



Let's Cook *Houston*

Houston's community culinary program — proven with foster youth, now open to the whole city. Three ways to cook with us, real credentials, and a clear path from first kitchen to first career.

THE OPPORTUNITY

We proved the model. Now we're opening the kitchen to Houston.

Let's Cook Houston began as Let Them Cook — a culinary program we built with Houston's foster-youth community to prove the model worked. It did. Now we're opening it to everyone: a monthly event for the whole city, a 10-week intensive for adults, and a monthly Saturday just for kids. The program is built to be self-sustaining — paid tuition and ticketed events cover the operating cost. Sponsorship is what opens the door for the Houston participants who can't afford the seat on their own.

That is the ask in one sentence: keep the program strong with paid enrollment, and use sponsorship to fund scholarship seats, garden meals, and access for the Houston youth and families who need them most. Every dollar sponsors a Houston cook.

\$55

Sponsors a child's
Monthly Youth Saturday

\$1,200

Sponsors one adult's
full 10-week intensive

100%

Of sponsorship funds
Houston participants

WHY YOUR INVESTMENT MATTERS

Every sponsorship dollar funds a real seat, a real credential, and a real meal for a Houston participant. Sponsors don't just donate — they build Houston's next generation of culinary, hospitality, and urban-agriculture talent, and get first access to job-ready graduates through our employer showcase.



What you *fund*

Scholarship seats, garden meals, and program access — because cost should never be the reason a Houston cook can't get in the kitchen.

SCHOLARSHIP SEATS — WHAT A SPONSORSHIP BUYS

Let's Cook Houston is a paid program by design — that's what keeps it sustainable. Sponsorship is how we open it up. Every gift funds a specific, named seat for a Houston participant who couldn't otherwise afford it. Here is exactly what each scholarship costs:

SCHOLARSHIP TYPE	COST
Monthly Youth Saturday One child, one Saturday — a new skill & a garden meal.	\$55
Youth Saturday 4-pack A full quarter of monthly skills for one child.	\$200
10-Week — Senior (55+) A condensed wellness + culinary track for an older adult.	\$795
10-Week — TSU/College A college student's full intensive (governed by the TSU 70/30 split).	\$895
10-Week — Adult The full 200-hour transformation — certifications, CE credits, showcase.	\$1,200
Garden meals & access Weekly garden-to-plate meals and program access for participants in need.	\$250

Hydroponics is an optional add-on paid separately to the Metallic Sunflower Foundation — sponsorship can underwrite that access too.

KEEPING OUR YOUTH SAFE IS NON-NEGOTIABLE

Because we serve youth, every chef, mentor, and volunteer completes fingerprint-based background screening before stepping into our kitchen. Texas DFPS fingerprint checks run about \$37–\$40 per adult,[1] and youth-serving organizations nationally spend \$10–\$75 per screening with annual re-checks.[2] Sponsorship pays for this vetting directly — it's a line item, not an afterthought.

[1] Texas DFPS — Background Check Fees (\$37.75–\$39.75) https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Background_Checks/fees.asp

[2] Youth-org background check cost benchmarks (\$10–\$75/screening) <https://www.ankored.com/blog/youth-sports-background-check-cost>



Why it *works*

One curriculum across three products — and why sponsorship here delivers exceptional per-participant value compared to peer programs.

FROM A MONTHLY EVENT TO A CAREER PIPELINE

With Texas Southern University, we run a 10-week, 200-hour culinary intensive — kitchen labs, urban-farm training with Harlem River Farms, an optional hydroponics lab with C.C. Brooks, and stackable credentials co-issued with TSU, culminating in an employer showcase. The same curriculum threads through our monthly event and our kids' Saturday, so a sponsor's impact compounds across every door. Here is how that value compares to peer programs:

WHAT PEER PROGRAMS COST — OUR VALUE IS LEAN

COMPARABLE PROGRAM	BASIS	COST
DC Central Kitchen ³	Culinary job-training, per student	~\$15,000
Prepped to Serve Appalachia ⁴	DOL/WIOA culinary workforce program	\$250,000
Workforce training (general) ⁵	Per trainee, typical range	\$2,000–\$7,500
Root / Kitchen-to-Capital ⁶	Participant stipends alone	\$1,200–\$1,300
Urban Sprouts (youth culinary) ⁷	Per participant, all-in	\$600

WHY THIS IS EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

At the DC Central Kitchen benchmark of ~\$15,000 per student, a sponsored seat at Let's Cook Houston delivers a 200-hour intensive, three certifications, CE credits, and an employer pipeline for as little as \$1,200. Our model combines paid enrollment, university facilities, volunteer partners, and in-kind support — so every sponsorship dollar goes further than in stand-alone nonprofit programs.

[3] DC Central Kitchen culinary training (~\$15,000/student) <https://civileats.com/2022/08/24/photo-essay-dc-kitchen-culinary-training-program-low-income-residents-chefs/>

[4] Prepped to Serve Appalachia (\$250,000 WIOA program) <https://wvhealthright.org/prepped-to-serve-appalachia/>

[5] Workforce training cost per trainee (\$2,000–\$7,500) <https://opportunityaustin.com/economic-development/incentives/training-programs/>

[6] Culinary stipend programs (\$1,200–\$1,300/participant) <https://snappathtowork.org/listing/root-culinary-training-program/>

[7] Urban Sprouts youth culinary (\$600/participant) <https://urbansprouts.org/programs/>



Become a *Sponsor*

Choose the level that fits your goals. Every tier puts your brand behind Houston cooks and delivers measurable community impact.

WHAT SPONSORS RECEIVE

- **Brand visibility**

Logo on event signage, swag, and our program materials — seen by participants, families & the community across Houston.

- **Community impact story**

Photo & impact reports you can share with your stakeholders, showing exactly whose future you funded.

- **Talent pipeline access**

First look at certified, job-ready graduates for your hospitality, catering & food-service roles via our employer showcase.

- **Tax-deductible giving**

Contributions support Let's Cook Houston participants through our program partnership.

SPONSORSHIP TIERS

TIER	GIFT	WHAT IT FUNDS
Friend	\$500	Name on our supporter wall & social thank-you.
Supporting	\$1,000	Logo on event swag + social recognition.
Community Table	\$2,500	Sponsor table at Iron Chef Houston + logo placement.
Program	\$5,000	Presenting logo on signage & aprons; funds scholarship seats. Most popular.
Presenting	\$10,000	Title sponsor of an Iron Chef event; lead logo + impact report.
Founding Partner	\$25,000+	Year-long partnership; named role in the TSU program year.

IRON CHEF HOUSTON — EVENT SPONSOR TABLES

Sponsor tables \$500–\$2,500 · Vendor booths \$40 · Spectator \$35 · Participate \$85 — a ticketed, high-energy recruitment + fundraiser.

THE ASK

Sponsor a Houston cook.

Fund a scholarship seat, sponsor an Iron Chef event, or become a Founding Partner in the program year. Every gift opens the kitchen for someone who couldn't otherwise get in.

SPONSOR / ENROLL: travelvillakitchen.org/let-them-cook



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