

The Houston History Bus, *Bringing the Past Alive*

Mister McKinney recently fulfilled one of his dreams when he rolled out the Houston History Bus. “The Houston History Bus is a truly unique and immersive experience,” R. W. McKinney explains. “We acquired a retired school bus and reconfigured it into a mobile classroom. We cut the roof off, removed the windows, and installed a flat screen TV. We created a mobile educational resource that we’re leveraging to provide free city tours to school children, as well as paid tours to the public. They’ll be able to explore the communities they live in, and watch their neighborhoods come alive with history as we show them archival photos and artwork, comparing them to modern cityscapes and architecture. We’ll show them where Santa Ana marched through the East End, and where the original fire station used to be in The Heights.”

R. W. McKinney is a leading cultural contributor to Houston and heavily involved with and on the board of many local organizations, including Miller Outdoor Theatre, the



Harris County Historical Society, and the Bellaire Historical Society, where he is president. Recently chosen as District I historian by Council Member Robert Gallegos, McKinney is the resident historian for KHOU Channel 11's *Great Day Houston* hosted by Deborah Duncan.

You can learn more about the free tours for school groups on the Houston History Bus by following “Mister McKinney’s Historic Houston” on Facebook or emailing mistermckinney@gmail.com.

Photos courtesy of Mister McKinney.

