



Almost two years after the devastation from Hurricane Harvey, the cultural community’s clearest lesson is this: the vast majority of Houston’s arts, cultural, and historic preservation communities are unprepared for the next sudden or historic disruption.

Houston Arts Alliance’s Disaster Services program is leading a new phase of work to ensure that individual artists and nonprofit art and culture organizations are ready and resilient when the next disaster hits.

IMPACT

- 1,500 unique users accessed ready.haatx.com, the nation’s first-of-its-kind, easy to use, informational emergency preparedness website for the arts and culture community.
- 6.8 M people in 8 counties across 7,000 square miles are provided with disaster resources, tools, and training.
- 150 workshops hosted between artists and experts on how to prepare and cope with disasters.
- 23 disaster plans created and operationalized at nonprofit arts organizations in Greater Houston.
- 26 disaster resilience advisory committee members from diverse backgrounds and expertise areas assembled to ensure the needs of the community are met.

WHAT’S NEXT



Offer a Spanish language version of ready.haatx.com to reach the 37% of Harris County residents who speak Spanish at home.



Become the official “Volunteer Organization Active in Disaster” for Houston’s cultural community to ensure the existing emergency management systems are more responsive to the community’s needs.



Reduce future damage to Houston’s \$1.1 billion cultural economy by becoming an official disaster resource.



Articulate the importance of cultural assets to mobilize existing disaster response systems to preserve Houston’s cultural and historic heritage.



Create an arts-specific disaster system that will activate as soon as a disaster is declared to help the artists prevent damage and get back to work faster.

Greater Houston’s arts, cultural, and historic preservation communities need a leader in times of a disaster. HAA believes in creating a system that empowers those communities to prevent and reduce damage in times of disruption. Our Disaster Services program builds partnerships, shares stories, changes minds, creates experts, and pioneers solutions so our arts community can get back to doing what it does best: enhancing the lives of the people in Greater Houston.