

COH ION CBA Report

June 2023



PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

Community Benefits Agreement

- City Council approved the Community Benefits Agreement November 10, 2021
- Agreement between the City of Houston and Rice Management Co.
- Direct investments and community partnerships relating to the Ion District
- City Commitments
- Developer Commitments
- Annual Reporting

Community Advisory Council

- Confirmed February 2, 2022
- Nine Members
 - Residents
 - Business owners
 - Direct specialized experience
 - MWBE business/business civic organization
 - Real estate/finance/banking experience
 - Specialized workforce development experience
- Six Ex-Officio Members

ION District

- Located on 16 acres in Midtown Houston
- Roughly bound by Isabella Street, Ruth Street, Interstate Highway 69 and Wheeler Avenue, Austin Street
- Within the historic 1939 former Sears Department Store
- Owned by Rice University
- 266,000 SF innovation hub encompassing commercial, educational, accelerator, and retail space
- Public space and community access`

City Commitments



A. MWBE Bonding Education and Support

- In fall 2021, OBO, in collaboration with the U.S. DOT, launched a 6-week Bonding and Business Capacity Building Program.
- Fifteen (15) local companies participated.
- Each participant of the Program was paired with a surety professional to assist them with building capacity.

B. MWBE Outreach

OBO and Rice have previously partnered (2020) to host informational sessions about contracting opportunities.

Communications Points of Contact:

- Economic Development:
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- Office of Business Opportunity:
Pearl.Cajoles@houstontx.gov
- Planning & Development:
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- Department of Neighborhoods:
evangelina.vigil@houstontx.gov
- Complete Communities:
mary.benton@houstontx.gov





C. Homestead Protections and Exemption Support

- Initial analysis has been performed by ED & Planning.
- 35% of owner-occupied homes are utilizing homestead exemption program.
- Planning & Development is developing an educational outreach plan.

D. A Month of Service

- Sponsored by the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) and community partners since 2019.
- DON sends targeted outreach to 53 active super neighborhoods and the public via websites and social media.
- More than 500 participants
- Senior Security Asset Protections Resource Workshop
- Wills & Estate Planning Workshops.
- Property Tax Exemptions
- Homebuyer Education
- Financial Literacy Workshop





E. Turnaround Houston

- OBO continues to partner with Workforce Solutions to host Turnaround Houston Job & Readiness Fairs.
- The fairs were marketed citywide
 - April 27, 2023
 - December 15, 2022
 - July 27, 2022
 - July 13, 2022
 - June 22, 2022

F. Complete Communities Improvement Fund Repository

Administration, disbursement, and organization continues to be examined



<https://www.letstalkhouston.org/iondistrictcac>



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Thank You



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