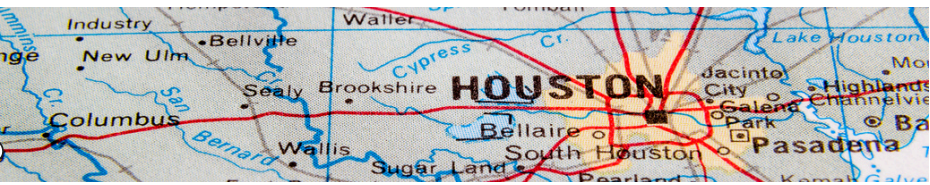




Accessibility



ZIBORA G.
♦
3 May 2025

Taking Back What's Ours

Standing in the Acres Home Chamber of Commerce luncheon, hearing Mr. Malonson recount the history of Acres Home, stirred something deep. There was pride in hearing how Black families once built self-sustaining gated communities, and grief in realizing how those same communities were sold out—for freeways, for empty political promises, for pockets lined with deals that left us behind. And now, across the ocean, a reminder of what's still possible: In Burkina Faso—a landlocked country surrounded by challenges and limited resources—President Ibrahim Traoré has shown what unity, strategy, and true people-first leadership can look like. In less than 18 months, his administration has made radical moves: calling people into formation, organizing the people, and rejecting dependency in every form—physical and mental.

They're producing their own food. They're rebuilding their education system. They're reclaiming health care. And they're doing it not with wealth, but with willpower. What does that say to us here in Houston? In Fifth Ward, Acres Home, South Park, Sunnyside? What does it say to every historically Black community that's been told to wait for help that never comes? It says this: Liberation will never come from dependency.

Where are our community gardens? Where are our Black- and Brown-run clinics? Where are the places where we are not just visitors, but owners, protectors, and providers? Who is investing in our health? How are we building care systems that speak our language and understand our needs—not just medically, but culturally? And how are we showing up for our HBCUs like Texas Southern University and Prairie View A&M University—the institutions raising our doctors, our lawyers, our social workers, and our healers? Are we supporting them with our dollars, our mentorship, our time, our votes?

If these first 100 days of new leadership have felt overwhelming—ask this: What are you doing to create liberation for yourself and your people? What are you building that your children's children can touch? We keep waiting for America to fix us—but America has never been for us. And no election, no grocery store chain, no savior in a suit is going to fix what was designed to break us.

So no, there's no recipe this week.

Not because the pot ain't hot—but because we're tired of cooking in someone else's kitchen.
We're tired of feeding systems that starve us.

Liberation doesn't begin in Washington. It starts at your mailbox. Your front yard. Your street. Your spirit.
Today is the day we stop waiting and start growing.

Not one day. Not someday. Today. Together.

Zibora G