



Rice University seeks applications for the position of the Executive Director, Rice Design Alliance (RDA), which was founded in 1972 as a community outreach arm of the School of Architecture at Rice University. The RDA promotes design as a way to transform the built environment in Houston and beyond through educational programs, media platforms, and networking opportunities. Since its founding, the RDA has grown to almost 2,000 members and is recognized as the preeminent public forum in Houston for the critique, experience, and discussion of design and the built environment.

Reporting to the Dean of the School of Architecture at Rice University, the Executive Director will foster connections between the university, the organization's robust board of volunteers, and the greater Houston community. She or he must serve as a catalyst, working with the organization's many constituencies to identify and pursue areas of design excellence, to garner resources for the enhancement of the RDA's mission, to champion the importance of design in contemporary society, and to establish and achieve a set of institutional goals that will sustain the RDA.

Strong candidates will have a record of achievement, or demonstrate capabilities, in leadership, fundraising, budgetary skills and ingenuity, and experience in a design-focused organization. Other attributes must include intellectual and aesthetic curiosity, particularly in design-related areas, excellent communication skills, and the ability to foster a team environment in which efforts are purposeful and accountability is expected. Other desirable qualifications include a polymathic imagination and a broad network of professional colleagues in the design fields. Experience within an architectural education setting and a willingness and ability to engage that environment are strongly preferred.

### **The Position**

The Rice Design Alliance, which is housed within the building of Rice's School of Architecture, unites the university, Houston's thriving design and construction community, and the city's broader public. The Executive Director supervises a paid staff consisting of four full-time and two part-time employees, manages the organization's budget, and works with the School's Dean and the RDA's President to develop committee structures and agendas to help the board advance the organization. Responsibilities include:

- Liaison with the School's Dean and the RDA's President to lead the Board and staff in the effort to define, articulate, and implement the vision for and activity of the RDA;
- Embrace collaboration across the city in order to broaden and deepen design's impact on Houston;
- Identify pressing civic issues in Houston that have significant design implications, and produce public forums and curate media platforms to heighten public awareness of the role that design can or must play in addressing these issues;
- Engage the intellectual environment of the School, through teaching and/or outreach among students and faculty;
- Encourage excellence in and diversity of design endeavors that respect the many traditions and expanded possibilities of practice;

- Advocate on behalf of the Rice Design Alliance and the Rice School of Architecture to lay the foundations for future collaborations and outside financial support; and
- Manage staff, projects, and oversee budgetary planning and processes.

### **The Individual**

Interested candidates should have at least five years of experience working in a cultural, architectural, or academic institution; she or he should possess deep knowledge of and experience in design-related fields. A master's degree or PhD in architecture or design is desirable, but strong candidates with degrees from other fields will also be considered. Significant managerial experience in lieu of or in addition to educational experience will also be valued. The ideal candidate will have a demonstrated record of good judgment about project and program investment. She or he should be able to balance long-term planning and discipline as well as be able to thrive in an environment in which institutional self-definition is ongoing. Excellent candidates will have wide and rich network of contacts, will enjoy vigorous outreach on behalf of the RDA and Rice, will listen, speak, and write well, and will serve as a catalyst for colleagues and collaborators in enhancing design and the built environment in Houston.

### **Rice University**

Rice University is an independent, coeducational, nonsectarian, private, first-tier research university dedicated to rigorous undergraduate and graduate education, research, and professional training in selected disciplines. Over 650 full-time faculty are devoted to the instruction and training of approximately 3,900 undergraduate students and 2,800 graduate and professional students. In the 2017 edition of U.S. News and World Report's rankings of national universities, the University is 15th overall, and 5th for undergraduate education. The University is centrally located in Houston, Texas, near the Texas Medical Center, the city's Museum District, and the downtown financial and cultural districts.

With approximately 125 enrolled undergraduates and 75 graduate students, the Rice School of Architecture is one of the smallest in the country. This intimate size permits the school to operate more like a think tank, with frequent all-school conversations, presentations and reviews. Currently ranked 5<sup>th</sup> for its Bachelor of Architecture program and 8<sup>th</sup> for its Master of Architecture program, the School's reputation extends across the globe.

To apply for this position: <http://jobs.rice.edu/postings/9650>.

Please circulate this announcement freely.

For more information about the Rice Design Alliance: <http://www.ricedesignalliance.org/>

For more information about Rice University: <http://www.rice.edu/>

For more information about the Rice School of Architecture: <http://arch.rice.edu>

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