



Keep Austin Beautiful mobilizes 4,000 volunteers in county-wide day of service

Volunteers to clean and restore open spaces across Austin on April 14

AUSTIN, TX - Keep Austin Beautiful Day 2018, a county-wide annual service day presented by Samsung Austin Semiconductor, is scheduled for Saturday, April 14. One hundred twenty projects are confirmed. Ranging from cleanups of waterways and illegal dumpsites to environmental restoration and beautification work in creeks, parks, and other open spaces, the event is expected to remove 25 tons of trash from public spaces.

Referencing the 1,000 volunteer spaces available for the event, Keep Austin Beautiful's Executive Director, Rodney Ahart, says, "Each year we are amazed by the response from the Austin community to volunteer. Keep Austin Beautiful Day not only beautifies our beloved city, but it also expands our culture of service."

FEATURED PROJECT LOCATIONS

WHEN: Saturday, April 14, 2018

Featured Site 1

Where: LBJ Early College High School – 7309 Lazy Creek Dr., 78724

Time: 9 am – 11 am

Description: Keep Austin Beautiful Day presenting sponsor Samsung has 100 volunteers slated to beautify the grounds at LBJ High School.

KEEP AUSTIN BEAUTIFUL DAY VOLUNTEER PARTY

WHEN: Saturday April 14, 2018

TIME: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

WHERE: Huston-Tillotson University, entrance at E 8th Street and Chalmers Ave

WHAT: After all of the hard work keeping our city beautiful, volunteers gather for a Keep Austin Beautiful Day Volunteer Appreciation Party at Huston-Tillotson, featuring live music from Huck Johnson and the Jackknives, free lunch, door prizes, activities for youth, a contest for the most unusual items found during the cleanup, and preliminary work on restoring a bluebonnet field on campus grounds.

ESSA Demands Full Transparency on K-12 Educational Funding

By Lauren Poteat | NNPA Newswire Contributor



Public school systems throughout the nation will now be required to be a lot more transparent when it comes to school funding.

According to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2015, all public schools nationwide, will be required to give fully-detailed reports on how and where they spend institutional funding.

The ESSA reporting requirement for school funding begins in December 2019, and supporters of the rule, including the NAACP, believe it will help to encourage greater educational equity, particularly among schools serving large numbers of Black and Hispanic students in low-income neighborhoods.

"We need more equitable and adequate funding for all schools serving students of color," said Victor Goode, the education director for the NAACP. "Why? Because education funding has been inadequate and unequal for students of color for hundreds of years. Second, privatization forces are working to eliminate our public schools and, with it, transparency, public accountability and access to all."

Goode said that ESSA requires a breakdown of how student need is met with a focus on equity over equal distribution for funding.

Goode continued: "That explains the reason behind the school-by-school, per pupil spending report. This kind of public transparency is a good thing and can help provide more meaningful parental and community engagement, which is also essential to accountabil-

ity and achieving educational equity."

According to the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit public policy organization, based in Washington, D.C., that conducts research on solving societal problems locally, nationwide and globally, to date minority students are still far more less likely than White students to have adequate school resources.

In addition, the Brookings Institution reported that schools with predominantly Black and Hispanic children, on average, are nearly twice as large as White schools—reaching an estimated 3,000 students or more in most cities, with lower-quality curriculum offerings and less qualified teachers (in terms of levels of education, certification, and training in the fields they teach), all of which George H. Lambert, Jr., president and CEO of the Greater Washington Urban League, believes can be rectified through adequate funding.

"Through the availability of [ESSA] data, Black and [Hispanic] educators can begin to prove that Black and [Hispanic] students suffer from funding disparities and the lack of teachers in the classroom who look like them or represent their perspective," Lambert said. "We need better, more transparent data on school funding. The availability of such data and our ability to access it forces greater urgency on what is, arguably the most important issue of our time."

Lambert said that any discussion on educational equity should acknowledge the enormous achievement gaps that still plague Black and Hispanic students.

Property Tax Town Hall Meeting

Saturday

April 21, 2018

1 pm – 3 pm

Hosted By:

Council Members Ora Houston and Pio Renteria

District 1 and District 3

Join local leaders and tax experts for an informational forum about local property taxes. The goal of this meeting is to provide educational tools for:

Appeals will be conducted on-site beginning at 12 Noon!!

- ❖ Property Exemptions
- ❖ Protesting Your Taxes
- ❖ Convenient Payment Options
- ❖ The Appraisal Process
- ❖ Keeping Your Property in the Family



Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center

808 Nile St., Austin, TX. 78702



Admission is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served

THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER'S

FRONT PORCH GATHERING

CONNECTING COMMUNITY | FOSTERING COLLABORATIONS

As the "front porch" of The University of Texas at Austin (UT), the Community Engagement Center (CEC) initiates and stewards successful community-university partnerships that connect the resources of the university with individuals, groups, and institutions in historically and current underserved Austin communities. CEC's Front Porch Gathering represents UT's open door to the Austin community, providing time and space for community collaboration. Designed to activate more than just dialogue, the Front Porch series connects UT research and resources with engaged community organizations and community members to identify strategies, align efforts, and foster collaborative relationships. The monthly gathering works to address issues of equity, disparity, and access through active engagement.

HEALTHCARE EQUITY AND RESHAPING ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS

As the social and economic demographics in Central Texas continue to shift, the narrative surrounding health care access, community wellness and health equity for traditionally underserved populations is both complex and consequential. Health disparities reflect the differences in health status between different groups of people, and Austin continues to see inconsistency in the health and wellness of particular communities based on location and economic mobility.

Join community residents, thought leaders and health advocates for an exploration of the current resources, systems and approaches to addressing public health, access to care, behavioral health challenges, mental health wellness and community services for our community's most vulnerable populations.

Tuesday, April 17 @ 6:30 p.m.
Austin Community College
Multi-Purpose Room | Eastview Campus
3401 Webberville Rd—8000

Food will be provided

For more information about the Front Porch Gathering, please call: (512) 232-8586.
<http://diversity.utexas.edu/communityengagement/community-engagement-center>

