

Square Inch Houston

2024-2025 Annual Report



2024 - 2025 SALT Scholars

YEAR IN REVIEW

LaKeisha Randle-Koontz

This year has been a powerful and transformative season for the SALT Scholars Program. As Program Director, I have had the honor of walking alongside an exceptional group of young leaders as we explored faith, identity, purpose, and service together.

Our cohort gathered for Bible study and meaningful dialogue. We journeyed through *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren and *The Forge*, both of which provided a foundation for deep spiritual growth and real-life application. Watching *The Forge* as a group and unpacking its lessons, helped our scholars consider what it means to live intentionally and courageously in Christ.

Our leadership focus this year included discipleship and leadership training, spiritual gift discovery, and personal development workshops. These tools helped our scholars better understand themselves and how they can use their gifts to serve others. One-on-one meetings allowed me to build deeper relationships with each student and support their unique journey, both academically and spiritually.

One highlight of the year was our overnight leadership and discipleship retreat. This time away allowed us to deepen our connections and reflect on our calling as servant leaders.

We also took a historical tour of Houston's Third Ward, learning about the legacy of Christian leadership and the transformative power of collective obedience to God.

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LaKeisha Randle-Koontz
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HOUSTON

NOVEMBER 2025

Our scholars walked away inspired, reminded that social, economic, and spiritual change often begins with people of faith responding to the needs around them.

In the spirit of service, our cohort led multiple community service efforts—including a neighborhood clean-up in the Third Ward and an end-of-year project designed to meet the everyday needs of local youth and seniors. These moments reminded us that leadership is not about a title—it's about showing up for others.

We are proud to celebrate two graduating seniors this year, and to welcome our first-ever freshman to the program. We've seen growth in every scholar—from increased confidence, to greater spiritual maturity, to a clearer understanding of their personal and professional goals. Our mentors have also played a key role in this development, offering their time, wisdom, and consistent presence throughout the year. **Special thanks** to Dara and her husband from The Class Bookstore, who not only employ one of our scholars but also shared leadership training with our group.

A significant milestone this year was seeing our students take ownership by leading Bible studies. This shift from participation to leadership is a clear sign that they are being equipped not just to receive—but to give, guide, and influence others for the Kingdom.

It has been a joy to witness how this program continues to impact the lives of our scholars. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to steward this work and look forward to the continued growth and expansion of the SALT Scholars Program.

To God be the glory.



Lakeisha Randle-Koontz
Director of Programs



Scholar Highlight



Miguel Garza

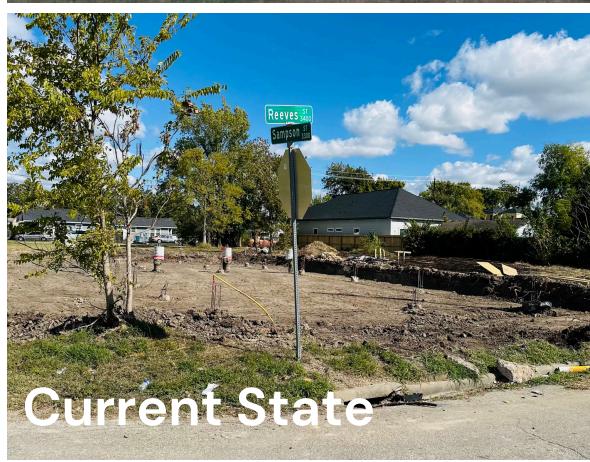
Miguel is one of our graduating seniors and has been the cornerstone of this year's cohort. With a quiet strength and servant heart, Miguel led with compassion and humility. A passionate cook and gardener, he brought warmth and steadiness to every session.

Despite his grandmother falling ill, Miguel continued to show up—traveling back and forth from his hometown to stay engaged in his studies and responsibilities. His resilience and commitment speak volumes about the man he is becoming. Miguel was awarded the **Dianne Jernison Pollard Best Honors Thesis Award**. We are excited to see what God continues to do in and through him.

NOVEMBER 2025



Original Property



Current State

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The capital campaign has reached over 75% of its goal!. Construction of the SALT scholar residence and community center started in October.

During the year, we engaged in heartfelt prayer and deep contemplation regarding the potential expansion of our capital projects to include an additional property. After careful consideration and discussion, the Board decided not to pursue this additional opportunity.

The Board had the opportunity to tour model homes, which inspired the vision for the community-centric finishes and features for the future space. The updated renderings of the Reeves project beautifully capture the vibrant community spirit we aim to create. Our Facilities Committee worked diligently with contractors to finalize decisions, select materials, and finalize contracts, all with the scholars and community in mind.

The new residence will serve as the primary housing for the SALT Scholars program. It will accommodate 4 to 8 scholars and 1 residential manager. The home will be 3,535 square feet and will include multiple community spaces and residential space for the on-site Residential Manager.

Construction is targeted to be completed by May 2026, so the residence will be ready for move-in for the Fall 2026 semester.



Scholar Highlight



Brittany Turner

Brittany, also a graduating senior, is a gifted storyteller with a heart for healing through the arts. Her senior project—a powerful blend of testimony, music, and worship—transformed the space into a sanctuary. Brittany carries a calming spirit and deep love for Christ. Her openness about her journey encourages others to be bold in their faith. We celebrate not only her graduation but also the calling on her life to minister through Music, Theatre and behavioral therapy.

Financial Summary for 2024-2025

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to every donor whose generous financial support has been vital to our mission. Your contributions make a significant difference in our ability to serve our community.

In the fiscal year 2024-25, we observed that revenue from our general fund has plateaued, underscoring the need for renewed fundraising efforts. Meanwhile, contributions from our ongoing capital campaign have shown promising growth, reaching 75% of our overall fundraising goal. This progress is a testament to the commitment of our supporters and their belief in our vision.

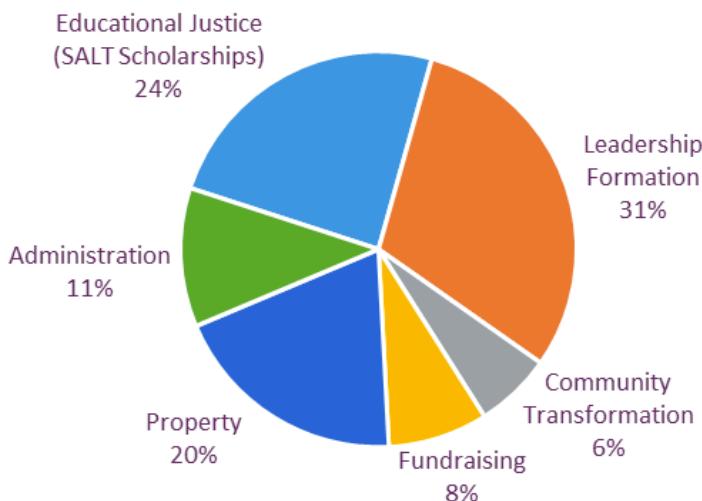
As we move forward, we humbly ask for your prayers and support in increasing general fund donations to \$140,000 per year. This funding is essential for achieving our programming objectives and sustaining the operational costs of the SALT Scholar Residence, which we aim to complete by May 2026. Together, we can create an environment that nurtures and develops future leaders. Thank you for your unwavering support as we strive to meet these important goals.

Randy Wester
Treasurer

General Fund Revenue



General Fund Expenditures 2017-2025



Capital Campaign



Scholar Highlight



Daija Cox

Our very first freshman in the SALT Scholars Program, Daija, brought unmatched energy, authenticity, and joy to the group.

Her smile and determination lit up every space she entered. Daija's relationship with her mentor led to our first scholar-to-employment partnership, and we're proud of how she pushed past fear and stepped into her leadership. She is a trailblazer, and we know this is just the beginning of her impact.

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Scholar Highlights

Markayla Hill

Markayla is our quiet storm. With a steady, thoughtful presence, she models perseverance and wisdom beyond her years. Though she's faced personal challenges, she has never stopped pressing forward. Her strategic thinking and ability to use her resources reflect the heart of an intentional and effective leader. Markayla's quiet faith and deep-rooted strength will undoubtedly continue to bless others in the seasons ahead.



Laney Hart

Laney's last name suits her perfectly—she is full of heart. Her charisma, compassion, and commitment to community make her a light wherever she goes. Laney brings people in, makes them feel seen, and has a strong sense of mission. Whether she's championing a cause or encouraging a friend, she operates with a unique blend of confidence and kindness. We are grateful for the joy and openness she brings to the program.



Taylor McDaniels

Taylor is a force—driven, focused, and generous. She has a gift for finding and sharing resources and is deeply committed to uplifting others. A natural leader and connector, Taylor never keeps information to herself; she opens doors for others even as she walks through them. Her strength is rooted in her faith, and we pray she continues to walk in boldness and balance as she impacts the world around her.



NOVEMBER 2025

Meet Our Scholars



Olivia Bivins

Senior



Swazi Gurnell

Junior



Mariyah Haliburton

Senior



Rinnah Hill

Senior



Chanel Jones

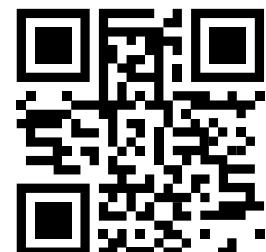
Freshman



VeThalia Warren

Senior

About Us



Support



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