

## Houston Leader Joey Sanchez to Join The Ion as Senior Director of Ecosystems

*Sanchez brings extensive experience in expanding Houston's innovation economy to further bolster premier destination for startups*

**Houston, October 18, 2021** - [The Ion](#), Houston's newly opened innovation hub, announced today the appointment of Joey Sanchez as Senior Director of Ecosystems, effective immediately.

In his new role, Sanchez will work in the Houston early-stage investing and startup community to further establish The Ion's role as a destination for entrepreneurship and startup opportunities. He will deliver program activations that position the Ion as a destination for founders, early-stage startups, scaled startups, early-stage angel investors, venture capital investors, and corporate partners.

"Houston and Texas are seeing unprecedented growth in tech and innovation. I am excited for the opportunity to continue building and supporting the Houston innovation ecosystem," said Sanchez. "An ecosystem needs harmony among all aspects involved, and I have always enjoyed connecting people. The overarching goal remains to build a vibrant ecosystem that supports a high frequency of connections between critical stakeholders to realize outsized success."

Prior to joining The Ion, Sanchez was the Director of Corporate Engagement at [Houston Exponential](#), a non-profit organization created to accelerate the growth of Houston's innovation ecosystem.

"This move signifies a continuity of a shared mission between Houston Exponential and The Ion — growing the connectivity both within and outside our entrepreneurial ecosystem," said Serafina Lalany, Executive Director of Houston Exponential. "Houston's bright economic future in an ever-increasing tech-focused global economy will rely on collaboration, and we look forward to building towards this vision with partners such as The Ion."

The Ion and Houston Exponential will continue to work together to create an entrepreneurial hub for high-growth, high-potential companies by creating pathways for innovation.

"Joey is a welcome addition to The Ion team and fills a critical role. The Ion continues to evolve into a nucleus of 'engineered serendipity' that can help businesses and people come across unexpected helpful connections," said Jan E. Odegard, Executive Director of The Ion. "He brings not just experience working with the types of companies we want to partner with but also deep knowledge of Houston's entrepreneurial community to our team."

**About The Ion**

The Ion anchors a 16-acre innovation district and is destined to become the epicenter for Houston's innovation ecosystem as an inclusive, dynamic, vibrant, and dense hub focusing on quality collaborations between entrepreneurs, incubators, accelerators, corporations, academics, and the Houston community. The 266,000-square-foot building accommodates multiple uses, including class-A office space, shared workspace, prototyping and maker resources, event space, classrooms, food and beverage offerings, as well as indoor/outdoor communal areas with shared amenities. For more information, please visit <https://ionhouston.com/>.