

Joel Edward Goza

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EDUCATION

Master of Public Affairs

LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin, Summer 2022

Master of Divinity

Duke School of Divinity, Duke University, 2007

Bachelor of Arts in Business & Economics and Bible & Theology

Wheaton College, 2002

Advocacy Accomplishments:

- Extensive experience leading collaborative efforts with Houston's leading faith, business, governmental, research, and nonprofit institutions to serve students and vulnerable communities.
- Formed the Fifth Ward Task Force, a team of leading educational institutions, researchers, and practitioners, to address the achievement gap in Fifth Ward Houston ISD schools. Task Force recommendations to improve the education of students in hyper-poverty schools passed the HISD board on January 14, 2016.
- Developed a team for the Center for Urban Transformation to address Houston's urban crisis by strategically partnering with Rice University, Baylor College of Medicine, Baylor University, Legacy Community Health, YES Prep Public Schools, the YMCA of Greater Houston, Krist Samaritan Center, and CAN DO Houston.
- Worked to minimize educational deficiencies in the Fifth Ward by working with area leaders and the *Houston Chronicle* to raise citywide awareness and better align an HISD \$805 million bond with community needs in 2007.
- Organized and facilitated the Houston Coalition for Immigration Reform; collaborated with the Greater Houston Partnership, faith leaders, legal experts, city council members, congressional offices, and the White House to promote holistic immigration reform.
- Partnered with SEIU to successfully advocate to Mayor Sylvester Turner for a substantial increase in the pay for Houston airport workers.

Publishing Accomplishments

- Endorsed by New York Time Best Selling Author Ibram X. Kendi and Harvard Kennedy School's Khalil Gibran Muhammad
- Received the Publishers Weekly Starred Review for America's Unholy Ghosts
- Published with the Houston Chronicle, The Louisville Courier Journal, Salon, Religious News Service, and The Hill
- Joined the Charlotte Sheedy Literary Agency in 2020

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022 – Current: Director of Academic Partnerships and Professor of Ethics

- Robert Wood Johnson 2023 Grant for “A Universal Basic Neighborhood”: Helped facilitate a team that included Simmons College of Kentucky’s Jesse Jackson Center for Racial Justice, The Envirome Institute at the University of Louisville, University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law, and the James a. Baker Institute of Public Policy at Rice University that secured funding to research a Universal Basic Neighborhood
- Designed and delivered four college courses that included: Ella, Malcolm, and Martin: A Movement to Remake America, American History: A Survey, Foundations of Ethics, and America’s Unholy Ghosts: The Racist Roots of Our Faith and Politics
- Taught college courses in Kentucky Prisons through the Second Chance Pell Grant
- Helped facilitate the recruitment and securing the services of faculty in History and Sociology
- Facilitated working with the artist Victor Gaddie for a major art installation at Ida B. Wells Hall
- Assisted with securing over \$2.5 million in funding through Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Baugh Foundation, and Private Donors

2016 – Current: Freelance Writer, Speaker, and Community Advocate

- Current book project is *Rebirth of a Nation: Reparations and Making an Antiracist America*
- Joined the Charlotte Sheedy Literary Agency. Award winning writers Charlotte represents include Khalil Gibran Muhammed, Jelani Cobb, Mary Francis Berry, Timothy Tyson, Pauli Murray, Audre Lourde, Saeed Jones, DaMaris B. Hill, and others
- Received invitations to speak at some of the nation’s leading conferences for emerging writers and leading thinkers. Invitations included:
 - *Renaissance Weekend* – It is an invitation-only event for preeminent authorities and emerging thought leaders designed to foster discussions on the urgent questions of our time. These weekends host Pulitzer Prize winners, US Supreme Court justices, astronauts, leading media figures, academics, venture capitalists, social entrepreneurs, and many more. Previous participants include Mary Edelman-Wright, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Stephen Colbert, Simon Sinek, and Bill Clinton.
 - *JusticeCon* – JusticeCon is a new conference that attracts leading thinkers and practitioners committed to social justice. Other speakers included the University of California’s Angela Davis, National Book of the Year Award Winner Ibram X. Kendi, and the executive director of the NYU School of Social Work, Michael Lindsey.
 - *The National Publicity Summit* – I was selected to attend the 2019 Fall National Publicity Summit to engage with TV producers, podcast hosts, radio talk shows, and videographers. I am currently calendaring with a number of the media outlets and working to network to create meaningful and long-term relationships.
 - *Faith, Faith, Politics: A Voter’s Summit & Presidential Forum* – Held in Des Moines, the summit and forum offers world-class training for citizens, faith leaders, community organizers and activists, and political candidates on engaging in civic life and the common good. During the evenings, presidential, Senate, congressional, and state

candidates will share their perspectives on the intersection of faith, politics, and the common good.

2016-2021: Visiting Scholar in Residence at Truett Seminary, The University of St. Thomas, and The University of Houston

2006 - 2016: Assistant to the Pastor, Pleasant Hill Baptist, Houston, TX

- Developed a team for the Center for Urban Transformation to address Houston's urban crisis by strategically partnering with Rice University, Baylor College of Medicine, Baylor University, Legacy Community Health, YES Prep Public Schools, the YMCA of Greater Houston, Krist Samaritan Center, and CAN DO Houston.
- Formed the Fifth Ward Task Force, a team of leading educational institutions, researchers, and practitioners, to address the achievement gap in Fifth Ward Houston ISD schools. Task Force recommendations to improve the education of students in hyper-poverty schools passed the HISD board on January 14, 2016.
- Led the community-side implementation of the award-winning Community Bridges program at Rice University, which partners Rice students with institutions throughout the greater Fifth Ward to provide community service.
- Chairperson of Leadership Houston's This Is Houston Day to expose Houston businesses, nonprofits, and government officials to the work taking place in Houston's Fifth Ward.
- Developed and implemented the Healing the Brokenness conference that brings together Christian leaders across socioeconomic and denominational divides by working with leading scholars and practitioners throughout the world to heal the racial and economic divisions in Houston.
- Worked to minimize educational deficiencies in the Fifth Ward by working with area leaders and the *Houston Chronicle* to raise city-wide awareness and better align HISD's \$805 million bond with community needs in 2007.
- Initiated bringing YES Prep Public Schools to the Fifth Ward to improve the community's access to excellent educational opportunities for middle school and high school students.
- Provided vision and leadership for the Pleasant Hill Leadership Institute and the Alpha Omega Children's Ministry. These ministries provide a unique blend of Christian leadership training and academic assistance in the mission of "Forming Christian College-Bound Leaders." Partners include KIPP, YES Prep Public Schools, Rice University, Duke University, and Baylor University.
- Oversaw Pleasant Hill's internship program working with diverse students through relationships I spearheaded with Rice University, Duke University, and Baylor University. Responsibilities included intern recruitment, selection, orientation, and supervision.
- Served as a table ambassador for the National Latino Prayer Breakfast in 2013.
- Helped organize and facilitate the Houston Coalition for Immigration Reform and collaborated with the Houston Partnership, faith leaders, legal experts, city council members, congressional offices, and the White House on issues related to immigration reform.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Rebirth of a Nation: Reparations and Remaking America (Fall 2024)

America's Unholy Ghosts: The Racist Roots of Our Faith and Politics, Cascade Books, April 2019

Articles: Links and additional articles are available @ joeledwardgoza.com

Selected op-eds from *The North Star*:

- Ending the War on Black Families, September 11, 2019
- Opening the Door to Reparations, August 4, 2019
- Black Mayors and the Power of Local Politics, June 22, 2019
- Continuing Martin Luther King's Struggle for Justice, April 3, 2019

Salon:

- Finding Hope on Martin Luther King Day, Even in These Times of Struggle, January 21, 2019

Selected op-eds and blogs from the *Houston Chronicle*:

- Mayor Turner's Rare Opportunity for Radical Leadership, November 1, 2019
- A War Speech Worth Remembering: LBJ's 1964 State of the Union, February 5, 2019
- Black Churches and White Evangelicals Divided by a Common Religion, December 22, 2018
- The Most Dangerous Negro: MLK and a Double-Edged Dream, January 14, 2018
- What Now? Opportunity to Rebuild a City, September 12, 2017
- Pastor in Chief: Reflections on a Presidency, January 19, 2017
- White Soul Mates: How James Dobson Evolved the KKK Values for an Evangelical Embrace, December 5, 2016
- New HISD Chief Must Tackle Challenge of Fifth Ward Poverty, April 10, 2016
- From Lincoln to Trump: How Democrats and Republicans Fuel Today's Chaos, April, 7, 2016
- The Power of Unspoken Commitments: Reflections on Wheaton College, March 10, 2016
- The Swastika of the South and the Sins of Our Fathers, November 17, 2015
- Living on the Other Side of a Child's Death, June 21, 2015
- For Those in the Desert: Reflections on Temptations Robin Williams and Jesus, August 26, 2014
- Is the Heart of Texas Too Small for Children? July 22, 2014
- Through the Eyes of Christ: Art in Houston's Shadows, October 3, 2013
- Don't Let Border Security Derail Immigration Reform, July 3, 2010