

# SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS TIMES

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Meet the most influential — and impactful —  
people in Bay Area business.

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# SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS TIMES

## POWER 100

**Power comes in all shapes and sizes.**

Sometimes, it's obvious: A top CEO. A developer producing shiny new towers. A philanthropist doling out millions. Other times, it's more subtle: Connectors and conveners working behind the scenes to leverage key relationships or pull people together behind a common goal. Presenting the 2024 version of the Power 100, our (totally subjective) view of those we see making big things happen in Bay Area business.





## **Presenting the San Francisco Business Times' 2024 Power 100**

February 9, 2024

Power comes in all shapes and sizes. Sometimes, it's obvious: A top CEO, for instance. A developer producing shiny new towers. A philanthropist doling out millions.

Other times, it's more subtle: Connectors and conveners working behind the scenes, leveraging relationships to pull people together and make big changes happen.

No doubt you have opinions on who should qualify for a list of the Bay Area's premier power players. Here is ours: The 2024 version of the Power 100, our subjective view of who is making things happen in Bay Area business (In other words, no elected officials or government employees.)

We leaned heavily on the in-depth industry knowledge of our beat reporters, as well as the insight of editors with years (or decades) of experience covering the Bay Area. We reviewed, considered and discussed hundreds of names to come up with this, the final list.

Some appeared on last year's list, but the majority are new — names we turned up or reconsidered as we sharpened our thinking on what constitutes power.

How would you rank such a group from 1 to 100? Well, you really couldn't, and we didn't try. Instead, the list is presented in random order.

So how did we do? Did we overlook some major players? Almost certainly. After you've looked at our list, feel free to let us know those you think we missed.



**Power 100: Alan Dones**

— *Jim Gardner, Editor-in-Chief*



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The United logo, consisting of the word 'UNITED' in white capital letters next to a stylized globe icon, set against a blue background.

# Congratulations, Janet!

United® is proud to announce that our SVP of Global Market and Community Innovation, Janet Lamkin, has been chosen for the San Francisco Business Times’ Power 100 list that recognizes influential people in the Bay Area business community.

Janet is gifted with the ability to anticipate the needs of our customers in the Bay Area and develop innovative methods to expand United’s relationship with the most successful companies in the market. As a visionary, she is also dedicated to creating unique ways we can serve customers beyond just the flight. Janet is always seizing new opportunities for the team to give back to the community we serve.

A portrait of Janet Lamkin, a woman with blonde hair, smiling, wearing a dark blue top.



BAY AREA



POWER 100



Alan Dones

CEO and managing partner,  
SUDA

Dones has piloted the development of more than 3 million square feet of development in Oakland over the past two decades at the helm of Strategic Urban Development Alliance LLC. Now, as a member of the African American Sports & Entertainment Group, he’s helping efforts to redevelop the Oakland Coliseum to “spark the economic recovery” there. The prolific developer is also overseeing the Mandela Station project, a major redevelopment SUDA hopes will be a catalyst for additional building in the area.



Elizabeth Hart

President, leasing for North America,  
Newmark

Elizabeth Hart took over as head of Newmark’s North American Leasing operation in 2023, where she is responsible for identifying synergies, improving efficiencies and driving Newmark’s leasing revenue growth. The longtime power broker got her start in the early 2000s, helping startups in the city’s then-budding tech industry find spaces. As those companies grew, so did her career. She completed transactions close to 35 million square-foot and over \$4.2 billion in value and is among the top-ranked women in the commercial real estate brokerage industry.



Fidji Simo

Chair and CEO,  
Instacart

When Simo took over in 2021, there was a lot in her in tray — not least turning a much-anticipated but oft-delayed IPO into a reality. Instacart’s valuation had swung wildly as revenue that surged during the pandemic subsided as shoppers returned to stores. Simo cut costs and bided her time, and Instacart was profitable by the time it finally went public last year, netting a tidy return for early investors including Sequoia Capital, Y Combinator and Sam Altman. Simo, once touted as a successor to Mark Zuckerberg at her alma mater, Meta, has delivered at Instacart.



Alexandr Wang

CEO and founder,  
Scale AI

Wang founded Scale AI in 2015 at the age of 19; by 2022, Forbes named him the world’s youngest self-made billionaire. Scale has clinched a nearly \$250 million Department of Defense contract and is positioning itself to be an AI data management provider for all types of businesses. The company is another IPO candidate, which could win Wang another superlative: youngest public company CEO.



Ali Ghodsi

CEO and co-founder,  
Databricks

Ghodsi is positioning his data management company to be the preferred toolmaker for AI, giving it an edge in a fierce battle with rival Snowflake. The company has raised more than \$4 billion, is valued at more than \$43 billion and could be the Bay Area’s next big IPO.



Gary Friedman

Chairman and CEO,  
RH

“I don’t expect to be understood initially, but I do believe that it will be respected and inspire people eventually,” Friedman told analysts last year. The furniture retailer’s shares may have fallen from their 2021 heights, but its CEO’s ambitions are still lofty: selling places and experiences, not products. The latest example of his vision to watch for is RH Palo Alto, one of five North American design galleries set to open this year.



George and  
Judy Marcus

Co-founders, the George and Judy Marcus  
Funds for Excellence in the Liberal Arts

The Marcuses are no strangers to giving back to the community on a large scale. The couple became San Francisco State University’s largest donors in 2018 with their \$25 million gift to establish their eponymous fund for the liberal arts, and in 2023 donated \$2 million to the Humane Society Silicon Valley, of which Judy is an honorary board member. George is best known as a billionaire broker who founded real estate powerhouse Marcus & Millichap Inc. in 1971 and chairs Essex Property Trust.



Art Levinson

CEO,  
Calico Life Sciences

Levinson is synonymous with innovation in health. As CEO of the pioneering South San Francisco biotech company Genentech Inc., he led its explosive growth into cancer drug development; at Alphabet’s Calico, he launched a new age of research into drugs for aging-related conditions; and at Apple Inc., he is chairman of the company that’s provided new tools for a new age of communications. Now Calico’s experimental drugs are reaching the clinic, and Apple’s devices are helping us decipher how we can use them.



BAY AREA



POWER 100



Ashley Magargee

CEO,  
Genentech

Genentech didn't have to look far when searching for its new CEO. Magargee has been with the biotech behemoth for nearly 20 years, holding senior management roles in lifecycle management, digital customer experience, market access and as general manager in Singapore. Former CEO Alexander Hardy's switch to BioMarin may have been a shock but in Magargee Genentech have a leader well-versed in the company's commercial portfolio and its revered corporate culture.



Joe Lacob

Co-executive chairman and CEO,  
Golden State Warriors

Venture capitalist Lacob and his partners turned the moribund Warriors franchise into a four-time NBA champion after buying the team in 2010. Now he's helping to transform the WNBA as the women's pro basketball league adds a San Francisco-Oakland expansion franchise that begins play in 2025. Also next year, the Warriors will host NBA All-Star Game events centered at the organization's Chase Center arena in San Francisco as well as sites in Oakland.



John Doerr

Chairman,  
Kleiner Perkins

If all he'd done was help to build the Bay Area's venture capital industry at iconic Kleiner Perkins; shape the modern tech economy by staking Google, Amazon, Intuit and dozens of others, and amass \$11 billion along the way, Doerr would be worthy of note. But he's lately turned his focus, fortune and voice to the urgency of halting climate change. Believing climate science can be as transformational this century as computer science was last, he and wife Ann gave Stanford more than \$1 billion in 2022 to establish the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability.



Brandon Shorenstein

Chairman and CEO,  
Shorenstein Co.

Shorenstein is the third generation at the helm of a company that has long been all but synonymous with San Francisco commercial real estate, founded by his grandfather and later led by his father. He joined the family company in 2012 in its New York office, relocating to San Francisco in 2014. In 2020, he became chairman and CEO overseeing its nationwide property investment portfolio. Family patriarch Walter Shorenstein became known as a major Democratic Party donor, and Brandon has dabbled on the money side of politics as well, helping bankroll the recall of San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin.



Bret Taylor

Co-founder/Chair,  
Sierra/OpenAI

Taylor was building a new AI software startup called Sierra when OpenAI came calling, looking for a steady hand. He's said his role as board chair is short-term, but it comes at a critical time for the industry. Taylor, who's been a confidant of tech leaders like Mark Zuckerberg and Marc Benioff, will have to fix the troubled AI company's governance — and then get back to his own startup, which is reportedly raising money at a \$1 billion valuation.



Ken Lombard

CEO,  
Bridge Housing

Lombard said Bridge "is committed to preserving and operating existing communities," as it builds affordable housing — like its 750 units planned for the housing-scarce area near the North Berkeley BART station. The Bay Area's largest affordable housing developer has built more than 15,000 units across the Western United States valued at more than \$3 billion. Under Lombard's leadership, Bridge received two major donations last year totaling \$9 million.



Carl Shannon

Senior managing director,  
Tishman Speyer

Shannon joined Tishman in 1998, and today oversees the firm's Northern California and Pacific Northwest regions as well as Tishman Speyer Communities, its national affordable housing effort. With Shannon at the helm, Tishman has delivered a string of high-profile projects like Mira, the 392-unit San Francisco condominium tower. The firm, in partnership with the San Francisco Giants, is also at work on a new waterfront neighborhood at San Francisco's Mission Rock.



Chris Larsen  
and Lyna Lam

Executive chairman and co-founder,  
Ripple  
Founder, A Khmer Buddhist Foundation

Larsen is a billionaire-about-town whose influence permeates a host of areas and industries. After a successful early career as one of the first Silicon Valley fintech entrepreneurs, Larsen made his fortune from cryptocurrency exchange Ripple. He has since parlayed that into efforts to promote San Francisco business, including a \$25 million donation to SFSU, as well as public safety and other endeavors. He and philanthropist Lyna Lam, his wife, have become a powerhouse couple in the city who continue to fund initiatives around the Bay Area and as far away as Cambodia.





**Carla Peterman**

*Executive vice president, corporate affairs, and chief sustainability officer, PG&E*

With the world staring down the climate crisis, it's no exaggeration to say the problems facing PG&E are shared by us all. Climate change means that Peterman faces a daunting to-do list that includes planning for how the utility will deal with rising temperatures, more frequent extreme weather events and heightened wildfire risks. Yet against this backdrop PG&E's continued moves toward renewable energy sources and electrification offer a glimmer of hope. Peterman is playing a pivotal role in climate change mitigation for PG&E and Bay Area consumers.



**Greg Flynn**

*Chairman, CEO and founder, Flynn Group and Flynn Properties*

The local franchise magnate and billionaire is in expansion mode, taking his restaurant empire to Australia and extending across industries into gyms — the first of more lateral plays likely to come. He scooped up the landmark Huntington Hotel out of foreclosure for a song and struck an \$800 million refinancing to take full ownership of another hotel portfolio, and shows no signs of slowing in 2024.



**Hamid Moghadam**

*Chairman and CEO, Prologis*

Moghadam co-founded AMB Property Co., the company that would ultimately become Prologis, in 1983. An Iranian immigrant who was accepted into MIT at the age of 16, he landed in the Bay Area to attend business school at Stanford. Moghadam, who says a characteristic of successful leaders is the ability to “to see around the corner,” has consistently shown he can do just that: he led AMB away from retail and into industrial real estate at the dawn of the ecommerce era, and has grown Prologis into the world's largest industrial REIT, with a billion-square-foot global portfolio.



**Ken Rosen**

*Chairman, Rosen Consulting Group*

Rosen, the chair of the Berkeley Haas Fisher Center for Real Estate and Urban Economics and a professor emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, is the most listened-to real estate economist and prognosticator in the Bay Area through the eponymous firm he founded in 1990. His work — which spans more than 100 articles and four books — continues to provide key insight into a crucial sector of the Bay Area's economy.



**Daniel O'Day**

*CEO, Gilead Sciences*

O'Day heads one of the largest and most influential biotechs in the world. Since becoming CEO in 2019, he's overhauled Gilead's executive suite and steered it into the emerging cancer cell therapy space. Now he faces an operational and scientific challenge: taking on the wide range of inflammatory diseases.



**Jack Dorsey**

*Chairman, head and co-founder, Block*

After a distracting exit from Twitter which helped lead to its sale to Elon Musk, Dorsey is back to running Square, the payments business that's still at the heart of his fintech company, now called Block, after the exit of an executive overseeing that unit. The company is still worth only a fraction of its pandemic-era peak, and Dorsey recently oversaw layoffs to meet a promised headcount cap of 12,000 employees. He remains bullish on bitcoin, which he once said could bring about “world peace.”



**Alex Mehran Jr.**

*CEO, Sunset Development Co.*

Mehran Jr., the third generation of his family to lead Sunset Development, continues to push the envelope at Sunset's Bishop Ranch. Under Mehran's guidance, Bishop Ranch — which started as a 585-acre business park — is on its way to becoming a new kind of downtown for San Ramon, complete with retail, parks, walkable residential neighborhoods and new housing by the thousands. Mehran helped further that vision in late 2022 with the purchase of Chevron's former headquarters, a 92-acre property it plans to develop into another mixed-use community.



**Clara Shih**

*CEO, Salesforce AI*

Marc Benioff is increasingly betting on AI for Salesforce's future, and he's tapped Shih to oversee that gamble with a cross-company role. One of the rare women of color in a prominent tech leadership role, Shih can tap Salesforce's broad range of products — including acquisitions like Slack and Tableau — as well as a \$500 million fund to invest in other generative AI companies.



BAY AREA



POWER 100



Dara Khosrowshahi

CEO,  
Uber

Maybe nice guys do finish first. After taking Uber through a difficult IPO, Khosrowshahi saw the company’s shares hit an all-time high in January, and the company achieved its first-ever annual profit as it emerged as the unchallenged heavyweight champion of ride-hailing. The CEO moonlighted as a driver last year to figure out what the company could do better. He’s also refining the company’s political approach, plunging \$30 million into the corporate PAC to smooth over government relations frayed by previous missteps in an assortment of locations.



Jay Paul

President,  
Jay Paul Co.

Jay Paul’s eponymous development firm has long called San Francisco home, but did its most significant work in Silicon Valley. That changed with 181 Fremont, a 70-story tower with 67 luxury condominiums and 435,000 square feet of office space that Meta — then Facebook — leased in its entirety in 2017. The firm got into the real estate business in the Bay Area more than four decades ago and has led development of Moffett Park, a nearly two-square-mile business district in Sunnyvale that is undergoing a transformation into a mix of uses.



Jennifer Doudna

Professor,  
UC Berkeley

Doudna isn’t sitting on her Cas9. Doudna, who shared the 2020 Nobel Prize for chemistry for her work on the genome-editing CRISPR system using the Cas9 protein, has been one of the most prolific academic-entrepreneurs and an active fundraiser focused on advocating for young women scientists spinning their research into companies. Now Doudna’s Innovative Genomics Institute is launching a second cohort of aspiring entrepreneurs through its HS Chau Women in Enterprising Science program and has become a catalyst for a UC-led redevelopment in downtown Berkeley.



Denise Dresser

CEO,  
Slack

Slack was meant to make collaboration simpler. If so, why is it having such problems getting along with Salesforce, which bought the company in 2021? Dresser, a veteran of the larger software company appointed to her new role in November, must address a cultural mismatch that’s persisted since the deal was first struck. She’s getting some help from Salesforce co-founder Parker Harris, who stepped in as Slack CTO after the departure of Cal Henderson, the company’s last remaining co-founder.

# BUILDING BRIDGES

PHILANTHROPIC PARTNER • CIVIC LEADER • GRANTMAKER • COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Since 1948, the San Francisco Foundation has championed philanthropy to create a Bay Area where everyone can prosper and thrive. Learn more about how we can work together at [sff.org/JoinUs](https://sff.org/JoinUs)

“Together, our collective power fulfills the promise of the Bay - today, and for generations to come.”

- Fred Blackwell, CEO and Power 100 honoree





**Dominique Crenn**

*Chef and owner,  
Crenn Restaurant Group*

One of California’s most esteemed chefs entered new territory in 2023, becoming the first chef to put cell-cultivated meat on the menu in a U.S. restaurant when she served Upside Foods chicken at Bar Crenn in Cow Hollow. The owner of three-Michelin-starred Atelier Crenn, the Bay Area’s most expensive restaurant, opened a more affordable homage to Californian cuisine, Golden Poppy, in Paris last fall.



**Alan Waxman**

*Co-founding partner,  
Sixth Street Partners  
CEO, Bay FC*

Since co-founding Sixth Street Partners with a cadre of Goldman alums in 2009, Waxman has built the firm into one of the shrewdest investors around. Sixth Street has grown around a strategy targeting innovative and disruptive companies like Spotify and Airbnb. High-profile sports-focused investments in Spanish soccer giants FC Barcelona and the NBA’s San Antonio Spurs have followed. His most transformative local deal could be with Bay FC of the National Women’s Soccer League. Waxman is co-chair of the Bay Area’s newest pro sports franchise and sits on the league’s board.



**Jackie Safier**

*CEO,  
Prometheus Real Estate Group*

Prometheus is one of the largest privately held owners of multifamily units in the Bay Area. Safier took it over from its founder and her father, Sanford Diller, growing its business and refining its brand. Safier also leads her family’s two charitable foundations, among the Bay Area’s most prolific philanthropic organizations, funding a 500,000-square-foot student housing project at UC Berkeley and a new hospital for UCSF.



**Fred Blackwell**

*CEO,  
San Francisco Foundation*

An old saying holds if you want to get something done, give it to a busy person. In addition to steering the San Francisco Foundation and its \$1.7 billion in assets, Blackwell is relied upon as a voice of influence on boards too numerous to mention here. The Oakland native has come full circle; he began his career at the foundation, returning in 2014 to lead it after key city-government roles in Oakland and San Francisco. The north star guiding it all: an abiding focus on social justice and racial equity.



**Garry Tan**

*CEO,  
Y Combinator*

A perch atop vaunted tech accelerator Y Combinator gives Tan clout — and no hesitation about using it. The combative entrepreneur has plunged feetfirst into S.F. politics, putting his money, A-list connections and huge social media following in service of an increasingly sharp-elbowed battle against progressives. Maybe more than sharp: Tan apologized for a since-deleted post which profanely beseeched several San Francisco supervisors to “die slow,” spawning police reports and calls for beneficiaries to refund his largess.



**Amy Chang**

*Board member,  
Walt Disney Company, Procter & Gamble*

The tech entrepreneur, who sold her startup Accompany to Cisco for \$270 million in 2018, helps set corporate and social responsibility policies as part of her board service. She’s now a director for Procter & Gamble and Disney — two companies which can definitely use her Silicon Valley savvy. Chang, who is also a startup investor and adviser, serves on the UCSF Health Executive Council and the Stanford School of Engineering dean’s advisory board.



**Andre Iguodala**

*General partner,  
Mosaic General Partnership*

Iguodala, the 2015 National Basketball Association Finals Most Valuable Player and four-time NBA champion with the Golden State Warriors, has long been known for his investment touch. Now after a 20-year court career, the investor in Zoom, Coinbase and Dapper Labs, and co-owner of soccer’s Leeds United FC, is playing post in Mosaic’s shot to create more equitable, diverse and long-lasting change through investing. Meanwhile, he’s recently been named acting director of the NBA players’ union.



**Gioia McCarthy**

*President, San Francisco-East Bay market,  
Bank of America*

McCarthy is a power walker, scaling the hills of San Francisco with ease. But it’s her ability to exercise Bank of America’s power to build stronger communities that is her priority, whether she’s striding across an affordable housing construction site or touring the future home of a museum. In addition to her nonprofit board leadership at United Way Bay Area and Jewish Vocational Services, McCarthy also is San Francisco-North Bay market executive for the Bank of America Private Bank.





**Greg Adams**  
CEO,  
Kaiser Permanente

Adams took over the the top job at the Oakland health care provider following the abrupt death of longtime leader Bernard Tyson in 2019. A close associate of Tyson, Adams quickly stepped into the role and steered the 12-million-member organization through the Covid-19 pandemic. Adams serves on the board of directors at America’s Health Insurance Plans and as both a governor and steward for the Global Health and Healthcare Community at the World Economic Forum.



**Carol Christ**  
Chancellor,  
UC Berkeley

UC Berkeley isn’t just any university and Christ isn’t just any chancellor. As the the leader of the Bay Area’s premiere public university, she has upheld the institution’s commitment to free speech, strengthened its financial position and helped advance a 10-year strategic plan for the campus. But that’s also meant making waves, and even some enemies, as Berkeley seeks to develop areas around campus for much-needed housing, including the controversial People’s Park.



**Caroline Winnett**  
Executive director,  
Berkeley SkyDeck

Winnett has run the Berkeley startup accelerator since 2015, recently leading an international expansion with partnerships in Italy and Japan. Besides helping keep innovation on campus, the Berkeley SkyDeck Fund returns half of its carried interest back to the university.



**Hamila Kownacki**  
CEO,  
California Pacific Medical Center

Kownacki leads one of San Francisco’s largest employers and economic drivers, Sutter Health’s California Pacific Medical Center. On top of that, she’s the first woman and registered nurse to helm the hospital in its 100-year-plus history. She became CEO of CPMC last year after working there for two decades, including as the medical center’s chief operating officer for eight years.



**Henrique Dubugras**  
Co-CEO and co-founder,  
Brex

Dubugras proved a 22-year-old could indeed outsmart the nation’s banking industry when he and co-CEO Pedro Franceschi founded Brex in 2017. Both come from Brazil, where they had created an online payments company. Brex, which has expanded from business credit cards into expense management and other services, recently cut 20% of its workforce. But speculation persists that an IPO is in the company’s future. That would make Dubugras a quintessential Bay Area success story.



**Clint and Janet Reilly**  
Chairman and founder,  
Clint Reilly Organization  
Board president and co-founder, Clinic by the Bay

San Francisco’s premier power couple have joint and individual interests ranging from commercial real estate to media to big-ticket philanthropy, bestowing them seats at tables of power like the UC Regents board, on which Janet sits. Clint cut his teeth as a political consultant driving the early careers of Dianne Feinstein and Nancy Pelosi, after first training for the priesthood; Janet was a TV news anchor in LA. Now they sit atop a burgeoning business and philanthropic empire, with civic engagement on a grand scale for both. “We don’t just write checks,” he observed in 2022. “We get involved.”



**Cyrus Sanandaji**  
CEO and co-founder,  
Presidio Bay Ventures

Sanandaji helped found the investment and development firm in 2012. But in the last year he’s made a name for himself as one of the first local real estate investors willing to bet on San Francisco’s recovery: In August 2023, Presidio Bay acquired 60 Spear St., the most significant purchase of a downtown office building since the pandemic. The terms helped set the market and provide a starting point for an expected “reset.” Now Sanandaji wants to turn the property into the country’s first “office resort” — a concept he is looking to expand.



**Jan Sramek**  
CEO and founder,  
California Forever

Sramek wasn’t kidding about the “forever” part when he hatched the idea for California Forever in 2017. The former Goldman Sachs trader is spearheading the ambitious effort to build a utopian community from scratch in unincorporated Solano County with walkable streets, affordable homes and a promise to generate thousands of new jobs. The idea was one Silicon Valley tech billionaires backed in spades — and will be put up to Solano County voters this November.





Janet Lamkin

Senior vice president, global market and community innovation, United Airlines

Lamkin probably got high marks in grade school for playing well with others. She’s often teamed up with others to bring new ideas and innovation to United Airlines — like partnering with Clorox and the Cleveland Clinic during the pandemic to reassure passengers that planes were clean and sanitary. When remote work took off during the pandemic, she helped United work with San Francisco-based Peerspace to bring remote employees together for events.



Dario Amodei

CEO and co-founder, Anthropic

A group of former OpenAI employees led by Amodei founded Anthropic around the notion of building a safer version of the technology. But it still needs capital, chips and computing capacity to compete. Amodei will have to see if his company can keep its lofty principles while raising the hundreds of millions of dollars needed.



David Baszucki

CEO and co-founder, Roblox

Before Mark Zuckerberg ever uttered the word “metaverse” publicly, Baszucki was building a fully fledged interactive world for children. The project known as Roblox lets kids build their own video games within a video game, and has since grown into a company valued at around \$25 billion. Baszucki and his wife, Jan, have also founded the Baszucki Group to spearhead philanthropic efforts in environmental conservation and neurological illness research.



Jens Vogel

Global head of biotech, Bayer

From Berkeley, Vogel is helping the Germany-based drug-making icon chart a new future, overseeing five sites in the United States and Europe and leading the company’s charge into cell therapy and gene therapy. Bayer employs 1,000 people in Berkeley and through a 30-year development deal is reshaping its campus and its giving to community organizations. A \$250 million, 100,000-square-foot cell therapy launch facility that opened last year is a new stake in the ground locally and strategically.



Lane Partners congratulates **Scott Smithers** on his recognition as one of the Bay Area’s most influential business leaders.

Since founding the company in 2006, Scott has led Lane Partners’ growth into one of the Bay Area’s premier commercial real estate development firms, with almost 10M SF currently under development.



LANE-PARTNERS.COM

Berkeley Commons



Southline



Peninsula Innovation Point







**Jim Wunderman**

CEO,  
Bay Area Council

When Wunderman talks, policymakers tend to listen, in San Francisco, Sacramento, D.C. and beyond. That’s because he speaks for the Bay Area Council — and its members, more than 300 of the region’s largest employers. He’s spent 20 years broadening and deepening its influence on topics ranging from the California business climate to housing to climate change, and 2023 saw a feather in Wunderman’s cap with San Francisco hosting APEC, the culmination of a years-long quest.



**Barbara Bass Bakar**

President,  
Barbara and Gerson Bakar Foundation,  
Gerson Bakar Foundation  
Executive director, Achieve

A prolific philanthropist and former CEO for several major retailers, Bakar has been investing in the community for decades, making an impact on health care, Jewish community organizations and education in the Bay Area. With her late husband Gerson, she headed several foundations and currently serves as the president of two of them, leads high school scholarship program Achieve, and has supported UCSF’s cancer research for many years.



**Kingston Wu**

Managing partner,  
Proof Positive Partners

If you ever rode the mechanical bull at Westwood, sacrificed a friendship for the victory at Thriller Social Club, or nursed a hangover at Wilder, thank Kingston Wu. The former private equity principal is one half of the duo behind Proof Positive Partners, a fund that’s invested in Last Rites, Horsefeather, the Brixton, Hazies, Rockwell, Willkommen and Trademark. In addition to helping resurrect famous LGBTQ+ bar the Stud, Wu is developing three new properties.



**Josh Tetrick**

CEO and co-founder,  
Eat Just

The alternative protein startup’s leader has been battle-tested by controversies and challenges. But thanks to Tetrick’s doggedness, you can now buy Just Egg at Safeway and Target. He won a crucial preliminary approval for his cell-cultivated Good Meat from the FDA last year. But he’s also battling a lawsuit from manufacturing partner ABEC. This year will be crucial for Tetrick to prove that his alt-food ventures can attain commercial scale.



**Julian Castro**

CEO,  
Latino Community Foundation

Big-city mayor (San Antonio), Cabinet member, presidential candidate and vice presidential possibility, all before age 50 — and the twin brother of a serving Congressman — Castro’s political and policy prowess is considerable. And now he’s brought it to the Bay Area, assuming as of Jan. 1 the chief executive role at the powerhouse Latino Community Foundation. There he fills big shoes, those of trailblazer Jacqueline Martinez Garcel.



**Brian Chesky**

CEO and co-founder,  
Airbnb

Governments from Barcelona to Buncombe County continue to crack down on Airbnb, but the short-term rental marketplace’s chief remains serene: 2024, he says, is the year of “perfecting” the service, including dealing with some hosts’ curiously high cleaning fees. Meanwhile, Chesky is mopping up other messes as he emerges as something of an elder statesman of tech: He advised Sam Altman on navigating his unexpected ouster from and tricky return to OpenAI.



**Kimberly Budil**

Director,  
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Budil commands 8,400 employees and an over \$3 billion annual budget at her lab complex, overseeing scientific research critical to the defense of the nation and its transition to clean energy. Under her leadership, the lab made a monumental breakthrough in fusion technology, a technological advancement that could one day allow humanity to produce near-infinite amounts of energy.



**Brian Sheehy**

CEO and founder,  
Future Bars Inc.

No one is better at making bar projects pencil out than the founder of Future Bars, owner of 13 thriving bars and two Cask Stores. His latest project, the Dawn Club, revives the 1930s speakeasy and historic house of jazz while bringing zest and glamour back to a downtown whose path back to relevance might just require more bets like this on the wee hours.



BAY AREA



POWER 100



Brandon Schneider

President and chief operating officer,  
Golden State Warriors

Originally a season ticket account executive with the Warriors, Schneider played point on the turnaround of the NBA club’s front-office operations that coincided with the team’s on-court transformation with four league titles. Now he is leading the Warriors team bringing an expansion WNBA team to the Bay Area in 2025 and is a player on the Bay Area Host Committee that’s organizing plans for next year’s NBA All-Star Game, the 2026 Super Bowl and 2026 men’s World Cup soccer matches.



Kristina Lawson

Managing partner,  
Hanson Bridgett

The former mayor of Walnut Creek, Lawson has had a career bridging the private and public sectors. Freshly reelected as the leader of Hanson Bridgett, Lawson brings her expertise in land use, environment and municipal matters to the firm. She also serves as chair of the board at the Bay Area Council.



Larry Baer

CEO, SF Giants  
Co-chair, Advance SF

After helping stop the relocation of the San Francisco Giants three decades ago, leading the charge for an iconic waterfront ballpark and successfully pushing for development of a surface parking lot across the channel from Oracle Park into the massive Mission Rock mixed-use project, Baer continues to take swings at reshaping San Francisco — he is co-chair of Advance SF, a business-led effort touting the city’s strengths.



Linda Rendle

CEO and chairman,  
Clorox

Clorox’s first female leader gained new power as the company’s board chair in January. It was about time: Rendle already held seats on the boards of Visa, the Consumer Brands Association and Generation Thrive, a nonprofit hub created in 2019 by the Warriors Community Foundation and Kaiser Permanente. Now her challenge is getting the company growing again after a devastating cybersecurity breach cost Clorox \$356 million in 2023.

SAN FRANCISCO  
BUSINESS TIMES

WOMEN WHO LEAD IN LIFE SCIENCES



Friday, March 15, 2025 | 8:00-10:30 AM | St. Regis San Francisco, 125 3rd Street, San Francisco

Join us for a timely discussion about the state of diversity in the Bay Area’s life sciences industry. How many women have made it into the C-Suite, the boardroom, the labs, and what does the leadership pipeline look like? What is the pathway for women founders? We’ll talk with women in top roles about their personal stories and hear their views on how life sciences companies are transforming culture, policies, and programs that will result in more equity and opportunity for women. This will be a lively Q & A format, moderated by San Francisco Business Times biotech reporter, Ron Leuty.

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Lindsay Barenz

President,  
Oakland Roots and Oakland  
Soul Sports Clubs

Barenz presides over two of the Bay Area’s fastest-growing and most forward-thinking sports franchises. The Oakland Roots and Soul soccer teams closed a record breaking \$3.1 million crowdfunding campaign in November 2023, at a \$78 million valuation. But it’s the clubs’ search for a permanent home that could have the biggest impact on the local sporting landscape. The clubs want to build a temporary 10,000-seat stadium on the Malibu Lot next to the Oakland Coliseum. The Roots and Soul’s growth is a rare good-news story for Oakland sports fans.



Scott Smithers

Managing principal and founder,  
Lane Partners

Smithers has aimed high since founding Lane Partners in 2006. The firm has acquired, developed and managed more than 5 million square feet in the Bay Area, including one of the most influential deals in the region in the last decade: its completion and 2015 sale of Uptown Station, which signaled a new future for Oakland. Today the firm is nearing completion of 500,000-square-foot Berkeley Commons as it pursues Southline, a 3 million-square-foot biotech project in South San Francisco.



Marc Benioff

CEO and co-founder,  
Salesforce

A post from the CEO of San Francisco’s largest private-sector employer, and leading corporate citizen, can make waves, like when Benioff put in doubt the status here of the Dreamforce conference, a powerful business travel draw. When he confirmed the event’s return to San Francisco — at least for one more year — it was a boost to Mayor London Breed. The Davos regular may have global interests, but his personal philanthropy remains heavily weighted to his hometown. His next challenge: getting more employees back in Salesforce Tower.



Suresh Gunasekaran

CEO,  
UCSF Health

Gunasekaran took an unusual path to running hospitals: Once a tech analyst at Gartner, he moved up through the ranks running health care IT. He’s also become well-versed in construction and M&A, overseeing a major expansion of the system’s Parnassus Heights campus and pushing to buy two hospitals from Dignity Health.



Maria Ansari

CEO,  
Permanente Medical Group

Ansari has a big impact at Permanente Medical Group — 10,000 doctors and 45,000 nurses and other nonphysician staff caring for 5.6 million people, including a Mid-Atlantic group — and she’s making equally big changes as the first woman in charge of two of the nation’s largest physician groups. In addition to creating an “innovation hub” for doctor-led ideas for improving health care delivery to Kaiser members, she’s trying to combat a loss of doctors to burnout and retirement.



Tom Siebel

CEO,  
C3 AI

A billionaire technologist who sold his first company to Oracle in 2006, Siebel couldn’t stay out of the business for long: Three years later, he founded what’s now known as C3 AI, an enterprise software developer that skyrocketed to a \$17 billion market cap after its 2020 IPO before falling to \$3 billion. He was among the first executives to demand a full-time return to office — an approach now gaining favor among more AI companies.



Ryan McInerney

CEO,  
Visa

While other financial giants have left San Francisco, Visa is staying put. From its new headquarters in the San Francisco Giants’ Mission Rock development, McInerney will oversee one of the world’s most extensive payment networks while ensuring that Visa is taking advantage of the latest technology. He’s also emerged as one of the region’s most vocal advocates.



Mary Powell

CEO,  
Sunrun

The CEO of America’s largest residential solar and energy storage company believes her industry is on the cusp of a consumer-led revolution. Increasingly unreliable power grids mean more opportunity for Sunrun, whose panels and batteries let customers sell back excess power during peak times. With a PG&E partnership in hand, Powell’s future is looking more clement every day.





Matt Field

Co-CEO,  
TMG Partners

Field joined TMG more than two decades ago, and has overseen \$5 billion worth of acquisitions and dispositions for the San Francisco-based investor. Field notched perhaps the Bay Area’s most significant deal of the pandemic era: overseeing the acquisition of Oakland’s 300 Lakeside Drive for close to \$500 million and leasing as PG&E’s new headquarters. The utility confirmed last year it will exercise an option to buy the building for more than \$900 million. Field was promoted to co-CEO late last year, positioning him to lead TMG for years to come.



Patti Poppe

CEO,  
PG&E

Poppe was hired to right the ship at PG&E following a myriad of crises from a deadly pipeline explosion to wildfires. Under her leadership, the company has managed to mostly keep out of the headlines and focus instead on a crucial but tricky clean energy transition and a major project to bury 10,000 miles of overhead wires to prevent fires.



Paul Markovich

CEO,  
Blue Shield of California

Markovich leads a nonprofit health plan with \$24 billion in annual revenue, and 4.8 million members. He has spearheaded innovative initiatives, from creating a statewide provider directory to rolling out a new app to help members manage their care, and struck partnerships with Microsoft and Salesforce to help deliver these changes.



Michael Ghielmetti

President and founder,  
Signature Properties

Founder and president of Signature Development Group, Ghielmetti has developed and invested in more than 50 residential, commercial and mixed-use real estate projects valued at over \$3 billion. The Oakland-based developer was perfectly positioned to join in the city’s prepandemic development boom, undertaking a range of housing and mixed-use projects. Primary among them is Brooklyn Basin — a decades-in-the-making plan in progress to transform Oakland’s waterfront into a residential corridor by adding 3,700 homes.



Michael Mina

Founder,  
Mina Restaurant Group

The James Beard Award-winning chef’s Mina Group maintains eight restaurants in the Bay Area and dozens more around the country. Mina’s latest restaurant, Orla, opened at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino in Las Vegas in January. And he’s extending his influence by backing TableOne Hospitality, run by a group of former Mina executives.



Ryan Gilbert

Founder and general partner,  
Launchpad Capital

Gilbert has an impressive track record of advising early-stage fintechs, including serving as an early adviser to Jack Dorsey in building Square, now known as Block. He serves on the boards of Sacramento’s River City Bank and six early-stage fintechs in addition to advising more than 50 early- to midstage companies across Launchpad’s portfolio. Beyond the boardroom, Gilbert also is an investor in the Oakland Roots Sports Club.



Tony Xu

CEO and co-founder,  
DoorDash

Xu has some decisions to make. The pandemic helped him build a behemoth that dominates the restaurant food delivery business — an estimated \$2 of every \$3 American consumers spent on delivered meals last year went through DoorDash. But as we digest the new normal, food delivery growth has slowed, costs have risen and competition has increased. Where does growth, and perhaps even elusive profitability, come from? Will Xu and DoorDash seek even greater meal-delivery market share or pursue last-mile grocery delivery more aggressively?



Michael Shvo

Chairman, CEO and founder,  
Shvo

More than a mere real estate trophy hunter and luxury developer, Shvo declares on his website a goal that’s nothing less than creating “culture-defining experiences.” After assembling an impressive portfolio of high-profile addresses in Manhattan, Miami, Chicago and elsewhere, in 2020 the New York developer bagged his biggest game yet: S.F.’s Transamerica Pyramid. Now a \$250 million renovation is in the closing stages, one that aims to turn it from skyline icon to a place where San Franciscans and visitors gather.





**Michael Witherell**  
*Director,  
Lawrence Berkeley National Lab*

Witherell’s responsibilities at the Berkeley research lab include oversight of a wide spectrum of research encompassing quantum computing, hydrogen energy, artificial intelligence, mathematics, dark matter, new materials and human genomics, among other sectors. Its Nobel Prize-winning scientists include Jennifer Doudna, John Clauser, Carolyn Bertozzi and Saul Perlmutter.



**Sam Hawgood**  
*Chancellor,  
UCSF*

Hawgood’s impact extends far beyond campus. In 40 years at the school he has propelled research, instruction and real estate development in ways that will outlast his tenure. Appointed chancellor in 2014, Hawgood heads a \$9.5 billion institution that is developing new medicines and therapeutics that could benefit millions. A growing list of individual, public and private sector donors is testament to Hawgood’s influence and underlines UCSF’s place at the cutting edge of global medical research.



**Sandra Hernandez**  
*CEO,  
California Health Care Foundation*

If it’s a major Bay Area health care initiative over the last four decades, it probably bears Hernandez’s fingerprints. And she shows no sign of slowing down, now helping oversee new state standards on the portability of medical records. It follows a lengthy list of key health roles and big changes for which Hernandez has been responsible: pioneering doctor in AIDS care at S.F. General; architect of the Healthy San Francisco plan; board member at Covered California; San Francisco director of public health; and CEO of the San Francisco Foundation.



**Oz Erickson**  
*Chairman, principal and founder,  
Emerald Fund*

Erickson always loved the idea of building things that made a difference in people’s lives, like housing. Now, the Emerald Fund founder has overseen the development of thousands of residential units across the Bay Area — and a lot more, spearheading new housing policies and holding leadership roles in community groups like SPUR. “To be a successful real estate developer you have to take big risks. If you’re not optimistic, you simply won’t do it,” Erickson told the Business Times.

Tishman Speyer  
congratulates

Carl Shannon

for his recognition as  
one of the Bay Area’s  
Most Influential  
Business Leaders



TISHMAN SPEYER







**Patrick and John Collison**

CEO and president, respectively, and co-founders, Stripe

The brothers behind Stripe could make a big splash this year if they decide the time is right to take their payments company public. That would cap an impressive run for the company they founded in 2010 to help startups take payments that's now processing more than \$1 trillion in annual payments for clients that include Uber, Airbnb, Amazon and Microsoft. Given the tax revenue and spending it could generate, a Stripe IPO could have the entire Bay Area, not just the Collisons, partying like it's 1999.



**Max Levchin**

CEO, Affirm

From Amazon to Walmart, Affirm has emerged as the leading buy-now-pay-later choice for retailers. That's kept its business steady even as rising interest rates have pinched other lenders. A member of the fabled PayPal mafia that grew out of the payment service, he once arm-wrestled fellow member Elon Musk to resolve a technology disagreement. Now Levchin will have to make sure regulators don't pin him and other payment-plan providers down with burdensome regulations.



**Michael Covarrubias**

Chairman and co-CEO, TMG Partners

At the helm of San Francisco-based TMG Partners since 1995, Covarrubias has overseen a Bay Area portfolio that has grown to tens of millions of square feet and several of the region's top addresses. Those include TMG's renovation and creation of the Landmark at One Market in San Francisco and the acquisition of 300 Lakeside in Oakland to create a new headquarters for PG&E. Covarrubias is also an influential voice in the Bay Area's business community, serving in leadership roles at the Urban Land Institute and the Bay Area Council.



**Pete Docter**

Chief creative officer, Pixar

Pixar's creative chief wants to take you back: back to a time when we piled into theaters to watch movies, back to a time when his animation studio seemed to have an unerring knack for telling the stories we wanted to watch there. It's also when plucky Pixar was calling its own shots, before it became part of a much larger corporate whole. His biggest challenge now may be navigating the turmoil at Pixar owner Disney. A child contending with the tricky world created by their parents' missteps? Sounds like a film we'd go see.



**Rich Robbins**

CEO and founder, Wareham Development

Robbins founded Wareham Development in the 1970s. In the following decades, the firm became one of the most prominent life sciences landlords in cities like Emeryville and Berkeley. It's fair to say Wareham, which has an especially notable presence in Emeryville, played a crucial role in creating an East Bay biotech cluster that may someday rival its counterpart on the Peninsula. And the firm isn't slowing down, in recent years adding projects like EmeryStation Overland, a 300,000-square-foot life sciences development in — you guessed it — Emeryville.



**Sam Altman**

CEO and co-founder, OpenAI

OpenAI's board fired Sam Altman, then reinstated him over the span of six days last year. The attempt to check Altman's power ultimately entrenched it. Now he's back to a daunting set of challenges: navigating the intense competition to dominate AI, fighting battles over disinformation and copyright, helping shape regulations for the sector and courting employees and customers.



**Lynn Mahoney**

President, San Francisco State University

Running SFSU means being responsible for a key institution of higher education that's part of the 23-campus Cal State University system, the largest in the nation. But it's her affiliations outside the halls of academia that show her true power: Mahoney serves on the board of directors for both the Bay Area Council and the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of the Bay Area Higher Education Council and the San Francisco Workforce Investment Board and in 202 served on San Francisco's Covid-19 Economic Recovery Task Force.



**Michael Moritz**

Adviser, Sequoia Heritage  
Chairman, Crankstart


Moritz reshaped the internet landscape by backing companies like Google and PayPal. Now the longtime venture capitalist seems more interested in reshaping the Bay Area's physical landscape, from supporting a 400,000-person city in Solano County to backing a 200-foot waterfront tower in San Francisco. He's also making media waves with the San Francisco Standard, an online news site into which he and his wife, Harriet Heyman, have plunged \$10 million.



BAY AREA


100

POWER 100




**Sam Cobbs**  
CEO,  
Tipping Point Community

Cobbs is one of the most important gatekeepers in the Bay Area nonprofit sector, heading a philanthropic organization that funnels more than \$31 million annually to local programs to benefit nearly 100,000 people in communities across the region. Cobbs joined Tipping Point in January 2020, weeks before Covid-19 increased demand for many of the programs Tipping Point supports, at the same time it threatened sources of funding. He has positioned Tipping Point as an invaluable finder and funder of efforts to combat poverty, the housing crisis and educational inequity.




**Michelle Gass**  
CEO,  
Levi Strauss & Co.

Gass recently took the reins at Levi Strauss & Co. from CEO Chip Bergh, who will retire this year. This hardened retail executive — who battled activist investors in her prior role as CEO of Kohl's — joined as president, then prepped for the top role by working directly with designers and production staff. Gass is the first female CEO at the company, which has long had a workforce consisting of mostly women.



**Neil Thwaites**  
Regional vice president, California,  
Alaska Airlines

Thwaites can watch Alaska's planes take off from SFO at his office near the airport. He's also looking to lift Alaska's community involvement and market share in the Golden State. He's overseen innovative marketing efforts such as Alaska's Flight Pass, a monthly subscription program to pay for travel between 15 destinations in California, Arizona, Nevada and Utah, as well as expanding in-state service with a new SFO-Burbank route.



**Sar Peruri**  
COO, Oxford Capital Group  
Partner, Oxford Hotels & Resorts

Oxford's local leader shook all the right hands to ensure his group's three newest hotels could open in time for APEC guests. Having scooped up nine Bay Area hotels since 2019, Peruri now oversees a portfolio that's tied with Pebblebrook's for the largest in San Francisco. That makes him a key player in the city's tourism industry, and he's just getting started: In 2024, the former Hotel Vertigo will reopen as Oxford's Hotel Julian, and leadership hasn't ruled out more local acquisitions.



R | C | G

Congratulations to **KEN ROSEN**, Chairman of Rosen Consulting Group, on being named one of the Bay Area's most influential business leaders. A well-deserved recognition of his influential contributions to the Bay Area business community.

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**Scott Beck**

CEO,  
San Francisco Travel Association

The former head of Toronto’s travel promoter began working full-time for SF Travel two months ahead of his official January start date, taking over for longtime leader Joe D’Alessandro at a pivotal moment for the city. He’s banking on a resurgence of leisure tourism from Asia and supporting local policies that make San Francisco appealing once more to those turned off by negative headlines.



**Liz Minick**

Managing director, major markets and business integration executive,  
Bank of America

Minick wears both local and national hats at Bank of America, reflecting the power and complexity that comes with running a big part of California’s largest bank. She works on local market strategies for the nation’s 20 largest markets and also implements them in the Bay Area. Among her many civic roles, Minick serves as co-chair of Advance SF’s board; a member of the Bay Area Council’s executive committee; and on the board of the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation.



**Michael Seibel**

Managing director,  
Y Combinator

Y Combinator’s managing director may have a simple plan for beating the venture capital competition: outworking them all. He’s pored over 17,000 applications to the prestigious startup incubator and held 6,500 office hours with the companies he’s selected. That portfolio is now worth a collective \$192 billion. He’s also emerging as a cheerleader for San Francisco, with Y Combinator having reestablished its base of operations in the city after a long tenure in Mountain View.



**Susan Hirsch**

CEO and founder,  
Hirsch Philanthropy Partners

Hirsch built one of the nation’s first philanthropic advisory firms, which now works with some of the Bay Area’s most prominent families and foundations. Hirsch Philanthropy Partners, which merged late last year with consulting firm Third Plateau, has worked over the years with the Hellman Foundation, the Fisher family and the Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund, among others. Prior to founding her current firm in 1999, she was founding executive director of the Mimi and Peter Haas Fund.



**Ted Love**

Chair,  
Biotechnology Innovation Organization

Known as one of the nicest people in the grueling biotech industry, Love last year became the public face of BIO, a group that advocates on the industry’s behalf. It’s not his only gig: Since Pfizer Inc. in 2022 paid \$5.4 billion for sickle cell disease drug maker Global Blood Therapeutics that Love led, he has been instrumental in the Bay Area offshoot of Life Science Cares, a group helping biotech companies and their employees volunteer in the community. Parts of the BIO agenda — particularly its resistance to drug price controls — could put Love’s niceness to the test.



**Marianne De Backer**

CEO,  
Vir Biotechnology

De Backer defines “biotech boss” in more ways than one. She started her career researching drugs and holds seven patents. She then turned to dealmaking in executive roles at Johnson & Johnson and Bayer, taking over as CEO of Vir in April 2023 from biotech veteran George Scangos. As Vir’s new leader, she is now pushing the company to make a bigger impact against infectious diseases.



**William Oberndorf**

Executive chairman,  
Oberndorf Enterprises LLC

Oberndorf’s name isn’t one that resonates for most Bay Area residents, but his political and philanthropic impact is local, national and global. A billionaire investor, he leads the foundation aiding the University of California, San Francisco. He also pulls financial and political levers on a range of issues, mainly from the right — backing the Neighbors for a Better San Francisco political action committee that pushed the recall of District Attorney Chesa Boudin as well as initiatives on mental health and school vouchers.



**Mary Daly**

CEO,  
Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

From her perch near the foot of Market Street, Daly has a powerful view of the economy. When people look to understand the Federal Reserve’s decisions on top-of-mind business issues like interest rates hikes or cuts, it’s Daly who often speaks of the tricky balances the banking group must weigh. She’s always worth a listen: Before the Fed held rates steady in its January meeting, Daly presaged the move in a speech in San Diego.