

COMMUNITYCONNECT

Past, Present and Future Effects of Pandemic on Sports, Entertainment & Hospitality Industries

Tuesday, November 30, 2021 | 3 – 4:30 pm

Speaker Bios



Chris Boleman, PH.D. | President & CEO | Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

Chris Boleman, Ph.D., was named president and CEO of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ in May, 2020. Dr. Boleman joined the Rodeo in 2017 as the executive director of the Agricultural Competitions and Exhibits Division. In 2019, he was promoted to chief mission officer. A native Texan, Dr. Boleman earned a Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and Ph.D. from Texas A&M University, where he also has served as Associate Professor. In addition to his education at Texas A&M, Dr. Boleman has received the University Certificate of Completion for The Art and Science of Leadership Program at Harvard University and the Certificate of Completion for the Governor's Executive Development Program at The University of Texas.



Greg Grissom | President | Houston Texans

Greg Grissom leads all facets of the Texans' business operations and has been instrumental in developing the organization's key external relationships. As president, Grissom is responsible for overall management and direction of all Texans' Business Operations including Lone Star Sports & Entertainment (LSSE), marketing, communications, broadcasting, ticket sales and services, event services, corporate sponsorship, community relations, accounting, legal, human resources and general administration. Grissom joined the Texans as a corporate sales manager before being promoted to director of corporate development in 2006 and then senior director of corporate development in May 2011. He was named vice president of corporate development in April 2012 before being selected as president in March 2021. A native of Austin, he attended Baylor University.



Michael Heckman | President & CEO | Houston First Corporation

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner appointed Michael Heckman to the position of President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Houston First Corporation in August 2021. Houston First is the Houston region's Destination Management Organization, which also includes the Houston Film Commission. It operates the George R. Brown Convention Center and Houston's world-class performing arts buildings, in addition to owning the Hilton Americas-Houston hotel. Prior to this role, Heckman served as Chief Operating Officer of Strategic Initiatives for Houston First, responsible for developing a new strategic direction for the corporation.



Chris Pappas | Chief Executive Officer | Pappas Restaurants

Chris Pappas is a Houston restaurateur with over 40 years of operational management experience. He is the CEO of Pappas Restaurants, a family-owned business that includes nine distinct restaurant brands, such as Pappas Seafood House, Pappasito's Cantina, Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen, Pappas Bar-B-Q, and Pappas Bros. Steakhouse. Pappas Restaurants also operates a very successful catering business in the Houston, Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio markets. Chris serves on the Entrepreneurial Committee for the Greater Houston Convention Bureau, the Dean's Advisory Board at the Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management at the University of Houston, and is an emeritus member of the Board of Directors for the National Restaurant Association. Chris received his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.



Bob Roux | President of U.S. Concerts | Live Nation Entertainment

Bob Roux is the President of U.S. Concerts at Live Nation Entertainment, where he oversees all of the division's businesses in the United States. Prior to his appointment to Divisional President of U.S. Concerts in January of 2018, Roux held the position of Co-President of U.S. Concerts at Live Nation, overseeing the Western Region of the United States. Bob has worked for the company and its predecessors since 1990.