PROJECT ROW HOUSES RECEIVES SUBSTANTIAL GIFT FROM MACKENZIE SCOTT AND DAN JEWETT

HOUSTON, TEXAS. Project Row Houses (PRH) is one of the beneficiaries of the most recent round of gifts made by philanthropists MacKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett. PRH will use this gift in service to its mission to empower people and enrich communities through engagement, art, and direct action, in Third Ward and beyond.

PRH Executive Director Eureka Gilkey noted: “Black-led nonprofits have long struggled with the same wealth gap that Black individuals and families have dealt with since the end of the Civil War. PRH has done heavy lifting for the past six years to strengthen our financial position. This gift will help us maintain that accomplishment while giving us peace of mind knowing that we have a long runway should any crisis like a major flood, pandemic, or catastrophic freeze affect charitable giving in the short term.”

Gilkey continued: “PRH’s work is built around collective creative action. We are glad that because of major gifts like this one, we can devote more of our collective
creativity towards action, and are excited to be able to renew our commitment to the artists, neighbors, business owners, and community members from whom we draw inspiration.”

PRH Board Chair Devaron Yates expressed gratitude for the gift and spoke about the obligation it creates for the organization. “Our Board of Directors meets regularly to provide stewardship and fiscal oversight for all PRH resources, this gift included. Ultimately, no matter the details of how funds are allocated, we are committed to ensuring they preserve, celebrate, and elevate Black art, history, and culture in Third Ward. We are grateful for the recognition of our work this award represents, and eager to continue building.”

ABOUT THE GIFT

Read MacKenzie Scott's statement here:
https://mackenzie-scott.medium.com/seeding-by-ceding-ea6de642bf

ABOUT PROJECT ROW HOUSES (PRH)

Project Row Houses (PRH) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering people and enriching communities through engagement, art and direct action. PRH was founded in 1993 to be a catalyst for transforming community through the celebration of art and African-American history and culture. Inspired by the work of German avant-garde artist Joseph Beuys and African-American painter Dr. John Biggers, the seven founders – James Bettison, Bert Long, Jr., Jesse Lott, Rick Lowe, Floyd Newsum, Bert Samples, and George Smith – purchased 22 historic shotgun-style row houses on two blocks in a disinvested neighborhood in
Houston’s Historic Third Ward and began using the houses as spaces for thematic art interventions. The site, 39 structures over five city blocks, serves as home to numerous community initiatives, art programs, and neighborhood development activities. Since its inception, PRH has demonstrated that collective community artmaking is a sustainable vehicle for community transformation. Today, PRH serves as a model in Houston and throughout the world. For more information, please visit projectrowhouses.org.

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