



Press Release

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CONTACT: Estella Espinosa
Work: (832) 395-7022
Cell: (832) 465-4782

City of Houston Thanks Bank of America For Funding Summer Youth Employment

Grant placed 50 youth in summer jobs with City of Houston Departments and other local nonprofits

Mayor Annise Parker proclaimed today Bank of America Day as a thank you to the bank for its Summer Youth Initiative and job creation effort. For the second year in a row, Bank of America has partnered with SER Jobs for Progress to provide job funding for internships with the City of Houston.

"Bank of America shares two goals of mine – to create jobs for Houstonians and to focus on young people as future leaders," said Mayor Annise Parker. "Last year they placed 26 young interns with the City of Houston. This year they have provided employment opportunities to 50 young people. We are thankful to our corporate sponsor for supporting our city and most especially our youth."

The Bank of America Summer Employment Initiative is a partnership with Mayor's offices around the country, providing at-risk teens with job opportunities at local nonprofits and businesses during the summer. The partnership is now in its second year, with more than 1,050 teens placed in paid jobs in 2013. The Bank of America Summer Youth Employment Initiative provides students with vital workforce development opportunities during a time when teen unemployment remains the highest of any working group at 24.1%.

In addition, Bank of America has partnered with nonprofit organizations in 13 cities across the franchise to support the 2013 Consumer Summer Intern Program. This program is designed to provide over 130 high school seniors an opportunity to gain valuable work experience in a professional environment while also educating customers on financial wellness activities and convenient banking options.

"Teens continue to have the highest unemployment rate of any working group," said Kim Ruth, Texas president, Bank of America. "Through our collaboration with the Mayor's office, our Summer Youth Employment Initiative enabled students to receive more than just a paycheck. They were able to learn valuable skills that will translate into better paying jobs in the future."

When funding for the Houston summer jobs program dried up in 2012, Bank of America stepped in to partner with the city and put 26 teens to work as gate attendants at city pools in 2012. This increased the number of visitors that could be accommodated at any one of these pools.

"The summer season is a high traffic time at our area parks and pools. Bank of America's continuing support through their Summer Youth Employment Initiative helps us handle the extra visitors," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department. "We are very thankful to Bank of America for their support of both Houston parks and youth."

Based on the success of this program in 2012, Bank of America nearly doubled the number of teens supported in 2013 – bringing the total to 50 young adults. In 2013, Bank of America once again partnered with SER Jobs for Progress to recruit, hire, and train the youth – including a week's worth of job

skills training such as communications, workplace etiquette, and financial education. Twenty-six young adults were placed with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. Twenty-four are working as registration attendants at city pools and two work at the department's main administration campus.

Bank of America expanded their program by engaging several arts nonprofits to host the remaining youth interns for the summer. The youth are seeing job opportunities they would have never been able to experience and the nonprofits are seeing a new pool of potential fulltime employees.

Bank of America Summer Youth Initiative Interns are working at the following agencies:

- 26 at City of Houston pools as attendants
- 2 at Houston Ballet
- 2 at Houston Grand Opera
- 2 at Alley Theatre
- 1 at Houston Symphony
- 2 at San Jose Clinic
- 2 at City of Houston
- 1 at East End Chamber of Commerce
- 1 at Catholic Charities
- 1 at SER Jobs for Progress
- 10 at Bank of America banking centers

About Bank of America's Corporate Social Responsibility

Bank of America's commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a strategic part of doing business globally. Our CSR efforts guide how we operate in a socially, economically, financially and environmentally responsible way across more than 100 markets around the world, to deliver for shareholders, customers, clients and employees. Our goal is to help create economically vibrant regions and communities through lending, investing and giving. By partnering with our stakeholders, we create shared value that empowers individuals and communities to thrive and contributes to the long-term success of our business. We have several core areas of focus for our CSR, including responsible business practices; environmental sustainability; strengthening local communities with a focus on housing, hunger and jobs; investing in global leadership development; and engaging through arts and culture. Learn more at www.bankofamerica.com/opportunity and follow us on Twitter at @BofA_Community.

About the Houston Parks and Recreation Department

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,832 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.