TechConnect

Houston

Childhood & Youth Committee

June 14, 2023

What is TechConnect?

- Created in 2016 to help bridge digital equity
- Target populations
  - Children 6-13 in HPARD Summer Enrichment Program
  - Interns 16-24
- Brings STEM resources to underserved youth
- Literacy enrichment – Summer Reading Program
- TechConnect Fairs
  - Twice a week starting June 21st

TechConnect Houston – Non-Profit, 501(c)(3)

- June 13, 2022
- 4 Board Members
  - President
  - Vice President
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
- 2 Ex Officio Board Members
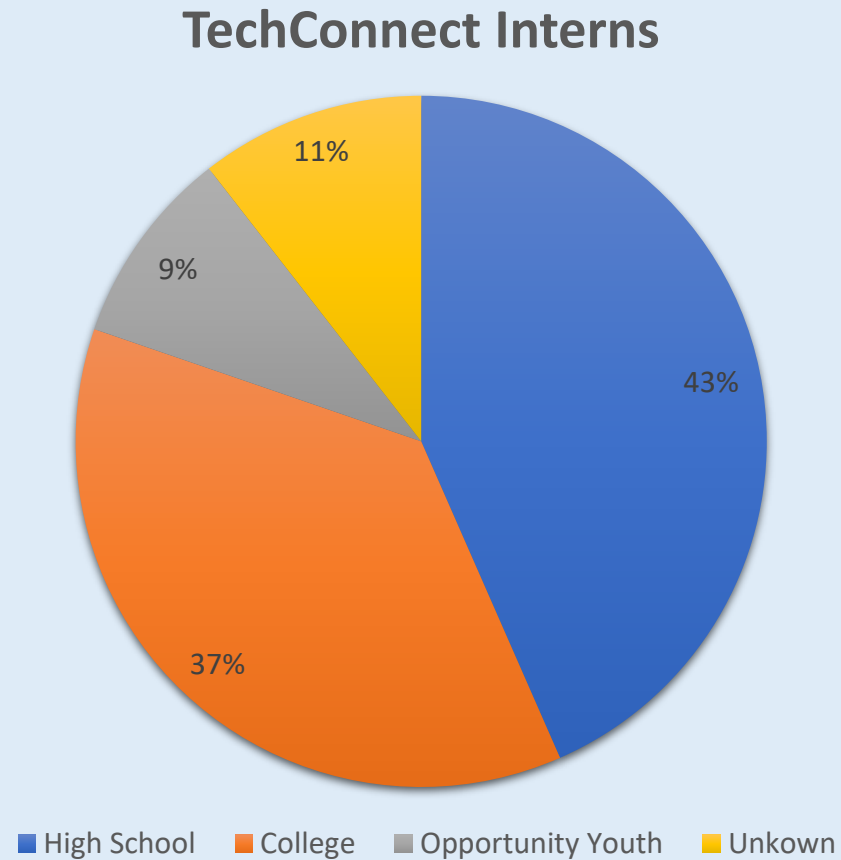- Mayor's Office of Education – Sponsoring Department

Data

- Children Served: 551 (Sep 21 – May 23)

- Value
  - iPads - $ 105,000
  - STEM Kits - $ 109,000

TechConnect Interns 2017 – May 2023

TechConnect Interns

43% — High School
37% — College
9% — Opportunity Youth
11% — Unkown

■ High School ■ College ■ Opportunity Youth ■ Unkown

Resource Providers

CITY PARTNERS

Mayor Sylvester Turner

Mayor's Office of Education

Houston Parks and Recreation Department

Houston Public Library Department

Legal Department

Houston Public Works Department

HTV

Human Resource Department

Houston Police Department

Green Building Resource Center (Houston Permitting Center)

HITS

District H Council Office

BARC

Houston Fire Department

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

TXRX

Comp-U-Dopt

Children's Museum

Houston Humane Society

Storyhive

Garza Studio

Harris County Library

Houston VR

Code Wiz

Greentown Labs

Houston B-Cycle

Bike Houston

Land Art Generator

Avenue CDC

METRO

TechConnect HOUSTON BOARD of DIRECTORS

Gaby Salcedo, President

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Karla Cisneros, Ex Officio

Olivera Jankovska, Ex Officio

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Apple

Comcast

Dell Technologies

Microsoft

Nuro

Timbergrove Solutions

Boeing

Verizon

Coca-Cola

NASA

GRIND

AT&T

EDUCATION PARTNERS

Texas Education Service Center, Region 13

University of Houston

Rice University

Houston Community College

University of Houston Downtown

Lamar University
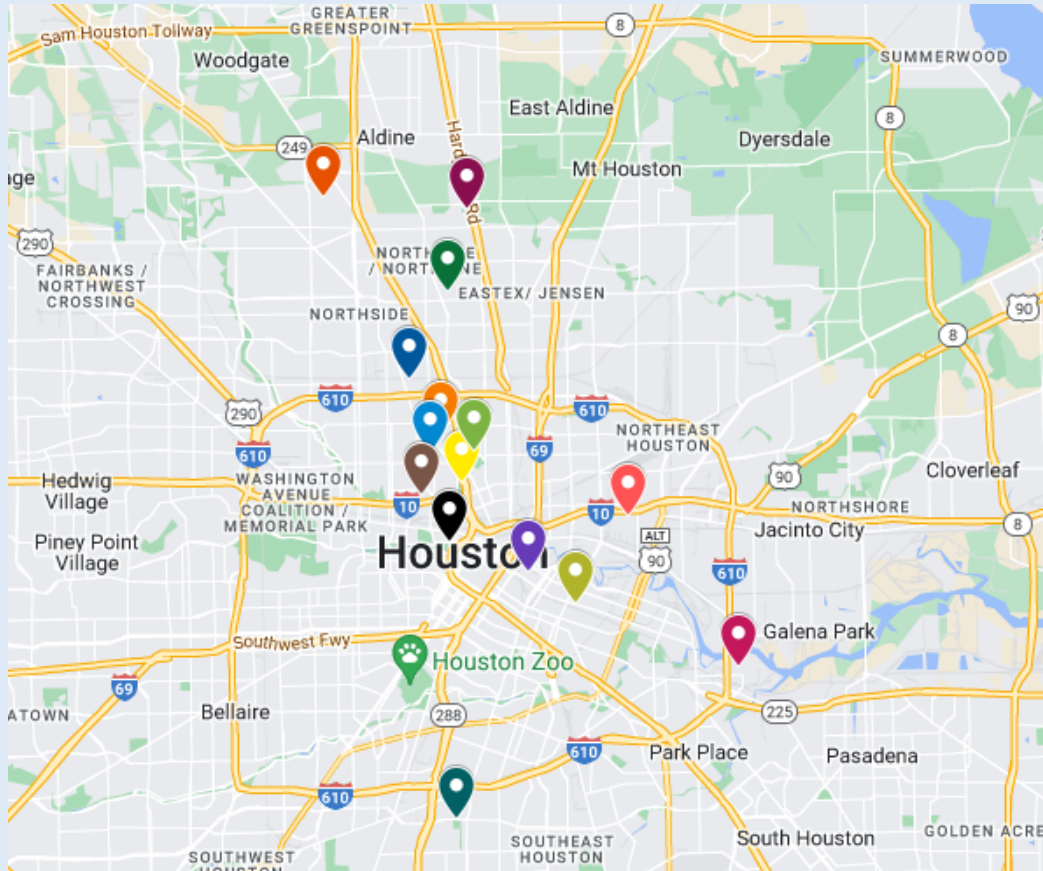
Houston Independent School District

Houston Parks and Recreation Department

- Summer Enrichment Program
  - Dates, hours
  - Cost
  - How to signup

- This summer 15 TechConnect Sites

- Previously there were 12 sites, all within District H. This summer, TechConnect is expanding to include 3 new sites in Districts B, D, and I. In Acres Homes, Sunnyside, and Manchester

Locations

- Melrose Community Center
- Clark Community Center
- Moody Community Center
- Independence Heights Community Center
- Montie Beach Community Center
- Proctor Plaza Community Center
- Woodland Community Center
- Stude Community Center
- Fonde Community Center
- Lincoln City Community Center
- Denver Harbor Multi-service Center
- Eastwood Community Center
- Hartman Community Center
- Sunnyside Community Center

TechConnect Locations - Google My Maps

Houston Parks and Recreation Department

- Impact on the community

- Free public WIFI

- Rolling book cart with high interest books

- 2 Interns per site

- Daily TechConnect Programming

- TechConnect Fairs

TechConnect Fairs

- Twice a week

- Move to different sites

- Guest resource provides operate station that the kids pass through

TechConnect Fairs

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ygN_19aPIM

TechConnect Fairs

June 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
19	20	**Fonde** 21	22	**Melrose** 23
		Apple		TXRX
26	27	**Denver Harbor** 28	29	**Sunnyside** 30
		HPL HPW		HPL Dell

July 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	**Lincoln Park** 7
				HPW
10	11	**Montie Beach** 12	13	**Eastwood** 14
		HPL HPW CAS HPW HFD		Land Art Generator HPL Dell
17	18	**Clark** 19	20	**Hartman** 21
		Storyhive		HFD TXRX
24	25	**Independence Hts** 26	27	**Moody** 28
		HPL Codewiz HPW HPW CAS Dell		Apple

TechConnect Resources

- 147 iPads and 15 Charging Cases
- STEM Kits – Over 800 kits

Littlebits	Magna-Tiles	KEVA Contraptions Plank Set
Code & Go Mouse	Chess	TXRX Popsicle Stick Catapults
Cubelets	Sphero BOLT	TXRX Roller Coaters
Gears Galore! & Gears! Gears! Gears!	RYZE Tello EDU Drone	TXRX Homopolar Motor
Skate Park Build & Play	Dewey the Document Camera Stand (Microscope)	TXRX Earthquake Towers
OWI Robotics X in 1 Renewable Energy	Snap Circuit – My Home	TXRX Ring-Wing Gliders
Scrib	Snap Circuit – Green Energy	TXRX 3 Little Pigs & the Big Bad Wolf Challenge
Chinese Checkers	Sphero RVR & Sphero Indi	TXRX Mechanical Switch Design Challenge: Superhero Edition

TechConnect Resources

- Awaiting the delivery of
  - RYZE Tello EDU Drone
  - DJI Robomaster TT Tello Educational Drone (Swarm Drones)
  - Osmo Creative Kit

TechConnect Interns

- Day to Day
  - Manage and lead all of the STEM activities
  - In partnership with managers – organize and schedule different age group and facilitate hands on exploration of resources
  - Interns do a read aloud with children everyday and record their participation as part of Houston Public Library Summer Reading Program
  - Beyond their TechConnect responsibilities, TechConnect interns may assist park staff as needed for other activities

Daily Program

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQaxi7Gof3I

TechConnect Interns

- Interns will participate in the twice a week, TechConnect Fairs, where they may either lead an activity station or assist a guest resource provider.

- Impact on children

- Noe's story

TechConnect Interns

- Professional Development Opportunities for interns
  - Issued an iPad for use during program
  - Earn Apple Teacher certifications
  - Participate in a weekly hour-long virtual class with Apple Professionals

Future of TechConnect

- Adoption as a City of Houston program to be embedded in HPARD ensures sustainability

- TechConnect Houston, as a COH 501(c)(3) organization can easily accept outside funding

- Plan is that the current manger will remain until end of June 2025, to facilitate the transition to the Parks Department

- 30 dedicated positions for TechConnect Interns within Hire Houston Youth

Future of TechConnect

- There are enough resources on hand to support the operation of TechConnect at 15 sites through the summer of 2025
- While primarily a summer program, the goal is to begin hosting TechConnect Fairs throughout the academic year
- Wish List
  - 3D Printers
  - Augmented Reality Devices
  - 50 more iPads
  - Keeping an eye out for new developments in technology
  - Opportunities for partnerships