



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **New Outdoor Learning Space for Students in Houston**

Young Audiences of Houston Receives \$45,000 Grant to Support Project

**HOUSTON, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2022** - This project led by Young Audiences of Houston will expand and refresh the green space at Blackshear Elementary for teachers and students to enjoy. Blackshear Elementary will have a beautiful Living Mural garden, child-friendly pathways, a refreshed playground area, modular seating for outdoor learning, and shades that include charging and wi-fi stations to extend learning beyond the classroom walls. Family and community members will have access to an organic edible garden to cultivate fresh vegetables and native plant species to beautify their school community through environmentally supportive gardening and growing. This project combines arts, science, environmental learning, and design and will be supported by a \$45,000 grant to Young Audiences of Houston.

# Living Mural Creativity & Innovation Lab

**bold new child-centered greenspaces and outdoor classrooms  
for houston children and communities**



Young Audiences of Houston's Living Mural projects have expanded over the past five years and support 13 schools across the region today. Young Audiences of Houston's Executive Director, Mary Curry Mettenbrink, shared, "*this organization believes in innovative thinking and design to support children is imperative. Countless studies have proven that children thrive in outdoor learning and green spaces both emotionally and academically. We are thankful that the Lowe's*

*Hometowns grant will support this project to benefit students and teachers at Blackshear Elementary."*

Research on the benefits of outdoor and arts integration learning for students [here](#).

This year is the first of a five-year, \$100 million commitment from Lowe's to the communities it serves, with this year's projects spanning 40 states and Washington, D.C. You can learn more about the program [here](#).

Please get in touch with Christelyn Nash at Young Audiences of Houston for any volunteers interested in supporting this project for the fall.

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## About Young Audiences, Inc. of Houston

Young Audiences, Inc. of Houston, a Texas nonprofit corporation founded in 1956, is an independent chapter of Young Audiences, Inc., the nation's leading arts-in-education nonprofit organization, and first organization to be awarded the National Medal of Arts.

Now in its 66th year, Young Audiences of Houston implements over 908 programs each year with 176 talented artists that reach over 119,095 students and teachers annually at schools, libraries, community centers, and hospitals with limited programming for college and adult continuing education programs, Young Audiences of Houston primarily serves children Pre-K through the 12th grade within the boundaries of the 51 greater Houston area school districts, including counties of Harris, Montgomery, Liberty, Waller, Brazoria, Matagorda, Fort Bend, Jefferson, Polk, Galveston, Orange, Wharton, Jeff Davis, and Jackson.



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