

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Schwab Foundation Selects High Resolves Founder Mehrdad Baghai as a 'Social Entrepreneur of the Year'

Award honors Baghai's commitment to citizenship education that aims to engage young people in Australia and beyond

Baghai: "Our vision is a generation of young people determined to make a positive difference in the world."



**NEW YORK, NY** – The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, in partnership with the World Economic Forum, today announced High Resolves Co-Founder and CEO Mehrdad Baghai as a 'Social Entrepreneur of the Year'. The Foundation cited Baghai's role in the rapid global expansion of High Resolves, a leader in the design and delivery of citizenship education.

Baghai joins the Schwab Foundation's global network of more than 350 outstanding social entrepreneurs from over 70 countries worldwide.

"In a world marked by growing division, inequality and fear, the skills of critical thinking, collaboration, inclusive leadership, and social advocacy, are more important than ever. The daily work at High Resolves is to cultivate the next generation of global leaders by preparing students to choose civility as the right course to engage in diverse communities," **said High Resolves Co-Founder and CEO Mehrdad Baghai**. "I am humbled that High Resolves has been recognized by the Schwab Foundation and personally honored to be joining a global network committed to creating a more inclusive, just and optimistic world."

High Resolves learning experiences are transformational because they draw on proven design principles from learning science, behavioral economics, social psychology, and neuroscience. Centered upon peak experiences that shift a person's thoughts and feelings about the world, the curriculum helps hardwire these shifts into long-term memory through repeated practice and application in the real world.

“There’s a growing recognition that social innovation has diffused into every sector and institution, and the presence of pioneering agents of change re-inventing the way our institutions operate is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030,” **said Dr. Francois Bonnici, Head of the Schwab Foundation.** “The 2019 Schwab Foundation Awardees represent a new ecosystem of leaders who are driving change and shifting organizations and systems towards a more just, inclusive, sustainable future.”

Since inception, High Resolves has engaged more than 300,000 Australian high school students and has now expanded to schools in Canada, China, Brazil and the United States. Through its international collaborations and partnerships, High Resolves has grown its impact and reach to make its educational empowerment programs more accessible to disadvantaged communities around the world.

### **About the Schwab Foundation**

The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship provides platforms at the country, regional and global levels to promote social entrepreneurship. The Foundation is a not-for-profit organization, founded in 1998.

The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship was co-founded by Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, and his wife, Hilde. Since its inception in 2000, the Foundation has been identifying the world’s leading social entrepreneurs in over 50 countries around the globe. Social entrepreneurs implement innovative and pragmatic solutions to social problems by tackling the root causes and creating social transformation. Selected social entrepreneurs of the Schwab Foundation network participate in World Economic Forum events, thus providing unique opportunities for them to connect with business, political and media leaders. Learn more about the Schwab Foundation

### **About High Resolves & Mehrdad Baghai**

Baghai has had an esteemed career, and his deep experience has been critical to the growth of High Resolves. Mehrdad has been a business strategist, thought leader at McKinsey on growth strategy, CEO of a technology company in California, technology venture architect and investor, and a leading author on collective action and partnering.

In response to rising intolerance, Mehrdad Baghai, and his wife Roya, co-founded High Resolves, a multi-year, transformation program that inoculates high school students against racism and hatred, and trains them to be active agents of constructive social change in their communities. Mehrdad’s personal childhood experiences motivated his academic work with Nobel-laureate Tom Schelling and laid the foundation for what has become the immersive learning approach of High Resolves.

High Resolves is being recognized for its distinctiveness. It was awarded the Patron’s Prize from Good Design Australia for excellence in user experience design. In November 2018, it was awarded the Aspen Institute’s John P. McNulty Prize, which celebrates the boldness and impact of individuals who are using their expertise and entrepreneurial spirit to address the world’s toughest challenges.

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