“I want to thank HPM Health Reporter Sara Willa Ernst for her work regarding health disparities in the Houston region. I’ve lived in Galveston for over 10 years, and it was ultimately her reporting that finally pushed me over the edge to donate to Houston Public Media (embarrassingly long overdue). Thank you HPM for your tireless work in keeping our region informed. We look forward to supporting you for years to come.”

Shannon Guillot-Wright, PhD
Assistant Professor, Center for Violence Prevention at UTMB
DID YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE IS POWERED BY YOU?

A new voice has joined I SEE U with Eddie Robinson, Houston Public Media’s newest talk show and podcast that focuses on stories about cultural identity, social justice, and how people find a place for themselves between perception and self-identity. Dr. Melanye Price, political science professor at Prairie View A&M University and principal investigator for their African American Studies Initiative, has been a frequent guest on Town Square as an expert guide into topics such as social justice and the impact of new Texas laws. Now, she will guest host for the next few weeks as Eddie Robinson takes paternity leave to spend time with his son. You can subscribe to I SEE U wherever you get your podcasts, or you can listen Saturdays at 1pm on News 88.7 and at houstonpublicmedia.org. Inaugural Director of The Ruth J. Simmons Center for Race and Justice, Price’s partnership with Houston Public Media and engagement with our community is vital to our growth and keeping us connected – and it is all powered by you.
A LOOK AT THE MONTH’S LOCAL COVERAGE

HEALTH & SCIENCE
Former Houston Methodist employees demand their jobs back after Abbott’s vaccine mandate ban

Houston attorney Jared Woodfill, who currently represents almost 200 healthcare workers in multiple lawsuits against Methodist, said executive order GA-40 makes the hospital’s policy illegal. More than 150 former Houston Methodist employees who parted ways with the hospital in June over a vaccine mandate policy are demanding to be rehired, after Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order banning any entity in the state from implementing such mandates.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
An illegally modified handgun was used to shoot and kill an HPD officer, bodycam footage shows

The illegal modification can essentially turn a semi-automatic handgun into a fully-automatic weapon, according to police. The man who killed one Houston police officer and wounded another during an attempted arrest last month in north Harris County used an illegal modification to turn his handgun into a fully automatic weapon, police said on Tuesday. “There is absolutely no reason or no room for our suspects to be armed like this,” said Houston Police Chief Troy Finner after showing body camera footage of the shooting during a news conference with Houston-area law enforcement.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
Galveston Bay researchers are fishing for data about chemical runoff—literally

Industrial facilities along Houston’s Ship Channel are increasingly at risk of flooding as climate change continues accelerating rising sea levels and strengthens storms. Now, local researchers are examining how pollution runoff during these flood events is impacting the bay’s ecosystem—and how to mitigate it. The state issues warnings if fish aren’t safe to eat, and state and federal organizations have tracked similar data on seafood safety. This research builds on that, according to Charlotte Cisneros, community programs manager with the Galveston Bay Foundation, which is also part of the grant research.
A street in Houston’s midtown gets a new look to better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists

Along with a new bike lane and wider sidewalks, the Caroline Street project includes extensive drainage improvements. With three lanes of traffic headed one-way southbound, Caroline Street through Houston’s Midtown was mostly designed for cars, lacking spots to cross safely and a designated bike lane. That’s about to change as the Midtown Redevelopment Authority wraps up Caroline Street’s $14.5 million redesign.

COMMUNITY CATALYST SPOTLIGHT

Houston Public Media is working with select partners to solve some of Greater Houston’s biggest challenges.

CAREER FRONTIER: Job Titles and What They Mean, Season 2, Episode 2

The working world is rapidly changing. What does this new Career Frontier mean for you and your goals? Join host Lisa Shumate, author, coach and General Manager of Houston Public Media as she connects with industry leaders, CEOs, and business experts to discuss the present and future of how we work in Career Frontier: Exploring Success in the Changing Workplace. October’s episode reviews the hierarchy and pitfalls of job titles—what do they mean, and why are they important? When companies that call everyone a “team member,” does that work?

ARTS & CULTURE

STORIES FROM THE STAGE: Resilience, Season 5, Episode 3

Houston, Texas—the nation’s most ethnically diverse metropolitan area – is a community of people who have learned the fine art of resilience. Sneha travels a difficult road from sickness to health; actors and improv turn Brendan’s playwriting from lemon into lemonade; and Ebony learns the secret to taming her stress. Three stories, three interpretations of RESILIENCE, hosted by Theresa Okokon.
Thank you so much for your kind words. I have learned so much in these few short weeks (guest hosting I SEE U) and laughed as hard as I worked. This show has a great team surrounding it and I am forever grateful to Don and Eddie for believing that I could do this. I’m proud of the work we have done together, and I now feel like a member of the HPM family! The good news is that the episodes get better!”

Dr. Melanye Price
Author, Political Science Professor
Prairie View A&M University

This month’s impact report is made possible by our community of donors, foundations, and partners.