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Introducing The Anchor List

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Celebrating top startup operators in Silicon Valley and beyond

We're super excited to announce the inaugural launch of The Anchor List, an annual honor roll recognizing the most talented operators in tech building the world's fastest growing startups.

In every winning startup, there are operators who are able to totally transform the trajectory of a business. They're not founders, but are just as important. They are often the first product managers, the first designers, the first sales leaders, and so on. Without them, their companies likely wouldn't have made it from zero to one, let alone reach hypergrowth scale. We call these people **Anchor Operators**, and we'd like to celebrate their stories.

In our experience, Anchor Operators have five important qualities.

1. They're tenacious. They will go over walls, under walls, through walls, or blow right past apparent walls in order to make important things happen.
2. They learn quickly without much instruction. You can throw them into the deep end of the pool and they will thrive without swimming lessons.
3. They're incredibly resourceful. They think like an owner and not like an employee, which means they will take 100% accountability for coming up with answers, even when the path is unclear.
4. They thrive in a chaotic, unpredictable environment.
5. They're out to prove something.

Anchor Operators are a special breed in the startup community. We don't think these leaders should be unsung heroes. We believe they should be honored and revered. This is why we created The Anchor List.

We're lucky to be collaborating with a legendary cast of judges.

These folks are responsible for building some of the most iconic companies of the last decade, from folks like Josh Elman, who led product at Robinhood, to Malthe Sigurdsson, who runs design at Stripe. Our veteran operators are Anchor Operators from Uber, Square, Stripe, Pinterest, Twitter, Spotify, and more.

The Anchor List seeks to recognize these kinds of leaders in the following six categories: product, design, marketing, sales, operations, and talent.

We will be particularly focused on surfacing exceptional operators who have built out a function 0 to 1 that have fundamentally altered the trajectory of their company. Nominees must be working in a full-time role at a private company — we will not be considering nominees from public companies at this time. We will be accepting nominations until May 15, 2020.

Anchor List honorees will be invited to join an exclusive network and dinner series hosted by Floodgate. We can't wait to see what kind of magic happens when the best execution talent in startups gathers in a single room.

So who's the best operator you know?

Nominate your candidate by visiting our site at www.anchorlist.com and subscribe to our newsletter to learn more about the operators in the Anchor Network. If you have any questions, feel free to ping me at shawn@floodgate.com.

Special thanks to our designer Albert Dong at Godling Studio and developer Yoni Dejene at Alama. A huge shout out to Erik Torenberg, Mallun Yen, Julia Lipton, and Delian Asparhouv, fellow investors who have built incredible foundations for the operator community — we greatly admire your work.