

About Gale Halderman: Ford Stylist Gale Halderman worked closely with then-division vice-president Lee Iacocca, his special projects manager Hal Sperlich and Ford studio chief Joe Oros to help create the design that defined the original Ford Mustang. Under direction from Oros, Halderman was asked to come up with design ideas overnight for a new sporty car concept, and the next day one of his six sketches was selected out of the two-dozen designs that were submitted. After penning Mustang's now-iconic shape, Halderman was then tasked with leading the design team responsible for taking the 1965 Mustang from concept sketch to clay and from feasibility on through to production.

Halderman served as design chief for the Ford Mustang for eight more years. Mustang design advances under Halderman's leadership included the '65 Mustang 2+2 Fastback, the '67 SportsRoof and the '71 Notchback and full Fastback designs. Later, Mr. Halderman oversaw the design development of the 1979 Fox Body (3rd generation) Mustang under design chief Jack Telnack.

Halderman joined Ford in 1954 after graduating from the Dayton Art Institute. He started as a designer for Lincoln-Mercury, moved over to the corporate studio, then was assigned to Ford's pre-production studio. In 1958, after assignments in both the Truck and Ford studios, he was selected to head up Ford's Advanced Studio. As manager, he helped design Ford concept cars such as the Levacar, the Mark X sixty-five, the Astrion, and the Gyron.

In 1960, Halderman transferred back to the Ford Design Studio and began work on the Falcon compact and then the original Mustang under Oros. After eight years as manager of the Ford studio Halderman moved to head up the Ford Truck Studio. In 1968, he became director of the Lincoln-Mercury design studio. While at Lincoln-Mercury he worked on the Lincoln Continental Mark VI and led the team that designed the Lincoln Mark VII and VIII before he retired.

Halderman was inducted into the Mustang Club of America's Mustang Hall of Fame in 2004, and was presented with an Iacocca Award during the Mustang 50th Celebration in Charlotte, NC. Today, he and his family manage the Halderman Museum in his hometown of Tipp City, OH, and Gale remains active in Mustang club events and the Ford enthusiast community.