



Center for Houston's Future Announces new President and CEO

Future-focused nonprofit welcomes David Gow to top role as current CEO Brett Perlman transitions to lead clean hydrogen-focused initiatives

HOUSTON -- The Center for Houston's Future is pleased to announce that Houston entrepreneur and business executive David Gow has been named president and CEO. Gow brings 40 years of experience in consulting, media, retail, investing, and fundraising to the nonprofit. He succeeds Brett Perlman, who will remain at the Center with a focus on the Center's hydrogen initiative.

Gow founded Houston-based Gow Media, growing it from a single radio station to one of the state's largest multi-platform media companies. Its holdings include a portfolio of online media properties, CultureMap, InnovationMap, SportsMap and Energycapitalhtx.com, as well as ESPN Radio in Houston. Gow recently stepped down as Gow Media's CEO but remains its chair. Gow is also a board member of Goose Capital and chair of MSAI, an entity he formed through a SPAC acquisition. He is vice chair of the Houston Health Museum and has been deeply involved in the community.

"David's portfolio of experiences and skills, record of innovation and success, and deep commitment to the Houston community make him the perfect fit to lead the Center as we chart and execute on our next set of initiatives focused on ensuring a bright future for all residents in the Houston region," said Center for Houston's Future Board Chair Cindy Yeilding.

The Center, which marks its 25th anniversary next year, is focused on issues that are most critical to our region's long-term future. The Center brings business, government, community, and academic stakeholders together to engage in strategic planning, consensus building, road mapping, and action. Its three key pillars are: strategic initiatives, community engagement and the Business/Civic Leadership Forum.

Gow will lead the Center's next ambitious, broad-based effort, Vision 2050, that will envision a successful future for our region and identify our key issues, gaps, and opportunities – and actionable strategies to make the vision a reality. Vision 2050 will also help guide the Center's future strategic initiatives.

"I am excited to step into this opportunity with the Center and work with the team, the board and many other stakeholders to help shape Houston's future," Gow said. "The Center presents an exciting opportunity to cast a vision for our region and identify initiatives that will make an impact."

He succeeds Brett Perlman, who is stepping down as the Center's president and CEO after seven years. Perlman will remain at the Center, focusing on the Center's broad portfolio of regional clean hydrogen ecosystem initiatives.

"Today's announcement also reflects the success of the Center's clean hydrogen program," Yeilding said. "On behalf of the Center's board, I'd also like to recognize Brett for launching and building such a successful and important effort as well as his overall leadership and record of achievement at the Center these past seven years."

Said Perlman: "Audrey and David Gow have been friends since our graduate school days more than 30 years ago, and I could not be more pleased that he will now lead the Center as it starts its next 25 years. I am proud of everything the Center's team has accomplished. I look forward to continuing to lead the Center's clean hydrogen work. This role change will allow me to the opportunity to focus on capturing this significant opportunity to address climate change and to grow our region's economy by deepening and broadening this nascent ecosystem."

During Perlman's tenure, the Center's major accomplishments include:

- Championing the opportunity for the Houston region to create a clean hydrogen ecosystem. The Center leads an industry consortium of over 40 companies and co-organized HyVelocity, an industry-led hub selected by the U.S. Department of Energy for a \$1.2 billion grant award.
- Launching a health and health equity research series, which included a new strategy for business leaders to engage in improving community health.
- Creating the opportunity for the Rockefeller Foundation's \$2 million Resilient Houston strategy.
- Developing innovative research and thought leadership on the economic importance of immigrants and immigration to our region's future.
- Bringing national leaders and thinkers, including a former cabinet secretary, a global foundation leader, innovators in media and health care, and Pulitzer Prize winning authors to educate and inform our community.
- Building a network of more than 1300 community leaders through the Center's Business/Civic Leadership initiatives.

Gow takes over on Sept. 3.

The Center is an independent affiliate of Greater Houston Partnership, which founded the Center as a committee of the Partnership in 1992 and spun it off in 2000. Steve Kean, president and CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership is an ex officio member of the Center's board, was part of the CEO search process.

“I am pleased David is joining the team. He brings a great history of leadership and relationships in Houston that are critical to charting the Center’s course,” said Kean. “The Center is a unique organization in our civic ecosystem, looking just beyond the horizon at issues Houstonians will face in the coming decades. I look forward to the Center’s work, under David’s leadership, as they build the organization’s Vision 2050 framework.”

Before he founded Gow Media, Gow served as CFO and then CEO of an online watch retailer, Ashford.com, where he oversaw successful fundraising efforts and later sold the company. Prior to Ashford, Gow was director of corporate strategy at Compaq Computers and a consultant at McKinsey & Co. He has a master’s in public policy from Harvard and a BA in economics from Williams College.

Center Board Member Andy Steinhubl, immediate past chair of the board, led the board’s CEO search committee.

The Center deeply appreciates and thanks Spencer Stuart Partner Mary Bass and her team for assisting with the CEO search process.

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