

Aerica Shimizu Banks creates initiatives to improve inclusion and equity in tech, the law, and entrepreneurship. She is a champion of women entrepreneurs and is an accomplished ecosystem builder. Her approach is creative, intersectional, and holistic, combining the expertise she's gained in community organizing, policy, and tech.

She believes in the triple bottom line and invests in female founders of color. She was named a "Tech Titan" by *Washingtonian Magazine* and a *Forbes* "30 Under 30" Social Entrepreneur.

Aerica is a co-founder of BEACON: The DC Women Founders Initiative. She is a member of Google's legal team, and served as a political appointee in The White House (2012). She graduated from Oxford University with a MSc. in Nature, Society, and Environmental Policy, and from Seattle University with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Public Affairs.

Leading from the Heart: Reclaiming the Power of Empathy

Matt Paxton has spent the last 20 years helping others solve difficult living situations caused by excess possessions. He is the founder of Legacy Navigator, the nation's largest downsizing and senior transition service. He is the host of *Legacy List*; and is also known as the extreme cleaning expert from the hit television show, *Hoarders* on A&E.

Paxton started cleaning out houses after his father and grandfather passed away in the same year. This experience allowed him to recognize the immense impact physical items can have on a person's life; so he now appears regularly on television and radio to speak on our emotional attachment to items.

STUFFED: The Unintended Result of Our Attachment to Personal Belongings

Sharmi Albrechtsen is a robotics aficionado who started SmartGurlz, a fast-growing startup that makes computer programming a more accessible skill for young girls. Sharmi started SmartGurlz after she became frustrated when trying to find educational, fun toys for her daughter, Nina. She saw a world of opportunity with tech fun, coding and digital learning for girls, inspiring interest in STEM related subjects.

Sharmi was featured on a special episode of ABC's hit TV show *Shark Tank*—featuring Richard Branson—and accepted an investment offer from Daymond John. Sharmi was recently given *AdWeek's* 2017 Disruptor Award in Championing Gender Diversity in Advertising and Tech.

Sharmi was previously the associate director of the Ida Institute, a non-profit organization whose mission was to empower adults and children to overcome hearing disabilities.

Robotics: A Better Barbie for the STEM-Loving Girl

Dr. Kevin Chan is the center director of Treehouse Eyes, the only specialty medical practice in the U.S. that is dedicated exclusively to myopia management for children.

Dr. Chan obtained his undergraduate degree in Pharmacology at Western University in London, ON, Canada. He later graduated with distinguished dual degrees of Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) and Masters of Vision Science (M.S.) from the New England College of Optometry, Boston, MA. Dr. Chan is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry; and is a guest contributor in the Review of Optometry.

Myopia: A Global Epidemic

Karen Civil is the need-to-know media mogul behind some of the most notable names in entertainment. As a global marketing content creator, she has developed powerful influence in culture, and bridges the gap between powerhouse brands and musical artists.

Karen has become a humanitarian for charitable causes that specifically benefit children, Haiti, and women of color. Her first book, "Be You & Live Civil: Tools for Unlocking Your Potential & Living Your Purpose," has sold over 300,000 copies and spawned a 40-city tour across the globe. Karen Civil has become synonymous with innovative thinking and positive results. She remains a driver of the culture and a force to be reckoned with.

Visionary: How to Create a More Vibrant Future by Cultivating the Unseen

Julian Mitchell is an award-winning multimedia journalist with a passion for using content to design culture. He has held editorial and supervisory producer roles at REVOLT, HuffPost, Complex, Forbes and Beats by Dre. He has also spearheaded campaigns for brands like American Honda Motors, Wells Fargo, Google and Magic Johnson Enterprises.

Julian is a LinkedIn Top Voice; he has a reputation for generating high volumes of quality content that help individuals and brands grow without compromising their authenticity.

Envisioning A New America: Using Content To Design Culture

Mrs. Brandice Heckert is principal of Winston Churchill High, the #1 ranked public high school in the state of Maryland, according to *U.S. News* education rankings. With a demonstrated history of strong instructional leadership skills, Mrs. Heckert has an intrinsic understanding of how to build enthusiasm for learning among students.

Mrs. Heckert was the assistant principal at Bethesda-Chevy Chase (B-CC) High School before being appointed principal of CHS. She was previously a math teacher, Student Government Association (SGA) sponsor, head cheerleading coach and principal intern at Clarksburg High School.

Rearing the Visionaries of Tomorrow

Comptroller Peter Franchot