



## HOUSTON ACTION RESEARCH TEAM



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### *Addressing Educational Engagement with the Third Ward, Spring 2018*

This HART, comprised of undergraduate students from political science, biochemistry, cognitive sciences, and sociology, collaborated with Workshop Houston, to assess the educational needs of students in the Third Ward in order to improve Workshop Houston's ability to align with ongoing education initiatives. The team interviewed teachers, administrators, non-profit staff, and volunteers, as well as current Workshop Houston participants to determine what students are learning, where gaps exist, and how to best fill those gaps. A major theme that emerged was that youth living in the Third Ward experience deficits in literacy. The team provided recommendations for specific curricular support to address general, scientific, and technology literacy, as well as resources for career preparation. The team also analyzed Workshop Houston's existing outreach efforts. Despite an active social media presence, findings demonstrated that local educators were not aware of Workshop Houston and students were mostly recruited through word of mouth. The team recommended strengthening its connections to local schools and non-profit organizations already serving the Third Ward community and tailoring social media posts to differentially target youth, parents, volunteers, and donors.