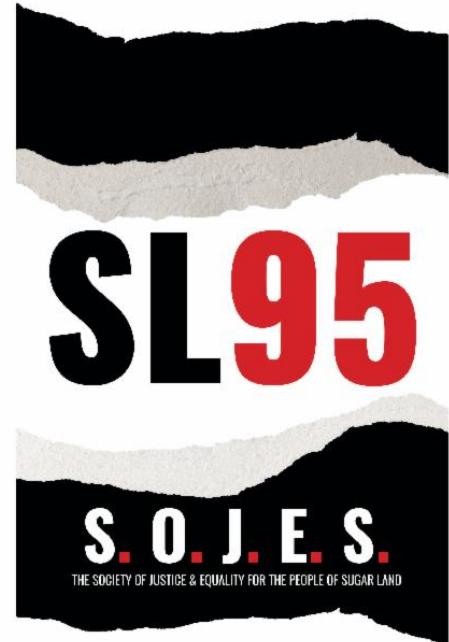


# Journey for Justice



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

DECEMBER 30, 2022 | Vol. 2 No. 7



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Our first big event takes place February 18, 2023**

---

**S.O.J.E.S.'s Black History Month event**

# commemorates the 5th Anniversary of the Sugar Land 95

THE SOCIETY OF JUSTICE & EQUALITY FOR THE PEOPLE OF SUGAR LAND  
Proudly Presents

## THE 95 AT **FIVE**

S.O.J.E.S.'s **Black History Month** program commemorating  
the **5TH ANNIVERSARY** of the Discovery of the Sugar Land 95

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2023**

FORT BEND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
14010 University Blvd., Sugar Land, TX 77479

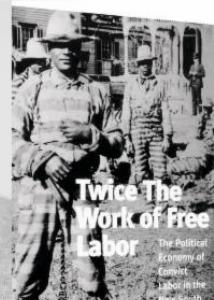
FREE, but donations gladly accepted to support a SL95  
traveling exhibit.

SEATING IS LIMITED. USE THE QR TO REGISTER.



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **ALEX LICHTENSTEIN,** **Ph.D.**

Professor of History and Chair of the American Studies Department at Indiana University. His 1996 book, *Twice the Work of Free Labor*, was one of the first to call attention to the important role convict leasing played in the redevelopment of the post-Civil War south.



The Society of Justice & Equality for the People of Sugar Land (S.O.J.E.S.) is committed to its mission of educating the community about convict leasing and honoring the contributions of African Americans in Sugar Land and Fort Bend County. It is time to learn and heal.

We invite the public to a commemoration of the 5th anniversary of the discovery of the "Sugar Land 95," the 95 victims of convict leasing whose remains were discovered during construction of a Sugar Land high school on December 18, 2018.

Our keynote speaker is **Alex Lichtenstein, Ph.D.**, noted author on convict leasing and American Studies Chair at Indiana University, to speak about the impact of convict leasing in the south and in Sugar Land, Texas. Other speakers and honorees will be featured in the program.

**This is a FREE event event, but donations are gladly accepted at:**

**<https://www.sojesjustice.org/donate.html>**

S.O.J.E.S. is working toward creating a TRAVELING EXHIBIT on CONVICT LEASING, including the Sugar Land 95.

We look forward to your participation and support. The venue has limited seating. Make your reservation and donation, if desired, right away to secure your seat.

**SEATING IS LIMITED!  
REGISTER HERE.**

---

**Help us reach our goal this week!  
Donations needed to build  
a TRAVELING EXHIBIT  
on convict leasing**



Justice for the Victims of Convict  
Leasing in Sugar Land, Texas

4 days left

## CONTRIBUTIONS ACCEPTED HERE VIA LaunchGood

**It takes a village. Be part of it.**

In this season of giving, please donate what you can via LaunchGood to help us create a traveling exhibit on convict leasing, the Sugar Land 95, and important contributions by African Americans to Sugar Land and Fort Bend County.

**Give what you can. Anything is plenty!  
\$5 or \$10 dollar contributions will get us there.  
We THANK YOU now for your support!**

Click on the link below to begin this project with us.  
**It's part of S.O.J.E.S.'s mission: Educate. Honor. Heal.**

# WE'VE GOT A PODCAST!



S.O.J.E.S.'s mission is to educate citizens in Sugar Land and Fort Bend County about its history and reliance on convict leasing, as well as the significant contributions of African Americans in Sugar Land and Fort Bend County.

Kudos to **Robin Cole, S.O.J.E.S. President (above, right)** for conceiving the **S.O.J.E.S. podcast** with the brilliant title: **Black Sugar: Not So Sweet.**

And more kudos to **Ursela Knox, S.O.J.E.S. Board Member (above, left)** for bringing it to technical life on Amazon Music/Podcasts!

Way to go, ladies! More episodes to come.

Here's the first podcast below:

**The S.O.J.E.S. podcast:**

# Black Sugar: Not So Sweet Episode #1

## Redevelopment of the Imperial Sugar site planned on Hwy. 90A



It's no surprise to S.O.J.E.S. that - for a second time - there are plans to revitalize the old Imperial Sugar site on Hwy. 90A, featuring the landmark, eight-story, deteriorating brick Char House. The newest plans seem to indicate the inclusion of commercial, residential and restaurant venues.

While the likely owner and spokesperson - PUMA CEO Mark Toon - does not have clear title yet (it's in the "intending to buy" phase), he was asked by the city of Sugar Land to seek community input on the project. Two public meetings were held in early and mid December. S.O.J.E.S. was there, and spoke up about the historical importance of the site and its past use of convict leasing.

We asked for a museum, the ability to put the Char House on the National Register of Historic Places, to recognize and acknowledge the contributions of African Americans in Sugar Land and Fort Bend County. We made it clear he should feel obligated to listen and be inclusive. We mentioned how a museum would prove economically beneficial to the entire project. And we were joined by a vocal, handful of others who shared the same sentiments.

However, S.O.J.E.S. and other residents heard nothing concrete from the proposed owner nor city of Sugar Land to indicate that ANY of those considerations will be heeded.

The Journey for Justice, it was clear to anyone who attended, will have to continue.

Print and TV coverage of the project appear below.

## Char House and property redevelopment project

### Follow up story featuring resident input

#### KHOU TV coverage





**Phase 1A - The Char House**

CHARHOUSE

Restore and redevelop the Char House while preserving and embracing its history and creating momentum and excitement for subsequent phases of the project.

THE CANNON	OFFICE	RETAIL/F&B
		
18,000 sq. ft. of innovation space created for a community which provides numerous workspace options, programming, content, events, and access to sponsors, mentors, accelerators, incubators, and venture capital.	40,000 sq. ft. of office space with a brick warehouse look and feel. The office space will have modern amenities and the best views in all of Sugar Land.	14,000 sq. ft. of first and eighth floor food & beverage options, eclectic retail, City of Sugar Land retail and a rooftop bar with 360 degree views of all of Sugar Land.

THE CANNON

OFFICE

RETAIL/F&B

18,000 sq. ft. of innovation space created for a community which provides numerous workspace options, programming, content, events, and access to sponsors, mentors, accelerators, incubators, and venture capital.

40,000 sq. ft. of office space with a brick warehouse look and feel. The office space will have modern amenities and the best views in all of Sugar Land.

14,000 sq. ft. of first and eighth floor food & beverage options, eclectic retail, City of Sugar Land retail and a rooftop bar with 360 degree views of all of Sugar Land.



---

Journey for Justice newsletter. Forward it to your friends!

**Editor: Debra McGaughey, S.O.J.E.S. Vice President**

The Society of Justice & Equality for the People of Sugar Land  
5826 New Territory Blvd. #711 | [sojesjustice.org](http://sojesjustice.org)

