

VICTOR W. HWANG

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economic growth expert, entrepreneur, author, investor, advocate

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

RIGHT TO START (January 2020 to present)

Founder & CEO

- Created and led nonpartisan campaign advocating for entrepreneurial opportunity as a civic priority and fundamental right for all, regardless of background.

KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION Kansas City, Missouri (February 2016 to December 2019)

Vice President, Entrepreneurship

- Led turnaround of Entrepreneurship Department of world's leading philanthropy for entrepreneurs by developing and implementing first-ever departmental strategy, reorganizing and building team from 11 to 31 full-time staff (plus 15 contractors), and growing budget to \$40 million.
- Supervised strategy to engage over 100 bipartisan mayors and staffs to implement policies and programs to support entrepreneurs; organized over 1,200 entrepreneurship leaders in 50 states and 10 countries through 3 summits and 100s of meetups; and created bipartisan policy roadmap for cities, states, and the nation backed by coalition of over 100 organizations.
- Drove innovation by creating first fund-of-funds to catalyze innovative funding models to reach underserved entrepreneurs; creating first research translation function to improve entrepreneurial learning; executing grants to almost 70 high-impact organizations to overcome barriers for underserved entrepreneurs (incl. people of color, women, rural, indigenous, and veterans); and building the first network of 54 foundations supporting entrepreneurs.
- Streamlined operational effectiveness by reducing steps in grantmaking systems by two-thirds and accelerating process timelines by up to 50%.
- Expanded internal operating programs by launching online entrepreneurial education (FastTrac) to over 140 affiliates; and scaling entrepreneurial peer-learning program (1 Million Cups) from 60 to 168 communities, reaching 149,000 attendees per year.

LIQUIDITY NANOTECH CORPORATION Alameda, California (December 2009 to January 2016)

CEO & Co-Founder (October 2014 to January 2016)

CFO & Co-Founder (September 2009 to October 2014)

Board Member (September 2009 to January 2016)

- Led the company's founding process by collaborating with chemistry scientists at Stony Brook University who invented the original technology: nanoscale polymer electrospinning in a mass production process.
- Managed company through initial product development, launch, and corporate partnerships, including conceptualization, design, financing, and production of a groundbreaking portable filtration device that makes water safe to drink instantly.
- Recruited and built a founding "Dream Team" of business and science luminaries in the water filtration sector, including the former CEO of GE Osmonics, former CEO of CUNO, and former head of 3M's Worldwide Water Group.
- Key role in raising \$13 million in venture capital with leading Silicon Valley investors.
- Winner of TechCrunch Disrupt's Startup Battlefield, a prominent startup competition.

T2 VENTURE CREATION Los Altos, California (December 2005 to January 2016)

CEO & Co-Founder

- Co-founded unique venture studio that began as a startup accelerator and transformed into an innovation design firm that assisted entrepreneurial growth for cities, regions, states, companies, and nations.
- Pioneered the metaphor of a “rainforest” for growing innovation ecosystems, based on principles derived from natural sciences, design thinking, and complex systems. Published several books that provide a framework for fostering systemic, sustainable economic competitiveness in communities and organizations.
- Led creation of portfolio of startup companies in variety of sectors, including information technologies, life sciences, and cleantech.
- T2 assisted entrepreneurial innovation through numerous engagements. Public entities included the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, U.S. Economic Development Administration, U.S. Agency for International Development, Pacific Alliance, and others. Corporations included Dignity Health, Microsoft, Accenture, Gemalto (digital financial security), and GS Home (Korean online retailer).
- Founded and served as Executive Director of the Global Innovation Summit, a conference in Silicon Valley that convened over 1,000 delegates from 50 countries in 2012, 2014, and 2015. Sponsors included Kauffman Foundation, Microsoft, World Bank, Skoll Foundation, Ford Foundation, U.S. Department of Commerce, and foreign governments.

VEATROS Lawrence, Kansas (August 2005 to August 2007)

Chief Strategy Officer

- Top strategist and business development executive in startup company commercializing video search technology from the University of Kansas.
- Expanded customer base and led acquisition of company by DivX, a publicly traded company on NASDAQ.

LARTA INSTITUTE Los Angeles, California (March 2000 to April 2007)

President (Fall 2004 to April 2007)

Chief Operating Officer (March 2000 to Fall 2004)

- Led transformation and growth of California-chartered nonprofit into a national “virtual accelerator” for technology commercialization, mentoring several hundred startups per year with research funding from the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, DARPA, and NIST.
- Grew non-grant revenues by 1400% to enable independence from State of California.
- Developed staff from 4 people to a core team of 25 and a broader network of 50 professionals.

IRELL & MANELLA Los Angeles, California (May 1999 to March 2000)

Associate Attorney in Corporate Law and High Technology

- Counseled clients on technology, software, telecommunications, multimedia, and Internet issues and transactions; venture capital financings; licensing and intellectual property agreements; private placements and public offerings; mergers and acquisitions; and general corporate legal issues.

MAYER, BROWN & PLATT Los Angeles, California (November 1997 to April 1999)

Associate Attorney in Corporate and Finance Law

- Negotiated and counseled on mergers and acquisitions, securities offerings, securitizations, and federal and state securities registrations. Coordinated finance transactions, including credit agreements and lease agreements. General legal counsel on licensing, public filings, and corporate organization.

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT Washington, D.C. (March 1997 to August 1997)
Law Clerk, Office of the General Counsel

- Appointed to provide legal advice and opinions on international aid programs, with emphasis in government regulatory, contracting, and procurement issues.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF CHARLOTTE Charlotte, North Carolina (1993)
Assistant Director of Business Development. Developed fundraising efforts.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, THE LAW SCHOOL Chicago, Illinois. J.D. awarded 1996. Studied under scholars such as Elena Kagan, Cass Sunstein, Larry Lessig, Richard Epstein. Tony Patiño Fellowship for Public Service Finalist.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY Cambridge, Massachusetts. A.B. with Honors 1993. Major in Government, with unofficial specialization in Computer Science, Operating Systems Design, and Digital Circuitry. Harvard College Scholarship for Academic Distinction.

OTHER ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BOOKS

WE ARE ALL STARTERS: A MANIFESTO TO RENEW OURSELVES AND OUR NATION (2020)

- Author of a book that articulates a new fundamental right – the Right to Start – flowing from the innate entrepreneurial potential in every human.

THE RAINFOREST: THE SECRET TO BUILDING THE NEXT SILICON VALLEY (2012)

- Primary co-author of a book on building innovation ecosystems, based on principles derived from natural sciences, design thinking, and complex systems, that provides a new model for fostering systemic, sustainable economic prosperity in communities.
- Gold Medal Winner of “Book of the Year” in Business & Economics, ForeWord Reviews as “a big idea that defines a way of thinking.”
- Translated into Russian, Arabic, Korean, Vietnamese, and Chinese.

THE RAINFOREST BLUEPRINT: HOW TO DESIGN YOUR OWN SILICON VALLEY (2013)

- Author of a practical design manual derived from the ideas of the first book.

THE RAINFOREST SCORECARD: A PRACTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR GROWING INNOVATION POTENTIAL (2015)

- Wrote the book’s Foreword. Guided authors through the publication process.
- The book provides a benchmarking methodology and measurement process for ecosystems.

SPEECHES (PARTIAL LIST)

- Commencement Speaker, Austin Community College (National Public Radio designated as one of the “Best Commencement Speeches Ever”)
- Testimony to U.S. Congress, House Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access
- Testimony to California Senate and Assembly hearings on technology and innovation policy
- TEDx speaker (Augusta)
- TEDx speaker (University of Nevada)
- Keynote, Finovate Conference

- Keynote, International Business Innovation Association (InBIA)
- Keynote, TiEcon Annual Meeting
- Keynote, International Economic Development Council Annual Meeting
- Keynote Fireside Chat, Boston FinTech Week
- Keynote, Inclusive Capital Summit
- Keynote, Sprint Accelerator Launch
- Keynote, State of Entrepreneurship Address (three times)
- Keynote, EntreFest
- Keynote, National Assoc. of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP) Leadership Convention
- Keynote, ESHIP Summit and Mayors Conference on Entrepreneurship (2017, 2018, 2019)
- Keynote, Midwest Symposium on Social Entrepreneurship
- Keynote, 1 Million Cups Organizers Summit
- Keynote, Alternative Capital Summit
- Keynote, CEED Global Annual Conference (Morocco)
- Keynote, Emerging Issues Forum (North Carolina)
- Keynote, Maine TechWalk
- Keynote, Celebration of Entrepreneurship (Rochester)
- Keynote, University of New Mexico Economic Development Summit
- Keynote, Building Innovative Ecosystems (Saratoga)
- Keynote, State of the Economy Conference (Halifax)
- Keynote, Bright Buffalo Niagara Forum
- Keynote, Global Innovation Forum (Daejeon, Korea)
- Keynote, National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Annual Meeting
- Keynote, University Economic Development Association (UEDA) Annual Summit
- Keynote, Pacific Alliance LAB4+ Conference (Santiago, Chile)
- Keynote, 1 ASEAN Entrepreneurship Summit (Kuala Lumpur)
- Keynote, Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers (GCEC)
- Keynote, U.S. Association of Small Business Educators
- Panel Moderator, Sundance Film Festival
- Panel Moderator, KC Chamber Small Business Awards
- Speaker, Aspen Ideas Festival (twice)
- Speaker, NationSwell Summit
- Speaker, Economic Development Administration (EDA) National Conference
- Speaker, Startup Champions Network Summit
- Speaker, Entrepreneurship Funders Network
- Speaker, Philanthropy Roundtable
- Speaker, Aspen Global Inclusive Growth Summit
- Speaker, Kauffman Fellows Global Summit
- Speaker, Asia Conference on Technology Transfer (Seoul)
- Speaker, US-Brazil Innovation Summit

OTHER WRITING

- *Inc. Magazine*. Regular contributing columnist.
- *Make Magazine*. Regular contributing columnist.
- *Forbes*. Former regular contributing columnist, with ~500,000 article reads.
- Co-author, *Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs: Removing Barriers* (2019), report from Kauffman Foundation that analyzes gaps and recommends solutions to support underserved entrepreneurs raising capital.
- Foreword, National Governors Association report, *Entrepreneurship in States* (2019).
- Columnist in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Entrepreneur*, *TechCrunch*, *PBS NewsHour*, *The Hill*, *Make Magazine*.

- Co-wrote several reports through Larta Institute. Co-Author, “Sand Dollar Report: Analysis of Venture Investing,” Larta Institute (in partnership with PricewaterhouseCoopers) (2001-2004). Co-Author, “Heart of Gold: the Bioscience Industry of Southern California,” (2001). Co-Author, “Technology Innovation Index,” (2000-2003). Co-Author, “Federal Technology Funding Guide,” (2001-2005).

OTHER RECOGNITIONS

- Kauffman Fellow, for emerging leaders of the venture capital industry.
- Member, California Blue Ribbon Task Force on Nanotechnology.
- Marshall Memorial Fellowship, a program for emerging trans-Atlantic leaders.
- Member, Kazakhstan International Science & Commercialization Board.
- Reviewer, National Science Foundation small business investments program (SBIR).
- Honorary Ambassador, City of Porto Alegre, Brazil

LANGUAGES: Speak fluent conversational Mandarin Chinese; rudimentary Spanish.