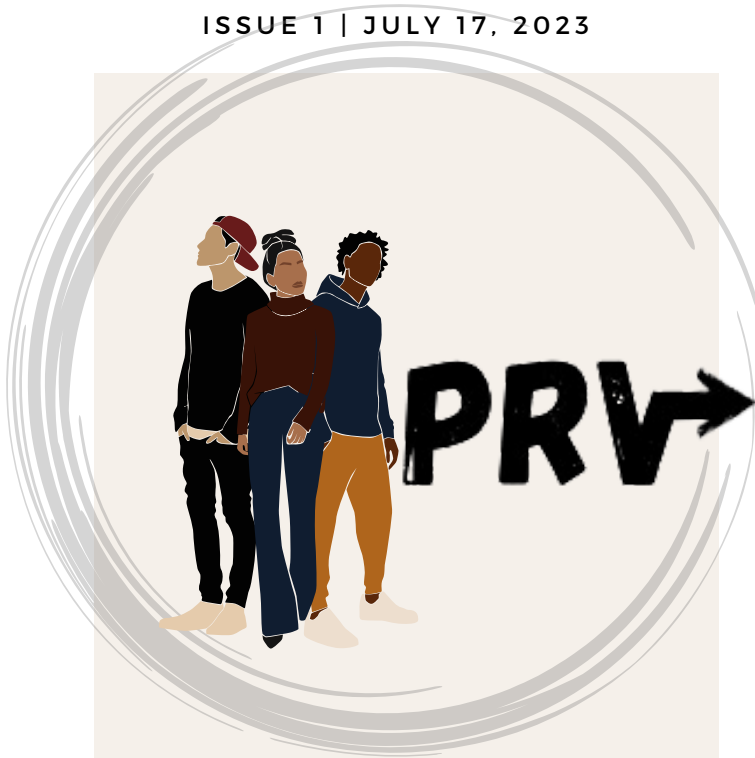


# THE BILLBOARD

MONTHLY

ISSUE 1 | JULY 17, 2023



## PRV NEWSLETTER

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## About our newsletter

Welcome to The Billboard! Our PRV monthly digital newsletter.

This newsletter was created so that we can protect the identity of the justice involved youth we work for while creating a bridge of awareness and transparency to the community of what is possible when we empower youth in their pursuit of a better life and provide them with adequate support to get there.

In addition to highlighting PRV intern achievements, this newsletter shares information about community partner collaborations and is committed to bringing awareness to initiatives and events that build community and impact the greater Houston area in a positive way.

Each month we select one person or organization to receive "The Grammy" for their exemplary work creating positive change .

# ABOUT US

At Project Remix Ventures (PRV) our mission is to work alongside justice involved youth impacted by social and systemic disadvantage.

PRV was born in response to students of The Opportunity Center who shared a desire to stay "tapped in", while expressing concern about being unable to meet their basic needs. Harris County Juvenile Probation Department (HCJPD) Director of Strategic Partnerships, Vanessa Ramirez began to consider alternative methods of extending the duration of student admission for those who are motivated to continue to create positive change in their life, ensuring youth are adequately prepared to transition into adulthood. Partnered with current Board Chairs Diana Rodriguez, and Morgan Crowell; PRV was formally founded in May of 2023.

Through the support of the HCJPD, PRV celebrates student progress through our hybrid model that works in tandem with The Opportunity Center curriculum by offering programming during school hours. Students who have completed two (2) GED exams are eligible to participate in programming in lieu of previously scheduled GED curriculum hours; maximizing productivity by monetizing enrichment programming (e.g., financial literacy, networking and fundraising, branding, small business logistics) offered to all students.

Currently, the timeline from student admission to GED attainment varies drastically from student to student. While some students are enrolled in GED programming for more than six months, other students receive their GED in a matter of weeks. Project Remix Ventures creates a seamless transition to real-life professional job experiences without requiring students to choose between employment or continued participation at The Opportunity Center.

In consideration of increased student enrollment, and with the support of HCJPD, we have carefully developed our program to work as a hybrid model; which means the bulk of our start-up budget for Project Remix Ventures is allocated directly to programming. In year 1, the profit made through our social enterprises will make up nearly 10% of our annual budget based on cautious projections. Our conservative projections estimate that in five years sales from our social enterprises help their respective micro business break even.

# PRV NEWS



## Printing Hope

Printing hope is our newest social enterprise. Here, interns have been working on developing entrepreneurial skills like digital design, product development and digital marketing. This month, our youth formally launched their online t-shirt store, offering a variety of designs and images created to tell their stories, and connect with the community. In addition to skill development, our youth have started to create their own small business plans supported by financial planning coaches and small business owners.

[SHOP NOW](#)

## RemixTheFuture

This month PRV has been meeting with community-based organizations and stakeholders to move forward with plans to expand programming in response to increased enrollment and current intern needs to expand the duration of internship opportunities to one full year.

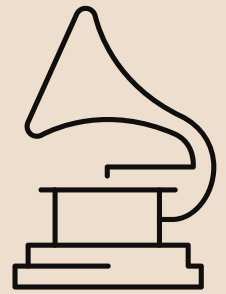
Internship opportunities are scheduled to begin in the upcoming month for "PurposeFull Designs"; branding and marketing, "Project Mixtape"; audio and podcast media production studio, and "reMixed Woodworking"; carpentry and wood restoration center.

THE GRAMMY

JULY 2023 RECIPIENT

# HENRY GONZALES

& THE HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION  
DEPARTMENT



## THE GRAMMY: FOR LEADERSHIP AND SYSTEMIC CHANGE

In our very first issue, we select Henry Gonzales, Executive Director of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department (HCJPD) as our recipient of The Grammy.

Henry has dedicated over 35 years to working with high need youth; as a volunteer mentor, serving on various boards and advisory committees, an adjunct professor at the University of Houston-Downtown, and a variety of HCJPD positions prior to his current role as Executive Director and Chief Juvenile Probation Officer.

As Chief, Henry has spearheaded systemic change; dismantling ineffective traditional methods of justice system intervention largely considered to disproportionately target communities of color and increase risk-factors to criminality that transcend into future generations. Henry has demonstrated commitment to providing justice involved youth with comprehensive, evidence-based programming that increases protective factors and over-flows; creating positive change in the greater community.

To ensure equity and hold the system accountable, Henry has partnered with organizations like the Annie E. Casey Foundation to, “invest in community-based programs that help reduce youth justice involvement, address justice system disparities

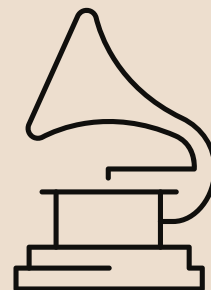


and connect young people to the services and opportunities they need to thrive”, and The Rice University Policy Lab, “to make decisions based on a body of rigorous evidence grounded in local data, [to] understand the ways in which the youth justice system affects lives, and to develop effective strategies to address disparities in the system”.[1]

In February of 2022, with bipartisan support from county leaders, Henry and the HCJPD team moved forward with plans to transform the Burnet Bayland Rehabilitation Center (BBRC) into a one-of-a-kind community center; making it first in the nation to “shut down a residential facility to reshape it into a place for compelling, relevant, and diverse education programs[2]”.

# THE GRAMMY

JULY 2023 RECIPIENT



## CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Now known as The Opportunity Center (TOC); this community center is home to over 40 community-based partners including Project Remix Ventures (us), The Boys and Girls Club, and Worktexas Training Center. Through these partnerships, TOC provides justice involved youth, and members of the greater community, with the opportunity to receive educational and vocational training services.

Henry continues to integrate forward thinking initiatives like specialized and restorative training for probation staff, the credible messengers initiative that integrates community members with life experience into decision making spaces, and first offender diversionary programs that minimize adolescent contact with the justice system.

It is an honor to write this piece. Thank you, Henry, for leading the way to juvenile justice reform and forever changing the lives of countless youth, their families, the communities they come from, and those of us who are fortunate to partner with you.

## A WORD FROM THE CHIEF

**PRV Staff:** "What motivates you to believe in the potential of our youth"

**Henry:** "For me, the ability for each of us to reach our potential is not only dependent on our setting goals for ourselves, but it also relies on having opportunities available to make it possible for us to reach those goals. Although systems currently exist with the purpose of providing these opportunities, the truth is the ability to access these needed resources is not always equitable. The marginalization of being involved in a justice system only adds to that imbalance. If we want our justice involved young people to commit to a positive direction, we need to make sure they have the tools that are essential to succeed. Providing our youth opportunities means giving them that chance to thrive and it lets them know we believe in them and their potential. That is what the Opportunity Center is all about".

1] Sourced from HCJPD Reform

2] Original story by: Jessika Leal - the Gulfton Management District; March 8, 2023

# INITIATIVES



Houston  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

Neighborhood Revitalization is a holistic approach that expands Houston Habitat's traditional partnerships with new homeowners and volunteers to include neighbors and local organizations so that we can make a far greater impact in the neighborhoods that we serve. While home construction continues to play a vital role, a bigger toolbox that includes repairs and other services allows Habitat to serve more families.

To learn more or for more information about volunteer opportunities visit: [Habitat Houston](#)

houston   
**foodbank**

## FOOD FOR CHANGE

Food can mean more than just a meal. Food for Change (FFC) is an intervention strategy that aligns with the Houston Food Bank's ambitious vision: a world that doesn't need food banks. The work of Food for Change goes beyond emergency food assistance by addressing the root causes of food insecurity. This includes strategically layering food assistance with medical interventions and social services to help individuals improve their overall quality of life. FFC partners with a collective of community organizations that provide programming focused on two main pillars areas: health initiatives and economic initiatives

To learn more or for more information about volunteer opportunities visit: [Houston Foodbank](#)



The purpose of WorkTexas is to prepare students with the skills and virtues they need to enter the workforce ready to contribute immediately to employers' businesses, as well as to advance in that field or another field of their choice.

Or, more simply, the mission of WorkTexas is to help more people get jobs, keep jobs, and advance in their careers.

Our strategy of partnering with local businesses means the students who enroll at WorkTexas can achieve their high school diploma along with learning and practicing their virtues and trade skills to be successful in the job market.

To learn more visit: [Work Texas](#)

# THE REMIX



## HOPE WATKINS

Owner and PRV instructor Hope Watkins worked with our youth to develop entrepreneurial skills through our printing social enterprise.

Hope was key in our ability to provide life-long skills to our youth interns, exchanging compassion and relatability for respect and dedication to learning from the opportunity to understand the in's and out's of small business ownership.

In addition to serving as our shirt printing enterprise community-based partner, Hope offers a variety of custom products from banners, to posters, sublimation products and more.

We appreciate you, Hope! [You can see Hope's full range of products here.](#)



## LAGINA HARRIS

Founder of The Us Space (TUS) ; a women of color (WOC) focused collective that answers the challenges of accessibility and the lack of convenience. We help members combat the feelings of loneliness that come from working from home and growing a business alone by providing an alternative to this reality, and La Rae Infinity; a media production and podcast platform that brings positive energy to marginalized communities as a Social Impact Brand, recently toured our facility and has continued to look for creative ways to connect with others and expand our network.

Thank you, LaGina. [Tune in to "Lets Talk"podcast station here.](#)

# EVENTS

PROJECT REMIX VENTURES

reMIXER

July 25th, 2023 from 4:00-8:00 pm

Fundraiser benefiting juvenile  
justice system impacted youth  
Project Remix Ventures Shop | Silent Auction

Porch Swing Pub

69 Heights Ave. Houston, TX  
77007

[RSVP NOW](#)

TO SPONSOR THIS EVENT CALL 713-505-2521 OR  
[WWW.PROJECTREMIXVENTURES.ORG/SPONSOR-US](http://WWW.PROJECTREMIXVENTURES.ORG/SPONSOR-US)

Come celebrate the official launch of Project Remix Ventures! Our youth have been working hard to create products that will be on display and available for purchase on this day. **We will also have a silent auction goods donated by our Houston Texans and Houston Astros.**

This event is a fundraising event to help support our youth program and an invitation to the community to preview the projects our youth have been working on.

## The Opportunity Center

We invite all members of the community to book a tour to fully experience what is happening through The Opportunity Center.

The Opportunity Center, an educational and vocational community-center by HCJPD is a one-of-a-kind facility that dismantles traditional responses to adolescent justice involvement by offering comprehensive community-based support that decrease risk factors; offering a solution that can redirect our youth once and forever.

[BOOK A TOUR](#)