



Everyone has a right to breathe clean air.



ANNUAL REPORT FY 2021-2022

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear clean air advocates, partners, and supporters:

On behalf of Air Alliance Houston (AAH), I am pleased to present this report of our activities for the Fiscal Year 2022, our first since the global coronavirus pandemic and the murder of Houstonian George Floyd forever changed our community. In many ways, both of these events made our mission even more critical.

Today, we are working harder for environmental justice than ever before. We have grown our budget by over \$1M since before the pandemic, our staff has nearly doubled with an emphasis on community outreach, and our programs and partnerships are stronger than ever before, as you will read in the stories profiled in this report. We also improved our operational capacity and delved even deeper into DEI.

I am proud of how our team responded to the challenges of the past two years, and I am equally grateful to those who supported us along the way. None of the stories in this report would have been possible without you. I look forward to all we will accomplish together in the years to come so that everyone has the right to breathe clean air.



Jennifer M. Hadayia, MPA
Executive Director

MISSION, VISION, PRIORITIES

Vision

We envision healthy communities with clean air every day, for everyone.

Priorities



Decrease pollution from industrial sources of air pollution



Decrease pollution from mobile sources of air pollution



Prevent chemical disasters



Expand community air monitoring



Expand community capacity for advocacy

Mission

To reduce the public health impacts from air pollution through applied research, education and advocacy.

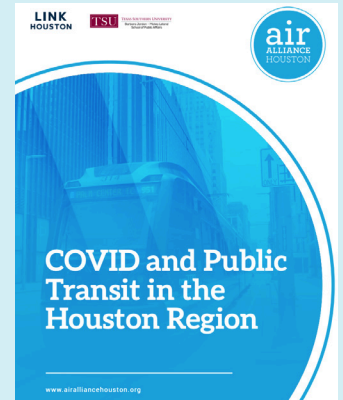
OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

AAH combines applied research, diffusion of information, and collaborative advocacy as the foundation for change. This year, this approach leveraged data, media, and grassroots organizing to produce these inspiring successes:

Research: Understanding Public Transit in the COVID Era

We knew the COVID-19 pandemic was impacting mass transit nationally, but what about here in Houston? AAH partnered with LINK Houston and Texas Southern University to learn more about local rider experiences. “AAH sourced data and really engaged persons who had lived experience to create a report that connected the topics of public transit use, public health, and impacts that were attributable to the lockdown in and of itself,” says Ashley Johnson, Community Engagement at LINK Houston and study co-author. The results were so clear about the role of mass transit in Houston that METRO featured the report at their Board meeting.

The report ‘COVID and Public Transit in the Houston Region’ is available on our website at airalliancehouston.org/research-and-reports.



Education: How One Collaborative Changes the Narrative

One Breath Partnership is:



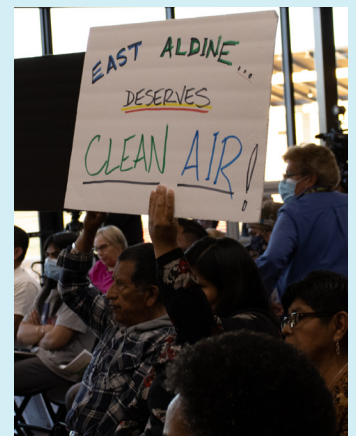
The inequities in poor air quality are still a new concept for many, and the lived experiences of residents continue to go unheard. With AAH as a founding member and support from the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), One Breath Partnership has grown into a well-respected platform for community-based storytelling. The partnership’s newsletter of original advocacy journalism is sent to 1,300 subscribers each month and earned close to 610,000 online impressions. The partners’ complementary expertise makes the collaboration strong. Says Dr. Elena Craft of EDF, “Air Alliance is one of the few organizations that’s working on air quality issues regionally, and they’re the boots on the ground for a lot of the important work that One Breath does in Houston.”

Read stories from One Breath Partnership at onebreathhou.org

Advocacy: Building Relationships for Collective Impact

When a concrete batch plant was proposed in the predominantly Hispanic East Aldine, next to an inclusive park, AAH teamed up with Representative Armando Walle (D-140) and others to quickly mobilize the community. The public meeting held by the TCEQ about the plant was standing room only. “The work that AAH does to educate my constituents and my neighbors is why they show up at 7 at night when they’ve got to cook dinner and put their kids to bed to go to school,” says the Representative. The connections and partnerships that AAH has cultivated with elected officials like Rep. Walle enable us to leverage our collective power. The plant’s permit remains on hold by Harris County Engineering.

Residents filled the room at the TCEQ public meeting on a proposed concrete batch plant in East Aldine.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The AAH roadmap to clean air includes five focus areas that, together, address the major sources of air pollution and empower residents to become advocates for their health. Here are some highlights of the milestones we reached this Fiscal Year:



BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Taking Ethylene Oxide Seriously

Cancer-causing emissions won't go away out of the goodness of industry's heart. That's why AAH works with scientists to advance the best air quality knowledge and standards. This year, AAH partnered with the City of Houston's Chief Environmental Officer Dr. Loren Hopkins to urge the EPA to take Ethylene Oxide (EtO), a known carcinogen, seriously. And they did, by publicly adopting a higher toxicity standard for EtO emissions and rejecting Texas' lower risk calculation. *"We [at the City] bring the technical, and AAH has the community,"* Dr. Hopkins says. *"I honestly don't think EtO would have been as important at the city or national level if AAH had not been shedding light on it."*

Houston is home to some of the top emitters of Ethylene Oxide, a known carcinogen.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION

Keeping the I-45 Expansion on Hold

When Kendra London, Founder of Our Afrikan Family (OAF), heard about TxDOT's proposed I-45 expansion, she thought of her grandmother, who witnessed the build-out of I-10 in Fifth Ward. In her grandmother's days, there were no polls or doorknocking to inform residents. *"There's a million ways to destroy a community,"* says London, *"and one of the main ways is environmental injustice."* This time around, Kendra knew things could be different. With the support of AAH and STOP TxDOT I-45, she educated residents about the health and displacement impacts of the proposed I-45 expansion and encouraged them to use their voice. Together, this work culminated in a Title VI Civil Rights complaint into the I-45 project.

Kendra London (middle) of Our Afrikan Family speaks in front of Kelley Village while giving a community walking tour.





PROTECTING AGAINST CHEMICAL DISASTERS

How A Permit Objection Brings Relief

We all remember the ITC Deer Park fire in 2019: the plume of smoke billowing across the Houston sky was a visual reminder of the air toxics that fenceline communities live with. They also live in fear of another ITC-scale disaster. *"We watched that plume of smoke, and it sickened the community for days,"* remembers Pasadena resident Patricia Gonzales. When the EPA objected to ITC's permit for its Pasadena location, Patricia was relieved. *"I'm glad the EPA rejected this permit. We need to hold these facilities more accountable."* The objection came after AAH and residents like Patricia spoke out against ITC for its lack of preparedness and accountability - part of our work to prevent another chemical disaster.

Smoke plume billowing up from ITC's Deer Park facility in March 2019.

MONITORING OUR AIR

Air Quality Ambassadors

By placing air monitors in local neighborhoods, our Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) gives community members tools to document their experiences with air pollution. AAH then trains residents as Air Quality Ambassadors. As the Gulfton Ambassador, second-grade bilingual teacher Alejandra Jaramillo brought air quality knowledge (and a Purple Air monitor) to Baker-Ripley Elementary School. Alejandra's monitor has been a data collection point and educational tool. *"Change is borne from opportunity,"* she says, *"AAH has helped communities to have access to the tools and resources they need to maximize their impact."* This year, AAH reached a milestone by activating air monitor networks and Ambassadors like Alejandra in five Houston area neighborhoods.

Air Quality Ambassador Alejandra Jamarillo gives an interview to KPRC about air monitoring in Gulfton.



MOBILIZING ACTION

Activating Communities with CEER

Every 12 years, the Sunset Commission conducts a review of how TCEQ can better protect people from pollution. 2022 was that year, and the process included only one public hearing. The Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience (CEER) knew they had to get Houstonians there to testify. Andy Escobar, CEER's Senior Regional Community Organizer, was up bright and early as a bus full of community members headed out to meet the Commission. Reflecting on the day, Andy says: *"AAH was there every step of the way to ensure that Texans were able to participate,"* including providing Spanish translators. AAH and CEER continue to collaborate on the Sunset Review process to ensure Texans have a voice.

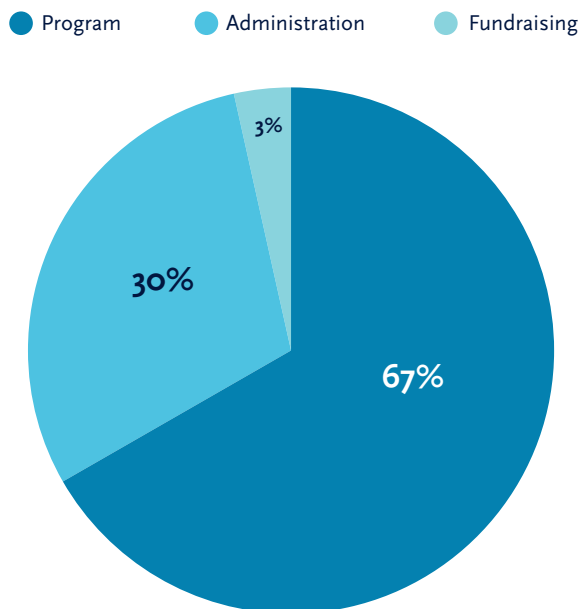
Andy Escobar of CEER (left) with AAH's Genesis Granados (right) at the TCEQ Sunset Review Hearing in Austin.



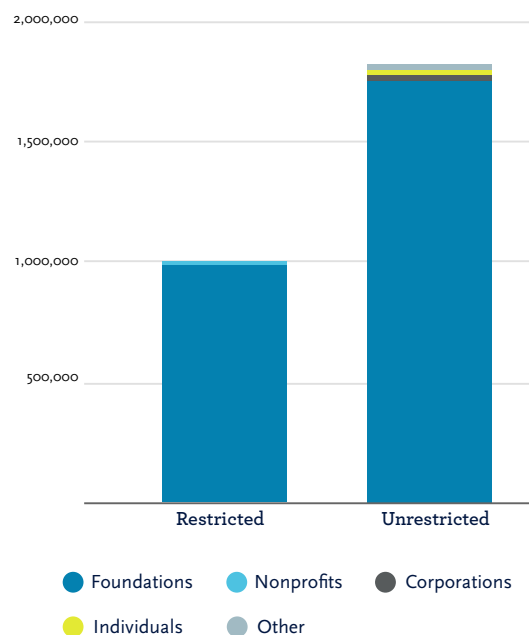
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FY21-22 P&L Cash Report

Expenses (FY22)



Income (FY22)



Net Income Over Time



Notes: Charts were created by staff using year-end cash profit and loss reports supplied by a third-party bookkeeper that have not been audited. Errors may be present, and inconsistency with future audited statements may occur. Estimates, rounding, and other calculations were used for presentation purposes only. Methodology used for expense allocations: bookkeeper guidance; and Larkin, Richard F. et al, Not-for-Profit GAAP 2013. Specific questions about this statement should be sent to info@airalliancehouston.org. AAH does not share information about individual donors.

MAJOR DONORS (\$100,000+) FOR FY21-22

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MacArthur Foundation
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OUR TEAM

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Alondra Torres | Climate Justice Coordinator
Anthony D'Souza | Research and Policy Coordinator
Cassandra Casados-Klein | Communications Coordinator
Genesis Granados, MA | Environmental Justice Coordinator
Jennifer Hadayia, MPA | Executive Director
Harrison Humphreys | Climate Programs Manager
Juan Flores | Community Air Monitoring Program Manager
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Checks can be mailed to:
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Houston, TX 77004

For more ways to support and take action for clean air, go to:
AirAllianceHouston.org/act-now



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