

# How to Use this Deck

## Who should use this deck?

- Partners or stakeholders
- Community leaders representing HEGC in public or private meetings
- Board or committee members

## Who is this deck for?

- Potential funders
- Philanthropic partners seeking to understand HEGC



CASE FOR SUPPORT

# HOUSTON ECONOMIC GROWTH COLLABORATIVE

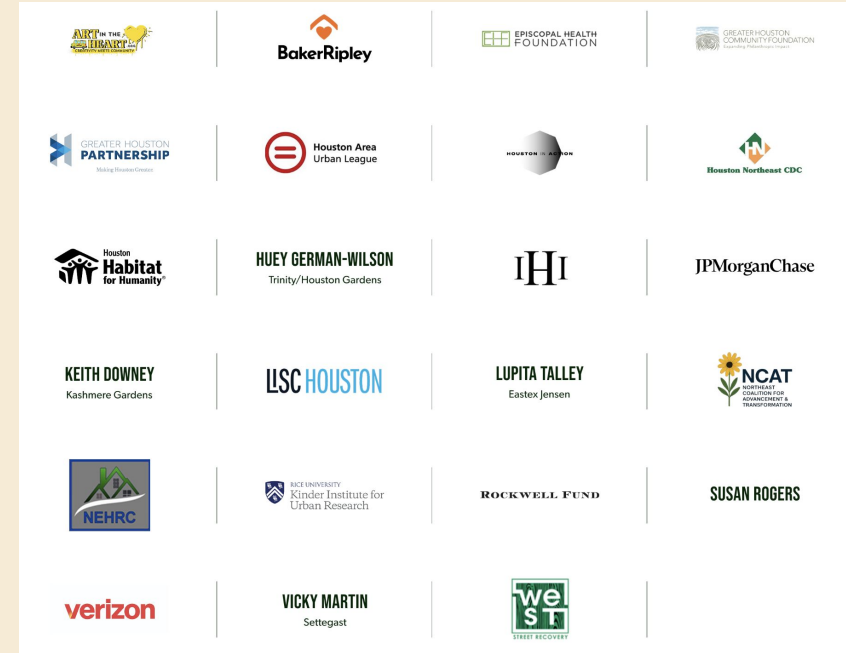
## Championing Economic Resilience and Mobility in Northeast Houston

December 2025



# HEGC: Who We Are

**We are a collective of neighborhood, citywide, and national leaders** bringing together our resources, knowledge, and power to actively champion the community's vision for greater economic resilience and mobility in Northeast Houston neighborhoods.



# History of the Four Neighborhoods

In the early 19th and 20th centuries, four neighborhoods in Northeast Houston – **Settegast, Kashmere Gardens, Eastex-Jensen and Trinity/Houston Gardens** — experienced a shift in demographics with Black families moving into these areas seeking opportunities to buy homes in planned communities and to be near steady jobs. In recent years, these communities have become more diverse, with large numbers of Latino residents and other ethnic groups seeking the promise of the country's fourth-largest city.



*While ideally, your zip code should not determine your prospects for success, the reality is often different.*

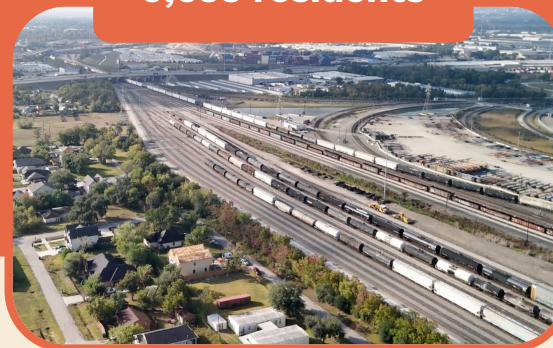
**Eastex-Jensen:** To support residents during this time, community leaders have held educational classes in the community, including on home buying, financial literacy, and helping justice-impacted individuals return to the workforce. This neighborhood is experiencing substantial new development, which is leading to displacement for some.

**46,241 residents**



**Kashmere Gardens:** Community leaders work hard to prepare the community for disasters and mitigating floods, as well as helping to repair homes with deferred maintenance or which were impacted by recent natural disasters. This neighborhood has many vacant lots in residential areas.

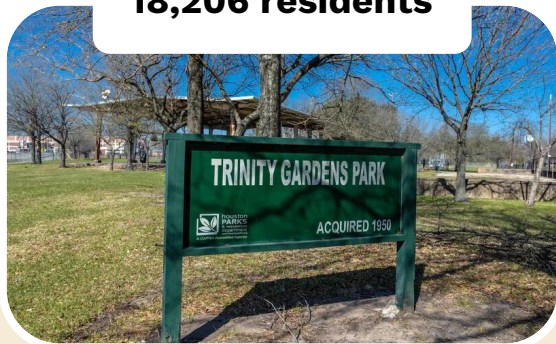
**9,633 residents**





**Trinity/Houston Gardens:** Community leaders are especially focused on infrastructure, environmental justice, and education. Given the vast amount of vacant land in residential areas and 54% of all homes flooded during Hurricane Harvey.

**18,206 residents**



**Settegast:** Community leaders are advocating to rebuild their neighborhood, specifically their former library, which was closed after it flooded during a natural disasters. This neighborhood has limited infrastructure and few community centers for public use.

**4,194 residents**



# What We've Accomplished So Far

- **Strong tradition of grassroots organizing** made Northeast Houston an ideal foundation for HEGC's community-first approach.
- **Community leaders** formally joined HEGC in 2025, emphasizing collaborative, innovative solutions over top-down strategies.
- **Two years of groundwork** included neighborhood meetings, focus groups, funder recruitment, research, and program development.
- **Investments established an operations committee**, funded citywide efforts, and provided neighborhood capacity-building grants.
- **Nov. 8, 2025:** HEGC's first public event in Northeast Houston engaged residents to shape priorities for infrastructure and programming.



# Current Opportunities: Intersecting Inequities Across Northeast Houston

There are grassroot community efforts working to tackle big challenges across Northeast Houston. For decades, under investments and harmful practices and policies, from redlining and predatory housing loans to illegal dumping and poor drainage systems, have denied far too many people in Northeast Houston the basic services and quality of life that all Houstonians deserve. Grassroot leaders are eager to partner with larger institutions to scale their efforts.

- Settegast has the **lowest life expectancy** in Harris County at 65.7 years old.
- For years, **illegal dumping** has been a top priority for residents of Trinity/Houston Gardens.
- An air control monitor maintained by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has detected **some of the state's dirtiest air** in Settegast.
- Eastex-Jensen streets **lack sidewalks** and that reduced walkability further impacts the viability of local commerce.

Image Source: The New York Times





# Current Opportunities: Intersecting Inequities Across Northeast Houston

- **3,700 homes flooded** in Kashmere Gardens due to Hurricane Harvey. This is a top priority for community leaders and residents.
- Settegast and Trinity/Houston Gardens are considered **food deserts**.
- Concrete batching plants in Trinity/Houston Gardens have been discovered to release substantial amounts of particulate matter in communities and near schools, contributing to **poor air quality**.
- Eastex-Jensen faces a number of **public safety issues**. It has also been difficult to start community improvement efforts as there are no city-run community centers where residents can find each other.



# HEGC's Approach: Investing in Community-Driven Change

- **Citywide & Neighborhood Grants:** Direct investments to nonprofits and resident-led projects like disaster recovery and resilience programs, after-school programs, murals, back-to-school drives, and workforce training programs.
- **Investing in Local Leadership:** Funding and resources to strengthen local nonprofits and grassroots organizations that have been serving these communities for decades.
- **Research & Data:** Partnerships among academic institutions, nonprofits, and local leaders to engage residents to understand their communities' priorities and gather neighborhood-level insights that guide strategic investment.
- **Long-Term Strategy:** Collaboration among residents, funders, and corporations to shape a roadmap that prioritizes inclusion, innovation, and local decision-making.



# HEGC's Vision: Advancing Economic Opportunity in Northeast Houston

**Aspirations:** We believe that with trust and deep, meaningful partnerships with communities in Northeast Houston, we can work together to create a better, stronger city for all.



- We are here to build on the decades of grassroots organizing in these four neighborhoods in Northeast Houston.
- We stand for equitable access to opportunity, prosperity, and belonging for every Houstonian.
- Together, we must harness our unique community assets and unlock the resources to create opportunities for all residents of Northeast Houston and strengthen our neighborhoods block by block.



## Hear from HEGC

- “I’m a lifelong resident of Houston, and so I’m proud to do this work because this is what Houston is about. This group has taken a lot of effort to make sure that we’re operating alongside each other, and they fully understand what the community needs are.”  
  
–**Huey German-Wilson**, co-founder of the Northeast Houston Redevelopment Council and president of the Trinity/Houston Gardens Super Neighborhood
- “What I envision through the work of the Houston Economic Collaborative, specifically for my community, is an investment in people to build the infrastructure for the next generation, to pick up the baton and go even further.”  
  
–**Kyle Maronie**, co-founder of the Northeast Coalition for Advancement and Transformation
- “Neighborhood leaders have been doing this work for decades, and we’re really thinking about how we can bring financial and non-financial resources to support their work to fuel long-term economic sustainability and growth.”  
  
–**Michelle Liberatore**, senior program manager with Verizon’s responsible business team and early investor in HEGC’s vision



# Our Ask

**Invest Now:** Despite the challenges, the people of Northeast Houston never stopped pursuing fairer access to opportunity. Community-driven investments shaped by residents' priorities and ideas will help strengthen economic opportunity for the people living in these neighborhoods. Gifts of \$10,000 to \$1,000,000 can be restricted to projects and provide ongoing support to community needs such as:

- **Targeted workforce development** that helps people gain new skills and secure quality jobs
- **Support for local business owners** so they can grow, hire locally, and stay rooted in the community
- **Clear pathways to higher-paying jobs** that allow families to cover essentials and plan for the future
- **Affordable homeownership programs** that help families build stability and put down roots
- **Wealth-building initiatives** that enable residents to save, invest, and pass opportunity on to the next generation



An aerial photograph of the Houston skyline, showing a dense cluster of skyscrapers in the center, surrounded by a vast expanse of lower-rise buildings and green spaces. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal gradient.

# HOUSTON ECONOMIC GROWTH COLLABORATIVE

# Thank You!

Contact us at [info@houstongrowthcollab.org](mailto:info@houstongrowthcollab.org) or learn more at [www.houstongrowthcollab.org](http://www.houstongrowthcollab.org).

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