



Tue, Jun 29, 2010

Not Logged In | Log In / Register

Ultimate East End

Crime
Events
Schools
HISD

Colleges

UH HCC

High School Sports High school sports photos

Roads and traffic Businesses Hobby Airport Health Achievements Volunteering

Community

About us

Photos

Houtex Inn reborn as colorful Brays Crossing

May 26, 2010 10:30 pm Michael Golden wrote:



Photo submitted / Courtesy of eric@darnart.com

From a press release:

The former Houtex Inn at 6311 Gulf Freeway has been given a facelift - transformed from an unsightly, rundown hotel into an artistic, brightly colored affordable housing community. New Hope Housing, Inc. has converted the hotel, originally built in 1963 to house NASA contractors, into the Brays Crossing apartments creating a secure, supportive single room occupancy (SRO) efficiency apartment community that offers permanent housing for 149 adults living singly on low incomes.

"Brays Crossing shatters the stereotype of affordable SRO housing by reflecting New Hope's philosophy that SRO housing must offer residents quality, attractive, affordable housing with dignity," stated New Hope Housing Board Chair Mack Fowler. "This 'deep renovation' incorporates public art components into the design and will serve as a significant addition to the East End's well-established artistic tradition." he concluded.

The project is the vision of architect Ernesto Maldonado, AIA, and serves as a foundation for a large public art display that is integral to the building design. To capitalize on its prominent freeway exposure and make the project a "face for affordable, supportive housing" Chicana artist Carmen Lomas Garza was commissioned to design four steel murals. The whimsical murals turn what would have been a blank, utilitarian 500-foot sound wall into an important community amenity. The murals - Las Mananitas (Singers), El Jardin (The Garden), Papel Peado (Paper Cutouts) and Baile (Dance) - are well suited to the East End neighborhood, which has a long history of Hispanic residency. Each mural is 14 feet in height and 48 feet in length and cut out of ∏ inch thick steel plate.

Adding to Brays Crossing's artistic sensibility, a rainbow of color connects with nature and dances around the reception area through the use of original stained glass window panels. Houston stained glass artist Kim Clark Renteria designed four window panels that punctuate the building entry.

"Brays Crossing gave us a unique opportunity not only to provide affordable housing, but also contribute to the area's public art," stated New Hope Housing Executive Director Joy Horak-Brown. "Garza and Renteria are renowned for their work and we are extremely fortunate to have their art displayed in this community," Horak-Brown concluded.

Photos in the spotlight







Share your photos | Your photos



Flyerboard



Local advertising by PaperG In addition to the 149 private efficiency units, the 46,679 square-foot complex features a large public meeting room, small library, business center, community kitchen and other common areas. Funding for Brays Crossing was provided by grants from the City of Houston, private foundations and corporations, as well as Low Income Housing Tax Credits allocated by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

Other major New Hope Housing projects to open this year include the newly renovated 57-unit historic hotel turned SRO located in downtown Houston at 1414 Congress and the 166-unit Sakowitz Apartments at 2424 Sakowitz Street in Houston's Fifth Ward/Denver Harbor area. The Sakowitz Apartments will be Houston's first LEED-certified supportive multifamily property.

Since its inception, New Hope Housing has been recognized as the model for affordable, debt-free single room occupancy (SRO) housing in the state of Texas. New Hope's goal is to build and operate high-quality affordable housing for more than 1,000 adults and to be a permanent institution in Houston. Parishioners of Houston's Christ Church Cathedral-Episcopal gave the seed money in 1993 for New Hope's first building. The People of the Cathedral wanted to help offer housing to the growing number of disadvantaged and homeless in the downtown Cathedral's vicinity.

Read More:

RSS Facebook Myspace Twitter Print Email

Readers are solely responsible for the content of the comments they post here. Comments are subject to the site's terms and conditions of use and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or approval of the Houston Chronicle.

Comments

Post New Comment

Unregistered users' comments are moderated. Want your comment to post immediately? Register.

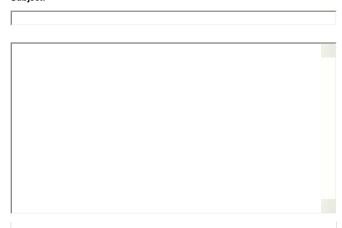
Your name:

Anonymous

E-mail: *

The content of this field is kept private and will not be shown publicly

Subject:



More information about formatting options

By submitting this form, you accept the Mollom privacy policy.

http://www.ultimateeastend.com/2010/05/houtex-inn-reborn-colorful-brays-crossing

Save

Your news

BCM researchers to conduct pediatric seizure study at Texas Children's

May 11, 2010 4:28 pm

Houston Frida Kahlo Festival

May 10, 2010 4:54 pm

Beating the odds and closing the gap

May 6, 2010 4:09 pm

Share your news | More news

Travel time

- No incidents are reported. June 29, 2010 02:00 pm
- Travel Time: IH-10 East Eastbound from Downtown to Crosby-Lynchburg June 29, 2010 02:00 pm
- Travel Time: IH-10 East Eastbound from Downtown to IH-610 East Loop June 29, 2010 02:00 pm
- Travel Time: IH-10 East Westbound from IH-610 East Loop to Downtown June 29, 2010 02:00 pm
- Travel Time: IH-10 East Westbound from Crosby-Lynchburg to Downtown June 29, 2010 02:00 pm
- Travel Time: IH-10 East Westbound from Crosby-Lynchburg to IH-610 East Loop June 29, 2010 02:00 pm

more

High school sports

Get the latest scores, stats, schedules and more on East Houston high school teams.

High School Football

Boys basketball

Girls basketball



CHRON Weather Home NEIGHBORHOODS Katy Jobs Help

/ICES OTHER EDITIONS
Home delivery