



midtown  
HOUSTON

midtown**buzz**

HOUSTON

LIVE.WORK.PLAY.



## SAFER STREETS, STRONGER COMMUNITY: MIDTOWN CRIME DROPS AS POPULATION GROWS

As Midtown Houston welcomes more residents, businesses, and visitors at an unprecedented rate, public safety remains a core service area. We're listening and taking action to create programs that enhance security and respond to the concerns of business owners, residents, and visitors. Your input has been invaluable in shaping our approach.

Despite steady population growth, crime has decreased 23% since 2019—a clear sign that Midtown's investments in modern safety infrastructure and responsive programming are working. Backed by innovative tools, targeted patrol strategies, and strong community engagement, the Midtown Management District (MMD) is building a neighborhood where people feel confident living, commuting, working, and connecting with one another.

### Strategic Safety Investments, Tangible Community Benefits

This year, MMD dedicated over \$2.2 million to public safety and cleanliness—the largest investment in its history. These funds support high-impact programs that deter crime and build public trust:

- An **87% increase in SEAL Security patrol coverage**, now offering **24/7 protection** with three full-time officers, including a dedicated presence at Midtown Park.
- An additional **\$110,000 in funding for the HPD Bike Patrol**, made possible by the Midtown Parking Benefit District to ensure more visibility and approachability in high-traffic and residential areas.
- An investment in **25 Flock Safety Cameras**, which have scanned over **3.6 million** license plates and generated more than **3,200** real-time alerts for law enforcement from January 2025 to March of 2025 alone.
- The Direct Targeted Enforcement Program also launched in May of 2024 and has led to **35 arrests** for felony and misdemeanor offenses, recovered a stolen vehicle, and seized illegal weapons and narcotics.

*Story continued on page 2*

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CONTINUED FROM COVER

## SAFER STREETS, STRONGER COMMUNITY: MIDTOWN CRIME DROPS AS POPULATION GROWS

### New Innovative Technology: Flock Safety Cameras

Midtown's Flock Safety Camera Network has become a key tool in supporting law enforcement and enhancing public safety across the district. The system includes 25 license plate recognition (LPR) cameras strategically installed in high-visibility locations to monitor vehicle activity and flag potential threats. By delivering real-time data, this technology enables faster responses, supports investigations, and plays a critical role in crime prevention. It also strengthens safety during major events and in high-traffic areas.

The program is funded through May 2026, with plans already underway to explore expanded coverage and greater integration with patrol operations.

### Directed Enforcement: Focused Patrols, Safer Streets

The Directed Targeted Enforcement (DTE) Program has made a meaningful impact across Midtown's beat. Officers have executed over 162 warrants, issued more than 118 traffic citations, made 35 arrests, seized weapons and narcotics, and recovered a stolen vehicle. The program was extended in November 2024 and is set to begin a third phase in May 2025, reinforcing its value in Midtown's layered public safety strategy. As we expand these efforts, we're excited to welcome our newest Public Safety team member, Sharita Simpo, who joins us as our Public Safety Administrative Coordinator. Sharita's expertise will help ensure we stay proactive and responsive to the community's needs.

### Safety That Starts With You: A Community-Wide Commitment

Residents, business owners, and visitors are encouraged to stay involved by attending Midtown's public safety committee and board meetings. As always, we remind our community if you See Something, Say Something. Visit [midtownhouston.com](https://midtownhouston.com) for upcoming dates and safety resources.

To report non-emergency concerns or access safety resources, visit the public safety section of our website. For questions or support, contact us at 713-526-7577 or [security@midtownhouston.com](mailto:security@midtownhouston.com).



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Dear Midtown Houston Community,*

As we move through 2025, I want to acknowledge the incredible progress we've made together to enhance the safety, accessibility, and livability of Midtown. Your voice has helped guide our priorities, and we've responded with action that strengthens the foundation of our community.

Public safety continues to lead our efforts. From launching the Midtown HPD Bike Patrol to installing 25 strategically placed Flock Safety Cameras, we're combining visibility, data, and partnership to create a more secure environment. These tools support faster response times, stronger deterrence, and greater peace of mind for everyone who lives, works, or visits here. Safety isn't a one-time investment—it's a daily commitment we take seriously.

We've also made significant strides in infrastructure. Upgrades along Caroline Street and throughout the district include new sidewalks, better drainage, improved lighting, and added green space. These projects not only improve how we move through Midtown—they reflect our belief that infrastructure is the backbone of public life. When we invest in streets, walkways, and public amenities, we're investing in connection, equity, and resilience.

At the same time, we've kept our focus on maintaining a clean and welcoming environment. Through seasonal maintenance, turf repairs, lighting upgrades, and refreshed park amenities, we're ensuring that our shared spaces remain safe, beautiful, and inclusive for all.

While safety and infrastructure are front and center, we remain committed to supporting culture and creativity. The 2025 MidtownHOU Arts Micro Grants have empowered local artists to share stories, activate public space, and build community through murals, music, and more. Projects like HueMan:Shelter demonstrate the power of art to inspire, transform, and uplift—even as we focus on practical neighborhood improvements.

Looking ahead, we'll continue listening and delivering on what matters most: a safer Midtown, stronger infrastructure, and a neighborhood that works for everyone. Whether you engage through public meetings, community events, or everyday conversations, your input shapes what comes next.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we're building a Midtown that is safer, smarter, and more connected—for today and for the future.

Warm regards,

**Matt Thibodeaux**  
Executive Director  
Midtown Houston





## FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS ALL SUMMER LONG AT MIDTOWN PARKS

Midtown Houston is a neighborhood that brings people together and thanks to the [Midtown Parks Conservancy \(MPC\)](#), the community comes alive all year long with free public events designed to engage, energize, and connect. Whether you're looking for a high-intensity workout, a creative outlet, or quality time with family and pets, our green spaces offer something for everyone.

This summer, we invite you to explore Midtown Park, Bagby Park, and Baldwin Park, where weekly and monthly programs create welcoming spaces for movement, learning, and fun in the heart of Houston. Here's a look at the spring and summer events that are keeping Midtown vibrant:

### Bagby Park

At [Bagby Park](#), creativity and movement come together through a wide variety of recurring programs. Teach You Tuesday, held on the first Tuesday of each month, offers adults a hands-on workshop with rotating crafts, creative skills, and take-home projects—all materials provided.

For fitness lovers, second and fourth Saturdays are all about wellness. Start your morning with HIIT, a high-intensity workout designed to challenge your endurance, followed by Yoga, a music-infused flow session focused on strength, mindfulness, and mobility. Whether you're just beginning or already a regular, these classes are welcoming to all experience levels.

On the third Friday of each month, settle in for Movie Night in the Park. Enjoy games, music, and giveaways before the big screen lights up with family-friendly blockbusters. Bring a blanket, grab some popcorn, and experience the magic of outdoor cinema in the heart of the neighborhood.

### Baldwin Park

Mid-week mindfulness takes center stage at [Baldwin Park](#) with Sound Bath Meditation, held on the second Wednesday of each month. This immersive wellness experience is a peaceful pause in your routine, using sound to create a calm, restorative atmosphere under the open sky.

Whether you're breaking a sweat, bonding with family, or simply enjoying Midtown's green spaces, MPC's free programming helps make Midtown a place where people come together. Plan your visit, stay active, and join us this summer as we celebrate the season—and the spirit of our community.

### Midtown Park

Zumba takes over [Midtown Park](#) every Tuesday evening with a high-energy fitness class led by expert instructors. It's the perfect way to shake off the workday and move your body in a welcoming, outdoor setting.

On the third Saturday of each month, families can join Family Capoeira, a one-of-a-kind martial arts class blending movement, music, and cultural storytelling. Directly following Capoeira, stick around for Children's Storytime, a seasonal summer program that brings books to life with interactive readings, giveaways, and themed activities—all designed to inspire the next generation of readers.

**Discover more about Midtown Houston's vibrant offerings and plan your next visit by exploring our [website](#) and following us on [social media](#).**





# IMPROVING MIDTOWN FOR ALL COMMUTERS

**Midtown Houston is advancing its commitment to safe, accessible, and people-centered infrastructure with a two-pronged approach to street and mobility upgrades. Through targeted investments in pedestrian and cyclist improvements, the Midtown Management District (MMD) is reinforcing the district's walkable, bike-friendly character while enhancing access to local businesses and public spaces.**

## \$1M Streetscape Refresh

In February 2025, MMD awarded a \$1,003,155.15 construction contract to Landscape Art for a comprehensive Streetscape Refresh, now underway on Elgin, McGowen, and Gray Streets. The project focuses on essential updates: repairing aging sidewalks and pavers, replacing damaged tree grates, and refurbishing benches and trash receptacles. Landscaping enhancements will include the replacement of dead or aging trees, shrubs, and groundcover—critical for both shade and stormwater management.

Construction is scheduled through summer 2025 with substantial completion expected by early fall. These improvements are designed not just to maintain Midtown's signature look but to support long-term sustainability. Research shows well-maintained streetscapes reduce unsafe conditions, promote community pride, and encourage more foot traffic, benefiting public safety and small business vitality alike.

## Bikeway Enhancements on Gray Street

Simultaneously, Midtown is investing \$79,732 in strategic cycling infrastructure. The Gray Street Bikeway project—part of MMD's Street Safety & Public Realm Enhancements initiative—with improvements designed to increase safety and visibility for cyclists. Key features include a vivid new pavement graphic at the Gray/Austin intersection incorporating Midtown branding to improve wayfinding and commuter awareness, as well as the installation of 36 secure bike racks across nine locations on Gray, Austin, and LaBranch.

These updates aren't just cosmetic—they support Midtown's goal of sustainable mobility. More than ever, residents are seeking safer, greener transportation options, and Midtown is responding with infrastructure that invites everyone—whether on foot, wheels, or transit—to move through the district comfortably and confidently.

## A Connected Future

Together, these projects represent over \$1 million in public space improvements and signal MMD's broader vision for a more connected, inclusive Midtown. As these enhancements unfold, residents, business owners, and visitors alike can look forward to a district that meets the needs of all commuters—creating a more vibrant, resilient community for years to come.

**Follow progress at [MidtownHouston.com](https://MidtownHouston.com) and [@MidtownHOU](https://twitter.com/MidtownHOU) for ongoing updates.**







## SPRING UPGRADES AT MIDTOWN HOUSTON PARKS

As spring settles in, Midtown Houston parks are once again full of life. Whether it's a morning run, an evening stroll, or a weekend meet-up with neighbors, our green spaces create a number of interactive ways to be outdoors at no cost. To prepare for the season, Midtown Management District completed subtle but impactful upgrades at two beloved parks: Baldwin Park and Glover Park.

These updates reflect an ongoing investment in the care and upkeep of Midtown's shared spaces.

### Upgraded Lighting at Baldwin Park

In early 2025, Midtown Management District launched a lighting retrofit at Baldwin Park to address several broken fixtures that had gone beyond routine maintenance. The existing lights were outdated and no longer supported by manufacturers, making repairs unfeasible. Between January and March, the outdated system was fully replaced with modern fixtures designed to restore consistent lighting throughout the park.

With the updated infrastructure now in place, the park offers improved visibility for early morning and evening visitors, enhancing both usability, safety, and the overall experience after dark.

### Repaired Fencing at Glover Park

At Glover Park, the focus was on rebuilding the perimeter wood fencing, which had deteriorated over time. Damaged and rotting sections raised concerns about both appearance and durability. The fencing was fully replaced between January and March 2025, restoring the park's border while aligning it more closely with the expectations for Midtown's public environments.

The project preserves the character of Glover Park while ensuring that it remains a clean and welcoming place for daily use.

### Supporting Public Spaces Through Consistent Care

These projects are part of a larger, ongoing effort to keep Midtown's parks functional, maintained, and ready for regular community use. Studies show that well-maintained neighborhoods with clean streets, proper lighting, and regular upkeep foster a greater sense of security and community pride, reducing the likelihood of crime and unsafe conditions.

Whether you're visiting Baldwin Park after hours or passing through Glover Park on your daily routine, you'll notice signs of care that reflect the district's commitment to responsive maintenance and continuous improvement.

### Stay Updated on Midtown Projects

**Want to learn more about the latest public improvements, community events, and district projects? Sign up for the Midtown Houston newsletter or visit midtownhouston.com for stories, updates, and ways to get involved.**



# UNHOUSED HOUSTONIANS AND LOCAL CREATIVE COMMUNITY COLLABORATE ON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH A SERIES OF PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS

Houston is addressing homelessness using the power of public art to provide economic development opportunities and social service support for the unhoused community. Supported by a \$1 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies, HueMan:Shelter will develop six public art installations aimed at challenging traditional narratives surrounding homelessness and bring art to public spaces while creating employment opportunities for unhoused individuals. This initiative is a joint effort of the City of Houston, Career and Recovery Resources, Inc. (CRR), and the Midtown Cultural Arts and Entertainment District. Unhoused participants hired for the project by Career and Recovery Resources (CRR), as part of their UpRise Enterprise Program, will receive 'on-the-job' training to help them take an additional step toward economic stability.

## About the art installations:

Each of the six HueMan:Shelter installations will center lived experience as both subject and source. From large-scale murals to immersive digital works, the art reflects resilience, humanity, and community. By involving unhoused individuals in both the design and execution HueMan:Shelter will work to transform not only Houston's streets but also the narrative around the root causes and realities of homelessness.

Each artist will work with a cohort of 40 unhoused community members who have been selected by Career Recovery Resources, for one year. Participants will work at each site as apprentices, providing site maintenance and preparation.

Across several METRO bus shelters in Midtown, visual artists will present new works that activate public space through photography and digital media. HueMan:Shelter is proud to showcase the work of Houston artists committed to healing, and empathy.

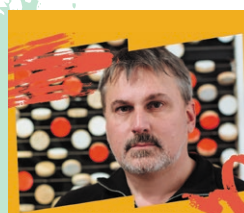
## SELECTED ARTISTS AND SITE LOCATIONS:



**Marlon Hall**  
Spur 527 & Milam



**Peter Merwin**  
Spur 527 & Milam



**Sherman Finch**  
I-45 Pierce & Milam



**Joel Zika**  
I-45 Pierce & Milam



**Jacobi Green**  
I-45 Pierce & Milam



**Reginald Adams**  
3711 Travis Street



**Melissa Aytenfisu**  
Milam & Tuam St.



**Cam Shot First**  
Milam & Webster St.



**Chris Robinson**  
Milam & Elgin St



**Emanuelee Bean**  
Social Media Storyteller



**Zainob Amao**  
Film Storyteller



**Mathew Usoro**  
Film Storyteller



**Public art can educate, empower, and employ. *HueMan:Shelter*, embodies all three.”**

— **Cynthia Alvarado**

*Director of Cultural Arts and Entertainment at  
Midtown Management District*

For more information and to sign up for the project's e-news, please visit [www.huemanshelter.com](http://www.huemanshelter.com).

For media inquiries, contact Madison Walkes at 832-652-8023 or [mwalkes@midtownhouston.com](mailto:mwalkes@midtownhouston.com).





## CELEBRATING HOUSTON'S RODEO HERITAGE AND GLOBAL JAZZ ICONS THROUGH PUBLIC ART

**This spring, the heart of Midtown Houston pulsed with stories—wrapped not in books or performances, but in bold, visual declarations across the iconic Midtown sign at Bagby Park. Two extraordinary public art installations unfolded back-to-back, transforming this space into a living tribute to heritage, culture, and creative power.**

As Houston rode into rodeo season, artist Lauren Luna paid homage to the city's Western roots with a sweeping, rodeo-inspired design. Her tribute featured visual nods to Midtown mainstays like Al's Handmade Boots, capturing the grit, pride, and craftsmanship that define Houston's cowboy culture. Her work didn't just celebrate tradition—it honored local businesses, elevated Black artistry, and reminded us that rodeo season is as much about community as it is spectacle.

When the trail rides ended and the dust settled, another story rose to the surface—one that reached far beyond Texas.



In *Echoes of the Renaissance*, surrealist and Afrofuturist artist Kanika Blair reimagined the roaring 1920s through the lens of the Harlem Renaissance. With each letter of the MIDTOWN sign transformed into a tribute to cultural giants like Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Langston Hughes, and Zora Neale Hurston, Blair's cosmic visuals invited viewers to consider how legacy, identity, and artistry collide. Her installation wasn't just beautiful—it was spiritual, powerful, and deeply rooted in cultural reverence.

Together, these works created more than aesthetic moments. They built a bridge between worlds—cowboys and composers, gospel and jazz, handmade boots and Harlem dreams. They reminded us that Midtown is more than a neighborhood. It's a stage. A storyteller. A sanctuary for bold expression.

These projects, made possible by the Midtown Cultural Arts and Entertainment District with support from the Houston Endowment, reflect a commitment to lifting up voices, honoring legacies, and sparking dialogue across generations.

**Visit Bagby Park at 415 Gray St. to experience future installations and be part of Midtown's ever-evolving art story—where history is honored, and creativity never rests.**



fourth ward

downtown

montrose

third ward

museum district



- 1 **Bagby Park** 415 Gray St.
- 2 **Elizabeth Baldwin Park** 1701 Elgin St.
- 3 **Elizabeth Glover Park** 3104 Austin St.
- 4 **Midtown Park** 2811 Travis St.
- 5 **SPARK Park at Houston Academy for International Studies** 1810 Stuart St.
- 6 **Midtown Park Plaza** McGowen St. @ Main St.



- 1 **MATCH**  
matchhouston.org  
3400 Main St.
- 2 **Main Street Theater @ MATCH**  
mainstreettheater.com  
3400 Main St.
- 3 **Catastrophic Theater**  
catastrophictheatre.com  
3400 Main St.
- 4 **Noble Motion Dance**  
noblemotiondance.com  
3400 Main St.
- 5 **Indo-American Association**  
iaahouston.org  
3400 Main St.
- 6 **Musiq**  
musiq.org  
3400 Main St.
- 7 **DiverseWorks**  
diverseworks.org  
3400 Main St., Ste. 292
- 8 **The Ensemble Theatre**  
ensemblehouston.com  
3535 Main St.
- 9 **Inman Gallery**  
inmangallery.com  
3901 Main St.
- 10 **Preservation Houston**  
preservationhouston.org  
3907 Main St.
- 11 **Throughline**  
throughlinecollective.com  
3909 Main St.
- 12 **The ION**  
ionhouston.com  
4201 Main St.
- 13 **Houston Center for Contemporary Craft**  
crafthouston.org  
4848 Main St.
- 14 **Lawndale Art Center**  
lawndaleartcenter.org  
4912 Main St.
- 15 **Houston MET Dance**  
metdance.org  
4916 Main St.
- 16 **Community Artists' Collective**  
thecollective.org  
4111 Fannin St., Ste 100A
- 17 **Buffalo Soldiers National Museum**  
buffalosoldiersmuseum.org  
3816 Caroline St.
- 18 **Gallery Sonja Roesch**  
gallerysonja.roesch.com  
2309 Caroline St.
- 19 **Midtown Art Center**  
midtownartcenter.com  
3414 La Branch St.
- 20 **Houston Community College - Central Art Gallery**  
central.hccs.edu/about-us/art-gallery  
3517 Austin St.
- 21 **The Heinen Theatre**  
central.hccs.edu/about-us/heinen-theatre  
3517 Austin St.
- 22 **Houston Fire Museum**  
houstonfiremuseum.org  
2403 Milam St.
- 23 **Metro Modern Furniture**  
713.528.7171  
3229 Milam St.
- 24 **The Moth Radio Hour**  
themoth.org/houston  
2600 Travis St.
- 25 **High Fashion Home & Decor**  
highfashionhome.com  
3100 Travis St.
- 26 **Shabach Enterprise / Fade To Black**  
FadeToBlackFest.com  
2000 Crawford St., Ste 839

**SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING**

HPD and HFD ————— 911  
 HPD (non-emergency) ————— 713.884.3131  
**Precinct 7 Constable Dispatch** ————— **713.643.6602**  
**S.E.A.L. Security Dispatch** ————— **832.900.7700**  
 METRO to report incidents on the Rail or at a Bus shelter ————— 713.224.2677  
 Central Division Patrol ————— 713.247.4400  
 South Central Patrol ————— 832.394.0200 (East of Louisiana)  
 Houston Police ————— hpd.hot@houstonpolice.org  
 Homeless Outreach

For non-emergency questions, contact Jaime Giraldo, Director of Public Safety at [Security@midtownhouston.com](mailto:Security@midtownhouston.com) or **713.526.7577 ext.116**

## EVENTS HAPPENING AROUND MIDTOWN

**AXELRAD** 1517 Alabama St

**Noche De Cumbia**  
 Every Second Friday of the Month | 7 PM - 2AM

Houston's biggest Cumbia dance party with exciting and fiery lineups of live bands, producers, and DJs. Every 2nd Friday of the month. Presented by Wonky Power. Free Event | 21+

**MID MAIN** 3550 Main St

**FIRST THURSDAYS AT MID MAIN**  
**EAT SHOP ROCK** for a good cause!  
 Enjoy drink specials, live music, DJs and discounts brought to you by the Businesses of Mid Main and Mid Main Lofts with beverages compliments of Saint Arnold Brewing Company.

\$10 donations for a wristband with full access to the block party. Check in at the MID MAIN COURTYARD, 3550 Main St., 6-10 pm.

Proceeds will benefit the featured non-profit.



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 713.526.7577

[MIDTOWNHOUSTON.COM](http://MIDTOWNHOUSTON.COM)