

WOMEN CREATING OPPORTUNITY

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Kelly P. Hodges, Director of Development and Communications, Dr. Laura Murillo, and Judson W. Robinson III, President and CEO of the Houston Area Urban League.



Attendees and members of the Houston Area Urban League Guild gather during the organization's Women's History Month reception.



Councilmember Tiffany Thomas and Erica Lee Carter, Harris County Administrator for the Harris County Office of County Administration.



Attendees gather inside the Houston Area Urban League headquarters during the Women's History Month reception.

Inside the Houston Area Urban League’s headquarters, the room moved with intention. Conversations carried across generations. Women who have led for decades stood alongside those just stepping into their purpose. There was laughter, there was reflection, and there was a shared understanding of what it takes to do this work and sustain it.

Held at 1301 Texas Avenue, the Houston Area Urban League’s Women’s History Month reception brought together civic leaders, advocates, and community partners for an evening centered on legacy, leadership, and impact. The theme, *Celebrating Women Creating Opportunity*, was not just printed on a program. It showed up in the conversations, in the connections, and in the women who continue to shape this city in real time.

Because in Houston, women are not simply participating. They are leading. And they always have.

That truth anchored the evening from the very beginning. Kelly P. Hodges, Director of Development and Communications, welcomed guests with a reminder that the night was about honoring women who lead with purpose and create pathways for progress. It was a message that resonated deeply in a room filled with women who have done exactly that.

Houston Area Urban League President and CEO Judson W. Robinson III expanded on that point, offering context that placed the evening within a much larger history. “The story of the Urban League is, in many ways, a story of women’s leadership, vision, and influence,” Robinson said.

It is a story that stretches far beyond Houston.

The National Urban League was co-founded by Ruth Standish Baldwin, whose vision helped establish a movement centered on economic empowerment and social justice. That foundation was strengthened by women like Grace Towns Hamilton, one of the first female executive directors of an Urban League affiliate, and Xernona Clayton, whose work helped desegregate institutions across the South. Molly Moon’s leadership of the Urban League Guild expanded community engagement in ways that still shape the organization today.

And then there are figures like Fannie Lou Hamer, whose fight for voting rights did more than change policy. It changed possibility.

That legacy is not something the Urban League simply reflects on. It is something it actively builds upon.

Here in Houston, that work continues through women who are leading at every level of the organization and throughout the community. They are shaping programs, guiding policy, mentoring the next generation, and ensuring that access to opportunity is not just discussed, but delivered.

education, housing, health, social justice, and entrepreneurship. Those numbers represent more than services. They represent lives changed, families supported, and futures redirected. At the center of that impact are women. “Black and Brown women have long been among the most consistent architects of justice and democracy in this country,” Goodie said.

That leadership was on full display throughout the evening, particularly as several women were recognized for their contributions across Houston and beyond.

Among those honored were Dr. Laura Murillo, President and CEO of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; State Representative Senfronia Thompson, one of Texas’ longest-serving legislators; Houston City Councilmember Tiffany Thomas, a champion for economic growth and community engagement; and Phyllis Turner-Brim, Board Chair of the Houston Area Urban League and the first woman to hold the role in more than 15 years.



Judson W. Robinson III, President and CEO, Phyllis Turner-Brim, Board Chair, and Eric Goodie, Executive Vice President of the Houston Area Urban League.

CLASSIFIEDS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Request for Proposal – Houston-Galveston Area Council – Enterprise Solutions – HGACBuy/Cooperative Purchasing Program – Grounds & Turf Equipment – GR07-26

H-GAC is soliciting responses for selecting qualified manufacturers, dealers and distributors of Grounds and Turf Equipment and to make these types of products available to Customers of the HGACBuy Cooperative Purchasing Program under blanket type contracts.

To view the solicitation documents, visit <https://www.h-gac.com/procurement> or [ESBD \(txsmartbuy.com\)](https://www.esbd.com)

Response Deadline: May 14, 2026 @ 12:00 P.M. CT

And the reach of that work is significant. Executive Vice President Eric Goodie shared that in 2025 alone, the Houston Area Urban League served more than 20,000 individuals directly and reached over 400,000 through programs focused on workforce development,

LEGAL NOTICE

Choice Partners (CP), a division of Harris County Department of Education (HCDE), is a national cooperative that will be accepting proposals in response to the following Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSP). Interested proposers may go to www.choicepartners.org and register to download the solicitation or call 877-696-2122.

- CSP 26/021MR for Painting, Drywall, Acoustical Ceilings and Flooring are due by Friday, May 15th, 2026 @ 2:30 PM CT**

All proposals must be submitted via the HCDE online eBid System at the following link: <https://hcdeebid.ionwave.net>.

Proposals will be opened via Zoom; Information regarding dates, times, and a link to join the meeting is located within the eBid System under the “Activities” tab specific to the solicitation.

BID OPPORTUNITY

Manhattan Construction, the Construction Manager-at-Risk is soliciting subcontractor bids for the Texas A&M Academic Building Restoration. This is a pivotal opportunity to restore the iconic campus landmark that represents so much of Texas A&M's history and traditions. The project will make necessary repairs to restore the weather resistance, structural integrity, and historic integrity of the exterior walls and dome of the Academic Building. Manhattan Construction is soliciting bids for copper dome scaffolding, liberty bell rigging, general trades, masonry restoration, copper dome and roofing, urethane roof patching, and electrical. Bids are due 4/7/26 at 2PM. Bids shall be submitted in accordance with the instructions to bidders (via BuildingConnected) to Manhattan Construction. The project has a VetHub participation goal. VetHub and non-VetHub firms are encouraged to submit. For more information, email jrhodes@manhattanconstruction.com