

THE BILLBOARD

MONTHLY

ISSUE 5 | NOVEMBER 30, 2023



PRV NEWSLETTER

Table of Contents

The Grammy • P.2

PRV news • P.3-4

Verse Vault • P.5

Events • P.6

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.

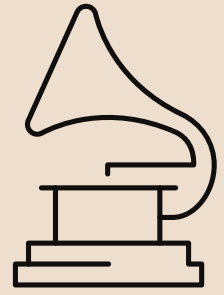
Each month we select one person or organization to receive "The Grammy" for their exemplary work creating positive change.

[DONATE](#)

THE GRAMMY

NOVEMBER 2023 RECIPIENT

LAGINA HARRIS



THE GRAMMY: REALIZING POTENTIAL

It is our pleasure to recognize LaGina Harris as our November Grammy recipient for her work in uplifting community voices and expanding opportunity for Women of color. LaGina Harris, founded The Us Space after recognizing the lack of spaces that were affordable and connected to a genuine collaborative community. “The Us Space (TUS) is a women of color (WOC) focused collective that answers the challenges of accessibility and the lack of convenience. TUS was created to be a positive, affirming, and uplifting environment where ideas can flourish safely and is an inclusive community where everyone is welcome and ‘the table’ is built with women of color specifically in mind. The Us Space is an intentional innovative space to create, collaborate and build a community for women of color and women-centric organizations to thrive.” LaGina is driven by her mission to uplift, support, and illuminate women of color, and nurture the building of relationships so that the collaborative and the communities they work with can thrive.



In addition to TUS, LaGina is an entrepreneur, philanthropist, visual abstract artist, podcaster (@LRILetsTalk), emcee and all together get it done type of woman. Through these business and philanthropic ventures, it is LaGina’s mission to bring positive energy to marginalized communities as a Social Impact Brand. She strives to always challenge the norm and bring supportive growth to the communities she works with.

American Society of Criminology Annual Conference

On November 17th, board member Diana Rodriguez attended the American Society of Criminology Annual Conference (ASC) in Philadelphia to share a presentation about alternatives to punishment founded on the principles of Restorative Justice (RJ) practices. Here, students, professors, and state representatives working to restore communities through RJ practices gathered to share ideas, current efforts, and become inspired to continue to work to undo the harmful impact of system involvement.

Diana had the pleasure of meeting **Andrea Barajas**, third-year undergraduate student at the University of Pennsylvania majoring in Criminology and Sociology.

Andrea is a Chicana from Los Angeles, CA. who is the first in her family to attend college. Andrea shared while meeting with Diana, that she became, “increasingly passionate about understanding the complexities of delinquency” after living adjacent to members of Florencia 13, the U.S. extension of MS-13.

Continued on pg.4

Continued from pg.3

ASC

“I witnessed a lot of things that kids my age shouldn’t see. But, my experience allowed me to observe the circumstances that led many of my peers to get caught up with the wrong crowd. I understood the root causes of their behavior (even if I couldn't quite label them as 'root causes', yet), and never saw them as 'criminals'. I just knew that they were trying to survive. Because of this experience, I know compassion and understanding is what is needed to create positive change”.

We chose to share a short excerpt from Andrea’s interview here in hope to inspire others to Dream Big and reach for the unreachable.

Andrea’s story is one of many young people who are picking up the torch, or in her case - lighting new flames all together to *be* the change they hope to see.

VERSE VAULT

**UNLOCKING THE UNTOLD STORIES OF OUR YOUTH - THESE ARE
THEIR VERSES.**

Life goes on

Life goes on
Life goes on when people leaves
Life goes on when things go wrong
Life goes on without a care in the air
Life goes on when the day turn dark
Life goes on ever when you want everything to stop
Life goes on after the last man fall
Life goes on when you don't have everything you want
Life goes on even when you don't understand it
Life goes on even when we don't want tomorrow to come
Life goes on and is faster then us all

by: Morgan Crowell

COMMUNITY EVENTS



H-E-B

**FEAST OF
SHARING**

Holiday Distribution

DRIVE-THRU

**Please stop by to pick up
H-E-B meals for your family
and a few other surprises!**

(while supplies last)

Saturday, December 2nd

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

NRG, Yellow lot

9051 Main Street

Houston, TX 77054