

RDA GALA

# PROGRESSIVE ART

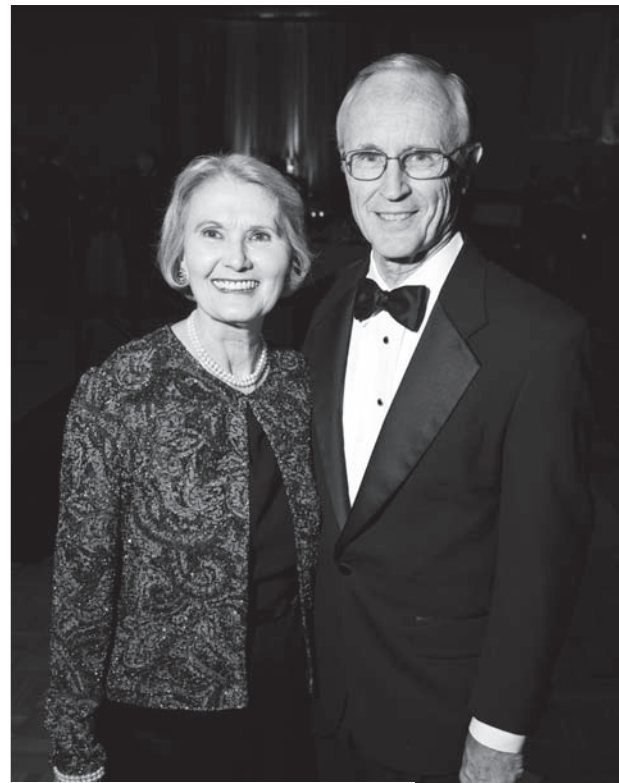
## Infrastructure, Greenspaces, and Waterways

**PROGRESSIVE ART: INFRASTRUCTURE, GREENSPACES, AND WATERWAYS** was the theme of the Rice Design Alliance gala where over one thousand members of Houston's architecture, engineering, and construction industries gathered at the Hilton Americas hotel on November 13 to honor Art Storey, Executive Director of the Harris County Public Infrastructure Department. Storey is credited with making Houston's bayous more efficient and beautiful community spaces. Under his leadership, LEED principles and historic values have been respected in the design and construction of new Harris County buildings and the reconstruction and renovation of the historic 1910 courthouse.

Fundraising chair Doug Combes was in great spirits as almost \$500,000 was raised to fund RDA programs. PGAL's David Andrews, along with Las Vegas associate Ron Singer, designed the ballroom environment which featured entry gates hung with blue and green fabric, suggesting greenspaces and waterways. Designer Rebekah Johnson provided floral arrangements of blue hydrangeas and natural grasses to complement the blue, green, and brown tablecloths (the infrastructure) sweeping through the ballroom.

Guests pored over the silent auction, known to be one of the city's best, and Auction Chair Mary Beth Woicak was delighted to see guests bid furiously over the curated display of designer items, including work donated by Houston artists and galleries.

KHOU-TV Channel 11 reporter Katherine Whaley quickly got the crowd's attention during dinner when she introduced RDA President Kimberly Hickson who with Gala Chairs David and Norma George presented honoree Art Storey, who humbly accepted accolades from the crowd that included Rice President David Leebron and Y. Ping Sun, Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, and Rice School of Architecture Dean Sarah Whiting.



Joan and Art Storey



Y. Ping Sun and David Leebron



Lauren Von Drehle and Daniel Killary



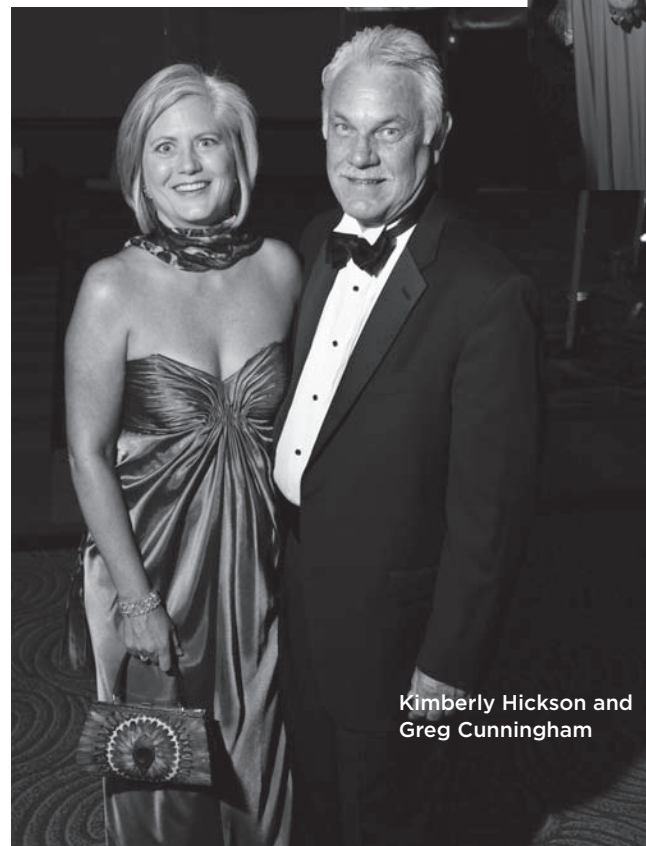
Kristin Skarbovig and Mary Beth Woicak



Celania Ramirez, Liz Fischer, and Derek Smith



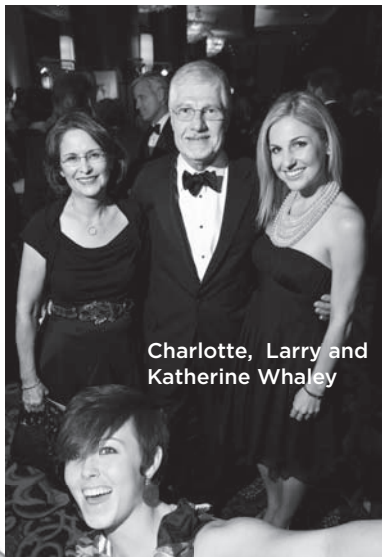
Joseph and Michelle Hatton-Rodriguez



Kimberly Hickson and Greg Cunningham



Fares El-Dahdah, David and Rachel Dewane



Charlotte, Larry and Katherine Whaley



Norma and David George



Will Ross and Delrae Weerts



Gwen and Ed Emmett



Melanie Herz-Promecene and Chris Promecene



Ron Witte and Sarah Whiting

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