

FAQs

- 1. Is the Houston Land Bank the same agency as Land Assemblage Redevelopment Authority?**
 - a. **Yes**, the Land Assemblage Redevelopment Authority (LARA) changed its name to Houston Land Bank in 2018 to more accurately reflect its mission.

- 2. Is the Houston Land Bank a City of Houston Department?**
 - a. **No**, the Houston Land Bank is local government corporation authorized by subchapter 431 of the Texas Transportation Code and was created for the purposes of reclaiming, vacant, abandoned, and deteriorated properties on behalf of the City to promote the common good and welfare of the residents of the City. The Houston Land Bank is governed by a Board of Directors (hyperlink: http://houstonlandbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/HLB_Filed-Stamped-Amended-Articles_092718.pdf) composed of representatives appointed by the City of Houston, Harris County and Houston Independent School District.

- 3. When was the Houston Land Bank created?**
 - a. The Houston Land Bank was incorporated as the Land Assemblage Redevelopment Authority in 1999. (Hyperlink: http://houstonlandbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/HLB_LARA-1999-Articles.pdf)

- 4. Why does Houston need a land bank?**
 - a. The Houston Land Bank was created to address the destabilizing effects of vacant, abandoned and deteriorated (VAD) properties in numerous communities throughout Houston. VAD properties contribute to the loss of valuable tax dollars needed to support public schools and the City and County to deliver services.

- 5. What does the Houston Land Bank do?**
 - a. The Houston Land Bank obtains and assembles vacant, abandoned and deteriorated properties for the purpose of stewarding their rehabilitation, restoration and reactivation to new ownership that meets community needs for quality affordable housing, community and economic development and increased quality of life. See our impact: (hyperlink: <http://houstonlandbank.org/impact/>)

- 6. How did the Houston Land Bank acquire the properties in its inventory?**
 - a. Most properties in the Houston Land Bank inventory were acquired through tax-strike off agreement with HISD, City of Houston and Harris County. Strike-off is a process that occurs after a tax delinquent property is brought to tax-auction and does not sale. The property is then “struck-off” (deeded to) the Houston Land

Bank in order to steward the property to new ownership that meets community needs.

7. Are Houston Land Bank (LARA) properties owned by the City of Houston?

- a. No**, the properties in the Houston Land Bank inventory are not City of Houston property. Ownership of the properties obtained by the Houston Land Bank/LARA are deeded to the land bank until they are sold for redevelopment that meets community needs.