



## **Russell Richard**

A seasoned executive with extensive leadership experience across both the private and nonprofit sectors, Russell has built a distinguished career by driving organizational success through strategic planning, business development, and cross-functional collaboration. With a proven track record in leadership development and corporate public affairs, he excels in fostering relationships that align with organizational goals and empower growth.

Russell currently serves as Senior Vice President at the Center for Houston's Future, an affiliate of the Greater Houston Partnership, where he leads key initiatives aimed at shaping the region's social, cultural and economic future. Overseeing business/civic leadership programs, he has spearheaded innovations, including virtual and hybrid programming, resulting in significant growth and program participation.

Previously, as Public Affairs Executive at Kroger, Russell played an instrumental role in corporate public affairs, crisis management, and community engagement across Texas and Louisiana, strengthening the company's reputation and ensuring seamless operations. His expertise includes strategic guidance on government affairs, public relations, and customer service, helping manage operations across 220 grocery stores and 24,000 employees.

Recognized for his ability to engage and inspire audiences, Russell is also an accomplished public speaker and writer, having authored 62 published articles and three books. He is a trusted advisor to executive leadership and has worked closely with boards and committees to drive strategic decision-making and organizational success.

Russell holds an MBA from Texas A&M University and a Bachelor's degree in Marketing from Louisiana Tech University. He is passionate about leadership, collaboration, and shaping the future of communities and businesses alike. His contributions to leadership and community development were recognized with the 2024 Global Leader of Influence award from The World Affairs Council of Greater Houston. Russell is actively involved in the community and serves on the board of the Houston Health Foundation.