

Rice Design Alliance Gala 2018: PUBLIC

Nearly 1,000 people packed the Hilton's Ballroom of the Americas to honor Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, recipient of Rice Design Alliance's Award for Design Excellence at the 2018 Gala. The festive crowd at the Gala mirrored Rice Design Alliance's mix of professionals from the architecture, engineering, and construction industries, as well as design enthusiasts and those who are interested in positively shaping Houston and the region through design.

Rice Design Alliance President Juliè Gauthier and Gala Chairs Charlotte and Larry Whaley welcomed the guests to the Gala, and thanked the Gala Co-Chairs. The Gala hit a new underwriting record for Rice Design Alliance, thanks to Fundraising Chair Richard Morris and his committee, and supporters like Gala Premier Underwriters Walker Engineering and Crawford. The Silent Auction, chaired by Maggie Bryan and Meredith Stuart, featured exciting objects like Herman Miller Eames chairs in the Rice Design Alliance gala's signature colors, trips to Mexico, quail hunting on a private ranch, and aerial photographs by Alex MacLean.

Rice Design Alliance unveiled its new identity at the gala, with a new logo, branding, and colors visible in the Gala environment. A new website design for the Rice Design Alliance was simultaneously unveiled at www.ricedesignalliance.org. The Gala environment and branding was created by OCD | The Original Champions of Design.

Rice Design Alliance Executive Director Maria Nicanor introduced the numerous public officials in attendance, including County Commissioner R. Jack Cagle, Houston City Councilmember David Robinson, and Mayor Sylvester Turner. Mayor Turner lauded Judge Emmett's work in the region and his many years of public service, and praised the work of the Rice Design Alliance. The Mayor also announced the upcoming Rice Design Alliance competition that will focus on the I-45 expansion project in Near Northside.

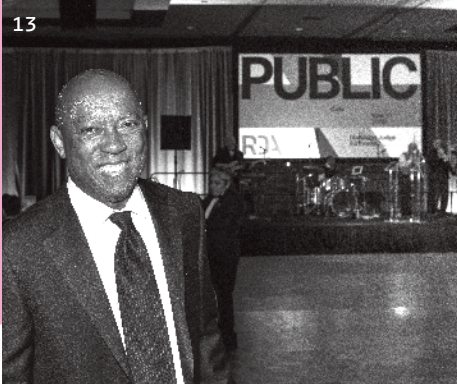
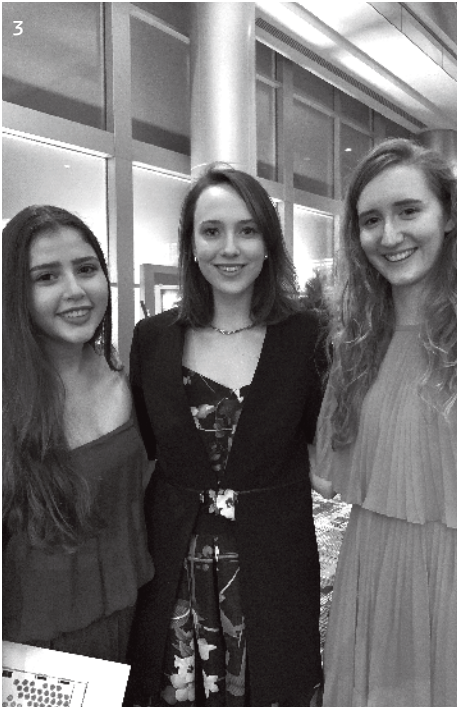
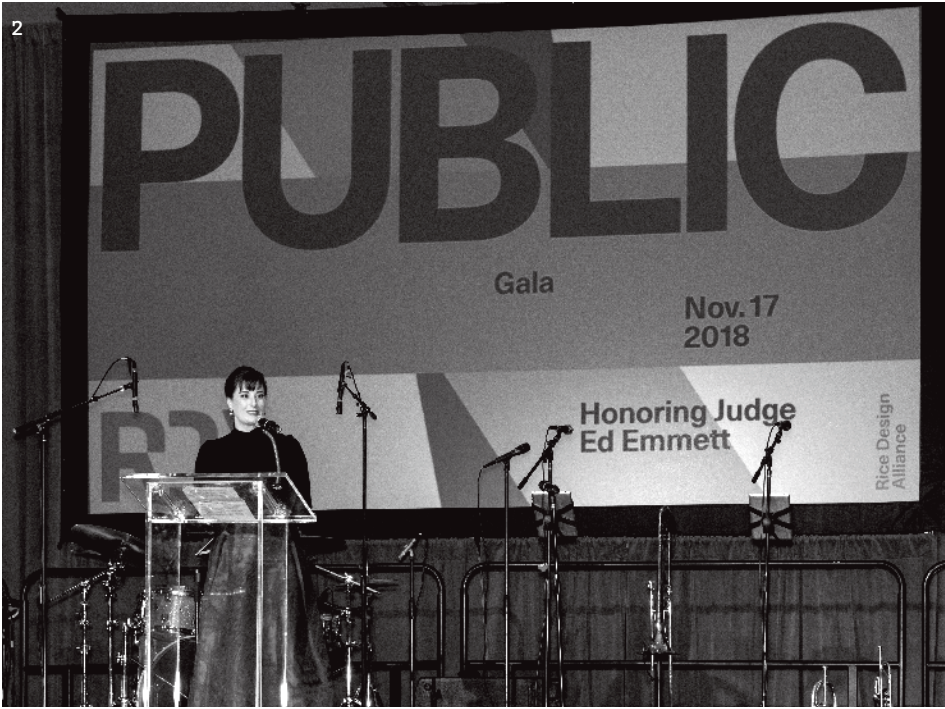
A video, featuring among others Rice University President David Leebron and Rice Architecture Dean Sarah Whiting, expanded on the work Judge Emmett has done in shaping public space in Houston and Harris County. Phoebe Tudor, Founder of the Astrodome Conservancy and Chairman of the Preservation and Historic Sites Committee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, presented the Award for Design Excellence to her good friend Ed Emmett. Judge Emmett spoke about the need for Houston to become a model for other cities and the importance of organizations like Rice Design Alliance to advance that effort forward.

Dessert, dancing, and fierce bidding on auction items rounded out the evening. The guests partied on until midnight.

Rice Design Alliance sends a special thank you to our Gala Chairs, board members, Rice Architecture students, staff, Gala volunteers, and our underwriters for their support in making this year's Gala such a meaningful evening for Houston's design community.

- 1 Parker and Brittny Jordan, Tera and Tuan Tran, and David and Michelle Wright.
- 2 Juliè A. Gauthier
- 3 Andrea Machado, Belle Carroll, and Phoebe Cox
- 4 Juan José Castellón and Silvia Fernández
- 5 Juliè A. Gauthier, Judy Nyquist, Maria Nicanor, and Sarah Whiting
- 6 Angie Chen and Courtney Tardy
- 7 Viviana Geron and Marie Lynn Miranda
- 8 Courtney and Drew Prochaska
- 9 NuNu Chang and Andrew Albers
- 10 Saied and Shirin Alavi
- 11 Larry and Charlotte Whaley, Ed and Gwen Emmett
- 12 Linda and Dick Sylvan
- 13 Sylvester Turner
- 14 Ed and Gwen Emmett
- 15 Richard and Beth Morris
- 16 Marley Lott
- 17 Maria Nicanor welcomes Sylvester Turner
- 18 Susan and Raymond Brochstein
- 19 Maria Nicanor
- 20 Ed Emmett and Phoebe Tudor
- 21 Maggie Bryan, Juliè A. Gauthier, and Meredith Stuart
- 22 Ernesto Alfaro and Marie Rodriguez
- 23 Maria Nicanor, Sarah Whiting, and Phoebe Tudor





Photos by Claudia Casbarian, Raj Mankad and Shawna Forney