



## **CONTAINER HOME SWEET HOME**

We are back! In 2014 the USGBC Gulf Coast Region (GCR) signed a “Memorandum of Understanding” with HISD to build a shipping container demonstration home. It was to be located on the Furr High School campus and built as a collaboration between GCR and HISD students and faculty. Unfortunately, that project did not get off the ground as we had hoped. However, a new school, Booker T. Washington High School, has taken their place. We are back with a new group of passionate students and teachers. Booker T. Washington High School is a historically significant school with an excellent engineering program, vocational training in construction, and several other pathways that will help out with the project. Their staff and students are already very excited to be part of this innovative new concept!

We had our first meeting Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> to kick off discussion and pre-planning. In attendance were representatives from HISD administration, the Principal of the school, the vocation program teacher, Caroline Kostak (USGBC-CGR Green Schools Chair, LEED AP-Homes, and LEED Rater) and myself. Preliminary discussions focused on the priorities of student engagement, the potential use of the building as a bridge between the school’s past and its future, and community involvement and support. Caroline will be leading the project’s LEED-Homes Certification process. A design charrette is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 19. At this meeting, we will discuss the project’s goals, review the LEED-Homes Checklist, and have breakout discussions to address specific issues such as maximizing student engagement and community relations. We would like to kick off the project in the Fall semester of the 2016-217 school year.

For this container project to be a success, we will need passionate volunteers with skills in architecture, engineering, interior design, project management, finance, social media, solar energy, rain water recapture, project permitting, mechanical-electrical-plumbing (ME), etc. If you are passionate and fit any of these descriptions, please email me at [gradcool@gmail.com](mailto:gradcool@gmail.com) with an explanation of how and why you would like to be involved and we'll do our best to find a place for you on the team.

We are so excited to be moving forward on this project. It is an opportunity to engage the next generation of leaders in learning about healthy building practices while making a bold statement about Houston's commitment to sustainability, energy efficiency and the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sergio Grado". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sergio Grado  
Immediate Past Chair  
State of Texas USGBC Chapter Board Member  
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