



Mission Statement
Workshop Houston builds the foundations for empowered communities through creative and enriching activities for youth. Workshop Houston has five shops that provide artistic, technical and academic resources: the Chopper Shop (welding and metal fabrication), the Beat Shop (hip-hop music production), the Style Shop (fashion design), the Third Ward Bike Shop (do-it-yourself bike repair), and the Scholar Shop (academic tutoring). Our programs use hands-on projects and dynamic collaborative processes to create an environment in which youth explore new knowledge and power on their own terms.

WORKSHOP HOUSTON NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 2 Winter 2007/2008 News & More from Workshop Houston

SCHOLAR SHOP TAKES OFF!!

The Scholar Shop is Workshop Houston's new after-school tutoring and mentoring program for students from the Third Ward community. The Scholar Shop opened this summer to provide enriching educational activities, adding an important academic component to Workshop Houston's programming. We began this summer by examining the history of African Americans in America and in the Third Ward Community. Our classes were held at the Smith Branch of the Houston Public Library in the heart of Third Ward, and included youth who frequented the library.



volunteers provide academic assistance to youth at all grade levels. From 3:45pm to 5:45pm, Monday through Thursday, you will find us at the library helping students with everything from learning to read to SAT preparation. The program has been a huge success, with between 10 - 20 students a day using the shop to get help with their homework.

As we began to provide tutoring help in the Scholar Shop, we realized that many of our students were performing below grade level in math and reading, but there wasn't enough time after school to address these issues. In October we launched the Academic Boot Camp to provide extra instruction in these areas. From 8:00 -11:00am on Saturday mornings, students practice basic reading, writing, and mathematical skills, helping them build the fundamental skills they need to succeed in school. We are very excited about the progress our participants are making and the success of the new program.

Throughout the summer, we read books such as *NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, AN AMERICAN SLAVE* and *UP FROM SLAVERY* by Booker T. Washington. By reading these novels, we were able to compare and contrast the lives of African Americans prior to manumission to the lives of African Americans in modern times. Our students were taken aback by how differently African Americans lived during the developing stages of America. Our students gained insight on the significance of slavery in America, its ultimate abolishment, its evolution to segregation, and its effect on modern urban areas like Third Ward.

One of the most important topics in each book was the role and importance of education in the

lives of Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington. After their manumission, Douglass went on to become a successful author, publisher and ambassador, while Washington also became a successful author and cofounder of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, later renamed Tuskegee University. Our students were able to examine the importance of education by visiting universities including Texas Southern University, University of Houston, and Rice University. During our visits, the students received guided tours and attended academic workshops. We concluded our summer workshop by writing about our experiences and visiting museums throughout city. Seventeen youth participated in the summer Scholar Shop.

When school began in the fall, the Scholar Shop shifted focus to homework-based tutorials and mentoring. The Shop's staff and



October 27, 2007

THE SCHOLAR SHOP NEEDS VOLUNTEER TUTORS!
If you are interested, please contact Reginald Hatter at reginald@workshophouston.org or 713-807-7911

Staff
Seth Capron, Co-Founder
Katy Goodman, Co-Founder
Reginald Hatter, Scholar Shop Coordinator/ Development Assistant
Danny Kerschen, Chopper Shop Coordinator
Benjamin Mason, Co-Founder
Zach Moser, Co-Founder
Matt Sullivan, Assistant Bike Shop Coordinator

Board of Directors
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PROGRAMMING UPDATES

Bike Shop
Since the Bike Shop reopened last January, over 120 people have earned bikes for themselves in our Earn-a-Bike program, and more than 80 are in progress. The shop has had over 1400 visits from people working through Earn-a-Bike or using the Open Shop program to repair their own bikes.

Chopper Shop
Chopper Shop has been more popular than ever! This fall we have 38 students participating in Chopper Shop, building everything from basic choppers to four wheel bikes. In October, two teams of students from Workshop Houston's Chopper Shop competed in the *Los Magnificos Custom Car Show Bike Build-Off*. The competition, which was sponsored by the Car Show, had Chopper Shop participants competing against other youth bike builders. Our advanced students built two bikes, a Naruto ninja cartoon themed bike and a Ghost Rider themed bike. We are very proud of all of the contestants!



Style Shop and Beat Shop
Although we are still working on the renovations of the Style and Beat Shops, this summer we ran three week sessions of both shops in the Bike Shop. The Style Shop focused on screen-printing and graphic design, with students using a mixture of hand-drawing and computers to create their own t-shirts, hats, and accessories. 33 students participated in the Style Shop and made some great pieces.

In the Beat Shop, 26 students used computers to create beats and record simple tracks. We built a recording booth where students were able to write and record their own songs. This was the first time we have had computers set up for music production and it was a huge step forward for the program. You can hear the results online at www.workshophouston.org.



THANKS

Workshop Houston would like to thank everyone who has supported our mission to build the foundations for empowered communities through creative and enriching activities for youth. Without your help, Workshop Houston could not provide the innovative, engaging and educational activities that so many youth in Third Ward have come to depend on. Thank You!

- Supporters in 2007**
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Contributors
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In-Kind
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Volunteers
Adam Brackman, Al Green, Alysha Haggerton, Amber Ramirez, Anna Yankov, Arton Sinkewich, Cara Crafton, Charles J. Williams, Deb Forst and the BCM Matthew Carter Service Day Volunteers, Derek Jones, Dr. Laura Serra, Eric Nordstrom, Esmar Sullivan, Jeffrey Demjnyk, Joe Kellner, Joseph Faust, Keijiro Suzuki, Kinka and John Lollar, Margaret Skidmore, Monte Large, Neida Linger, Nyala Wright, Omar Vera, Rachel Hewlett, Raymond, Ryan Perry, Shaun Jones, Serrea Elvette Payne, Steve Pedigo, Susan and Jim Baker, Susan Sutton, Tom Lee, Travis Hale

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE



With the generous support of the Houston community, we are well on our way to completing a permanent home for our programs in the heart of Third Ward. The campus provides a dynamic community hub for the youth of the neighborhood. In our new location we will be able to create a safe space where local teenagers will have access to resources, support, and opportunities that are not available anywhere else.

This spring we were able to raise the funds to purchase the Bike Shop and Chopper Shop building (3615 Sauer), as well as the buildings which will become the future Style Shop, Beat Shop, and Scholar Shop (3529 and 3531 Sauer). With these purchases, we permanently secured the ideal location for Workshop Houston to continue to grow and expand our programming.

The final step of our Capital Campaign is to renovate the two fourplexes at 3529 and 3531 Sauer Street. Our very talented volunteer architects have worked with us to plan the transformation of these apartments into amazing workshop spaces. We're finally at the end of a long permitting and design process, and will begin construction on these facilities in the coming weeks.

Through the Capital Campaign, we have made major strides in the past year. We have increased our long term stability and capacity exponentially. The new campus is a great location for our programs, and we are excited about completing the renovations of the site.

EVENTS



Summer Social
This August, Devin Borden Hiram Butler Gallery hosted our 2nd Annual Summer Social. Hiram and Devin were wonderful hosts as always, providing great atmosphere and Hiram's famous fried chicken. Guests got down to the melodic sounds of DJ Pooks, perused silent auction items donated by generous local businesses and artists, and printed limited edition t-shirts with board member Veeon McReynolds. Special congratulations to Courtney Morris who won the raffie for Terry Writers' beautiful print Phasescape, donated by the artist to Workshop Houston.



Interested in the Capital Campaign?
Contact Zach at zach@workshophouston.org or 713-807-7911 to learn more.

YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT WORKSHOP HOUSTON

Your contribution ensures that Workshop Houston can continue to provide youth with enriching after school and summer activities that teach skills, encourage creativity and build confidence. Caring community members like you play a pivotal role in creating Workshop Houston's innovative, hands-on learning programs that affect the lives of so many young people in the Third Ward. Thank you!

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Notes _____

Workshop Houston is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and contributions are fully tax-deductible.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Check Out Workshop Houston's Website
www.workshophouston.org