

RETAIL

Neiman Marcus Group president exiting company

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Neiman Marcus *The Art of Fashion* campaign. Image credit: Neiman Marcus

By STAFF REPORTS

After 28 years at Neiman Marcus Group, president and chief merchandising officer Jim Gold is leaving the company.

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In an interview with *Women's Wear Daily*, Mr. Gold announced that he is moving on from Neiman Marcus Group in March, looking to try something new before retirement. Mr. Gold is the second longtime Neiman Marcus executive to plan a March departure, shaking up the leadership at the retail group.

Moving on

Mr. Gold joined Neiman Marcus in 1991, working as a manager in the retailer's NorthPark Center store in Dallas.

After rising into corporate roles, Mr. Gold became president and co-CEO of Bergdorf Goodman in 2004. He has been president and chief merchandising officer of Neiman Marcus Group since 2010.

Mr. Gold was instrumental in a number of initiatives, including the launch of the off-price Last Call brand. He also helped to bring together the merchandising and planning teams on both the bricks-and-mortar and direct-to-consumer sides of the business.

"It's been an incredible journey for my family and myself," Mr. Gold said to *WWD*. "After 28 years with the same company, and the opportunity to be deeply involved in every part of the business, it's time for a new business challenge.

"I'm turning 55 in a few weeks and I still have lots of energy and 10 solid years left to try something new," he said. "So it's either now or never."

Neiman Marcus is also losing its executive vice president of stores Neva Hall. Ms. Hall, who has been with the company for 35 years, is retiring, and has been in her current role since 2002.

Ms. Hall and Mr. Gold are both timing their departures for after March 15, when Neiman Marcus opens its first New York store.



Rendering of Neiman Marcus at Hudson Yards. Image credit: Hudson Yards

Neiman Marcus has seen a spate of leadership changes in the last year.

Last year, former Neiman Marcus Group CEO Karen Katz retired after 30 years at the company, but remains on the company's board of directors.

Ms. Katz left her roles at Neiman Marcus on Feb. 12, and was succeeded by Geoffroy van Raemdonck, who became CEO effective that day to ensure a seamless transition process ([see story](#)). The appointment of Mr. van Raemdonck is part of Neiman Marcus' long-term leadership succession planning process to ensure continued growth and evolution of the company.

Last fall, Stefanie Tsen joined Neiman Marcus as senior vice president of omnichannel customer experiences. Ms. Tsen came to the retailer from Sephora, where she held a similar role.

In addition to Ms. Tsen's appointment, senior vice president and chief marketing officer Carrie Tharp was promoted to executive vice president and chief digital officer. The move is in hopes to create an enhanced omnichannel experience and greater customer engagement ([see story](#)).

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