ABOUT PROJECT ROW HOUSES

Project Row Houses is a community platform that enriches lives through art with an emphasis on cultural identity and its impact on the urban landscape.

We engage neighbors, artists, and enterprises in collective creative action to help materialize sustainable opportunities in marginalized communities.

Project Row Houses occupies a significant footprint in Houston's Historic Third Ward, one of the city's oldest African-American neighborhoods.

The site encompasses five city blocks and houses 39 structures that serve as home base to a variety of community enriching initiatives, art programs, and neighborhood development activities.

PRH programs touch the lives of under resourced neighbors, young single mothers with the ambition of a better life for themselves and their children, small enterprises with the drive to take their businesses to the next level, and artists interested in using their talents to understand and enrich the lives of others. Although PRH’s African-American roots are planted deeply in Third Ward, the work of PRH extends far beyond its borders. The Project Row Houses model for art and social engagement applies not only to Houston, but also to diverse communities around the world.

OUR HISTORY OF COLLECTIVE CREATIVITY

Project Row Houses’ work with the Third Ward community began in 1993 when seven visionary African-American artists—James Bettison (1958-1997), Bert Long, Jr. (1940-2013), Jesse Lott, Rick Lowe, Floyd Newsum, Bert Samples and George Smith—recognized the real potential in a block and a half of derelict shotgun houses at the corner of Holman and Live Oak. Where others saw poverty, these artists saw a future site for positive, creative, and transformative experiences in the Third Ward. So, together they began to explore how art might be an engine for social transformation.

This is how the PRH story began.

As the founders engaged with a community of creative thinkers and the neighbors around them, Project Row Houses quickly began to shift the understanding of art from traditional studio practice to a more conceptual base of transforming the social environment.

While they were artists, they were also advocates. Over the next twenty-five years the organization brought together groups and pooled resources to materialize sustainable opportunities for artists, young mothers, small businesses, and Third Ward Residents helping to cultivate independent change agents by supporting people and their ideas so that they have tools and capacity to do the same for others. PRH is and has always been a unique opportunity to activate the intersections between art, enrichment, history, preservation, and community development.
01 PRH Administrative Offices & Community Gallery
02 Additional PRH Offices
03 Art Houses Utilized for Summer Studios Residency & Artist Rounds (2505-2517 Holman)
04 Artist Residence Renovated by Rice Building Workshop in 2007
05 Incubation Space
06 Young Mothers Residential Houses (Note: Please respect our residents' privacy.)
07 Doshi House Coffee Shop & Vegetarian Restaurant (nice stop for lunch)
08 Rice Building Workshop Space
09 Delia’s Lounge: Cookie Love’s Wash-n-Fold for Residents & Artist Studios
10 Lightnin’ Hopkins Historic Marker
11 SEARCH’s House of Tiny Treasures
12 Freedman’s Town Houses 1890’s Shotgun Houses moved from Fourth Ward
15 PABA: Progressive Amateur Boxing Association
16 Historic Eldorado Ballroom Building Designed in 1939 by Lenard Gabert & founded by Anna Dupree
A. Small Business Incubator
B. Small Business Incubator
C. PRH Archives
D. PRH Boardroom
E. Historic Eldorado Ballroom Event Space @ PRH
17 Emancipation Park (c 1872) re-designed in 2017
18 Steps Created by Carter Ernst & youth in PRH’s Education Program
19 Artist Murals First built in 2006 & last painted in 2016 by HCC consortium Ground Murals Designed & painted by Jeanette Degollado & the students of Third Ward College Bound 2015-16 Program
20 PRH CDC Duplexes (once part of PRH, now a sister organization) • Division Street Duplexes (2004) • Francis Street Duplexes (2008)
21 Young Mothers’ Community House
22 Sixth Square Designed & built by Rice Building Workshop
23 Workshop + Studio Spaces
24 Back Courtyard & Community Space