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## Meet six members of the San Francisco Business Times Leadership Trust

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San Francisco, California, has been the birthplace of many inventions, dating all the way back to the 1800s. Today the city continues to build its reputation for business, making it not only a hub for innovation and collaboration but also home to some of the country's most talented leaders.

The San Francisco Business Times has invited some of these executives to join the Leadership Trust to share their experiences and insights with you. Get to know them below, and learn about what they are doing in your community. Then, if you're a Bay Area business leader, apply to join the Trust or nominate an outstanding candidate.

### Patrick Kennedy, Owner, Panoramic Interests

A creative visionary who knows how to tackle any project, Patrick Kennedy embraces new ideas and technologies to make the Bay Area a better place to live and work. His firm, Panoramic Interests, has been building high-density buildings in the region since 1990 using principles designed to discourage auto use, mitigate sprawl, encourage local business and enhance the pedestrian streetscape.

Patrick has long been a proponent of MicroPADs. These are fully-furnished container units, once featured on CNN, are meant to reduce homelessness.

Patrick grew up in the East Bay and attended Claremont McKenna College, majoring in economics and English. After college, he worked as a contractor, and then went to Harvard Law School and MIT, graduating with a J.D. and a master's degree in real estate development. Early development work included building his own house and renovating several small commercial properties.

In his free time, Patrick enjoys open water swimming and ultra-light backpacking, both of which have been catalysts to some surprising insights in his development work.

### Christina Seelye, Cofounder and CEO, Maximum Games

Christina Seelye is the cofounder and CEO of global video game publisher Maximum Games. The full-service platform handles all levels of video game publishing across every genre.

Christina and her cofounder started the business as a side gig out of Christina's house in 2009. The self-funded company grew over time, and today Maximum Games is one of the top 20 game publishers in the world, as recognized by NPD.

Christina is no stranger to building technology companies. She previously started two successful businesses: Elibrium and Rhino Group. Elibrium was acquired by Avanquest Software and Christina became its CEO and president, growing revenue from \$8 million to \$65 million.

Over her long, notable career, Christina and her companies have earned many awards and recognitions, including the gold award for 2018 Stevies Female Executive of the Year, an Inc. 5000 and San Francisco Business Times' Fast 100 company.

Christina lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area.

### Eric Bahn, Cofounder and General Partner, Hustle Fund

Eric Bahn started Hustle Fund with Elizabeth Yin just two years ago. Hustle Fund is different from other venture capital firms. It operates by investing \$25,000 in pre-seed startups and then working with founders during a 4-6-week growth period.

Eric has a master's degree in sociology from Stanford. He previously owned an education technology company called Beat The GMAT that was acquired by the Daily Mail in 2012. After the successful acquisition, he and his wife spent nine months traveling the world. Upon his return, Eric worked for Instagram and Facebook as a product manager before turning to the venture capital industry.

Eric's own experiences in the trenches of startup life fuel his dedication to helping new founders hit the ground running. He brings a combination of practicality and enthusiasm to the table and holds a wealth of knowledge when it comes to fundraising, pitching, strategizing and positioning.

Eric shares his insights and thoughts on his blog, "Life After Liquidity."

## **Sherilyn Adams, Executive Director, Larkin Street Youth Services**

In 2012, the White House honored Sherilyn Adams as a "Champion for Change in the Fight Against Youth Homelessness." With 30 years in the nonprofit sector focused on issues of child abuse and neglect, family violence, mental health, substance abuse and homelessness, Sherilyn has made an impact wherever she lives and works.

Her dedication to establishing and maintaining relationships with public and private partners has been instrumental in the growth of Larkin Street Youth Services, an organization that helps the area's homeless youth rebuild their lives by providing housing, education, employment training and health and wellness services. Under her leadership as executive director, Sherilyn has helped triple the number of beds at Larkin Street.

Many of the issues Sherilyn works on are close to home for her. With an early life touched by violence, mental illness and substance abuse, Sherilyn faced many difficulties that she was only able to overcome with the right resources — mainly a few positive adult mentors.

While she has been honored with many awards and recognitions throughout her impressive career, Sherilyn was most recently a recipient of the 2019 Leadership Award from the James Irvine Foundation. This award recognizes leaders at five organizations for advancing solutions to some of the most critical challenges facing California.

## **Neil Thanedar, CEO, Labdoor**

Neil Thanedar graduated from the University of Michigan in 2010 with degrees in business and molecular biology. Entrepreneurial by nature, Neil has started two successful companies since graduating.

His current company, Labdoor, is an independent business that tests supplements to uncover whether products have the ingredients they claim to have and whether they contain any harmful ingredients or contaminants. Labdoor grades and ranks these products and publishes information about them for free.

It all started when Neil was a child and he watched his father, a chemist, search for information about the difference between his original prescription and a newly-prescribed generic medication.

A seed was planted. Neil's goal is to help people feel confident in the choices they make for their health as well as hold supplement companies accountable for their products.

## **Doreen Bloch, CEO and Co-founder, Poshly**

Doreen Bloch was tired of struggling to find the right beauty products. She started Poshly in 2011, a unique company that provides free beauty products in exchange for filling out surveys. This data is then shared with companies like L'Oréal, LVMH, Walgreens, Shiseido, COOLA and many more. Companies are then able to create better products based on what their consumers want.

Doreen graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. With a zealous and pioneering nature, she started BARE magazine while attending UC Berkeley. The publication was one of the country's first collegiate fashion publications.

Doreen has received several awards and honors. She was part of Forbes' 2015 30 Under 30, Fast Company's Top 10 Most Innovative Companies Of 2015 In Big Data, and Inc.'s 2015 30 Under 30. She is also passionate about sharing her startup knowledge with other young founders.

Whether you're looking for startup support or an entrepreneurial environment to connect to your local business community, the members of the San Francisco Business Times Leadership Trust have you covered.