



Rhodes School

for the Performing Arts

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Local Fine Arts School Welcomes *Black Girls Do Engineer* for District STEM Day

Rhodes School for the Performing Arts Moves Full "STEM" Ahead with Black Girls Do Engineer as Hosts

Houston, TX – Rhodes School for the Performing Arts is pleased to welcome back non-profit organization *Black Girls Do Engineer* for its District STEM Day, set for Tuesday, February 22, at their Humble campus location.

Founded by Kara Branch, *Black Girls Do Engineer (BGDE)* is a Houston-based non-profit corporation focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Robotics, Coding, College Preparation, and Financial Literacy. Their programs aim to reach the youth and young adult women of color while guiding them on career paths based on insight from professionals in the STEM industry. *BGDE* consists of ninety-plus members ranging from engineers, consultants, and scientists to employees of the Oil and Gas Industry and the Space Industry like NASA.

Although studies have shown an increase in STEM jobs between 2001 and 2011, racial and gender gaps remain a problem. Women make up 25% of the STEM workforce, but less than 5% of the STEM workforce are women of color. "This is why organizations like *Black Girls Do Engineer* are so important for our scholars to see," says Shenitra Davis, RSPA's District RtI Coordinator. After judging a successful Science Fair last November, alongside Modern Day Hidden Figure, Sharon McDougle, *Black Girls Do Engineer*, has shown how necessary its partnership with the fine arts magnet school can be.

"There's no way around it: children are significantly better off with strong science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics skills. It's undebatable that these subjects push society forward, and these programs help find fun and engaging ways to teach them to students, which is a win-win for RSPA."

Black Girls Do Engineer's STEM Career Professionals will lead the way with fun, hands-on activities to introduce RSPA's scholars to the vast and wonderful world of STEM. Activities include an insightful panel discussion, a Question & Answer session, and engaging STEM experiments with 5th and 8th-grade students alongside current GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) scholars. RSPA's District STEM Day is a one-day event scheduled for 9:00-11:00a in RSPA's Humble campus cafeteria.

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Rhodes School for the Performing Arts is a Fine Arts Magnet School of Distinction. Established in 2007 by Michelle Bonton, RSPA serves over 600 students in the greater Houston area. RSPA boasts six Fine Art disciplines and is home to several Fine Art ensembles such as choir, visual arts, and theatre arts. Rhodes School for the Performing Arts is dedicated to providing its students with an exceptional education and rigorous Fine Arts curriculum. To learn more about RSPA, visit RhodesSchool.org.



Rhodes School for the Performing Arts

DISTRICT STEM DAY

Moving Full "STEM" Ahead!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 | 9:00 -11:00A
RSPA HUMBLE CAMPUS
600 CHARLES STREET
HUMBLE, TX 77338

PANEL DISCUSSION | Q&A SESSION
STEM EXPERIMENTS WITH GATE, 5TH, & 8TH GRADE STUDENTS



STEM DAY HOSTS:
BLACK GIRLS DO ENGINEER!
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