

Beulah Shepard



ANNUAL FRIENDS OF BEULAH SHEPARD LEGACY STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

The Acres Homes community was established during World War I and is considered to be the largest unincorporated African American community in the Southern United States.

In honor of Black History Month, students in Pre-K through 12th grade are encouraged to research and write an essay about African American leaders in Acres Homes.

Students may choose any African American leader from Acres Homes to profile. Suggestions for Acres Homes Community leaders are Beulah Shepard, Mayor Sylvester Turner, Actress Loretta Devine, Jewel Houston, Ruby Mosely, Dorothy Hubbard, Elizabeth Francis, Pastor F.N. Williams, Pastor Edwin Davis, Pastor Floyd Flakes, The Acres Homes Transit Company, or **a student may choose another African American Acres Homes legend that is not listed.**

Entries will be judged on originality, grammar, and creativity. All entries will be kept upon submission by the Friends of the Beulah Shepard Legacy Committee.

For more information, please call 281-594-7910 or visit our website at <https://friendsofbeulahshepardlegacy.org>.

This event is part of the Houston Public Library's Black History Month activities. The contest and program are free and open to the public.

Contest and Awards Program Details:

Deliver your hard copy essay to:
Beulah Shepard-Acres Homes Neighborhood Library
8501 W. Montgomery Rd., Houston, TX 77088

Please see other side for Submission
and Awards Program Details



SUBMISSION

Submissions Must Include:

- Student's name & age
- School & grade
- Phone number
- Email address

Awards will be given to the top three essays in each grade category.

Contest Deadline:

All Essays must be received by:

Saturday, February 7, 2026 by 12:00 p.m.

Awards Program:

You must be present to win.

Saturday, February 21, 2026 | 10:00am – 12:00pm

Awards Program Event Location:

Beulah Shepard-Acres Homes Neighborhood Library
8501 W. Montgomery Rd., Houston, TX 77088

Requirements:

- Pre-K – 1st grade: Provide collage or drawing of the community leader and a two-sentence description of this leader. Child must make the collage/drawing and adult may write the sentence using the child's words.
- 2nd – 3rd grade: 20 – 100+ word paragraph with a collage or drawing of the community leader.
- 4th – 5th grade: 500+ word original essay on a community leader(s).
- 6th – 8th grade: 750+ word original essay on a community leader(s).
- 9th – 11th grade: 1500+ word original essay on a community leader(s).

\$500 Senior Scholarship (12th Grade only)
2025 Student Essay Contest Requirements



📌 Eligibility

- Open to 12th grade students only
- Must submit an original 1,500+ word essay as part of the Friends of Beulah Shepard Legacy Student Essay Contest
- Must have a minimum GPA of 2.5
- Must demonstrate involvement in volunteer or community service activities
- Must plan to attend a college, university, or accredited trade school in Fall 2025
- Proof of enrollment or class schedule from the chosen institution is required before scholarship funds are disbursed
- Scholarship funds will be disbursed to the Bursar of the institution

🏆 Awards

- The top three essays in the 12th-grade category will be recognized
- The top essay will receive the \$500 Senior Scholarship
- Scholarship funds will be sent directly to the college, university, or trade school chosen by the winning student

<https://friendsofbeulahshepardlegacy.org>