

Finding Avenues Foundation

Targeted Trades (rough draft)

Trade Scholarship Programs

Empowering Houston youth (ages 16–25) with scholarships, trade school access, and freelance-ready skills that prepare them for sustainable careers while honoring their creative aspirations.

Important Note:

Arts-based trade scholarships are only available to individuals who are already working in or actively pursuing a viable trade or career path. This ensures a stable income foundation while pursuing artistic goals at the highest level.

Featuring:

- Top 15 In-Demand Trades (■ = Freelance-Ready)
- Personal Service Trades
- Arts-Based Trades

www.findingavenues.org

Top 15 In-Demand Trades (■ = Freelance-Ready)

Trade	School(s)	Notes (Why In-Demand or Freelance-Ready)
HVAC Technician ■	HCC, UTI, Fortis	High demand for residential & commercial repairs. Freelance-ready: EPA 608 + tools = solo jobs possible.
Automotive Technician ■	Lone Star, UTI, HCC	U.S. car ownership is high. Freelance-ready: Oil changes, diagnostics, light repair—all possible from home or mobile setup.
Plumbing ■	San Jac, HCC	Aging infrastructure = steady pipeline of work. Freelance-ready: Emergency repairs, installs with license.
Surgical Tech	Lone Star, Fortis	Surgeries are rising in outpatient centers. Strong hospital hiring—structured employment.
Heavy Equipment Operator	TSTC, HCC	Construction & energy jobs growing. Usually tied to companies, but CDL crossover possible.
Truck Driver / CDL	Lone Star Transportation & Logistics	Vital to supply chain. Some freelance via owner-operator route post-CDL.
Construction / Carpentry	Lone Star, HCC	Ongoing housing boom. Semi-freelance options for small renovation or home framing gigs.
Solar Installer	Lone Star, TSTC	Green tech investment rising. Can freelance as a subcontractor after license.
Tiling / Flooring Installer ■	HCC, Flooring Academy of Houston	In-demand for home renovations. Freelance-ready: Small gigs, referrals, and subcontracting.
Sheet Metal Worker	San Jac, HCC	HVAC, roofing, ducts rely on this. Usually union-based but side gigs possible.
Electrical Technician ■	Lone Star, Tulsa Welding School	Always needed in homes/commercial buildings. Freelance-ready: Swaps, outlets, ceiling fans (w/ license).
Lawn Care / Landscaping ■	HCC (TCLA Cert), NPSOT Cert	Year-round demand in Houston. Freelance-ready: Mow & blow setups to scaled design services.
Welding	Precision Welding, HCC	Industrial and pipeline uses. Freelance-ready with mobile rig and safety certs.
Cybersecurity Analyst	HCC, San Jac, UT Austin Bootcamp	Remote & full-time demand booming. Freelance possible with contracts and portfolio.
IT Support Technician	HCC, Lone Star	Devices & networks are everywhere. Freelance-ready: Home visits, remote support, installs.

Personal Service Trades (■ = Freelance-Ready)

Trade	School(s)	Notes (Why In-Demand or Freelance-Ready)
Cosmetology ■	Lone Star, Paul Mitchell, HCC	Evergreen beauty demand. Freelance-ready: Do makeup, lashes, facials at home or pop-ups.
Nail Tech ■	Lone Star, Ogle, HCC	Steady demand from events/social media. Freelance-ready: Mobile or home salon + social following.
Barbering ■	Lone Star, Ogle School	Fade culture strong in urban areas. Freelance-ready: Rent chair, cut at events, mobile setups.
Personal Trainer ■	NASM, ISSA	Health/wellness boom. Freelance-ready: Train in gyms, parks, homes, or offer online coaching.
Mobile Car Detailer ■	Private Workshops, HCC CE	People want on-site car cleaning. Freelance-ready: Solo setup, low cost, high volume gigs.

Arts-Based Trades (■ = Freelance-Ready)

Trade	School(s)	Notes (Why In-Demand or Freelance-Ready)
Audio Engineering ■	HCC, San Jac, MediaTech	Independent music & podcast boom. Freelance-ready: Studio sessions, mix/masters, mobile kits. Eligible for arts grants.
Photography ■	Houston Center for Photography, UH	Social media & events = huge market. Freelance-ready: Portraits, branding, photo shoots. Grant-eligible too.
Videography ■	HCC Filmmaking, TRCoA	Short-form & documentary use growing. Freelance-ready: Music videos, reels, weddings. Arts funding friendly.
Graphic Design ■	HCC Designer Cert, Lone Star	Brands need logos/ads daily. Freelance-ready: Websites, flyers, logos. Full remote possible. Grant crossover.
3D Modeling / Animation ■	Lone Star Visual Comm	Used in gaming, education, ads. Freelance-ready: Commissioned scenes, logos, NFTs. Arts + tech fund eligible.