Hineni Houston Overview

1,221 Participants
47 Listening Forums
26 Home Gatherings
110 Dialogue Interviews

More than 50 trained Listening Lab Participant Leaders

8 Bold Aspirations for the Future
Jewish Houston Populations

We wanted to make sure we listened to all corners of Jewish Houston

By Life Stage
- Young people: Teens, college students, young professionals
- Parents of young children, teens, empty nesters, grandparents. Day school parents and public school parents.
- Married, partnered, single
- Seniors (active, elderly, living independently and in supported living situations)

By Houston Heritage
- New to Houston
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd or more generation Houston

By Identities
- LGBTQIA
- Jews of Color
- Jews by choice
- Just Jewish
- Multi-faith families
- Spanish-speaking
- Israelis, Latinx, Russian, South African, Ethiopian
- Ashkenazi/Mizrachi (Sephardi) Jews
- Individuals and families with physical disability, learning disability, health and emotional challenges

By Place/ Jewish Participation
- Synagogue members: all denominations, including Orthodox and Chabad
- Education/youth engagement settings: day school, early childhood education, Hillels, camp, youth groups
- Legacy organizations: JCC, Jewish Family Service, Seven Acres
- Federation Jewish Professional Networks
- Federation donors, potential donors, lapsed donors
- Online gathering spots
- Social spaces: Jewish Film Festival, JCC Book Fair, ReelAbilities, business groups, parent groups

By Geography
- Core: Meyerland, Bellaire, West University, Montrose, Heights, Galleria
- Periphery: Spring, The Woodlands, West, Memorial, Katy, South, Fort Bend, Sugar Land, Pearland, Humble, Kingwood

Other
- Politically left/right/other
- Socioeconomic status
- Diverse relationships with Israel
Hinieni Houston: Demographics

Participant Data

PARTICIPATION BY AGED

0-9
10-19
20-29
30-39
40-49
50-59
60-69
70-79
80-
90+

PARTICIPATION BY RELIGIOUS IDENTITY/AFFILIATION

5.8% Chabad
30% Conservative
10.3% Just Jewish/Culturally Jewish
14.2% Orthodox
34.2% Reform
5.5% Other (including not Jewish)

Hinieni Houston reached broadly across our community. Thank you to those who shared their voices as a part of this process. We appreciate your gift of time and thought.
UNDERSTANDING OUR SHARED VISION

ACTIVATE & NURTURE JEWISH LIFE IN GREATER HOUSTON

LIVE PROUDLY AND OPENLY AS JEWS

CONNECT TO JEWISH EXPERIENCES ACROSS AGE, STAGE AND PLACE

Foster lifelong Jewish learning

Evaluate, the big tent inclusion

WELCOMING ALL VOICES

Many Paths Learning

Prioritize affordability and access in Jewish life

LEAD JEWISHLY from strength to strength

UNITE as ONE COMMUNITY through collaboration

Organizations sharing knowledge, expertise and resources

BOLD ASPIRATIONS
What This Means

Jewish Houstonians feel welcomed, informed, and empowered to easily access Jewish Life. The community has a central portal to Jewish life in Greater Houston. We increase the visibility of Jewish life in Houston. Newcomers and established Houstonians have access to human connection and centralized communication tools. We offer a network of wayfinders who help navigate the Jewish community.
What This Means

Greater Houston’s Jews live proudly, securely, and connectedly to Houston’s multi-faceted community. We openly observe our faith and culture in the ways we choose, without fear of antisemitism. Institutions, homes, and persons are physically secure. The Jewish community is also a full participant in the civic and cultural life of our diverse city. Our community is constructively engaged with global Jewry and the people of Israel. We fully support Israel as the Jewish homeland and seek to create informed, yet diverse, conversations about Israel and its policies.
What This Means
The Greater Houston Jewish community embraces its place in the most diverse, geographically spread city in the United States. We design programming that creates an ease of participation for those near and far that enhance the small town feel of Houston. We actively welcome all Jews - all levels of religious observance, race, politics, sexual orientation, ability, socioeconomic status, heritage, and stages of life. We include the voices of Jews who historically have not been heard, and we ensure our Jewish social service programs are meeting the evolving needs of the most vulnerable in our community. We strive to build a trusting, inclusive, diverse, and pluralistic culture.
What This Means

In this community, Jewish education is valued and innovative. There are many pathways to quality Jewish learning for all ages and abilities which are offered both formally and informally. We build bridges and connections among Jewish youth through community-wide programming. Educators are compensated generously and are well-supported with professional development. We build capacity to bring inspiring Jewish educational content to all Jews and their loved ones, fostering lifelong Jewish journeys.
What This Means
The Greater Houston Jewish community creates innovative and collaborative programs that provide opportunities for the entire community – including niche groups of all ages, stages, and neighborhoods. We embrace gathering for spiritual, educational, and social experiences in traditional and non-traditional Jewish spaces and stand united as a supportive community that loves to come together. At our core, we are strong, inclusive, welcoming, and vibrant.
What This Means

Jewish organizations share resources and work together to meet the needs of the entire Jewish community now and in the future. The organizations that make up the Greater Houston Jewish community work collaboratively to build energy and create synergy under the shared responsibility of supporting Jewish life. With mutual respect for each other, these organizations work together to build a scaffold of support, collaboration, and connectedness.
What This Means
Community reduces financial barriers so that all Jewish individuals can afford to participate in a full and meaningful Jewish life. We offer a variety of clearly publicized, easily accessible, and confidential financial tools that are readily available to people of all incomes. Promote and prioritize Jewish philanthropy to meet the vision of an inclusive and vibrant Jewish community.
What This Means

Leading Jewishly is rewarding and impactful. We grow, connect, and activate lay and professional leaders who reflect the diversity of the Greater Houston Jewish community to meet community needs. We cultivate a strong pipeline of people with leadership potential to collaborate and enrich our community through service to our organizations. As a community, we work together to develop leadership collaboratively and create a stronger Jewish leadership ecosystem for this generation and generations to come.
Role of the Jewish Federation

Federation Brings our Aspiration to Life through Four Key Roles:

1. **Connector**
   - Bringing people together to find their connection to Jewish life within Houston.

2. **Convener**
   - Bringing our organizations together, so they can talk about how we can be a more fulsome community.

3. **Funder**
   - Funding important community programs, activities, and efforts here in Houston, in Israel, and around the world.

4. **Innovator**
   - Trying new things and taking risks to change how we collectively solve community problems and intentionally shape our future.
The Federation is committed to working through our committee process to grow programmatic and funding efforts to meet the vision of Hineni Houston. There are areas of opportunity in each of the Bold Aspirations. We have charted where our current work reflects the Bold Aspirations, and the voices of the community will continue to inform how this work emerges and evolves in new ways.

Here is the current work of the Federation mapped to the Bold Aspirations:

1. Shalom Y'all: Activate and Navigate Jewish Life in Greater Houston
   What We Do
   - Community Calendar and Communications
     Events listed on Federation website and key news shared via email.
   - Newsletters
     For Jerome Robinson Young Adult Division (JADD) and PJ Library.
   What We Fund
   - Area of Opportunity

2. Live Proudly and Openly as Jews
   What We Do
   - Security
     Proactive security support of Houston's 75 Jewish institutions that include conducting trainings, assessing threats, and liaising with law enforcement when incidents occur.
   - Public Affairs
     Connections forged around legislative issues that impact the Houston Jewish community.
   - Connecting the Community with Israel
     Providing multiple trips to Israel for community members, educators, and teens through Kahilah High. Hosting local Shlichim (Hebrew for emissary) who culturally connect our community with Israel through experiences and events.
   - Facilitating Partnership2gether, a program in partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAI) that connects Houston officially with the Israeli city Petach Tikvah.
   What We Fund
   - University Life Support
     Hillsdale and Chabads at the University of Texas, Texas A&M, and Houston (Rice and University of Houston).
   - BBYO
     A Jewish teen movement intended to build the identity of Jewish teens and offer leadership development programs.
   - Birthright Israel
     Allows Jewish young adults to experience Israel.
   - Mitzvah House
     Provides young adults with the opportunity to live together and build community.
   - NCSY Jewish Student Union
     Clubs for Jewish student in non-Jewish schools.

3. Broaden the Big Tent
   What We Do
   - PJ Library Community Connectors
     Conducting outreach to families with children in suburban areas of Houston to keep them connected with Judaism and Jewish community.
   - Honeymoon Israel
     A program that connects multi-faith couples with Israel and Judaism.
   - Matan
     Utilizing an outside group to conduct an assessment of special needs and opportunities for Jewish schools (Pre-K through grade 12) to better serve students with disabilities and their families.
   What We Fund
   - Friendship Circle
     Supporting families with loved ones who have special needs.
   - Celebration Company at the Alexander JFS
     Provides training and job connections to individuals with disabilities.
   - Area of Opportunity

4. Foster Lifelong Jewish Learning
   What We Do
   - Yom Limmud
     Host yearly a Jewish day of learning for the community.
   - Early Childhood Teacher Degree Program
     Provides forgivable loans to educators seeking advanced degrees.
   - Professional Development for Teachers
     Provide trainings for teachers at all day and congregational schools.
   - Networks for All Schools
     Educators from 36 Jewish day and congregational schools participate in conversations, information and resource sharing, and problem-solving.
   What We Fund
   - Day School Support
     Financial support provided to each of Houston’s Jewish Day Schools based on enrollment numbers.
   - Kahilah High
     Collaborative high school program and learning for students continuing Jewish studies after confirmation.
   - Financial Support for Early Childhood Programs
     Provide childcare and early exposure to Jewish life for young families in our community.
   - Area of Opportunity

5. Connect to Jewish Experiences Across Age, Stage, and Place
   What We Do
   - Israel Experiences
     Providing multiple trips to Israel for community members, educators, and teens (through Kahilah High).
   - PJ Library
     Provides families with small children with monthly mailed access to Jewish books and music as well as planned community activities.
   - Jewish Professional Networks
     Networking groups for professionals to connect & share ideas.
   What We Fund
   - J Support
     General support for the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center so it can provide community programs.
   - Maccabi Games
     Specified an allocation to support the Maccabi Games at the J.
   - Seven Acres
     Provide general support for Seven Acres Senior Care Services to help it care for the elderly in our community.
6. Unite as One Community Through Collaboration

**What We Do**
- Collaborative Networks
  Fourteen (14) Collaborative Networks sharing best practices and resources across organizations throughout the community.

**What We Fund**
- Core Support for Key Jewish Institutions
  These include the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center, Joan and Stanford Alexander Jewish Family Service, and Seven Acres Jewish Senior Care Services.
- Area of Opportunity

7. Prioritize Affordability and Access in Jewish Life

**What We Do**
- Camps and Israel Travel Scholarships
  Provide scholarships to keep people connected to Jewish experiences.
- Marvin Barish Right Start
  Provides tuition vouchers for families enrolling their first child in a Jewish early childhood program

**What We Fund**
- Elder Care Support and Financial Hardship Assistance
  Help the vulnerable in our community through the support of Alexander JFS Promise of Hope (impoverished persons), Holocaust Survivor Support, and Case Management as well as Seven Acres, and ERCC Senior Services (including JRide).
- Disaster Relief
  As needed, provide leadership and support for those impacted by manmade and natural disasters.
- Area of Opportunity

8. Lead Jewishly from Strength to Strength

**What We Do**
- Jerome Robinson Family Young Adult Division (YAD)
  Provide social connections and leadership opportunities for Houston-area Jewish young adults.
- FED U
  A leadership cohort specifically cultivated to learn about the Jewish community, develop as leaders, and become volunteers for Jewish institutions.

**What We Fund**
- Area of Opportunity

![City Silhouette](https://via.placeholder.com/150)
Next Steps
Committees & Impact Fund

Hineni Committees
- Affordability
- Communications
- Education
- Inclusion
- Leadership

Impact Fund
Priority Areas
- Inclusion
- Engagement
- Education
Additional Data
Gender Identity of Respondents

- Male/Male-identifying: 82 (30.4%)
- Female/Female-identifying: 187 (69.3%)
- Non-binary: 2 (0.7%)
Age of Respondents by Decade

- 1930s: 1
- 1940s: 8
- 1950s: 42
- 1960s: 48
- 1970s: 61
- 1980s: 82
- 1990s: 27
- 2000s: 3
Marital Status

- Single: 10.9%
- Married/partnered: 79.2%
- Divorced: 5.0%
- Widowed: 0.5%
- Something else: 0.1%
Identities/Communities That Describe You

- Ashkenazi: 191 (82.6%)
- Jew by Choice: 6 (2.6%)
- Jew of color: 1 (0.4%)
- LGBTQIA: 8 (3.5%)
- Mizrahi/Sephardic: 19 (8.2%)
- Multi-faith family: 15 (6.5%)
- Not Jewish: 1 (0.4%)
- Other: 11 (4.8%)
Parenting status

- Parent of children 5 and under: 65 (23.7%)
- Parent of elementary/middle school children: 101 (36.9%)
- Parent of teens: 64 (23.4%)
- Parent of college aged children: 38 (13.9%)
- Empty nester: 56 (20.4%)
- Grandparent: 35 (12.8%)
- Sandwich generation: caring for older adult and child: 15 (5.5%)
- No children: 20 (7.3%)
- n/a: 32 (11.7%)
Do you or does someone in your family that you care for have special needs?

- Physical disability: 10 (3.6%)
- Cognitive disability: 8 (2.9%)
- Mental health: 17 (6.2%)
- Parent of a child with a 504/IEP: 19 (6.9%)
- None: 218 (79.6%)
- Other: 7 (2.6%)
- Nephew has disability: 1 (0.4%)
- Learning challenges: 1 (0.4%)
- No: 1 (0.4%)
- Elderly parent with cognitive an...: 1 (0.4%)
Synagogue Membership: (273 respondents)

And where? (158 respondents)
Jewish Identity/Affiliation

- Chabad: 37 (13.7%)
- Conservative: 93 (34.4%)
- Just Jewish or culturally Jewish: 35 (13%)
- Orthodox: 61 (22.6%)
- Reform: 76 (28.1%)
- Reconstructionist: 1 (0.4%)
- Not Jewish: 6 (2.2%)
- Other: 4 (1.5%)
- Traditional: 1 (0.4%)
- Post denominational: 1 (0.4%)
Which of these organizations are you presently involved with or support?
Which of these organizations have you been involved with in your lifetime? Have you or a household member attended, affiliated with or utilized services from any of these Jewish organizations?
Your socioeconomic status

- My financial circumstances make it challenging for me to participate in Jewish Life as much... 60 (20.1%)
- My financial circumstances make it possible for me to participate in Jewish Life as I would like to do 177 (59.2%)
- My financial circumstances allow me to donate (or give tzedakah) to Jewish organizations 172 (57.5%)
Where do you fall on the political spectrum?