

Journey for Justice



The newsletter of The Society of Justice & Equality for the People of Sugar Land, a 501(c)(3) organization

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S.O.J.E.S. to begin development of traveling exhibit on convict leasing and SL 95

This summer, the Society of Justice & Equality for the People of Sugar Land (S.O.J.E.S.) will begin the work of developing a **traveling exhibit** to raise the narrative on convict leasing and the discovery and significance of the Sugar Land 95.

The museum-quality, interactive exhibit will feature dynamic, historical photographs, video and explanatory text to give visitors the background and conditions that lead to the prevalence of convict leasing in Sugar Land and Fort Bend County in the late 1800s through early 20th century. Details about the brutality of the work involved, and the beneficiaries of the state-sanctioned system that helped create the cities and communities we know today also will be part of the exhibit.



S.O.J.E.S.'s goal is to also significantly raise the public's knowledge of the long-overdue subject of the contributions by African Americans to the development of Sugar Land and Fort Bend County.

"Many people may now know about the Sugar Land 95, but they may not know much about the system that took men, teens, boys - and even a woman - from all parts of the country, charged them with menial crimes, and sentenced them to a life of extraordinarily hard labor and, in many cases, an early, undeserved and gruesome death," says Robin Cole, president of S.O.J.E.S. "The organization's goal has always been to educate, honor and heal. We hope by having this exhibit and telling the stories of those lost, we will do our part as decades-long residents of Sugar Land to bring the truth about the contributions of African Americans - to light."

S.O.J.E.S. will present the exhibit through partnerships with existing museums, non-profit organizations, community groups, governmental entities, educational institutions, businesses and others interested in learning more about convict leasing and the Sugar Land 95.

"We expect there will be good demand to see this exhibit, which will break new ground educationally," says Debra McGaughey, SOJES Vice President. "The exhibit will be a full representation of convict leasing in our area, which will include the Sugar Land 95. And we expect the exhibit to evolve and change over time, as new information and items become available to display and discuss."

SOJES invites those with relevant items to share to the exhibit - historical documents, photographs, artifacts or more - to please contact S.O.J.E.S. at sojesjustice@gmail.com, or by clicking the link below.

**YES! I'd like to contribute items to the
S.O.J.E.S. traveling exhibit.**

**Join S.O.J.E.S. on a *Journey to
Justice Tour* this September**



Some of the most significant and awe-inspiring historical places in the history of the civil rights movement will be on tap when SOJES embarks on its **Journey to Justice Tour in September 2022**.

The tour will include stops in Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma. Travel will take place in an air-conditioned motor coach. Tour hotels will be national chains and will be at least 3+ star rated. The trip is expected to span four (4) days and three (3) nights and include entrance to such museums as:

- **The 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama**
- **The Birmingham Museum and Civil Rights Institute, Birmingham, Alabama**
- **Dexter Street Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama**
- **The Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery, Alabama**
- **The Legacy Museum/Lynching Museum in Montgomery, Alabama**
- **The Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama**

Cost of the tour is TBD, but will be affordable and comparable to similar bus tours of civil rights landmarks. More details will be shared via this newsletter and the sojesjustice.org website.

If you are interested in attending, please click on the link below to send us an email with your name, email and preferred phone number.

**Want to go on the Journey to Justice Tour?
CLICK HERE**

**Thank you for attending
A Day of Remembrance - A Black
History Month tribute to the Sugar
Land 95.**



It was a great and uplifting experience to honor 95 lost souls.

The Society of Justice & Equality for the People of Sugar Land would like to thank everyone who attended ***A Day of Remembrance - A Black History Month Tribute to the Sugar Land 95***, held Saturday, February 19, 2022, at Fluor Corporation in Sugar Land.

More than 275 people were in attendance. KPRC-TV meteorologist and newsman **Khambrel Marshall** served as the emcee.

The event was held on the fourth anniversary to the day of the discovery of the Sugar Land 95 in Sugar Land in 2018.

The day featured noted historian and convict leasing author **Dr. Matthew Mancini** as the keynote speaker. Sugar Land 95 archaeologist **Reign Clark** addressed the audience via Skype from Mexico.

S.O.J.E.S.'s Champions for Justice Awards went to two men - backhoe driver **Daniel Diaz** and **FBISD's Oscar Perez** - who helped discover the Sugar Land 95. A third a Champion for Justice award was presented to **Marilyn Moore**, wife of the late historian and convict leasing community activist and legend **Reginald Moore**.

The day also featured four members of the **Kappa Alpha Psi / Prairie View A&M University chapter** honoring the Sugar Land 95. Called *Say. Their. Names.*, the spoken-word performance involved evoking the persona of four of the 95 convict leasing victims.

Other event highlights: Speeches, presentations and proclamations by elected officials: **Lizzie Fletcher, Ron Reynolds, Rodney Ellis, K.P. George** and

others, musical performances, and a community engagement activity by MASS Design Group.

Thank you to the numerous volunteers from the **Delta Sigma Theta** sorority, and fraternities and sororities, A/V assistance at Fluor Corporation, and KPRC-TV 2.

**VIEW PHOTOS FROM A DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE**



**Make a tax-deductible
contribution to S.O.J.E.S.**

Journey for Justice newsletter. Share with your friends!

The Society of Justice & Equality for the People of Sugar Land
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