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 Woiccak 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.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>AUCTION DONORS</th>
<th>DONORS</th>
<th>COMPANY- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS</th>
<th>SPRING 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>benjy's in the village</td>
<td>Charter Title Company</td>
<td>Company- Landscape Architects</td>
<td>CITINGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>benjy's in the village</td>
<td>Bullseye Storage</td>
<td>Tom Colbert</td>
<td>Hillevi Baar</td>
<td>2010 GALA DONORS</td>
</tr>
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<td>Fixtures International</td>
<td>Guy Hagstette</td>
<td>Mark Bagge</td>
<td>Rice University - School of Continuing Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Andrews Interiors</td>
<td>The OFIS</td>
<td>Katherine &amp; George Howe</td>
<td>Sarah Balinskas Fine Framing</td>
<td>Rienzi, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston</td>
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<td>Bennie Flores Ansell</td>
<td>PGAL</td>
<td>National Terrazzo, Tile &amp; Marble, Inc.</td>
<td>Cara Barer</td>
<td>Andy Robertson</td>
</tr>
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<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Ford Beckman + McClain Gallery</td>
<td>Carolyn Rose Design</td>
</tr>
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<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Becks Prime Restaurants</td>
<td>Saint Arnold Brewing Company</td>
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<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Bell Mountain Vineyards</td>
<td>Bob Sanford and Company</td>
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<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
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<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
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<td>Scott and Lisa Slaney</td>
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<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
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<td>Sloan/Hall</td>
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<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
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<td>Gayle Smith</td>
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<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>The Brass Maiden</td>
<td>Smith Opticians</td>
</tr>
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<td>Ford Beckman + McClain Gallery</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Fernando Brave</td>
<td>Society for the Performing Arts</td>
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<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Brazos Bookstore</td>
<td>Christof Spierer</td>
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<td>Bell Mountain Vineyards</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Brennan's Houston</td>
<td>SpawMaxwell Company</td>
</tr>
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<td>Laura Bellows</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Brochsteins</td>
<td>Ann Stauberg</td>
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<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>David Brown</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Bobbye Bennett</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Sandi Seltzer Bryant + McMurtrey Gallery</td>
<td>Strip House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johanna Boyles</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Buffalo Bayou Partnership</td>
<td>Sunset Settings / Carolyn Brewer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Brass Maiden</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>The Office of James Burnett</td>
<td>Surroundings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fernando Brave</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Larry Burns</td>
<td>Sweet Treats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazos Bookstore</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Catherine Callaway</td>
<td>Swift + Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brennan's Houston</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Canopy</td>
<td>Tejas Custom Boots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brochsteins</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Carriage Glass &amp; Detail</td>
<td>Tekion LLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Brown</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Casa Calderoni</td>
<td>Ten Thousand Villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandi Seltzer Bryant + McMurtrey Gallery</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Central Market</td>
<td>Theater Under the Stars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo Bayou Partnership</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Cheeky Vintage</td>
<td>Thompson + Hanson Nursery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Office of James Burnett</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>The Children's Museum of Houston</td>
<td>Anya Tish Gallery and Orna Feinsein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Burns</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Chinati Foundation</td>
<td>Treebeards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Callaway</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>The Chocolate Bar</td>
<td>Elaine Turner Designs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canopy</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Cite Magazine</td>
<td>TYArt Museum Quality Art Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carriage Glass &amp; Detail</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Collaborative Designworks</td>
<td>Uptown Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casa Calderoni</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Doug Combes</td>
<td>Myke Venable + Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Market</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>The Container Store</td>
<td>Sonja Roesch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheeky Vintage</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Contemporary Arts Museum</td>
<td>Victoria's Fine Linens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinati Foundation</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Cool Stuff</td>
<td>Village Greenery &amp; Flowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Chocolate Bar</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Crane Cupcakes</td>
<td>W Design / Wendy Bantle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cite Magazine</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Ben Crawford</td>
<td>WHR Architects Inc.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Collaborative Designworks</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Andrea Crawford</td>
<td>Wendy Watriss and Fredrick Baldwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Combes</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Da Camera of Houston</td>
<td>Westheimer Plumbing</td>
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<td>The Container Store</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Davey Tree</td>
<td>Geoff Winningham</td>
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<td>Contemporary Arts Museum</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Jeff DeBevec</td>
<td>Walter P Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continental Airlines</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Luis A. De Santos / LADS</td>
<td>LaTonya Whitfield-Horhn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cool Stuff</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Mary Beth Woiccak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crane Cupcakes</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Ben DeSoto</td>
<td>The Women's Institute of Arts, Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Crawford</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Design Corps</td>
<td>The Woodlands Development Co. / Robert Heineman</td>
</tr>
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<td>Andrea Crawford</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Dessert Gallery Bakery and Cafe</td>
<td>Wylie Consulting Engineers</td>
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<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>DiverseWorks Artspace</td>
<td>Yapa Kitchen Fresh Take Away</td>
</tr>
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<td>Davey Tree</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Dornith Doherty + McMurtrey Gallery</td>
<td>Heather Yoki-Sanchez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff DeBevec</td>
<td>Rice University Athletics</td>
<td>A &amp; E - The Graphics Complex</td>
<td>Gallery</td>
<td>Zoës Kitchen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>