

PRESS RELEASE

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From Drainage Ways to Greenways: Art Storey To Be Honored at Rice Design Alliance's 2010 Gala

WHAT: 2010 Rice Design Alliance Gala
Honoring Arthur L. Storey, Jr.
WHEN: Saturday, November 13, 2010, 7p.m. until midnight
WHERE: Hilton Americas-Houston, 1600 Lamar

HOUSTON (21 June 2010) The Rice Design Alliance 2010 gala will honor and celebrate Houston engineer and Executive Director of the Harris County Public Infrastructure Department, Arthur L. Storey, Jr. Art Storey has played an integral role in Houston's built environment, leading projects that have changed the landscape of the county and opened vast stretches of green space to its residents. Some of Storey's most significant contributions have involved transforming the county's bayou systems from "mere drainage ways maintained with mowing machines and heavy equipment, to waterways that play multiple roles in Houston's urban fabric," according to Kevin Shanley, president of the SWA group and a partner with the flood control district on several bayou improvement projects.

Storey led collaborative efforts to implement trail systems along many of the county's bayous, including Sims and Buffalo; to substitute softer materials for the solid concrete linings to help maintain bayous' natural curvature; to plant trees along the waterways; to begin an environmental group while he was Executive Director with the Harris County Flood Control District; and to change county policy regarding bayous. Storey is credited with not only making Houston's bayous more efficient and beautiful community spaces, but also with transforming the county's governmental infrastructure, making his work a benchmark model for future flood damage reduction projects on local, regional, and national levels.

Though best known for his innovations at the flood control district between 1989 and 1998, Art subsequently made other significant contributions to the built environment since becoming County Engineer and Executive Director of the county's Public Infrastructure Department. Under his leadership, the county's downtown complex has acquired three new courthouses, two new jails, and a new jury assembly center and plaza. The reconstruction and renovation of the historic 1910 courthouse will be completed next year. In all of these projects, LEED principles and historic values have been respected. Storey also led the development of new options and standards for low-impact development in county subdivisions, redevelopment areas, and roadways.

For these contributions, Art has previously been recognized by Rice University with a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2007, as a Houston-area Engineer of the Year in 2002, and by the dedication of Arthur Storey Park in 1997 and of Storey Lake in Mercer Gardens in 2009.

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Gala Chairs: Norma and David George

Underwriting Chair: Doug Combes

Auction Chair: Mary Beth Woiccak

Environment: PGAL

Since 1989 the Rice Design Alliance gala has recognized individuals and institutions that have made exceptional contributions to architecture and design in Houston and Texas. These include Gerald D. Hines, George and Cynthia Mitchell, Warren S. Bellows, Jr., Stanley Marcus, Raymond Brochstein, Herbert Wells, Sadie Gwin Blackburn, and Bobby and Phoebe Tudor. It is anticipated that over 1,000 architects, design professionals, engineers, contractors, developers, and RDA members will attend.

ABOUT RICE DESIGN ALLIANCE (RDA)

The Rice Design Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of architecture, urban design, and the built environment in the Houston region through educational programs, the publication of *Cite: The Architecture + Design Review of Houston*, and active programs to initiate physical improvements. Membership is open to the general public. For more information please call (713) 348-4876 or visit www.ricedesignalliance.org