

WORKSHOP HOUSTON NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2007

News & More from Workshop Houston

NOTE FROM THE BOARD

The Board of Directors is pleased to introduce the first edition of Workshop Houston's new and improved newsletter. We will be sending the newsletter out regularly to keep you informed about what is going on at the organization. I hope that you enjoy it!

This has been an exciting year for us! It was only last January that we started our new programs for teenagers in the neighborhood. At the end of the summer, we moved out of our original location on Elgin Street and kicked off our Capital Campaign to renovate and purchase our new campus on Sauer Street. Since then, we have reopened the Bike Shop in our new address and made a number of great additions to our staff and board. The coming year looks to be just as busy, starting with launch of our new tutoring program, the Homework Shop. Find details on these developments and more inside the newsletter!

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank everyone who has helped with the programs and Capital Campaign. Without your continued support, Workshop Houston could not have made it through all of the changes and taken the big steps we did this year. We appreciate your incredible generosity.

If your schedule permits, please come and see us at our new location. We would be delighted to show you around!

Sarah Jones

President, Workshop Houston

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sarah Jones
Katy Goodman
Nadia C. Irvin
Veon McReynolds
Frank Montgomery
Robert Pruitt
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THIRD WARD BIKE SHOP REOPENS



The Third Ward Bike Shop reopened its doors at its new location, 3615 Sauer Street, on January 27th. The Shop is once again offering its much-loved bike programs and activities to the community. The Open Shop program still has everything you need to fix your own bike, and Earn-a-Bike continues to offer bikes through a work exchange that helps keep the shop running smoothly, teaches bike repair, and benefits the community by fixing bikes for local charities.

Over fifty people came by on our opening day to see the new Shop, have some lunch from the grill, or get back to business working on bikes. While Workshop Houston staff helped fix flats and readjust bearings, local legend **Cleveland "Flowerman" Turner** refereed bike races and **Mo Roberts** of **Objectif Magazine** interviewed youth for his weekly radio appearance on KPFT, making for a fun and lively scene. The spacious new Shop was a bright and comfortable place to work, especially when the sun came out after an overcast morning.

Lots of participants from the old location, as well as plenty of new faces, stopped in to see what was going on and check out the transformation of 3615 Sauer Street. After four months of extensive renovations, the former pool hall is now an airy, open shop with bright blue walls, an exposed cathedral ceiling and all new plumbing and wiring. Those of you who used the old shop will appreciate the new space's A/C and water fountain!

Our Bike Shop programs are back up and as busy as ever, especially after articles in the **Houston Chronicle** (February 5th) and the **Daily Cougar** (January 31st). For information, contact Katy Goodman, Bike Shop Coordinator at 713-807-7911 or via email at katy@workshophouston.org.

Bike Shop Spring Hours: Monday and Wednesday 3 - 7 Saturday 11 - 4

NEW STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS AT WORKSHOP HOUSTON

Blake Green (Assistant Development Coordinator) is a first year MBA student at TSU. Blake has an extensive background in public service, working in city, state and federal government and agencies, including the Mayor's Youth Council and Teen Task Force. **Danny Kerschen** (Chopper Shop Coordinator) holds a BFA from U of H. He has taught numerous art and after school programs throughout the city. He is also a visual artist who has shown his work in galleries throughout the country. **Dr. Veon McReynolds** (Board of Directors) is a dedicated community activist and founder of the bicycling group Tour de Hood. He is Interim Director of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness at TSU, where he has worked for seventeen years. **Frank Montgomery** (Board of Directors) is the managing partner of a closely held real estate investment firm. He is involved with several local nonprofits and has a particular interest in early education. **Dakota Sampson** (Youth Board Representative) is a senior at Bellaire High School and a Style and Beat Club participant. Dakota's interests include DJing, screenprinting and hip-hop dance. **Matthew Sullivan** (Assistant Bike Shop Coordinator) is a local artist and dedicated cyclist. Matthew started out as a volunteer at the Bike Shop, and is excited about continuing to work with the community by helping run the Shop.

TEEN PROGRAM TAKES OFF!



In January of 2006, Workshop Houston opened three new Shops – the Chopper Shop, Style Shop, and Beat Shop. Added to the already established Third Ward Bike Shop in response to the lack of resources and positive activities for teenagers in the neighborhood, the Shops are fully equipped work/art studios. We chose the mediums for the shops after conversations with our participants about their interests. Each Shop has its own Teen Club for 12-18 year old students.

The Chopper Shop takes working on bikes to the next level by teaching welding and metal fabrication, allowing participants to design and fabricate

their own custom creations. **The Style Shop** has a sewing studio and screen printing lab to teach graphic and fashion design. **The Beat Shop** focuses on hip-hop production, using live and digital instruments, computers and turntables to teach different aspects of music-making.

The Teen Clubs build on the Bike Shop's openness and hands-on learning style while providing students more opportunities to take on advanced projects of their own design. The first two sessions of the Clubs went extremely well. In the **Beat Club**, students completed multi-track recordings of both covers and original work, made beats, and learned to DJ. **Chopper Club** participants built 15 basic choppers and several more complex projects, including a tricycle with a 300 watt stereo system made from salvaged parts. In **Style Club**, participants designed and printed t-shirts, learned to use Adobe Photoshop, and created their own purses, hats and wallets. In response to our participants' concerns about making income, the Clubs offer entrepreneurial opportunities to advanced students. One Style Shop student has already produced and sold a line of custom t-shirts. We are eager to build upon these beginnings at the new campus, and are currently working to renovate the spaces for the Shops.



TUTORING PROGRAM ADDED TO ROSTER

As we get ready to reopen the Teen Clubs at our new location, we are adding an important academic component to the program to help our students succeed in school. **The Homework Shop** will offer one-on-one tutoring and academic resources for Teen Club participants and youth who use the Bike Shop. We found that many youth excel in our programs, yet struggle in school. We are launching the Homework Shop because we believe that success in our programs must be tied with success academically for Workshop Houston to have a meaningful impact on participants' lives.

The Homework Shop will reinforce students' in-school studies by collaborating with area educators to develop and offer services including tutoring, study skills, and test preparation. The Homework Shop strives not only for academic achievement, but also to form relationships with students and motivate them in their pursuit of higher education. Our goal is for the Homework Shop to be an extension of the other Teen Clubs: dynamic, inspiring and creative. Workshop Houston is looking for volunteer tutors for the Homework Shop. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Benjy Mason, Program Coordinator at 713-807-7911 or via email at benjy@workshophouston.org.

THANKS

We have been truly overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters, who have helped us get to this point. We would like to thank everyone who has helped with the programs and Capital Campaign for their support and good wishes.

The Bridgeway Charitable Foundation
Houston Endowment
Capital One
The Simmons Foundation
St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities
The Joan Hohit and J. Roger Wich Foundation
The Ray C. Fish Foundation
Elizabeth Winston Jones and Sam Jones
Will And Tamera Honeybourne
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Paul and Janet Hobby
Reggie Smith
Factorypeople
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Houston Bicycle Club

The Aubrey and Silvia Farb Community Service Fund
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Tiffany Smith and Pierpont Communications
Finesilver Gallery
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Tina Zulu of Zulu Creative
Celeste Tammariello

Amy's Ice Cream, Brasils, Brett Bryan and Chipotle, Caesar's Finest, El Meson, Fiesta, New Belgium Brewing, Picnic, Starbucks and Ryan Wicker, T'afia

OUR AWESOME VOLUNTEERS:

Al Green, Audrey Griemes, Brian Neal Sensabaugh, Chris Goodier, Deb Groffeld, Darcy Rosenberger, Danny Kerschen, DJ Pooks, Lisa Gultguit, Patty Schnabel and YMCA International, the Baylor Student Association, Eric Nordstrom, Jeff DeMuyneck, Jeff Williams, Joey Mahoney, Keitro Suzuki, Kinkaid High School Volunteers and Lynn Herbert, Monte Large, Mike Cannon, Mykka and Tessa, Nancy Kerschen, Rachel Hewlett, Renee Pean, Ryan Petty, Scott and Dawn, Shelley Rice, Steve Perigo, Steven Walker and everyone else who has helped. All of our members, and everyone else who has donated funds or materials!

WORKSHOP HOUSTON'S NEW HOME

Workshop Houston is six months into its Capital Campaign to secure a new home. With the help of our supporters and volunteers, we have made incredible progress towards our vision of a vibrant center of activity and community. We have fully renovated and reopened the Bike Shop, while also completing a comprehensive site plan for the rest of the campus, and raising nearly half of the funds we need for the Campaign.

In summer of 2006, Workshop Houston unexpectedly lost its original space and had to move. This was a trying time, but we were motivated by our responsibility to the youth and adults who have come to rely on the organization and who have put so much into it. We decided to purchase a permanent home to ensure Workshop Houston will be a part of the lives of our participants well into the future. After searching the neighborhood, we found an ideal new location to continue our work at **3529, 3531 and 3615 Sauer Street**, and launched our Capital Campaign to pay for its purchase and renovation.

Our new site has 5,650 square feet of indoor space and nearly 10,000 square feet of land – plenty of space for our current programs, and to expand in coming years. The campus is comprised of two adjacent properties: a former pool hall (3615 Sauer) which

houses the Bike and Chopper Shops, and a lot which holds two residential fourplexes (3529 and 3531 Sauer) that will be converted into the Beat and Style Shops, as well as offices and our new tutoring center, the Homework Shop. The new location is within blocks of Blackshear Elementary School, Ryan Middle School, and Yates High School, which most of our participants attend. **The Columbia Tap Trail**, a new bike path that will connect downtown to Hermann Park, will run directly behind the site.

In order to move as quickly as possible, we signed leases for the properties in September of 2006 so we could immediately begin renovations. At the same time, we signed option contracts for their purchase. Since then, we have been simultaneously renovating so that we can reopen our programs and raising the money for the project. The properties, though in better condition than many others we looked at, were in poor shape. We have worked to make our new

spaces safe, comfortable, and accessible for our participants. We opened the beautiful new Bike and Chopper Shop on January 27th. Our team of pro bono architects has created a site plan with indoor and outdoor program spaces that will create a unified and welcoming campus, and we are currently beginning to renovate the buildings that will house the Style Shop, Beat Shop, and the new Homework Shop.

To date, funds for the Capital Campaign have been raised through a combination of foundation grants, fundraisers, and individual and corporate support. With part of a \$50,000 matching gift from the **Bridgeway Charitable Foundation** and a recent grant from the **Houston Endowment**, we purchased the Bike Shop property in March. We have received in-kind support in the form of air conditioning, lighting and an overhead security door for the Bike Shop, and a much-needed new electrical system for the Style and Beat Shop buildings. Through the dedication and hard work of our supporters, board and staff we have already raised over **\$260,000 of our \$526,000 goal**.



BIKE SHOP AFTER

looking forward to all the great things to come at the new campus, and hope you will join us in making it a truly vibrant and uplifting center for the community.



BIKE SHOP BEFORE



NEW SITE

We are working to raise the remaining **\$266,000** to reach this goal over the next six months. We have come a long way in a short period, but still have more to do. If you can, please support the Capital Campaign, and help Workshop Houston bring to life its vision of a place that is much more than the sum of its programs, a place where people of all ages gather to work, play, learn and achieve together. We are

EVENTS

In *April 2006*, the **Devin Borden Hiram Butler Gallery** hosted a spring print sale and dinner to benefit Workshop Houston. Internationally renowned artist **Terry Winters**, working with printmaker **Bill Goldston**, generously donated 100% of proceeds from his limited edition print, **Phasescape**, to the organization. Prints are still available. Please contact the Devin Borden Hiram Butler Gallery for more information. In *August 2006*, we put on the **Save the Bike Shop Summer Social** to raise emergency funds to help the organization with the move to its new home. Held at the home of Workshop Houston board president **Sarah Jones**, the evening featured food donated by local eateries, t-shirts by Houston artists, music and socializing. In *December 2006*, supporters **Elizabeth Winston Jones and Sam Jones**, hosted a Holiday Open House that featured wonderful food by **The Empty Plate**, an incredible cake from **Cakes by Macauley** and tunes by **DJ Pooks**. The event, designed to help match a \$50,000 challenge grant from the **Bridgeway Foundation**, got us almost halfway to our goal! In *January 2007*, the Austin-based **Factorypeople** brought their fashions to Houston's **Finesilver Gallery**, and donated 10% of profits to benefit Workshop Houston's capital campaign. Also in January, Workshop Houston held the **Grand Reopening of the Bike Shop**. With a cookout lunch, a ton of bikes, and a beautiful new space, everyone went home exhausted after an exciting and busy first day at the Shop!



(L - R) Seth Capron, Michael Peranteau, Benjy Mason, Elizabeth Winston Jones, Sam Jones, Zach Moser and Katy Goodman at Workshop Houston Holiday Open House, December 2006.

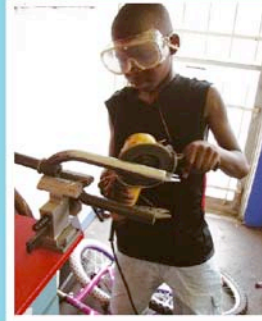
WORKSHOP HOUSTON HAS A GREAT NEW WEBSITE! CHECK IT OUT AT:
www.workshophouston.org

THE STYLE SHOP

THE BEAT SHOP

THE CHOPPER SHOP

THE BIKE SHOP



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