Hineni Houston: Come and Be Heard

Hineni Houston is a community-wide listening journey facilitated by the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston that aims to engage up to 1,000 residents in the Greater Houston area in conversations. Together, we will imagine and ultimately co-create Jewish life in Houston that is joyful, meaningful, and relevant for ALL of us, no matter where we live or how we live our Jewish lives. The central question Hineni Houston asks is: *"What are your aspirations for Houston's Jewish community, now and for the future?"*

Hineni Houston Chairs Joe Pryzant and Dori Goldman, Federation Board Chair Ben Samuels, and Federation CEO Renée Wizig-Barrios are leading the initiative. The heart of Hineni Houston is our "Listening Lab," a group of more than 60 community volunteers and Federation professionals, who represent a microcosm of all the generations, geographies, denominations, and demographics of our Jewish community. Lab members are leading listening forums, interviewing Jewish Houstonians of all backgrounds, and hosting home gatherings for the purpose of listening and learning together; and posting Listening Walls around Houston for people to offer their input, and using social media. All of the events will be taking place throughout the fall.

During the weekend of December 2-4, Hineni Houston will host a "Listening Festival" with gatherings across Greater Houston. In early 2023, we will be crystalizing our insights and sharing the results with you, our community.

Why Hineni Houston?
Our world has changed dramatically over the last decade. Harvey and COVID have reshaped our physical community and our lives. Houston's Jewish population has always been unique and strong. So there is no better resource for understanding Houstonians' needs and dreams than actually going out and listening to our people.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston wants input from Houston's Jewish community so that we can collectively shape our shared future. Through an intentionally designed community listening approach, we will seek to understand: How have our needs as a Jewish community changed? What is important to us? What are our strengths? What are the barriers to a Jewish community that is connected, inclusive, vibrant and meaningful? Where can we grow or innovate? What are we missing in our Houston Jewish community?

Federation's objectives for Hineni are to:
1. Create a shared conversation about our Houston Jewish future.
2. Engage Jewish Houstonians in conversations that matter to them and connect them to each other and to our organizations.
3. Illuminate our community "big tent" so we can better serve Jewish Houston and surrounding areas as connector, funder and convener.

How will Hineni impact Houston's Jewish Future?
Those participating will have a direct impact on Houston's Jewish future. Themes and insights gathered will be shared with local Jewish institutions and the community. The Federation will use the information collected to inform funding and program development decisions going forward, as well as its strategic operation.

Additional Information for Participants

Will what I share be kept confidential?
Input shared in conversations, discussions, and interviews will not be attributed to individuals. Information will be used generally to paint the picture of what participants are experiencing and their desires for the future of the community. (Demographic information will be collected separately to ensure we are touching all of Jewish Houston through our Listening Lab.)

Can I attend more than one event?
Yes, you can attend more than one listening event if it is of interest to you. We also appreciate participants spreading the word to others to help us increase involvement by a wide cross section of our community.

How do I get involved?
We are continuously updating our website with dates for our Listening Forums. Please visit www.houstonjewish.org/hineni to learn about upcoming gatherings. There, you can also fill out a form to be contacted once additional dates have been set.