



Danny Tisdale, 1998



PROJECT ROW HOUSES



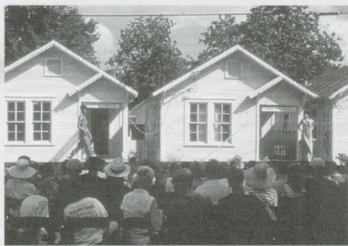
Floyd Newsome, *Tribal Markings*, 1994

Project Row Houses was founded as a result of discussions between African-American artists who believed they had a contribution to make to their own communities: a unique gift for raising issues in a way that generates constructive dialogue and creative solutions.

This vision was pursued by Houston artist and community activist Rick Lowe, who discovered the abandoned site of 22 shotgun-style houses in 1992. The African origin of the houses provided a unique environment for the creation of works which engage the community in the creative process, celebrate African-American culture and history and address educational and community issues.



Project Row Houses' mission is to **create community** through the celebration of arts and African-American history and culture.



Selven O'keefe Jarmon, *Fashion as Metaphor*, 1995

Our work is founded in public art and education programs which encompass neighborhood revitalization, historic preservation, and community service.

PRH provides a culturally and historically significant site for the presentation of art works based in issues that involve the community in the creative process.

Our programs are designed to identify and cultivate a new vision of opportunity in our Third Ward community.





Dean Ruck, *Tree House*, 2000

Artist Installations

PRH programs include the Artist Installation Projects, which consists of eight houses used as gallery spaces for the exhibition of installation art. Regional, national, international and local artists are commissioned to work within the community to create art work in one house each on a six month, rotating basis. Every six months a new group of seven artists are invited to transform one house each. One house is devoted to performance art where musicians, writers, performance artists, and others share their work with people in the community through live sponsored performances and our arts and education programs.

Chen Zhen, *Couldn't Bananas be Black?*, 1999



Art & Education Programs

PRH works intensively with 50+ neighborhood children aged 5-14 and their families in our daily after school and summer program. The comprehensive and interdisciplinary curriculum includes creative writing, visual arts, sculpture, videography, drumming, piano, dancing, and gardening. Classes are taught by education specialists and some of Houston's most talented artists.

Capriccio Park

A satellite site consisting of six buildings on four lots in our neighborhood adjacent to Mr. Cleveland Turner's House, (aka "The Flower Man's House") one of Houston's most interesting folk-art environments, will provide a location for development of a new program of intense work with 10-15 teenaged artists. The program offers enrichment to the art curricula that the students receive at inner-city high schools. Working through the process of developing the site, the students will practice the developing artistic discipline known variously as community-based arts practice, cultural development, public art activity. They are guided in identifying and developing a project based in community issues while simultaneously working on drawing, painting, & sculpture and applying this expertise in the context of their project.

The Young Mothers Residential Program

is an integral part of the nurturing Project Row Houses community where young single mothers and their children live in beautifully redesigned, fully-furnished shotgun houses. In one year residencies, under the guidance of a mentor who lives on site, and social services professionals, young mothers aged 18-26 are provided housing while they work and further their education. A consortium of agencies work with the young families to develop skills needed for independent, self-sufficient lives.

houses

Community Garden

In collaboration with Urban Harvest, a community garden has been established at PRH. Tended by volunteers, the garden thrives in a space where five houses had been torn down.



Music & Arts Festival

During the third weekend of each October, PRH is proud to present its annual Music & Arts Festival. This annual event celebrates the richness of African-American culture and highlights its contributions to the community. The exhibition and sale of fine art by artists and artisans is one of the highlights of the festival. In addition, live music, great food and activities for children and families provide a fun and memorable experience for everyone.



Natalie Lovejoy, *Lost Innocence*, 1997

Community Development

Last year PRH (a certified Community Housing Development Organization) expanded its YMRP housing initiative in collaboration with Rice Builders Workshop. Together, we raised private funds and Rice University architecture faculty and students designed and built an award-winning 1,000 sq. ft. home on one of four lots we acquired adjacent to the PRH site. Plans to build additional homes for low income residents are underway.

In 1997, Chevron gave a \$10,000 grant to purchase the two-story brick storefront building that anchors the corner of our site. In the early 1930s, this historic building housed the Italian family who ran the neighborhood grocery downstairs and developed the working class rental housing that has become Project Row Houses.





Through Chevron's continued support we were able to complete renovation of the building which now serves dual purposes as administrative offices on the second floor and community meeting space on the first floor.

Lastly, the most visible and exciting new site development in PRH's portfolio is a donation of property we received from an area landholder: two blocks of land and a building located on Third Ward's commercial corridor at Dowling & Elgin Streets (two blocks from the PRH site). The site is in a direct line, ten minutes from the new downtown stadium and associated development. It is also across the street from Emancipation Park, a park of historic consequence to Texas' African-American community, dating back to the aftermath of the Civil War.

The sole building on the site, the Eldorado Ballroom, was the center of one of the most remarkable musical communities in America, where internationally-recognized blues performers such as Sam "Lightning" Hopkins, Albert Collins, Johnny "Guitar" Watson, Johnny Clyde Copeland, and Joe Hughes all lived and performed within a few blocks of each other. Major big bands of the 1950s and 1960s passed through the club's doors.



The role of art is to
express the triumph
of the human spirit over
the mundane & material...
it is also to express
the universal myths &
archetypes of the
universal family of man.

Tierney Malone and Bert Samples' *Jazz Listening Room*,
Horace Grigsby shown, 2001



↑ we thank you

Many individual volunteers, neighborhood groups, service and art organizations, corporations and foundations joined together to open the doors of Project Row Houses and continue to help us grow. They have our deepest appreciation.

Major Funding for Operations & Programs

Albert List Foundation
Amoco Foundation
Anonymous
Brown Foundation
Chase Manhattan Foundation
The Chevron Companies
Clayton Fund
Cultural Arts Council of Houston
Harris County
Andrea Frank Foundation
Heimbinder Family Foundation
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People in Partnership
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Southwestern Bell
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Threshold Foundation
Andy Warhol Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation
U.S. Home Corporation

(Major Funding... cont.)

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Major In-kind Donations

Amoco Torch Classic
Arthur Andersen
The Chevron Companies
Entex
Masco Corporation
Southern States Distribution, Inc.
U.S. Home Corporation

House Challenge

(sponsor one house each)

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
Blaffer Owen Gallery
The Boeing Companies
The Chevron Companies
Frenchy's
William Hill Land & Cattle Company
Lester Marks and Jay Marks Mazda / Hyundai
Masco Corporation
Anglebert Metoyer
Stewart Morris Family
Betty Pecore
Trinity United Methodist Church
U.S. Home Corporation
Woman's Day Special Interest Publications



🏠 get involved

Students from Third Ward schools are invited to work with artists in After School and Weekend workshops and seminars, as tour docents and artist assistants. Please call the office at (713) 526-7662 to learn more more about program dates and times.



As an individual, there are various ways for you to become involved in Project Row Houses. Volunteers sharing effort and expertise are always welcome. Donations of construction and artist materials, equipment and office supplies are always gratefully accepted. You can also become a neighbor to PRH through your donation of \$15, \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$250.



As an artist, we invite you to become involved by submitting proposals for installation, photography, art education and literary projects.

Project Row Houses

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