



**WORKSHOP HOUSTON**  
**2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2008 – AUGUST 31ST, 2009**

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## MISSION

TO PROVIDE YOUTH WITH CREATIVE, TECHNICAL, AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES.

## VISION

TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR A JUST SOCIETY BY CREATING A COMMUNITY THAT PROVIDES YOUTH WITH SUPPORT, EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES AND ALTERNATIVE DEFINITIONS OF SUCCESS.

## VALUES

### COMMUNITY

Communities are the primary social unit capable of progressive change; a community can create collective action while retaining the freedom of individual voices. Participating in a positive and engaged community that recognizes our interdependence and supports and mentors youth is the best way to inspire youth to reach their full potential.

### EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS

The building blocks of communities working to change society are empowered and educated individuals. We define empowerment as individuals seeing change as a realistic possibility and having the power to do what they believe is right. We find that the best way to prepare someone to create power for themselves is to provide opportunities for learning and creative expression, and allow space for them to define and enact change for themselves and their communities.

### EDUCATION AS A WAY OF LIFE

We see education and the pursuit of knowledge as a central goal in life, as well as the best way to prepare youth to lead fulfilling lives and to inspire them to participate in positive communities. Through creative, hands-on, and self-directed projects we are able to engage youth in learning and show them that education can be relevant to their lives as well as be a vehicle for growth and change. Finally, we work to tie education to empowerment by teaching youth the critical skill of how to use information to make positive decisions.

### JUSTICE

We recognize that historic injustices are an important factor in creating the inequalities that exist in American economic, political, and educational systems. Our work seeks to both alleviate the critical problems these injustices create for youth, while at the same time defining and working towards a new society that is just for all people.

### CULTURE

We affirm the dignity and worth of all people. Additionally, we celebrate and respect the variety of human culture. We strive to participate in a society that holds both of these values paramount.

### STRUCTURE AS VALUES

We recognize that in working to change society the structure of our organization must reflect the values of the community we wish to create, just as we must model the behavior we expect of our participants. With this knowledge we structure our organization around collectivity and collaboration which allows us to be inclusive, supportive, dynamic and innovative, all traits we desire in our community. We also work to continually improve ourselves by becoming, more disciplined, more accepting of change, better communicators, and better educators.

# SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES



OUR PROGRAMS USE THE RESOURCES OF OUR FIVE SHOPS TO PROVIDE YOUTH WITH CREATIVE, TECHNICAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

**THE THIRD WARD BIKE SHOP** has all the tools and resources of a professional bike shop, which we use to promote a cooperative learning environment that encourages a culture of volunteerism where everyone is both a student and a teacher.

**THE CHOPPER SHOP** is a welding and metal fabrication studio where students have the chance to design and build their own chopper and low-rider bicycles. Advanced students create even more ambitious projects, including go-karts, bike racks and metal sculpture.

**THE STYLE SHOP** is a fashion design and silk-screen studio where students create their own clothes and accessories. Students learn basics of design through drawing and computer graphics, and move on to creating their own pieces in our sewing and printing labs.

**THE BEAT SHOP** has music production and recording facilities which students use to explore music of all forms, mainly focusing on the foundations of hip-hop. After going through projects devoted to playing music, making beats, sampling, mixing and writing lyrics, students create their own songs and albums.

**THE SCHOLAR SHOP** is a learning library that provides academic support and tutoring for students in our other shops. Students develop academically through tutoring, homework help and academic enrichment projects and activities led by staff and volunteer educators.

# PROGRAMS

## THE THIRD WARD BIKE SHOP

The Third Ward Bike Shop is a community bike education resource center. Though open to all ages, the shop is designed as a place for youth to learn new skills and accomplish goals through hands-on learning experiences. Our Open Shop program provides everything you need to fix your own bike, from mechanical expertise to parts and tools. For people who need a bike, our Earn-a-Bike program offers the chance to get one through a work exchange that helps keep the shop running smoothly, teaches bike repair skills, and benefits the community by fixing bikes for local charities.

## THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

In this program, youth in grades 6-8 participate in the Beat, Chopper, Style and Scholar Shops. The program helps students to build creative and technical skills through hands-on project-based activities. It also focuses on helping participants increase their commitment to learning, become part of a positive peer group and form relationships with caring adults. In addition to regular after school activities, youth in this program take part in field trips, camping trips and events designed to build community and show their work from the shops. Youth in the Middle School Program must also do their homework or read in the Scholar Shop every day.

## THE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

We are currently developing a pilot program for youth in grades 9-12. This program will give our older students a dedicated time to take on more advanced projects, and receive individual mentorship and academic guidance. Students in this program will have the ability to design projects in any of the shops, take part in SAT and college prep activities, and have the opportunity to work with professionals in industries related to the shops.



## INITIATIVES

### THE SUMMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

IN THE SUMMER OF 2009, WE HELD OUR FIRST SESSION OF THE SUMMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (SLI) AN INTERNSHIP DESIGNED TO CREATE A POSITIVE AND REWARDING TRANSITION EXPERIENCE FOR OUR STUDENTS ENTERING THEIR FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL. STUDENTS IN SLI SPEND THE SUMMER DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS, PREPARING ACADEMICALLY FOR HIGH SCHOOL, AND ACTING AS YOUTH LEADERS IN THE WORKSHOPHOUSTON COMMUNITY.

# LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



In 2008-2009, Workshop Houston celebrated five years of providing innovative programs to the youth of Third Ward. We are very fortunate to be such an important and positive part of the lives of so many young people, and are grateful for the participation of the caring community that makes this possible.

It was the first time that we ran all the programs for the full school year at our Sauer Street campus, and they are now an even more vital resource for the neighborhood. Steadily increasing participation from our target audience – the hard-to-reach demographic of middle school-aged boys – shows that the youth we work with are seeking opportunities to engage in learning and create positive relationships with peers and mentors. 79% of our participants came from our campus zip code, which has a poverty rate more than twice the state average. Most walked to the programs after school.

Our Bike Shop continued to foster a vibrant, busy environment where people of all ages learn and teach new skills to each other. An average of 30 participants used the shop every time it was open and more than 300 people fixed or to earned bikes over the year.

We also made significant strides in the Scholar Shop. Important connections with local schools - particularly James D. Ryan Middle School, which 49% of our students attend - have helped deepen the shop's impact. In addition, we instituted an academic-tracking pilot program, which led us to make Scholar Shop mandatory for all middle school participants. We began doing this in September 2009 and it has been extremely successful so far. We look forward to sharing the results as they emerge.

One of the most exciting developments of the year was the Summer Leadership Institute - a new program launched in June 2009 - designed to help our eighth-grade students have a positive transition into high school and deepen their relationships with mentors at Workshop Houston. For the inaugural session, four participants attended Rice University Summer School in the mornings and designed and implemented community service projects at Workshop Houston in the afternoons.

Finally, Workshop Houston has focused on being a better organization on a board and staff level. We created a logic model and a two-year strategic plan for the first time, and both have made a noticeable and positive impact on our programs and organizational momentum. The logic model helped us to make some exciting changes to our format and improve our evaluation process. The strategic plan helped us focus and guide the organization, especially on the board level.

After nearly three years at our new site, the community of youth that has invested their time and faith in the organization has become very strong. We have watched them grow and create and put their trust in the organization – something that can be difficult for many of our participants. By developing mentoring relationships with students – whether they are fixing bikes, learning to weld, making music, designing clothes or working to improve academically – we are able to provide the support they need to make positive decisions about their futures and get on a path towards college, community-mindedness and a love of learning in all their pursuits in life.

Thank you for your dedication and support. Without it Workshop Houston's success would not be possible.

Sincerely,

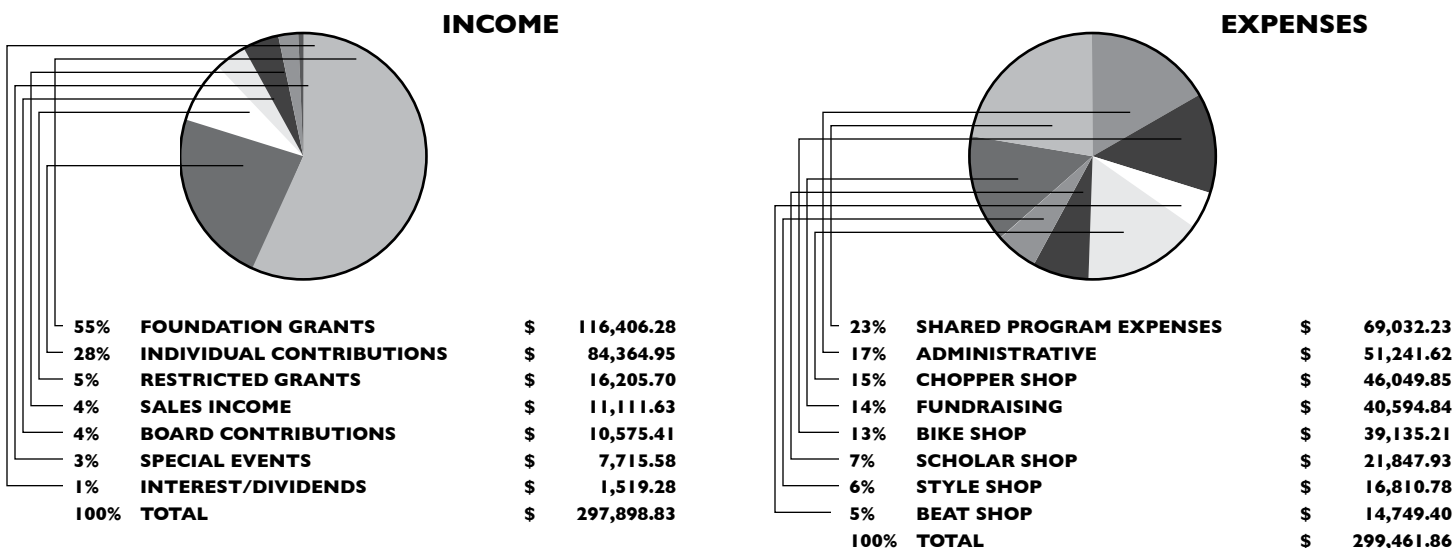
Sam Jones  
Board President, Workshop Houston

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A Message from Frank Montgomery, Workshop Houston Treasurer:

In Fiscal Year 2008-2009, Workshop Houston continued to grow its funding base and remained financially stable. We reduced our operating expenses without reducing our programs. We were able to meet our expenses from contributions received during they year without drawing down our cash reserves. We are currently preparing for our first independent audit. Despite an anticipated difficult 2009-2010 fiscal year, we believe we are in a very good position to meet our financial needs at our current level of programming.

## FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 (SEPTEMBER 1, 2008 - AUGUST 31, 2009) INCOME AND EXPENSES



## FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 (SEPTEMBER 1, 2008 - AUGUST 31, 2009) BALANCE SHEET

### ASSETS

Capital One Checking	34,005.60
Tower of Gold Savings	111,924.40
Guitar Center Credit Account	488.60
Undeposited Funds	1,160.00
Deposits	667.82
Advances	184.00
PayPal	651.56

### FIXED ASSETS

Land	50,000.00
WIP-Bike Shop	7,611.11
WIP-3531 Building	14,790.85
3529 Sauer St.	54,999.80
3615 Sauer St.	57,500.00
Equipment	14,675.11
Building Improvements	137,792.50
Land Improvements	6,064.17
Metal Storage Buildings	4,390.00
Accumulated Deprec.	-32,122.29

**TOTAL ASSETS 464,783.23**

### LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	71.81
Payroll Liabilities	3,202.91
General Contingency Reserve	56,000.00
Unrestricted Surplus	-61,286.52
Professional Development	600.00
Style Shop Equipment	575.13
Capital Campaign	4,111.39

### EQUITY

Retained Earnings	480,766.04
Net Income	-19,257.53

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 464,783.23**

# LIST OF SUPPORTERS

## MAJOR UNDERWRITERS

Houston Endowment, Inc. | St Luke's Episcopal Health Charities | The Simmons Foundation | The Weikart Family Foundation | The John R. Wright and Eloise Mountain Wright Foundation | H-E-B Tournament of Champions | The Brown Foundation | REI | The George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation | Will and Tamera Honeybourne | The Ray C. Fish Foundation |

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*Co-founder and Beat Shop Coordinator*

**Katy Goodman**  
*Co-founder and Development Coordinator*

**Reginald Hatter**  
*Middle School Program and Scholar Shop Coordinator*

**Benjy Mason**  
*Co-founder and Program Coordinator*

**Zach Moser**  
*Co-founder and Style Shop Coordinator*

**Matthew Southerland**  
*Assistant Bike and Chopper Shop Coordinator*

**Ty Fisher**  
*Bookkeeper*