

# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE CITY CONTROLLER

CHRIS HOLLINS, CITY CONTROLLER



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Sept. 26, 2025

### Media Contact:

Tony Castaneda, Communications, [Antonio.Castaneda@houstontx.gov](mailto:Antonio.Castaneda@houstontx.gov)

## Houston Controller Hollins Honors Hispanic Leaders at Annual Heritage Celebration

HOUSTON— The Legacy Room at Houston City Hall came alive Thursday with music, culture, and community spirit as [City Controller Chris Hollins](#) hosted the Controller's Office's Second Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. The event honored local trailblazers whose achievements continue to shape Houston's future.

The celebration featured cultural performances by Houston Azteca Dance & Drum, Kinder HSPVA Mariachi Pasajeros, Tango Dancers Isadora Mangino and Melissa Ramirez, and the Mexico Folklorico Traditional Dance Ensemble, along with tributes to leaders whose stories reflect Houston's resilience, innovation, and pride.

"Houston thrives because of its diversity, and today's gathering showed just how much our Hispanic leaders inspire this city," Hollins said. "Each story we honored is part of Houston's story—and reminds us all to work toward a stronger, more inclusive future."

Honorees included:

- **Dr. Ellen Ochoa**, first Latina astronaut in space and former director of NASA's Johnson Space Center, who accepted her award with a message about inspiring future generations.
- **Fabian Romo**, 2024 Paralympic gold medalist, celebrated for his athletic accomplishments and advocacy for inclusion in sports.
- **Dr. Ruth López Turley**, director of Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research, recognized for advancing educational equity.
- **Angelica Razo**, national director of campaigns and programs at Mi Familia Vota, honored for her leadership in civic engagement.

From pioneering science to athletic triumphs, classroom transformation to grassroots activism, the Community Champion Awards highlighted the contributions that make Houston globally vibrant and resilient.

The Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, now an annual tradition hosted by the [Office of the City Controller](#), recognizes leaders whose stories inspire hope and progress citywide. Access the livestream video [here](#).

ABOUT CITY OF HOUSTON CONTROLLER'S OFFICE: Established in 1903, the City of Houston Controller's Office is the cornerstone of financial oversight and accountability for America's fourth-largest city. With a mission to uphold Houston's fiscal integrity and protect residents' tax dollars, the office oversees a broad spectrum of the City's financial operations, including its budget, investments, and debts. Committed to transparency and fiscal responsibility, the Controller's Office is key to maintaining the economic vitality of Houston, contributing to its status as a thriving metropolis for its diverse community.

ABOUT CONTROLLER CHRIS HOLLINS: Chris Hollins, serving as Houston's City Controller since January 2024, brings a dynamic approach to City governance and financial management. With a rich background in legal practice and management consulting, coupled with innovative leadership as Harris County Clerk, Hollins is dedicated to enhancing the city's fiscal practices and community engagement. Educated at Morehouse College, Yale Law School, and Harvard Business School, Hollins's commitment to accountability and service excellence drives his mission to build a financially resilient Houston. Residing in the Third Ward with his family, his work is deeply informed by his strong community ties.

###