



H-Town Roundup 2026

MARCH 30TH – APRIL 3RD

SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS *(last updated 3/29/26)*

H-Town Roundup Full Schedule of Sessions		
HTR Monday – AM Session – 801 Travis – Downtown – Opening Sessions		
Time	Title	Venue
10:30–1:30 PM	Attendee Registration	801 Travis Street
10:30- 1:00 PM	Founder’s Lounge Open for Meetings and Networking	801 Travis Street
Various times All Week	Co-Working “Open House” See Separate Schedule	Various Locations
H-Town Round Up Opening Day - Monday, Mar 30, 2026		
10:30AM–1PM	<i>Media Day</i>	801 Travis
10:00–10:30 AM	What’s Up Houston **RECORDED LIVE** <i>With Wade Pinder</i>	801 Travis Street
10:30–11:00AM	Welcome to the Greater Houston Ecosystem: Panel of Greater Houston’s Startup Community’s Connectors <i>With Startup Development Organizations Featuring Joey Sanchez-Cup of Joey, Grace Rodriguez-Impact Hub, Sunny Zhang-LeapSpace.ai & Born Global, James A. Phelan, Arcestra.ai & Founder Institute, Kelsey Kerns - Greentown Labs Moderated by Wade Pinder</i>	801 Travis Street
11:00–11:45AM	Houston Exponential **RECORDED LIVE** <i>Featuring Brad Rosacci, Sarah Smith, Layla Lumpkin, and Joe Alapat</i>	801 Travis Street
11:45AM– 12:00PM	Meet and Greet Inside the Mind of Houston’s Startup Development Organizations	801 Travis Street

12:00–12:30 PM	<p>Welcome to the Greater Houston Ecosystem: Panel of Greater Houston’s Startup Community’s Connectors <i>With Houston’s Key Startup Facilities and Connectors</i> <i>Featuring Khalil Vinson-Tech Fest Live, Coco Seney-The Ion, Morris Chen- 801 Travis St, Laurel Rutledge-The Us Space, & Jesse Martinez, Invincible</i> <i>Moderated by Wade Pinder</i></p>	801 Travis Street
12:30PM–1:30PM	<p>Meet the Mentors Startup Growth Playbook: The Tactics That Actually Work Scaling a Startup in Today’s Market <i>Founders Must Be Selected</i></p>	801 Travis Street
Monday – March 30th - PM Session - The Woodlands Area Community Center		
4:00 PM	<p>The Woodlands Innovation Network Presents Founders of The Woodlands <i>Featuring</i> <i>Kristian Gubsch (Mars Materials), Casey Steele (Ande Rapid DNA) and Rachel Goodlad (Alpha Schools)</i></p>	Kevin Brady Community Center
5:00 PM	<p>Energy and Venture - Panel Ask Me Anything: Energy Investors Answer the Questions Founders Usually Don’t Ask <i>Moderated by Julianna Garaizar, Greenbackers Investment Capital Susanna Sabbagh Halliburton Labs Bryan Shires, Baker Hughes Billy Grandy, Venture Builder</i></p>	Kevin Brady Community Center
6:30 PM	The Woodlands Area Innovation Network Reception	Kevin Brady Community Center
Tuesday - March 31st - The Innovation District		
Time	Title	Venue
The Innovation District - Sessions will be held at both the Ion and Greentown Labs		
8:00–9:00AM	<p>Breakfast and Coffee Behind the Scenes Lab Tours <i>Presented by Greentown Labs</i></p>	Greentown Labs
9:00–12:00PM	<p>Greentown Labs “Open House” Greentown Labs Founder Showcase and Conversations</p>	Greentown Labs

1:00–3:00PM	Ion Founder Showcase / Tradeshow Setup Founders - 5 Minute Pitch	Ion Lower Level
2:00–3:00 PM	From Lab to Launch: Building Startups from University Research Presented by RICE <i>Featuring Trevor Best, Ryan DuChanois, Wei Meng & Patricia Stepp</i>	Ion: Main Stage
3:00–4:00PM	Building Legacies and Launching Futures with the US Patents and Trademark Office (USPTO) <i>Featuring Hope Shimabuku and Reynaldo Vasquez</i>	Ion: Main Stage
4:00–5:00PM	Exit Planning! Built to Exit: How Smart Founders Design the End from Day One Presented by UBS <i>Featuring Ann Page, UBS</i>	Ion: Main Stage
5:15–6:00PM	State of the Startup Ecosystem Address – Key Conference Event <i>Featuring Noah Fons, Greater Houston Partnership JR Reale, RICE & The Ion Jishnu Nair, Houston Business Journal Catherine Santamaria, Rice Business Plan Competition Natara Branch, CEO Houston Exponential</i>	Ion: Main Stage
6:00–8:00PM	MARQUEE EVENT Tech & Tequila (Must be 21+) – Drones & the Future of Delivery Presented By Blue People Must have a wristband Featured KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Mark Solano of Wings	Ion: Main Stage
Wednesday - April 1st - AM Session - 801 Travis Street		
Time	Title	Venue
	Founders Workshops (<i>Session Titles subject to change</i>) <i>Founders will be directed to the rooms</i>	801 Travis
10:00-11:00AM	Growth Without a Big Budget: Marketing Strategies for Startups <i>Featuring Pagough Cho, Adcetera</i>	801 Travis
10:00-11:00AM	From Deck to Deal: Pitch Like a Founder Who’s Raising a Round <i>Featuring Eric Fishaut, Gelber and Associates Zach Ellis, South Loop Ventures</i> Presented by South Loop Ventures	801 Travis
10:00-11:00AM	Founder Money: Building Personal Wealth While Building a Startup Presented by UBS <i>Featuring Ann Page, Sandra Ago and Michael Applebaum</i>	801 Travis

11:00-11:00AM	From Idea to Obsession: Finding Product–Market Fit That Actually Sticks <i>The PMF Test: How Founders Know When It’s Time to Scale</i> <i>Featuring Wade Pinder</i>	801 Travis
11:00AM-12:00PM	Thriving Minds, Thriving Businesses: Cultivating Entrepreneurial Success <i>Featuring LaGina R Harris, Founder of LaRae Infinity</i>	801 Travis
11:00AM–12:00PM	**NEW SESSION** <i>Apps and Hors d’oeuvres</i> <i>Presented by APPERR Designs</i>	801 Travis
12:00-12:30PM	MANDATORY SESSION FOR THE STARTUP SIMULATION SESSION You will receive background information and be able to ask questions before the simulation on Thursday.	Amegy on Main
12:00-12:30PM	MANDATORY SESSION FOR SPORTS TECH PILOT PARTNER SESSION You will receive credentials and instructions at this session.	Amegy on Main
Wednesday - April 1st - PM Session - Amegy on Main – 1801 Main		
	MARQUEE EVENT The Future of Entertainment Is Tech <i>Presented by Amegy and Foresee Sports and Entertainment Group</i>	
12:30-1:15PM	EntertainmentTech: The Next Big Houston Opportunity Lights, Camera, Houston <i>Featuring Alfred Cervantes, Houston Film Commissioner</i> <i>Sarah Smith, Speakerbox Media</i> <i>Kayvan Mashayekh, Producers Without Borders</i>	Amegy on Main
1:15–2:00PM	Houston Power Players: Women Rewriting the Future of Film <i>Featuring:</i> <i>Jackelyn Viera Iloff, Producer, Ministry Advisor, Speaker, Author</i> <i>Michelle Mower, Producer & President Houston Association of Producers</i> <i>Jaqueline Beauchamp, CEO, Emerged Media</i>	Amegy on Main
2:00-2:45PM	The New Entertainment Capital: Building the Future @the Intersection of Sports, Music and Film <i>Moderated by Brandon Middleton-Pratt, Wilson Sonsini</i> <i>Featuring Kathleen Ikpi, LIV Sports</i> <i>Tom Stallings, RICE Sports Management</i>	Amegy on Main
2:45-3:00PM	Sports, Film and Music Networking Break	Amegy on Main

3:00-4:00PM	<p style="text-align: center;">MARQUEE SESSION Fireside Chat <i>President Reginald DesRoches, Rice University</i> <i>and</i> <i>Joe Branch, WME Sports</i></p>	Amegy on Main
4:00-5:30PM	VIP Sponsor Reception	
Wednesday - April 1st - Evening Session – 801 Travis		
5:00–6:00PM	Entertainment / Soccer Summit Pre-Reception	801 Travis
6:00-8:00PM	<p style="text-align: center;">Soccer Summit <i>Presented by T.E.A.M. HOUSTON</i> The Business of Soccer in Houston <i>Featuring Glenn Davis - Soccer Matters, Alex Para – PTS Media, Peter Warren – Houston Chronicle, Jan-Luc Blakborn – T.E.A.M. Houston</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Workshops & Panel: Podcasting, Short Form Video, AI in Content Creation, Use of Local Influencers</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Vendors and a Networking Reception</i></p>	801 Travis Street
Thursday - April 2nd - AM Session - University of Houston Tech Bridge		
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	<p style="text-align: center;">Founder’s Lounge Open for Meetings and Networking</p>	UH Tech Bridge
9:00AM-10:00AM	<p style="text-align: center;">MARQUEE EVENT Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Houston Angel Network <i>The Evolution of Early Stage Investing in the Houston Region</i> <i>Fireside Chat with Mitra Miller & Blair Garrou</i></p>	UH Tech Bridge
10:00AM–10:30AM	<p style="text-align: center;">Founder Investment Session What Investors Really Want...It’s Not What You Have Been Told <i>Featuring Mitra Miller, Houston Angel Network</i></p>	UH Tech Bridge <i>For Founders</i>
10:30AM-11:30AM	<p style="text-align: center;">Startup Investing Explained: A Simple Guide for New Investors <i>Featuring Lenny Saizan, Urban Capital Network</i></p>	UH Tech Bridge <i>For Investors</i>
10:30AM–11:30PM	<p style="text-align: center;">How to Start a Startup <i>Featuring Heath Butler, Mercury Fund</i></p>	UH Tech Bridge <i>For Founders</i>

10:30AM-12:00PM	Academic Roundtable	Academic Invite
12:00-12:45PM	Universities + Startups: Resources, Labs, and Talent You Can Access <i>From Campus to Company: How Houston Universities and Colleges Support the Startup Ecosystem</i>	UH Tech Bridge
12:00-3:00PM	MARQUEE EVENT Startup Simulation <i>Pre-Registration and Info Session Required</i>	UH Tech Bridge
Thursday - April 2nd - PM Session - TXRX		
12:00-4:00PM	Tech Fest Live 2026 Preview <i>Young Entrepreneurs Edition</i> <i>Youth Pitch Competition!!</i>	TXRX
Thursday - April 2nd - Evening Session – 801 Travis		
6:00-8:00PM	Houston AI Tech Meetup Group Presents	Invincible @801 Travis
Friday - April 3rd - AM Session – The Ion		
Time	Title	Venue
8:30-11:30AM	Cup of Joeys Launch Party	The Ion
9:30-10:30AM	Cyber Circle	The Ion
10:30-11:30AM	Startup Circle	The Ion
10:00AM	Ion Guided Tours	Continuous
Friday – April 3rd - PM Session – Closing Marquee Event - Sugarland		
12:00-2:00PM	MARQUEE EVENT Crawfish & Shrimp Boil & 1st Ever HTR Easter Egg Hunt <i>Presented By Plug and Play</i> <i>Featuring the Easter Bunny</i>	Sugarland Town Square Plaza
12:30-1:15PM	Innovation in Sugar Land with Plug and Play <i>Featuring David Steele and Muriel Foster, Plug and Play</i> <i>Elizabeth Huff, Sugar Land Economic Development</i> <i>Natara Branch, Houston Exponential</i>	Sugarland Town Square Plaza

1:15-1:30PM	Ft. Bend Founders on the Mic	Sugarland Town Square Plaza
1:30-2:00PM	HTR Founder (Easter) Egg Hunt & Close Out Celebration on the Lawn <i>Find the Startup Golden Egg</i> <i>Presented by Plug and Play</i> <i>Featuring Entrepreneurship / Founder Prizes</i>	Sugarland Town Square Plaza
2:00-3:30PM	HTR NETWORKING	Sugarland Town Square Plaza