



transparent collective

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transparent collective

looking beyond faces and into the hearts of founders

Silicon Valley, the American Dream 2.0, has been a mecca of innovation for over 60 years, creating and incubating some of the most well known companies in the world. For each break out start-up company that has become a global success, there has been a founding team of persistent engineering and business minds. Regardless of schooling, two experiences most successful tech founders share are exposure to Silicon Valley and access to family (or friend) resources. This both increases the opportunity for funding and makes for a higher risk tolerance when pursuing entrepreneurial ventures. Not surprisingly, these experiences lend themselves to a particular demographic. From early-stage startups to accomplished corporations, Silicon Valley is primarily run by white males.

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The hiring process and culture of the tech work environment has been formed by the majority. The start-up fund raising process from angel to series A has been formed by the majority. Every component of the Silicon Valley dream to build the future is fraught with challenges, but when you come from a different background than those who have been working in the space for years, the challenges are amplified.

Transparent Collective (TC) is a group of founders dedicated to increasing exposure and access to Silicon Valley for African-American as well as Latino/Hispanic men and women. TC is working to break down barriers that acutely affect the success of minority founders at the early start-up stage. The first barrier we are addressing is access to seed funding and this is how you can help.

TC Family and Friends Meetup

Every quarter in 2016, 10 of the top minority founded start-ups from across the country a chance to network with and pitch an audience of Bay Area investors that want to diversify their portfolio, literally.

Every founder who takes the stage will have been vetted by our network of seasoned founders and venture professionals. We are targeting March 2nd, 2016 as the first meet-up date.

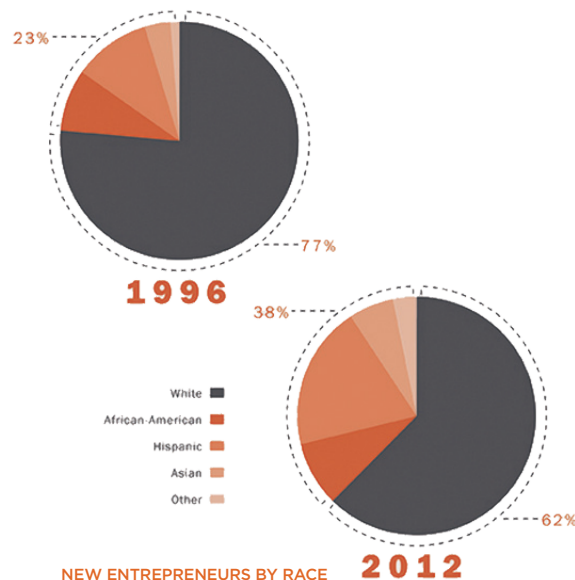
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ONLY 1% OF SEED / SERIES A FUNDING IS INVESTED IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN FOUNDERS



ONLY 2% OF VENTURE CAPITALISTS ARE AFRICAN-AMERICAN OR HISPANIC

Sources : National Venture Association, Nov 2011 / CB INSIGHTS, Mar 2014

Over the past few years, the challenge of obtaining funding has affected founders of all walks of life. With the seed round having been redefined, becoming what used to be considered a Series A, access to capital has been reduced. However, with less access to family and friends funds, and very few pre-seed funds out there, minority founders have been affected the most. They are now, more than ever, highly dependent on unsecured loans or credit lines to finance early-stage growth. Without access to the standard form of start-up funding, it prohibits the growth potential of minority companies and even acts as a deterrent to fail into success. After all, there is an estimated 90% failure rate for start-ups, it takes more than one try to break out.

We are here to enable minority founders ... connecting them with funding sources so they have the opportunity to both fail and succeed

We're here to enable minority founders the same access as the majority, connecting them with funding sources that enable the opportunity to both fail and succeed. Together, we will make the American Dream 2.0 accessible to talented entrepreneurs from all walks of life.



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