

LEOH Trip

August 20, 2026

Houston Public Media

A SERVICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON





LEOH definitely received a warm welcome as we entered the building!

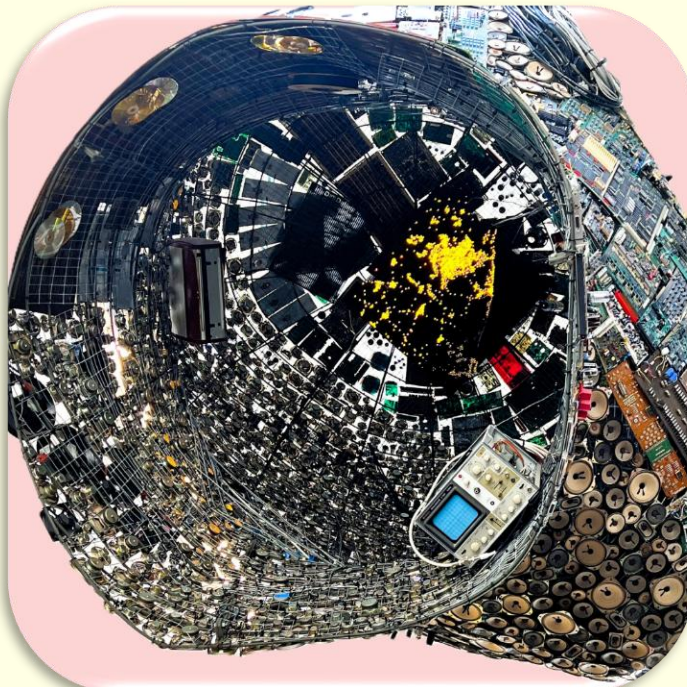
Trip leader **Ann Fairchild** even enjoyed an impromptu photo op with **Abbie Kamin**, former Houston City Council member District C and current Harris County Attorney, who happened to be visiting this day.



Yolanda Brooks Brown
*Staff Outreach and
 Engagement Manager*
 served as a primary
 tour guide



The welcoming area included this huge work of art dangling well above our heads. The middle photo was taken while standing directly beneath it.



Ralph Helmick and Stuart Schechter

Americans, b. 1964 and 1958, respectively

Modulation, 2000

Mixed Media

The artists started with a portrait of humanity and created a composite of an androgynous, ethnically neutral subject. It reflects our societies love of technology with an aim to illustrate the beauty of our time. Hundreds of technological components are attached to a steel wire frame armature to form the "skin" of the piece, representing the detritus of the technological age.

For more information, visit publicartuhs.org.

Public Art
University of
Houston System



This photo was taken while looking down on it from an upper floor in the building. All views were amazing!



Connie Hill, *Education Coordinator*, welcomed us to the original KUHT TV Channel 8 studio, which first aired programs in 1953.

Note the bright overhead lights (some still in use from the 1950's) and broadcast equipment. Fiberglass insulation served to soundproof the studio. The studio is still used today for events, such as upcoming spelling bees and debates. TV 8 was the nation's first public educational TV station.

Prior to the TV station, KUHF-FM began radio broadcasts in 1950, staffed by UH student volunteers. In 1964, an 18-acre transmitter site and tower was donated to UH, allowing the signal to reach up to 80 miles. Newer equipment and innovations in 1983 allowed for even further signal reception.

In 1969, Sesame Street debuted, and a year later, broadcasts were in color.

The station joined NPR (National Public Radio) in 1979.

In 1985, KUHT won an Emmy for the pedophilia special "Child at Risk".

NOTE: See additional timeline events/achievements on their website.





Fujio Watanabe, *Manager of Media Production for Community Fundraising*,

welcomed everyone to the current TV studio. Pictured here with one of the main cameras, he explained that a rolling camera on a track could also be used as desired. The room itself is soundproofed to eliminate any extraneous noise during broadcasts.



On the screen behind him, and in the photo above, you can see the words **Party Politics**, part of the setting for the weekly PBS 8 and 88.7 political podcast hosted by UH Political Science Professors **Jeronimo Cortina** and **Brandon Rottinghaus**. Season 5 of this popular show started recently!



During the tour, we had the opportunity to take a peek inside the “green room”, available to TV and radio guests prior to their guest appearance.

Below: Featured musical artists occasionally perform on the HPM roof during a “Skyline Session”.

The HPM ***George B. Geary Performance Studio*** is available for recording live performances by noteworthy artists.



We also had the opportunity to visit other areas of interest throughout the station. Above right, several certificates are displayed, as well as a map with a circle illustrating the airwaves reach of HPM in and around our area.



Thomas Perumean,
Reporter/Anchor, was on his way
out to gather information for a
story but was kind enough
to spend time with us first.
When one of our members
mentioned TSHL
(Texas Silver-Haired Legislature)
he immediately began taking
notes for a future story.
Stay tuned!

The desk below is home to several
broadcasting awards and certificates,
along with some fun mementos!

Near this area, reporters were gathering
information for stories to be sent out
via the various social media platforms.
One of the “hot topics” this day revolved around
the border wall being erected between the U.S.
and Mexico in our state’s Big Bend National Park.



We also had the pleasure of
meeting and speaking with
Gail Delaughter, News Anchor.

We were reminded
that gathering and crafting news
for the public is
“where the sausage gets made”.





The radio program *Hello Houston* was on the air (see next slide) as we made our way to the control room area.

We peered inside the soundproofed control room (note our reflection on the glass) where the behind-the-scenes action was taking place.

The HPM Website (houstonpublicmedia.org)

HPM offers extensive, in-depth reporting on a variety of topics, plus music, podcasts, etc., all found online on their website.

For example: Do you want to know more about Nancy Grace Roman and the new space telescope named for her?

More than what you read in your newspaper?

Then check out the numerous in-depth news reports on HPM.

From its very beginning, HPM offered and continues to offer extensive children's programming via *PBS Kids*, including games, math, and learning materials for kids, teachers, and parents.

Tune in to the arts and culture, covered extensively on HPM.

Find information quickly on a topic by using their *search* feature!

Plus: HPM is even more than TV8, FM 88, and their website!

If you have a "smart" TV, a low-cost small plug-in antenna allows access to the following digital TV channels

- 8.1 Primary PBS programming
- 8.4 World Japan
- 8.5 Sight into Sound for the visually or physically impaired
- 8.6 ALL ARTS (Emmy-winners)
- 8.7 Classical audio stream
- 8.8 HPM Mixtape audio stream



Hello Houston is hosted by Executive Producers **Tessa Barrera** and **Ernie Manouse** weekdays 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on 88.7 FM. Their goal is to do “deep dives” into the variety of stories that matter to their listeners. Their programs can also be found on podcasts, *YouTube*, and social media platforms.

Our large tour group was divided into two – that meant the timing of our two groups allowed one group to see them hard at work in their studio during their live broadcast, while the other group had the opportunity to speak with them following their broadcast. During a previous trip to Channel 2 TV studios, LEOH members had the opportunity to hear from Tessa, so it was a pleasure to see her again, but in a new environment.

Contact them via their email talk@hellohouston.org or call **713.440.8870**.



Tune in to 88.7 FM at 9:00 a.m. weekdays to hear **Craig Cohen's** program **Hello Houston Matters**, a “daily guide to the people, places, issues, and ideas that define greater Houston”. You may contact him at talk@houstonmatters.org.

A FEW FACTS & FIGURES:

What is Houston Public Media?

- It is a multi-media platform that includes TV8, PBS, News 88.7, NPR and Classical.
- The focus is on delivering local, regional, and national content that covers not just news and information, but also the arts, culture, and education.
- Enjoy the platform via their broadcast channels, podcasts, social media platforms, website, mobile apps, and streaming. HPM reaches an audience of 1.5M. And yes, there's an HPM app!



What is HPM's mission and vision?

- Mission: "Be the essential source for independent local journalism, storytelling, and programs that inform, inspire, and engage all Houstonians wherever and whenever they tune in."
- Vision: An engaged and well-informed community that finds inspiration, insight, and connection through public media.

Funding and More:

- Following a push by the President, Congress rescinded all federal funding for public media in July 2025. NPR and PBS were included in the defunding, including a little over \$2,000,000 earmarked for Houston Public Media. The *Resiliency Fund* was created to bridge this gap. To date, companies and individual donors have contributed \$4.392M toward the \$4.4M goal.
- The HPM 2025-2030 Strategic Plan includes strategies for continuous growth and community engagement.
- PBS Passport: For an annual fee of \$60, enjoy unlimited access to the PBS streaming app, including a library of more than 4,000 episodes. NOTE: There are limitations; check the HPM website for details.





Following lunch at Luby's on S. Post Oak, we were ready to return to the church parking lot, to-go bags in hand!
(Luby's is a Texas tradition! Bob Luby opened his first restaurant in San Antonio in 1947,
wanting to serve good, fresh food in a setting people would want to come back to again and again.)



*Thank You, Ann Fairchild,
for planning this great trip!
And Thank You, Peter,
our Precinct One bus driver, for safe travels!*

Signing Up for a Trip

Trip Coordinator Ann Fairchild may be contacted at fairann@sbcglobal.net or 281-686-1325.
She will publish complete trip details, with the opportunity to sign up, closer to the trip date.
If the traveler quota is full, you may ask to be put on a waiting list.

NOTE: Trip write-ups can be found on the LEOH website leohtexas.org