

**CONTACT:** Ashley White  
Senior Manager, Communications and Media Relations  
713-844-3640  
[awhite@houston.org](mailto:awhite@houston.org)

# Press Release

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## Center for Houston's Future Announces New President and CEO

Local future-focused non-profit welcomes Brett Perlman to leadership role

**HOUSTON, TX** – The Center for Houston's Future today announced that Brett Perlman has joined the organization as president and CEO. Perlman's appointment follows a year-long strategic planning process by the Center's board to focus the organization's work on the most pressing issues likely to impact Houston's long-term future.

Perlman brings more than 25 years of public and private sector experience to the organization. He was appointed by then-Texas Governor George W. Bush to serve on the Public Utility Commission of Texas in 1999. He has also held various leadership roles in the legal, energy and telecommunications sectors. Most recently, he was a Fellow in the Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative, an innovative program focused on developing new approaches to solving the world's most pressing social issues.

"As a native Houstonian with an extensive business and public sector background, Brett is uniquely positioned as an innovative, thoughtful leader who will drive the organization forward," said Umesh Verma, CEO of BLUE LANCE and chairman of the Center for Houston's Future. "Brett's knowledge of Houston and the major issues facing our region make him a key asset for the organization."

The Center for Houston's Future focuses on matters of highest importance to the long-term future of the greater Houston region and mobilizes leaders to take action on these issues, both collectively and individually. The Center was founded in 1992 as a committee of the Greater Houston Partnership and then became a separate organization in 2000. The two organizations closely collaborate on key issues facing Houston.

"Identifying the issues that will impact the Houston area's long-term future growth is key for the region's continued success," said Bob Harvey, president and CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership. "We are excited to have Brett on board and know he will help make this new chapter even more impactful as the Center works to ensure a bright future for all Houstonians."

Perlman was previously a consultant with McKinsey & Company and practiced law with major firms in Houston and Washington, D.C. before starting his own consulting firm. He holds advanced degrees in public policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and in law from the University of Texas at Austin and was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Northwestern University.

"I am excited about returning to Houston, my hometown, and am delighted to lead an organization that is focused on ensuring that Houston continues on the path to long-term success", Perlman said.

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The Center for Houston's Future produces impactful and thoughtful programming including its flagship Business/Civic Leadership Forum that takes place in the fall and spring. The Forums offer experienced leaders from across the community the opportunity to understand and tackle the issues that will shape Houston's future. Since the Forum's inception in 2000, more than 1,000 leaders have graduated from the program, and many continue to work on projects they developed as part of the program. Nominations for the Fall Forum close on August 15. Nomination forms are available on [www.futurehouston.org](http://www.futurehouston.org).

Additional programming includes a series of thoughtful discussions known as Summer Salons, with the final 2017 installment taking place on August 9, entitled "Who's got the Power: Houston's Energy Outlook." The breakfast event will be moderated by Travis Bubenik from Houston Public Media.

The Center gratefully acknowledges the work of Spencer Stuart Partner Mary Bass in assisting with the CEO selection process.

***What others are saying about the Center for Houston's Future and Brett Perlman:***

"I have been associated with the Center for Houston's Future since its beginnings and have served as a Board member for many years. As the Founding Director of Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research, I'm especially looking forward to working closely with Brett as he leads the Center in this new era."

- Dr. Stephen Klineberg, Professor of Sociology, Rice University and Founding Director, Kinder Institute for Urban Research

"I am excited about this new day for the Center and for Brett joining the team. The Center has a special role to play in Houston and I look forward to the exciting work we will do moving forward.

- Gene Vaughan, Founding Chairman, Vaughan Investments and Founding Board Chair, Center for Houston's Future

"I have known and worked with Brett for over fifteen years since we served together on the Public Utility Commission of Texas. Brett is a big picture strategic thinker who will be a great asset in helping our community achieve future greatness"

- Pat Wood, III, Former Chairman, Public Utility Commission of Texas and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

"I am so happy that Brett has decided to lead the Center for Houston's Future during its new era. As Chair of the Metro Board, and as a friend and colleague of Brett's for many years, I look forward to a close working relationship with Brett and the Center's team."

- Carrin Patman, Chair, Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority

More information about the Center for Houston's Future may be found [here](#).

To view Brett Perlman's full bio, click [here](#).

This press release can be viewed online [here](#).