historic Houston’s Salvage Warehouse has been reclaimed from historic houses that Historic Houston has deconstructed, as well as individual items that have been brought to the Salvage Warehouse.

Avon Walk Coming

Avon Walk to End Cancer participants will again be walking through our neighborhood on April 23 and 24 as part of their two-day, 39-mile walk. The walk, which raises money to support breast cancer research, takes participants through downtown and some of the city’s favorite neighborhoods, including ours.

On Saturday, April 23, expect to see walkers on Studewood from Merrill north to 20th, west to Ashland, south to 19th, east to Yale, south to 16th, east to Heights, south past a rest stop around 4th to Washington, east to Studemont, and south. On Sunday, the route comes northwest on the Heights Hike & Bike Trail, east on White Oak to Studewood, north to Euclid, then down Michaux and White Oak to end in Stude Park.

For more information, visit www.avon39.org.
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**Community Calendar**

*Events planned by other community organizations*

Every Saturday, 8:00 AM, Heights Running Club will meet on the Heights Boulevard jogging trail at 7th Street. To be added to the weekly distribution list, contact Meghan.olds@gmail.com.

First and third Thursdays, 7:30 PM, English Country Dancing in the Heights. For more information, email jinjbloom@gmail.com or visit [http://www.hatds.org/index.php?page=ecd](http://www.hatds.org/index.php?page=ecd).

April 2, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in the Heights will host a Spring Bazaar at 1819 Heights Boulevard. For more information, visit [www.saechighights.org](http://www.saechighights.org).

April 8–16, Opera in the Heights presents Gluck’s *Orfeo ed Euridice* at Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Boulevard. For more information, visit [operaintheheights.org](http://operaintheheights.org) or call 713-861-5303.

April 23, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Heights Kids Day of Music in Love Park, 1000 W. 12th St. For more information or to volunteer, visit [www.heightskidsdayofmusic.com](http://www.heightskidsdayofmusic.com).

April 26, 5:30–7:30 PM, City of Houston Planning & Development Department meeting to develop Design Guidelines for the Houston Heights Historic Districts (East, West, and South) at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 1819 Heights Blvd.

May 22, 12:00-4:00 PM, Cigna Sunday Streets Houston on White Oak Drive between Heights and Watson. For more information, visit [www.gohealthyhouston.org/sundaystreetshtx](http://www.gohealthyhouston.org/sundaystreetshtx).

**Future History**

*Beyond the calendar grid...*

June 4, Fun Run

October 2, Bicycle Rally

December 2–3, Holiday Home Tour

December 13-14, Holiday Food Baskets

February 26, 2017, Awards Dinner

April 7–9, 2017, Spring Home & Garden Tour weekend

**Heavy Trash Notes**

The heavy trash pickup date is the third Wednesday for most of the HHA coverage area. Service schedules, including collection dates and information, tree waste and junk waste collection, and the Neighborhood Service Maps page can be viewed at [http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/service_schedules.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/solidwaste/service_schedules.html).
## Calendar of Events for April 2016

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<td>Spring Home &amp; Garden Tour Noon–6:00 PM</td>
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HHA headquarters: The Fire Station is on the corner of Yale and 12th Streets. HHA web site: [http://www.houstonheights.org](http://www.houstonheights.org)