



**Austin Public Health
cordially invites you to a
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
for a historical plaque
commemorating the former
Texas Blind, Deaf & Orphan School
for Colored Youth
1887 – 1965**

**Saturday, February 18, 2017
12:00 Noon
Betty Dunkerley Campus
7201 Levander Loop
Austin, Texas 78702**

Light refreshments

Free parking

RSVP by Wednesday, February 15, 2017 @ 512-972-5101

**Historical Site of the Former
TEXAS BLIND, DEAF & ORPHAN SCHOOL
For African American Students
1887 – 1965**

- In 1887, the *Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institute for Colored Youth* was established on a hundred-acre tract on Bull Creek Road between 38th and 45th Streets following sponsorship by William H. Holland, an African American Texan who was born a slave in 1841. Following courageous service in the Civil War, Mr. Holland served as an educator and in 1876 was elected State Representative and sponsored legislation to establish the *Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institute for Colored Youth*, and the University now known as Prairie View A&M. In 1943, the Institute was re-named the *Texas Blind, Deaf, and Orphan School*.
- In the early 1950s, Azie Taylor Morton attended the *Texas Blind, Deaf, and Orphan School*, graduating in 1952 at the age of 16. In 1956, Ms. Morton graduated cum laude from Austin's Huston-Tillotson College and in 1977 was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as the first African American to serve as U.S. Treasurer. Ms. Morton passed away in 2003, leaving a rich African American legacy for the Texas Blind, Deaf, and Orphan School.
- In 1961, the *Texas Blind, Deaf, and Orphan School* was moved to the current site at 7201 Levander Loop, following the Texas Legislature's appropriation to fund the construction of eleven buildings accommodating 1,208 students.
- In 1965, the Levander Loop facility began serving as the East Campus of the Texas School for the Deaf under the name *Texas Blind and Deaf School*. In 1965-1966, this east campus was desegregated following 78 years of academic and residential segregation by race.
- In 1989, following major renovations to the School for the Deaf's South Campus, the East Campus' *Texas Blind and Deaf School* was consolidated into the main South Campus.
- In 2002, the City of Austin purchased the former *Texas Blind and Deaf School* property from the State to develop a campus dedicated to the provision of public health services and animal services.

Commemorated in February 2017 by:

AUSTIN PUBLIC HEALTH

Shannon W. Jones III, Director

