With initial funding from the Dean of Undergraduates and support from Rice Athletics, the Rice bands now have a dedicated and properly outfitted band hall on the Rice campus.

Located in close proximity to Rice Stadium, the new band hall houses the Marching Owl Band (MOB), Rice Symphonic Band, Houston Concert Band and jazz and chamber ensembles. The facility features a high ceiling and open spaces that are ideal for acoustics and that accommodate full band practices and small performances. Additional gathering spaces, storage for instruments and props, and dedicated office spaces also reflect the university’s commitment to providing a high quality functional space for Rice’s bands.

For the members of The MOB, the facility is an ideal location given their important role in generating excitement at football games and other sporting events.

For students who are interested in pursuing activities in music education or band instruction, the space provides a great learning environment where they can practice their technique and engage in thoughtful and innovative programming.

For the talented musicians who come from a variety of majors and backgrounds, the facility serves as an important complement to The Shepherd School of Music, allowing non-music majors to showcase their talents and enhance their performance skills.

For our community partners, including local musicians and K-12 schools, the facility provides a visible and welcoming meeting ground and opens up new collaborations.

Now, Rice seeks to raise $300,000 toward further enhancements of the facility, including upgrades to the performance and rehearsal space, the addition of historic exhibits and more. With your support, we will further transform this space to sustain the continued growth and success of our bands.
Naming Opportunities

Naming the Rice Band Hall............................$150,000
Rehearsal and Performance Space..............$100,000
Foyer (Entrance Hall) ................................$75,000
Lounge......................................................$75,000
Office of the Director of Rice Bands..........$50,000
Office of the Band Coordinator...............$50,000
Instrument Room......................................$50,000
Historic Exhibit........................................$50,000
Prop/Uniform Room.................................$25,000

Funds raised over the goal will be contributed to a program endowment that will sustain the excellence of Rice bands.

Contact Us
For more information on giving opportunities, please contact Ginger Langehennig, senior director of development, at glange@rice.edu or 713-348-6017.

“Ladies and gentlemen, the Marching Owl Band halftime performance will commence ... as soon as I finish sending this e-mail.”

—From The MOB halftime show, Rice vs. Tulsa, 2009

Rice University’s bands are not part of a formal music education program. Its marching band doesn’t march. It doesn’t use the same script twice; no wash, rinse and repeat. It is chockfull of great musicians, but you don’t have to be one. If you can’t play an instrument, then make one up. There is little hierarchy, if any, and no topic is off limits. For more than 45 years, many have described the Marching Owl Band by what it is not, and that suits them just fine.

But we all know what The MOB is: one of the most instantly recognizable groups at Rice, a cultural (or counter-cultural) tone-setter, performer and satirist, champion for school and athletic spirit, simultaneously serious and silly. At its core, The MOB is for students, but it is also for alumni and community members. It is one of less than a dozen scatter bands across the nation, but it is purely, unapologetically Rice. Your support of the Rice Band Hall enables the MOB and Rice bands to continue to thrive.