



NY Tech Alliance Announces Five New Additions to Board of Directors: Donnel Baird, Georgie-Ann Getton, Xian Horn, Shaun Johnson, and Jeff Lindor

March 24, 2021 (New York, NY) – The NY Tech Alliance, a group dedicated to representing, inspiring, supporting, and helping to lead the technology community and ecosystem in New York City, has announced five new additions to its Board of Directors: **Donnel Baird, Georgie-Ann Getton, Xian Horn, Shaun Johnson, and Jeff Lindor**. These appointments bring the board to 19 members, reflecting the breadth of the NY tech ecosystem and the diversity of its members.

“I am so pleased that Donnel, Georgie-Ann, Xian, Shaun, and Jeff have joined us on the Board in our work in such a pivotal year, as New York City looks to rebuild from the impact of Covid 19 and prepares to elect a new mayor,” said Thatcher Bell, Chair of Board, NY Tech Alliance. “These times require strong voices from across our tech community, and I know we have that in these five innovative leaders.”

“The past year has accelerated our efforts to make the NY Tech Alliance more inclusive, broadening the scope of our events and introducing new programs such as the NY Tech Volunteer Corp,” said Andy Saldaña, Executive Director of the NY Tech Alliance. “I’m looking forward to the energy and ideas our new board members will bring to our work together.”



Donnel Baird joins the NY Tech Alliance Board of Directors with years of experience as a climate tech founder. Baird attended Columbia Business School, where he received his MBA in Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneurial studies in 2013. In that same year, he founded BlocPower, a smart buildings platform that markets, engineers, and finances renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies to buildings in underserved market segments. At scale, their technology can lead to a 2-7% reduction in US GHG

emissions in the next 2-3 years. Baird is also a Second District Board Member at the New York Federal Reserve Bank and an Echoing Green Fellow.

Georgie-Ann Getton is an author, serial entrepreneur, community builder, speaker, and diversity in tech enthusiast. She holds a B.S. in Business Communications with a specialization in Graphic Communications from Baruch College and a Certificate in Entrepreneurship Essentials from HBX | Harvard Business School. Getton currently works as a Strategic Execution Consultant at GSD Solutions, a company she founded in 2018 that helps individuals and companies get more done by building simple, efficient, and impactful brands that drive organic growth. She enjoys learning as well as teaching new and creative ways to find solutions to problems.

Xian Horn is an advocate, speaker, blogger, and exemplar for the AT&T NYU Connect Ability Challenge in the creation of Assistive Technology. Horn has Cerebral Palsy and has been a fierce advocate for those with disabilities, making sure they have equitable inclusion and opportunities in all parts of life with her aim being to serve and connect humanity as a whole. Horn is the Founder and Executive Director of Give Beauty Wings, which offers self-esteem programs for all ages that are tailored to individual and organizational needs, providing mentoring, vocational support, educational and media outreach. Most recently in 2016, she founded Changeblazer, Inc, an advocacy, vocational, and leadership consultancy working with organizations looking to diversify and focused in aiding the underserved, especially those who have disabilities. In addition to managing her advocacy and consultancy companies, Horn is a contributor to Forbes Women, writing on leadership, empowerment, and disability.

Shaun Johnson is an experienced entrepreneur with a demonstrated history of working across the fields of technology acceleration, early-stage development, and ecosystem development. He has extensive experience in the entrepreneurship sector, working as an Entrepreneur in Residence at Georgetown University, the Associate Director for Fordham University's Fordham Foundry, the co-founder at Startup Institute, and as an Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship at The New School's Parsons School of Design since 2019. Most recently, Shaun has been working as a leader at Venwise, a membership for C-level executives in high-growth companies with a mission to build a peer community that promotes learning. He also works in Operations at Blockgraph – a blockchain-enabled software that allows TV and media companies to control, connect, and safely activate their data at-scale.

Jeff Lindor brings many years of experience finding solutions that enhance the lives of people of color across the globe to the NY Tech Alliance Board. In 2014, Lindor received his master's degree from The New School in Urban Policy Analysis & Management. In the time since, he has founded multiple companies. In 2016, he founded GroomedSuccess, a minority-owned business that provides professional development services for young men and boys of color. Some of their clients include the NYC Department of Education, NYC Administration for Children's Services, NYC Department of Correction, and the City University of New York – Fatherhood Academy. Most recently in 2017, Lindor founded and is currently the CEO of [The Gentlemen's Factory](#), a workspace and community designed to enhance and connect men of color, providing them with the space, resources, and connection to help maximize their potential.

The remaining members of the Board are:

David Alpago - Assurance Partner, EY Consulting

Deborah Barta - Senior VP of Innovation Startup Engagement, Mastercard Labs

Thatcher Bell (Chair) - Program Director, The Clean Fight and New Energy Nexus New York
Ted Brown - Executive Director, CUNY Institute of Software Design & Development
Yvonne de la Peña – Director, BridgeUP: STEM at American Museum of Natural History
John DeLalio - Managing Director, EisnerAmper LLP
Paul Ellis - Managing Partner, Paul Ellis Law Group
Erik Grimmelmann - Faculty, Dept. of Computer Science, The City College of New York
Jason Leder - Head of VC & Startup Partnerships, Google
Joy Marcus - Co-Founder, Brilliant Friends Investing, Lecturer in Entrepreneurship, Princeton
Gabby Munoz - Managing Director, Hearst Ventures
Andrew Rasiej (Chair Emeritus) - Founder & CEO- Civic Hall
Alicia Syrett - Founder & CEO, Pantegriion Capital LLC
Sapna Shah – Principal, Red Giraffe Advisors

The next NY Tech Alliance event is a Founder Spotlight, presented by Grasshopper Bank, featuring Avanlee Christine, Founder & CEO of Avanlee Care on Wednesday, March 31 at Noon ET. To learn more about the NY Tech Alliance, visit their website [here](#).

ABOUT THE NY TECH ALLIANCE

The mission of the NY Tech Alliance is to represent, inspire, support, and help lead the New York technology community and ecosystem to create a better future for all. Founded in 2016 with the merger of NY Tech Meetup and the New York Technology Council, the organization has over 60,000 individual and institutional members, reflecting the full spectrum of the greater New York area tech community and making it the largest tech organization in the region. Led by Executive Director Andy Saldaña with Acting Chair Thatcher Bell, the NY Tech Alliance hosts numerous events each month, including Developing Pride, Latina Luminaries, Founder Spotlights, and NY Tech Meetup Celebrating Black Women Founders. With the launch of the NY Tech Alliance Foundation and NY Tech Volunteer Corp in 2020, the organization has expanded its ability to impact issues important to the technology sector and New York.

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