City Connections FY19 Report

City of Houston - Council District H

The Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids (CASE for Kids), a division of Harris County Department of Education (HCDE), collaborated with the office of Council Member Karla Cisneros to fund fourteen (14) out-of-school time (OST) programs through the ***City Connections*** program. Diverse services were provided to 234 students in kindergarten through twelfth grade (ranging in ages from 6 to 18 years) from October 8, 2018 to May 24, 2019. The programs provided engaging academic and enrichment activities in a safe and inclusive learning environment after school.

Some of the activities offered to youth during ***City Connections*** project term included performance and fine arts, STEM courses, homework assistance, nutrition and cooking courses, and college & career readiness. Grantees utilized program quality improvement funds to enhance their programming such as professional development training for staff, repairing program materials/instruments, and attending conferences related to their program work in the OST field. Grantees reported a few challenges during the project period such as site collaboration, program cancellation due to ITC fire, and scheduling issues. Overall, nonprofit organizations were successful in keeping kids safe and inspiring learning after school.

Summary of Funded Projects for City Connections- District H

Organization	Project Sites	Awarded Amount	Students Served
Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans (AAMA)	George I. Sanchez North Charter School	$5,000	66
FotoFest International	Durkee Elementary School Northline Elementary School YES Prep- Northside	$5,000	37
Sketch City	Baker-Ripley Leonel Castillo Community Center	$5,000	41
Wesley Community Center	Sherman Elementary School	$5,000	51
Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts (MECA)	MECA Durkee Elementary School	$5,000	55

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Houston Youth Symphony	Looscan Elementary School Sherman Elementary School Jefferson Elementary School Martinez Elementary School	$5,000	107
Promoters of Education, Awareness, & Community Engagement (PEACE)	Marshall Middle School	$5,000	36
Greater Emmanuel Family Worship Center	Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church Browning Elementary School	$5,000	57
Young Audiences of Houston	Eliot Elementary School Lyons Elementary School Crockett Elementary School	$5,000	64
Neighbors in Action	Port Houston Elementary School	$5,000	17
Girls on the Run Greater Houston	Pugh Elementary School Eliot Elementary School	$5,000	41
Color of Life Community Resource and Activity Center	Booker T. Washington High School Boys & Girls Club- Aldine Westfield	$5,000	67
Talento Bilingue de Houston	Burnett Elementary School	$5,000	47
Brazilian Arts Foundation	Brazilian Arts Foundation	$5,000	28
City Council District H Totals		**$70,000**	**714**

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Program Highlights

CASE for Kids requires ***City Connections*** grantees to submit a final report on funded project activities. The information below summarizes the out-of-school time programming provided by each grantee.

Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans (AAMA)

The City Connections grant allowed AAMA to provide after-school, extra-curricular activities to students at Sanchez- North. Students were eager to participate in the program due to the variety of activities offered is aligned with their preferences. This allowed students to participate in structured, supervised, engaging activities after school in a safe and productive environment. Studies show that providing after-school activities for at-risk youth is beneficial for students, families, and communities

FotoFest International

Students participating in Literacy Through Photography (LTP) program successfully engaged with the LTP curriculum to broaden their social/emotional learning, visual literacy, and photographic art skills. Students explored the different themes of the LTP curriculum through a variety of engaging lessons and projects that will be exhibited in the 2019 FotoFinish exhibition at Silver Street Studios. Students from Durkee Elementary discussed DREAMS throughout their artist residency and created three-dimensional hot air balloon structures with baskets displaying different facets of their dreams and portraits they took during the residency. Students from Yes Prep Northside explored what HOME and COMMUNITY meant to them, analyzing photographs from FotoFest exhibiting photographers and creating collages mounted on plexiglass that showcased their photography and writing. Students from Northline Elementary explored SELF by reflecting on how they see themselves in the world and painting 4-foot by 6-foot canvases displaying their photography for their final project. On March 8, 2019, students from YES Prep Northside were also able to visit FotoFest's spring exhibition, "The Assembly" and were able to engage with the work presented in preparation for their artist residency.

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Sketch City

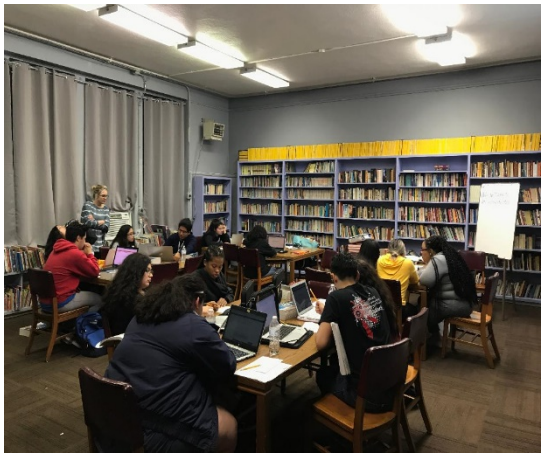
Sketch City ran after school creative coding clubs where students-built projects using a language called Scratch. These projects included stories, animations, games, and music makers. Our goal was to expose students to computer science and empower them with creative confidence in using technology. The projects provide a creative outlet for students. The students interact with and receive informal mentoring from professional programmers. Some students were able to show their projects to the class upon completion and collaborate with other students on larger projects.

Wesley Community Center

Wesley Community Center's after-school programs assist with the needs of student's academic and social/emotional development with an emphasis on art and literacy this year, and youth were allowed to think critically about issues affecting their community through the arts. After School to Achieve (ASTA) helped teach the students how to appreciate and express themselves through music and dance. The Houston Center for Photography was contracted to provide the students with a rich photography program. Additionally, HCP engaged the students in the City of Houston Love Your Pet initiative. They took cameras home to photograph both strays and examples of responsible pet ownership in their community.

Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts (MECA)

MECA was able to provide college and career readiness workshops on resume building, career exploration, college exploration, tutoring, financial aid information, and scholarship search. MECA was also able to provide two SAT prep classes in the Spring semester and a field trip to the Houston Hispanic Forum Career and Education day. Through the Mariachi program at Durkee Elementary, MECA was able to provide quality cultural arts programming. Durkee was fully supportive in participating for the best outcome, and logistically, there was always a designated classroom for student rehearsals as well as a place to store instruments in a secure location.



Houston Youth Symphony

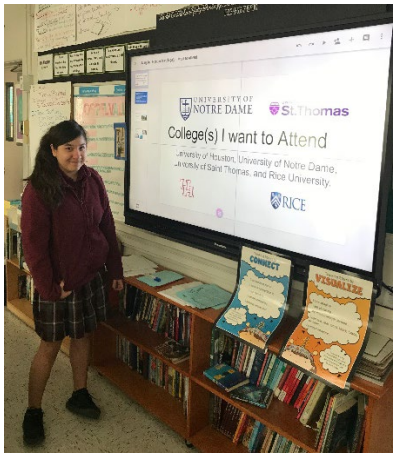
The HYS Coda Music Program provided group string instruction to students after school at Looscan, Sherman and Jefferson Elementary schools, and expanded to include C. Martinez Elementary. Students mastered working on rhythm and note reading and learning to play as an ensemble. Students were given the responsibility of caring for their instruments and practicing at home. The program included two community concerts for senior citizens at Wesley Community Center in December and April, school assembly performances for all students at each school in December, and a performance as part of WindSync's Onstage/Offstage Chamber Music Festival at the Hobby Center. The final concert included a creative composition written by the students

Promoters of Education, Awareness, & Community Engagement (PEACE)

PEACE provided the New Adventures after-school program at Marshall MS for the first time. Activities included the gardening program and a robotics program. PEACE partnered with Seeds of the Soil (SOTS) to accomplish the garden renovation project and provided youth gardening activities. Additionally, a weekend gardening event was hosted for students, faculty, staff, and community members, including Chicken Mike, who assisted with the chicken coop.

Greater Emmanuel Family Worship Center

Greater Emmanuel Family Worship Center offered college awareness & readiness workshops at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic School & Browning Elementary. Programming included academic enrichment emphasizing STEM careers, while incorporating art, and college readiness skills. Students also participated in inquiry-based challenges that support overall academic growth, develop early critical thinking and reasoning skills, and inspire later interest in STEM study and careers. Through real-life examples, students were able to build a conceptual understanding.



Young Audiences of Houston

Young Audiences offered programming for Lyons, Eliot and Crockett Elementary schools. Each campus was able to expand arts enrichment to their students and families; built on a platform for students to express themselves culturally, and artistically in a safe environment. Each program culminated in a showcase of learning. Two dance and culture demonstrations were done by our Danza Azteca troupes at Lyons and Eliot, and our Just Add Beats Audio Teams at Crockett.

Neighbors in Action

Neighbors in Action offered a culinary arts club at Port Houston Elementary. Students were able to learn and identify more than 20 types of fruits and 20 types of vegetables as well as learn basic cooking methods, ranging from the blending method to working with fresh dough and yeast. Woven into our weekly lessons, were lessons on the importance of kitchen safety. We also achieved objectives of working together as teams, helping each other, and being respectful - listening when others were talking and learning about other cultures and countries by exploring the foods they eat.

Girls on the Run Greater Houston

The Girls on the Run after-school program was offered at Pugh Elementary and Eliot Elementary. They were both successful, and girls at both campuses were able to enjoy this transformative that taught girls learning about healthy choices, the importance of kindness and choosing friends wisely, and other social-emotional components of the curriculum. The program also had a service-project component, that taught girls the importance of taking pride and giving back to their communities

Color of Life Community Resource & Activity Center

Color of Life was able to facilitate programming at two different sites. Booker T. Washington High School offered the EPIC writing program, a dynamic literary outlet dedicated to giving participants a healthy way to express their feelings and emotions by writing and reading aloud. Participants received very encouraging feedback in a fun and safe environment. Youth learned how to write & enjoy the process and overcome the fear of public speaking and gain a sense of self-awareness. At the Boys & Girls Club - Aldine Westfield, a percussion music program allowed youth to learn rhythms on drums. Youth also learned life principles, which included obedience and respect.

Talento Bilingue de Houston

Cultural arts beginners' program, by Talento Bilingue de Houston, is an instructional class geared toward mariachi music, that consist of instruments composed of a small ensemble including violins and guitars. The class was on the history of the genre of traditional mariachi music. Included in the class timeline was the learning of 3 traditional songs. The idea was to expose the students to performing arts, with students learning and desiring to continue the tradition to celebrate with the international language of mariachi music that they have grown up with, from el Huapango, la polka, la cumbia, la ranchera, to el Jarabe Tapatio.

Brazilian Arts Foundation

Participants of the Brazilian Arts Foundation program learned about all aspects of the Afro-Brazilian art called Capoeira and another folkloric dance called Maculele. They learn 24 different movements in Capoeira, played five different musical instruments, learned three different rhythms with variations, and learned greetings, numbers, days of the week, months of the year, body parts, colors and six different songs all in Portuguese. The biggest success was the participation of kids but also the parents and even one grandmother; it was amazing to see them playing music and dancing as a family, they were all engaged and eager to learn.

Other programs funded by CASE for Kids in District H

Project/Program	Campus/Site/Organization
Partnership	Lyons Elementary
21st CCLC/ Texas ACE	Promise Community School at Baker-Ripley

For additional information regarding the content in this report, contact HCDE - CASE for Kids staff:

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About CASE for Kids:

As an afterschool intermediary, the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids, or CASE for Kids, provides resources, training and funding for students in grades pre-k through 12 in afterschool programs in schools, child care facilities and community centers. Services benefit approximately 12,000 kids in greater Harris County. CASE for Kids programs happens before and after school, on weekends and during the summer. As a branch of Harris County Department of Education, the division was founded in 1999 to keep kids safe, help working families, and improve academic achievement. For more information, visit www.afterschoolzone.org. For additional information about HCDE services, please visit our website at www.hcde-texas.org.