



THIRD WARD CULTURAL DISTRICT ASSETS

Selected Third Ward Cultural District Assets

The Third Ward Cultural District's beginnings as the epicenter of Black culture, creativity, and commerce is seen with the establishment of Trinity United Methodist Church 1848 as a congregation by and for enslaved people and then with the Juneteenth celebrations in 1872 at Emancipation Park. The land was bought by a group of African Americans, led by the Reverend Jack Yates, a Baptist minister and former enslaved person.

Houston was once divided into wards, hence the name Third Ward. The area has retained that important title and marker, though it has changed in size. During segregation, the Greater Third Ward was the center of life and commerce. The area included Alameda and Emancipation Avenue, what was then called Dowling Street.

Infrastructural developments, such as the construction of Western 288, cleaved the physical community in two. Also, with the end of segregation, some residents moved from the area. It is known that the Third Ward was once much larger in size and resident numbers, with more businesses, schools, and resources.

While there are not nearly as many businesses operating or restaurants open, the cultural district is teeming with art and creativity, and celebrations of and pride in the history of centuries of people living, creating, working, and playing in the Third Ward.

The presented list highlights the historic nature of area, as it inspires the arts and creativity that are alive and active in the cultural district. The descriptions provide more detail about assets mentioned in the application questions and/or included in the map of the cultural district.

The information below is not exhaustive, as art is constantly being created and restaurants opening and/or reconfiguring space. As a center for Black culture, members of the Third Ward know the importance of history and how the two are intertwined. The selected assets are listed in alphabetical order.

Blodgett Urban Gardens A community garden created to address the problem of food deserts, with a focus on the Third Ward area. The space is provided by Texas Southern University and includes a research facility for TSU environmental sciences students.

The Blue Triangle Community Center At one point this was the only place in the city where Black people could learn how to swim. The building is a recorded Texas Historic Landmark. Inside the building is the mural *Contributions of Negro Women to American Life and Education* by John T. Biggers. It is currently under restoration after sustaining damage during Hurricane Harvey.

Jack Yates High School Named in honor of Freedman Rev. Jack Yates who bought the community together to pool money to purchase Emancipation Park. The High School has been in the news in recent weeks as George Floyd attended high school there and was on the state-football team.

James D. Ryan Middle School Originally Jack Yates Colored Senior High School. The building and schools are an educational anchor for the Third Ward.

Progressive Amateur Boxing Association One of the oldest black owned businesses in the Third Ward and directly across the street from where Carl Hampton was murdered. Boxing legends such as Muhammad Ali and George Forman have trained there.

S.H.A.P.E. Community Center Founded in 1969 with mission to “improve the quality of life for people of African descent (all people) through programs and activities, with emphasis on unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.” The Center has:

- Taken over 1,400 young people and adults on a pilgrimage of the deep south
- Been the sole library and computer center to over 3,000 community children and families.
- Feeds an average of 70 elders per week, feeding over 80,080 elders for 22 years.

Sankofa Research Institute A community centered research institute that unites residents of communities with trained researchers and community leaders.

Trinity United Methodist Church Established in 1848 as a congregation by and for enslaved people, it is one of the oldest African American churches in Houston. The brick building is known for its stained-glass windows. The church received a historic site marker on May 31, 1994

Houston Negro Hospital (Riverside Hospital) & Nursing School The Hospital was the first nonprofit hospital for black patients in Houston. It was

also a place for Black physicians to work, who were not allowed to admit patients to the "Black Wards" of Houston's other hospitals. Soon after the hospital was built in around 1925, the Nursing School was established. It was the first such educational institution for the training of Black nurses in the City of Houston.

List of Arts & Culture nonprofits

Within the Third Ward, religion is culture and many of the buildings are historic landmarks. Greek life is also a major factor of HBCU culture, which is a pillar in African American community service.

1. Project Row Houses
2. S.H.A.P.E.
3. Emancipation Park Conservancy
4. The Third Ward Community Cloth Cooperative: 325 community-based organizations, grouped within twelve strands. Two of which are Cultural Arts and Spirituality.
5. Texas Southern University
6. Museum at Texas Southern University
7. Yates High School
8. Alpha Kappa Alpha - AKA
9. Delta Sigma Theta - ΔΣΘ
10. Sigma Gamma Rho - ΣΓΡ
11. Zeta Phi Beta - ΖΦΒ
12. Alpha Phi Alpha - ΑΦΑ
13. Iota Phi Theta - ΙΦΘ
14. Kappa Alpha Psi - ΚΑΨ
15. Omega Psi Phi - ΩΨΦ
16. Phi Beta Sigma – ΦΒΣ
17. Top Ladies of Distinction
18. Berean Seventh Day Adventist
19. St. John Missionary Baptist Church
20. Wesley AME Church
21. Jerusalem Baptist Church
22. St. John Missionary Baptist Church
23. Trinity East Methodist Church
24. Fourth Missionary Baptist Church
25. Mt. Zion Baptist Church
26. Third Ward Church of Christ
27. Williams Temple Church- God In Christ
28. Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church
29. Holy Cross Lutheran Church
30. Greater Zion Baptist Church
31. Holman Street Baptist Church
32. Pilgrim Congregational United
33. St. Luke the Evangelist Episcopal Church
34. Calvary Baptist Church

35. Apostolic Faith Mission Church
36. Boynton United Methodist Church
37. Christian Hope Baptist Church
38. Christian Home Missionary Baptist
39. Holman Baptist Church
40. Trinity United Methodist Church
41. Mt. Olive Baptist Church
42. St. Emmanuel Baptist Church
43. Mary Olive Baptist Church
44. Second Corinth Baptist Church
45. TSU Catholic Newman Center
46. Masjid Al-Muhaiman
47. Grand Court Order of Calanthe
48. Progressive Amateur Boxing Association
49. Blodgett Urban Garden
50. Capoeira Angola 50
51. Robert James Terry Library
52. Smith Family Library
53. Thurgood Marshall Law Library
54. Westbury Engram Community Center
55. Baylor College of Medicine Academy at Ryan Middle School (site of original Jack Yates High School)
56. Blue Triangle Multicultural Center, formerly Blue Triangle YWCA
57. Change Happens!
58. Community Music Center of Houston
59. Workshop Houston
60. Third Ward Multi-Services Center
61. Upper Third Ward Civic Club
62. Sankofa Research Institute