The Government Affairs committee will be hosting its annual TAC dinner for all Houston AIA members who have donated $250 or more this year to TAC. We are excited to announce that this year’s guests of honor are Mayor Sylvester Turner and City Council At-Large 2 Member David W. Robinson. You still have time to make a donation and attend the complimentary dinner on August 18th. Visit: https://texasarchitects.org/v/tac-donation/

Ms. Rhonda Avery
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Phone: (713) 520-0155

RSVP
Thursday, August 18th, 2016
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Brennan’s Houston
3300 Smith Street
Houston, TX 77006

Mayor Sylvester Turner

Mayor Sylvester Turner was elected Mayor of Houston on December 12, 2015, to serve a four year term beginning January 4, 2016.

Sylvester Turner was born and raised in the Acres Homes community in northwest Houston. His parents moved to Acres Homes in 1954, the year Sylvester was born. Sylvester’s mother worked as a maid in the old Rice Hotel in Houston. His father worked as a painter for Continental Ensco and cut yards with his sons on the weekends to make extra money. The Turners raised nine children in their modest two-bedroom home in Acres Homes. Sylvester lost his father to cancer when he was 13 years old. Afterward, his mother took over the Turner household. Although she never finished high school or learned to drive, she ensured her children got an education and inspired them to achieve.

Sylvester attended neighborhood public schools until forced integration came to Houston and he was bused to Klein High School. After a predictably rocky start, the student body adapted to its new enrollees – and Sylvester was later elected president of the student body and graduated as valedictorian. Sylvester graduated from the University of Houston and Harvard Law School before joining the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski. He later founded the Houston law firm of Barnes & Turner in 1983. In 1988, Sylvester was elected to the Texas House of Representatives to serve the people of House District 139 in Northwest Houston. He served until his election as mayor, working on the House Appropriations Committee for 21 years and serving as Speaker Pro Tem for three terms. He was appointed to several Budget Conference Committees to help balance the state’s budget and served on the Legislative Budget Board.

He is very proud of his daughter Ashley, who is continuing the Turner family tradition of public service in the healthcare field.

City Council Member David W. Robinson

David W. Robinson is currently serving his second term as City Council Member for the At-Large 2 position. He was recently appointed by Mayor Sylvester Turner to represent Houston on the regional Transportation Policy Council. He is a passionate advocate for safe and livable neighborhoods and has proved to be a valuable voice for responsible government. David’s professional and civic background has given him the opportunity to be a leader on City Council. He has been appointed vice-chair of the Quality of Life Committee and sits as Council’s representative on the Houston First Board. As a Council Member, committee vice-chair, and Houston First Board Member, David provides respected leadership in enhancing the quality of life of Houstonians and advancing the economic prosperity and growth of Houston. Currently, he is fortunate to have a healthy list of projects mostly located in the Houston area. He teaches a graduate-level course for Texas Tech University in the Houston program on planning and development called “Infrastructure in the Urban Environment.” David Robinson received a BA in Architecture from Yale College in 1988 and earned a Master of Architecture degree from Rice University in 1993. David is the proud father of his daughter Elissa and they are both active members of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church and love living here in the great city of Houston, TX.