

Former Teen Startup Founder Josh Buckley Raising \$150 Million for Solo Fund

Tomio Geron

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More individual investors are raising larger venture funds and leading large funding rounds

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Several individual venture capitalists have recently raised their own venture funds and are leading Series A and other large funding rounds for startups, which previous seed investors didn't or couldn't do because of smaller fund sizes or an earlier-stage focus.

While traditional venture firms have multiple general partners, these individual investors, [whose numbers have increased](#) in recent months, rely on peers for advice and sharing deals. With the rise of AngelList and other sources of capital and information, startup founders now don't feel the need to work only with large brand-name venture firms, and are becoming more comfortable working with individual investors who have a strong record.

Speed is also a factor for working with these individual investors. "They're willing to do the deal now. And their organization doesn't get in the way, with an investment committee of seven people, with someone on vacation," said Qasar Younis, founder and chief executive of autonomous car testing startup Applied Intuition Inc. and former chief operating officer at startup accelerator Y Combinator.

San Francisco-based Mr. Buckley recently co-led a [\\$100 million Series A round](#) for social gaming startup Playco Global Inc. along with Sequoia Capital Global Equities.

Some founders like working with Mr. Buckley because they are close in age.

Alamin Uddin, co-founder and chief executive of NexHealth Inc., said he chose Mr. Buckley to lead the \$15 million Series A investment in the patient booking and communication startup because of Mr. Buckley's experience as a founder and because he is an up-and-coming venture investor despite being only 28 years old.

"A big part of it is he's young," Mr. Uddin said. "I'm 27. If you could take money from Peter Thiel in 2004 would you? Of course in hindsight," he added, referring to the Founders Fund co-founder.

At 18, Mr. Buckley co-founded gaming startup Mino Games, which went through the Y Combinator accelerator. His other notable investments include employee data and management startup Rippling, supersonic aircraft maker Boom Technology Inc. and space transportation startup Momentus Inc., which recently announced it would go public via a special-purpose acquisition company, or SPAC.

Write to Tomio Geron at tomio.geron@wsj.com