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Of The Year®**

40
YEARS

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**shape the
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whose impact shapes the future.



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**Shape the future
with confidence**



Letter from the team



BRIDGET AHERN
PROGRAM CO-DIRECTOR



KIM HARRINGTON
PROGRAM CO-DIRECTOR



RACHEL RUSSELL
PROGRAM MANAGER



TERESA MICHEL
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

As we celebrate the 40th year of the Entrepreneur Of The Year® program, we are thrilled to recognize the transformative entrepreneurs and bold leaders of high-growth companies who dare to dream **big** — revolutionizing industries, impacting communities and paving the way toward a brighter tomorrow.

This year, we proudly shine a spotlight on 33 outstanding finalists from the Greater Los Angeles region, representing 24 innovative companies. These finalists were chosen by an independent panel of judges for their entrepreneurial spirit, purpose, growth and lasting impact in building long-term value.

Additionally, in a year marked by unimaginable tragedy, we proudly recognize four remarkable Wildfire Impact Award recipients whose unwavering commitment and selfless dedication to supporting affected communities serve as a beacon of hope and resilience in the face of adversity.

We will honor these shapers of our future on June 12

at The Beverly Hills Hotel. This unforgettable evening promises inspiration and new connections as we celebrate our remarkable finalists and special award recipients and unveil this year’s award winners.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our independent panel of judges — Rachel Foltz, Larry Freedman, Lloyd Greif, Jessica Hawthorne-Castro, Nick Kim, Maria Salinas, James Segil, Mark Stagen, Michelle Wahler, Elise Wetzel, David Yeom and Amanda Zarrilli. Your dedication and expertise are essential to the success of this program.

Congratulations once again to our incredible finalists and special honorees; your bold ambitions, relentless perseverance and unwavering dedication inspire us all to shape the future together!

With warm regards,

**Bridget Ahern, Kim Harrington,
Rachel Russell and Teresa Michel**
Ernst & Young LLP

Congratulations to the Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2025 Greater Los Angeles finalists!

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IF YOU ARE
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A SIGN,
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2025 FINALISTS



Adam Dole and Mick Ebeling

Bento
Venice

Bento started as a Not Impossible Labs initiative, originally called Hunger: Not Impossible, focused on connecting individuals with meals from local restaurants. Realizing that this

work had the potential to drive bigger change, the purpose and mission grew. In 2022, the initiative was spun off into a stand-alone company, Bento, with a deeper focus on food as medicine and health equity.

Today, Bento is a technology-enabled service that provides low-income community members with medically tailored groceries. The mission is not only to eliminate food insecurity in the US, but also improve the health outcomes and transform the overall quality of life for the country's most vulnerable populations. Co-founders Adam Dole and Mick Ebeling believe everyone — regardless of socioeconomic status — deserves access to consistent food that meets their specific nutritional and cultural needs, delivered with dignity and convenience.

As an approved Medicaid health care plan benefit in California — and most recently New York — Bento is currently available to millions at no cost to the member. Using disease-specific nutritional guidelines, Bento's team of registered dietitians curates healthy grocery options personalized to each member's health conditions, dietary needs and cultural preferences. Orders are fulfilled by local grocery partners and delivered directly to the member's preferred address. The experience is designed to be easy, convenient and stigma free. What began as a passion project has become a purpose-driven company. Dole and Ebeling have successfully built an innovative business model that ensures more communities across the US can access the nutrition they need — without having to choose between food and other basic needs.



Alok Chanani

BuildOps
Los Angeles

BuildOps is the only all-in-one platform built from the ground up for commercial contractors — HVAC, electrical, plumbing, fire/life safety and more. While most software in the industry was retrofitted from residential models, BuildOps started with a blank slate and one goal: serve the people who keep critical infrastructure running.

BuildOps' cloud-based platform connects every part of a contractor's business: service, construction, dispatching, quoting, invoicing, CRM, fleet management and more. Instead of toggling between spreadsheets and software that don't talk to each other, teams run everything in one place — with tools built specifically for commercial complexity.

For founder Alok Chanani, entrepreneurship wasn't just a career choice — it was a calling shaped by service, grit and an eye for what's broken. Long before founding BuildOps, Chanani served as an Army officer in Iraq, responsible for transporting hundreds of millions of dollars to rebuild schools, hospitals and infrastructure destroyed by war. It was there, on the ground, that he first saw the true power of the trades — not just as industries, but as the backbone of civilization.

After his service, Chanani founded a construction and real estate development firm — and ran headfirst into the same problem most contractors face: software that didn't work. That's where BuildOps was born — with a fierce respect for the people doing the work. Starting from scratch, Chanani and team embedded themselves in the field and built a platform designed for the specific needs of commercial contractors — not just to digitize their operations, but to give them control, confidence and clarity.



Alex Bouzari

DataDirect Networks
Chatsworth

DataDirect Networks (DDN) is an AI and data intelligence company, empowering organizations to maximize the value of their data with end-to-end HPC and AI-focused solutions. Its customers range from the largest global enterprises and AI hyperscalers to cutting-edge research centers, all leveraging DDN's proven data intelligence platform for scalable, secure

and high-performance AI deployments that drive 10 times returns.

When Alex Bouzari cofounded DDN nearly three decades ago, he wasn't chasing headlines — he was chasing a vision: to empower organizations to solve the world's most complex data challenges. Today, under Bouzari's leadership as CEO, DDN has grown into the world's largest private data intelligence company, serving some of the most demanding environments in AI, research, finance, autonomous driving, enterprise IT and government.

Bouzari's journey started with a simple but bold idea: that the explosion of data would fundamentally reshape industries, and companies would need purpose-built solutions to harness it. In the early years, DDN focused on high-performance computing, building ultra-fast storage systems for national laboratories, aerospace and scientific research institutions. As data continued to multiply exponentially, Bouzari expanded DDN's focus, anticipating new demands from AI, machine learning and enterprise cloud computing, long before they became mainstream trends. Today, DDN systems power many of the world's largest AI factories and research initiatives, from autonomous driving to genomics, and its client roster includes NVIDIA, xAI, Fortune 2000 companies, government agencies like NASA and the world's leading research institutions. Bouzari has led DDN through recent transformative growth, including strategic acquisitions that expanded its portfolio into enterprise markets and AI-specific solutions.



Al Sommer and Mark Sommer

Del West USA
Valencia

Del West USA was founded in 1973 by Al Sommer as an aerospace structural materials R&D laboratory. Del West's clients quickly grew to include NASA,

the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy, and the major US aerospace firms, including Rockwell, Lockheed, McDonnell Douglas and Boeing. In 1977, the company began the transition away from a testing and consulting model to become a manufacturing company with a venture into automobile racing components. Drawing on the company's research into the use of titanium and aluminum alloys in aerospace, Al Sommer began to produce an initial line of lightweight valves for racing engines in 1978.

Over the next 25 years, the company gained a dominant position in the design and manufacturing of lightweight valvetrain components for high-performance engines, first for racing, and then for supercars and hyper-cars in production vehicles.

This expansion period saw the company expand with a manufacturing facility in Switzerland that, in turn, led to an expansion into supplying the Swiss luxury goods market. Sommer's son Mark joined the company in the early 1990s; it was clear from the beginning that he shared his father's entrepreneurial ways and appetite for risk. Together, they worked to grow and support Del West through both trying times and flourishing times.

Recently, the company has also returned to the aerospace market where it has its roots, but as a manufacturer rather than a consultancy. Today, Del West has more than 300 people with three facilities in the US as well as a facility in Switzerland.



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Fabletics was built to keep people moving — fueled by a vision to make premium activewear more accessible to all.

We're proud to celebrate our Co-Founder & CEO, Adam Goldenberg, Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2025 Greater Los Angeles finalist, whose leadership continues to drive our mission forward.

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**Great
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SPRINTRAY CONGRATULATES ALL THE FINALISTS

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR® 2025

GREATER LOS ANGELES



**Jing Zhang, Erich Kreidler,
Amir Mansouri, Hossein Bassir**

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2025 FINALISTS



Adam Goldenberg

Fabletics
El Segundo

Founded in 2013, Fabletics is the world's largest digitally native activewear brand. The company was founded with a guiding mission to bring fashion, inclusivity and accessibility to the world of premium activewear. By fusing style-centric design with innovative technology, Fabletics delivers fashionable, high-performance, premium active lifestyle products at

accessible prices.

Cofounder and CEO Adam Goldenberg is a seasoned entrepreneur and leader in the e-commerce industry who has established a proven track record of building multiple billion-dollar brands. His career as a CEO and serial entrepreneur began when he was still in high school, when he founded his first company, Gamer's Alliance. Goldenberg subsequently sold Gamer's Alliance to Intermix Media, the birthplace of MySpace. Intermix named Goldenberg its chief operating officer when he was just 19, making him the youngest COO of a publicly traded company in history.

After several other major entrepreneurial successes, Goldenberg has overseen tremendous success for Fabletics. Under his leadership, Fabletics has sustained more than 30% CAGR revenue growth since its first full year of operations, while setting a new standard for innovation, accessibility and inclusivity in activewear. Driven by its innovative VIP membership program and rooted in the foundational belief that everyone — and everybody — deserves to look and feel their best, Fabletics has grown to serve more than three million active customers. In just ten years, the brand has evolved beyond the gym into every part of life, operating more than 100 brick-and-mortar retail stores.



Steve Magami

Fruitist
Los Angeles

Fruitist is a premium superfruit brand setting a new standard for healthy snacking.

Formerly known as Agrovision, the company launched Fruitist as its flagship consumer brand in 2020. Today, it's one of the fastest-growing names in the global fresh fruit market. Fruitist products are now sold in more than 12,500 stores in North America and

are available in 28 countries. They are led by the company's best-selling Premium Jumbo Blueberries.

Steve Magami didn't start Fruitist to sell blueberries initially. He started to change the way people snack. In 2008, while working in private equity and looking for long-term, durable opportunities around the world, Magami came across a piece of land in Peru originally intended for renewable fuel production. Then the financial crisis hit, and the ethanol market collapsed. Most investors would have cut their losses. Magami didn't. Instead, he bet everything on a different idea: blueberries.

At the time, success seemed extremely unlikely. Peru wasn't a player in the berry market but Magami saw something others didn't: the climate, a massive new irrigation project bringing water from the Andes, a large global market and an open lane to build something big. That early bet turned Fruitist into a category leader and helped reshape the fresh snacking industry. Today, Fruitist is one of the fastest-growing fresh food and CPG brands in the world. Building on that momentum, Fruitist is expanding its portfolio across other premium superfruits, including blackberries, raspberries and cherries, with more varieties and snackable formats on the horizon.



Louis Amoroso and Neha Kumar

Full Glass Wine Co.
Redondo Beach

Full Glass Wine Co. is a brand acquisition and management firm focused on rapidly acquiring DTC wine brands to build a multi-brand wine

marketplace. The company was cofounded by industry pioneer Louis Amoroso and visionary entrepreneur Neha Kumar in 2023, combining their many years of DTC, beverage and business expertise to curate the next wave of groundbreaking consumer brands in wine and revitalize the DTC wine market.

Full Glass Wine's innovative and beloved portfolio of DTC brands includes Winc, Wine Insiders, Splash, Scout & Cellar and Wine Access. The company's mission is to revolutionize DTC wine by leveraging and expanding on the power of compelling storytelling, immersive content, groundbreaking business models and personalized e-commerce experiences. Full Glass Wine is focused on optimizing operations and enhancing market presence across its portfolio, all while maintaining and growing each brand's unique voice and identity.

The company has scaled rapidly through a strategic acquisition model — completing seven acquisitions in just its first 17 months. This bold expansion has enabled Full Glass Wine to serve an expansive portion of the wine-buying market, from first-time shoppers to seasoned collectors, with a portfolio of brands that deliver quality, value and expertise directly to customers' doors. With a focus on infrastructure, organizational development and operational innovation, the company has built a scalable foundation that is designed for long-term success. Revenue growth has been paired with disciplined integration efforts — bringing together diverse teams and establishing clear roles, accountability systems and performance incentives to ensure alignment across all levels of the business.



Dr. Milind Godbole

GeBBS Healthcare Solutions
Culver City

GeBBS Healthcare Solutions, an EQT portfolio company, is a leading provider of technology-enabled revenue cycle management and risk adjustment solutions. Founded in 2005, GeBBS helps health care providers and payers improve financial performance, compliance and patient experience by integrating automation, AI and innovation into its

services. Grounded in operational excellence and fueled by continuous innovation, GeBBS has evolved into a trusted partner for health care providers and payers across the nation. By combining deep health care expertise, a highly skilled global workforce and a robust suite of advanced technology platforms, GeBBS delivers scalable, secure and efficient solutions that optimize financial performance and elevate the patient experience.

Under CEO Dr. Milind Godbole's leadership since 2013, GeBBS has adopted a forward-thinking "Automate, Innovate, Transform (AIT)" strategy. Recognizing industry-wide challenges like labor shortages, inefficiencies and rising operational costs, Godbole prioritized significant investments in AI-driven automation, cybersecurity and global delivery models to streamline workflows, enhance scalability and drive better financial outcomes for health care organizations.

GeBBS has continued to expand both geographically and strategically — growing its footprint across the Philippines, India and the Dominican Republic while strengthening service capabilities to meet evolving client needs. Patient experience and technology innovation are central to GeBBS' growth. Through its technology-driven risk adjustment and HCC coding solutions, GeBBS helps government payers and risk-bearing providers improve their risk adjustment and quality initiatives. Serving the evolving needs of its clients, GeBBS combines the strength of its more than 14,000 members of a scalable global workforce with advanced automation and AI-powered platforms to drive operational efficiency, improve accuracy and reduce administrative burdens.

Not All Entrepreneurs Build Companies. Some Build the Future of Care.



From the start, Jay Ackerman set out to do more than lead a business – he set out to change how healthcare works.

Under his leadership, Reveleer created an AI-powered platform that helps health plans and physicians find what matters, fix what’s missing, and focus on what counts: better insights, better care, better lives.

Congratulations, Jay, on being an Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2025 Greater Los Angeles finalist. You’re not just leading a company – you’re leading a movement.

Built in L.A. Trusted nationwide.

See what’s next at Reveleer.com

Some build companies. Others build legacies.

Congratulations to our CEO and co-founder, **Alok Chanani**, Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2025 Greater Los Angeles finalist and relentless advocate for the trades: the ones who wire the power, set the systems, and keep the country running.

— Team BuildOps



2025 FINALISTS



Jean-Marc Plisson and Sheena Zadeh

Kosas
Los Angeles

Kosas, the beauty brand that pioneered Makeup for Skincare Freaks, is today a global brand with distribution across North America, APAC, the Middle East and the EU in retailers that

include Sephora, goop, Credo and Space NK. The celebrity-loved, TikTok-viral and award-winning brand consistently pushes boundaries with innovative products that are 100% makeup, 100% skincare. Kosas' philosophy is that makeup should enhance natural beauty while nourishing the skin. High-performing, dermatologist-tested formulas are rigorously tested to be safe for even the most sensitive skin.

Sheena Zadeh launched Kosas in 2015 with four lipsticks and the belief that you can have it all with makeup. She wanted unique shades that make skin look alive, mixed with the same precision and thought found in art. As someone with acne-prone skin, she wanted the best ingredients because she believes makeup is a huge opportunity to continue a skincare routine.

Kosas is also the result of Zadeh's love of color, passion for science and ingredients, an obsession with how things feel and an endless dedication to wellness. She created Kosas because she wanted to shift the mindset in beauty from hiding and fixing to revealing and expressing. She believes that when we're feeling good and comfortable in our skin, we want to look our best and celebrate ourselves through makeup. To Zadeh, beauty is a feeling in your gut. It's finding what makes you feel alive and feel good. Through Kosas, she gets to be right there with the community on that journey.



John Linden

Mythical Games
Los Angeles

Mythical Games is a next-generation company revolutionizing gaming by creating popular games and empowering players with ownership of their assets through blockchain technology. Mythical's current games, Blankos Block Party and NFL Rivals, are already played by millions of consumers worldwide and create a new economy for players, allowing them to engage in a new way with

games and also directly trade and transact safely with other players worldwide. The Mythical Marketplace, the first in-game blockchain marketplace on iOS and Android, provides gamers with ownership and control over the purchase and sale of digital assets, while the Mythical Platform protects gamers who may be new to blockchain through a custodial wallet for their digital items.

Mythical Games was founded in 2018 from John Linden's bold vision: to redefine the relationship between players and game developers by making true digital ownership possible. Linden saw a clear disconnect in the market — players were spending billions on digital items, yet they had no real ownership, and he felt there had to be a better way. While blockchain was just gaining traction — largely in finance — Linden recognized its potential to address this gap in gaming. Rather than chasing trends, he focused on solving a real problem: empowering players to truly own their digital assets.

In 2020, Linden and his team at Mythical Games launched Blankos Block Party, a vibrant, creator-driven game that brought player ownership to life. Mythical Games stands at the forefront of a new era in gaming — where players don't just play, but truly participate in the economies they help build.



Robert Fried

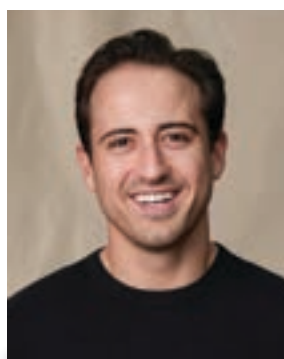
Niagen Bioscience
Los Angeles

When Robert Fried became CEO of Niagen Bioscience (formerly ChromaDex) in 2017, he brought a bold new vision to a company on the cusp of transformation. An Academy Award-winning producer turned entrepreneur, Fried recognized the untapped potential of Niagen — the company's flagship, clinically proven, patented nicotinamide

riboside (NR) ingredient — and set out to build Niagen Bioscience into the global leader in healthy aging through precision science. At the center of the company's clinically proven portfolio is Niagen — the company's patented NR ingredient — recognized as the most efficient legal NAD+ booster available.

Under Fried's leadership, Niagen Bioscience transitioned from a reference standards company to the company at the forefront of the NAD+ industry. He prioritized clinical research, scientific credibility and quality standards — distinguishing the company's consumer supplement in an industry known to have low-quality products. Fried took over efforts to grow the company's external research program, which has generated 300 research agreements globally on Niagen. The 300 research agreements have resulted in more than 175 peer-reviewed publications on Niagen, including more than 70 completed or ongoing human clinical studies, of which more than 35 are published peer-reviewed clinical studies.

Fried also expanded Niagen Bioscience's commercial footprint. He successfully launched Tru Niagen, which today is the No. 1 NAD+ boosting supplement in the United States, and supported the development of Niagen Plus, the first-of-its-kind pharmaceutical-grade intravenous and injectable Niagen. Under his leadership, Niagen Bioscience is the first company in the US to offer a novel branded ingredient both as a direct-to-consumer dietary supplement and as an intravenous and injectable pharmaceutical-grade product.



Bobby Bitton

O Positiv
Los Angeles

O Positiv is a women's health company dedicated to supporting women through every stage of life — from their first period to well beyond their last. With science-backed formulas, clinically studied ingredients and oversight from a board of medical advisors, O Positiv delivers products that address real health needs in an effective, approachable way. Since

launching in 2018, O Positiv has redefined the women's health space, tackling long-ignored issues with innovative solutions and breaking taboos along the way. Its product lines span hormonal balance, vaginal and urinary health, digestion, menopause and preconception support — offering vitamins, supplements and personal care products that women trust.

Bobby Bitton created O Positiv for the specific opportunity of solving a problem: the way that women's health is treated and discussed in the world at large. First was the baggage of merely being a woman and the health experiences that are part of the everyday: bad PMS, frequent UTIs, bloating, mood swings and more.

Bitton took on the risk and demonstrated perseverance against challenges. He left his job and turned down investors in early days until he could find the right smart partner to help him scale. He invests in spreading awareness about issues many don't like to talk about. And Bitton champions a vision where women's health education matches what it deserves to be: investing in totally innovative categories like endocrine support, knowing that women need help with their total hormonal system even if many consumers don't know yet what the endocrine system is.



Shiza Shahid and Amir Tehrani

Our Place
Los Angeles

After cofounding the Malala Fund, a global nonprofit focused on education, Shiza Shahid launched Our Place with a strategic goal: to build a successful, mission-driven business rooted

in sustainability and cultural representation. The idea was inspired by her experience as an immigrant who found traditional cookware offerings misaligned with how people actually cook — bulky, impractical sets that lacked inclusivity and thoughtful design. Shahid saw an opportunity to create multifunctional, design-forward products that prioritized health, utility and cultural relevance.

Shahid and her husband and cofounder, Amir Tehrani, spent two years developing prototypes and self-funding the venture. Before making a single sale, they invested heavily in building a product that met their standards. Early fundraising proved difficult, with more than 100 investor rejections from those who didn't see the potential of a brand centered on impact, representation and community. They remained committed, however, and upon launch, Our Place found immediate traction. In under five years, it became one of the fastest-growing kitchenware brands in the US.

As a female-founded, immigrant-led company, Our Place integrates social and environmental responsibility across its business. Its Traditionware collections celebrate cultural heritage through design, while its Impact 2.0 framework drives sustainability through recycled materials, plastic-free packaging, carbon neutrality and hunger relief. Impact is not an add-on — it's built into the business model. At Our Place, innovation starts with a question: how can we have a better impact? That spirit has defined the company since day one — driven by a belief that you can lead with your values and still win in the market.



Steve Gatena

Pray.com
Westlake Village

Pray.com is the world's No. 1 app for faith and prayer. Through its mobile and web platform, Pray.com connects individuals with faith leaders, offers immersive audio Bible experiences and provides the first-ever clinically studied faith-based mental health resources. Founded in 2016 by Steve Gatena, Michael Lynn, Ryan Beck and Matthew Potter, Pray.com was built on a vision to create a world where

everyone leaves a legacy of helping others. Today, the platform has facilitated more than 2.7 billion minutes of prayer, 186 million podcast downloads and millions of dollars in donations to faith-based organizations.

At just 29, Gatena was forced to navigate the unimaginable — grieving the sudden death of his business partner in a tragic plane crash. Raised in a home that straddled multiple faith traditions but lacking a personal relationship with God, Gatena found himself searching for meaning. In his darkest moment, a simple yet profound gift — a faith leader's inspiring podcast — became the lifeline that led him to a larger purpose.

This pivotal moment ignited a calling: to create a digital sanctuary where others could find strength, solace and spiritual renewal. Rallying his cofounders around this vision, Gatena took a bold leap of faith, investing his personal savings and embracing the financial and personal risks that came with launching a faith-based technology company.

Faith-focused startups were rare in Silicon Valley, and skepticism was high. Investors were hesitant to back a venture centered on prayer. But Gatena and his team persisted, building Pray.com into a category-defining platform that has now touched millions of lives.



Andrew Lacy

Prenuvo
Los Angeles

Prenuvo is pioneering proactive health care with whole-body MRI technology. In under an hour, without harmful radiation or contrast, Prenuvo scans can detect hundreds of conditions, helping catch potential health issues early, often before symptoms even appear, so people can take action long before a crisis hits. Existing tests and scans offer only

fragmented snapshots of the body. Prenuvo changes that by delivering comprehensive whole-body health insights, screening for early-stage tumors, aneurysms, metabolic disorders, autoimmune conditions and body composition metrics.

Prenuvo was founded by Andrew Lacy to shift health care from reactive "sick-care" to proactive health management. The idea emerged from Lacy's personal experience in 2008 when he sought answers about his own health and realized how difficult it was to access clear, comprehensive insights. Like many entrepreneurs, he was consumed by building his career — working long hours, neglecting exercise and running on little sleep. A whole-body MRI in Vancouver changed everything, providing him with a clean bill of health, clarity on underlying issues and peace of mind. This experience sparked his belief that everyone should have the same ability to take control of their health with more clarity.

Lacy had to navigate the complexities of the health care industry and regulatory landscapes while scaling the company. His perseverance paid off. Prenuvo's ability to detect more than 500 conditions in under an hour without radiation or contrast led to patient interest in whole-body MRI taking off. Today, Prenuvo is a leader in whole-body MRI, with 17 locations across North America and international expansion underway.



Yanghee Paik

Rael
Culver City

Rael is a holistic cycle care brand founded in 2017 by three Korean-American women, including a former movie distributor at The Walt Disney Studios, Yanghee Paik. Paik now serves as Rael's CEO, and is on a mission to empower women through clean, effective personal care solutions powered by advanced Korean technology. The company first gained traction

with its organic cotton cover pads, which have been a consistent Amazon bestseller since 2020. As Rael's vision evolved, so did its product portfolio — expanding beyond period care to address the full spectrum of hormonal health. Today, Rael offers a 360-degree approach to cycle care, including clean intimate care products, gentle yet effective skincare for hormonal acne and science-backed feminine wellness supplements.

Rael stands at the forefront of innovation, supported by a dedicated product development team in Korea that continuously integrates cutting-edge technologies and clean formulations. Its products are now available in more than 20,000 US retail doors — including Target, Walmart, Ulta, CVS and Walgreens — and the brand is rapidly expanding internationally, with a growing global presence.

By combining education, community and high-performance products, Rael is breaking taboos, closing gaps in women's health and redefining self-care for women around the world. Today, the company's U.S. revenue is split nearly evenly between feminine care and skincare — firmly positioning Rael as a holistic personal care brand.

2025 FINALISTS



Jay Ackerman

Reveleer
Glendale

Reveleer is a leading health care technology company enabling health plans and providers to transform complex data into actionable intelligence. Reveleer CEO Jay Ackerman's entrepreneurial path is a story of resilience and an unwavering drive to make a difference. Before joining Reveleer, he founded two software companies — Fit For Business and AttaTeam! — both achieving

commercial success. In 2017, Ackerman made a pivotal decision: he walked away from an executive role in a public company to take on the CEO role at Reveleer, risking personal financial security to pursue a vision of transforming a complex market, health care.

Ackerman reimagined the company, making high-stakes decisions like re-platforming the product under a tight timeline and investing early in AI and machine learning — well before these technologies were widely adopted in the market. His foresight continued in 2024 with an even deeper commitment to AI innovation, prioritizing long-term value creation over short-term profits.

Under his leadership, Reveleer transformed from a struggling startup into a category-defining platform company. Over the last three years, Ackerman drove four strategic acquisitions, culminating with the acquisition of Novillus in April 2025. This move further augments Reveleer's comprehensive clinical intelligence and quality improvement solutions in value-based care. Ackerman's journey is marked by grit, vision and the ability to navigate complexity with clarity and purpose. By taking calculated risks, investing in future-focused technologies and remaining committed to building a better way forward, he has positioned Reveleer as a rising leader in health care technology — and established himself as a modern entrepreneur who turns bold bets into transformational outcomes.



Sachin Nayyar

Saviynt
El Segundo

Saviynt empowers enterprises to secure their digital transformation, safeguard critical assets and meet regulatory compliance. The company was founded in 2010 by Sachin Nayyar, a visionary entrepreneur who foresaw the growing complexity of digital transformation and the urgent need for modern identity security solutions. After successfully building and selling his first company, Vaau, to Sun

Microsystems, Nayyar recognized that legacy identity governance tools were falling short in the cloud era. This realization led to the creation of Saviynt, with a bold mission: to build a converged, cloud-native identity platform capable of managing diverse identities — employees, privileged users, third parties, bots and cloud workloads — at scale.

Nayyar launched two separate companies, Saviynt and Securonix, at roughly the same time, pushing innovation while navigating the strain of running two organizations simultaneously. This pressure led him to step down as Saviynt's CEO in 2018 to focus on his health. Following a successful exit from Securonix, Nayyar returned to Saviynt in 2023 with renewed clarity and energy.

Under his leadership, Saviynt has evolved rapidly. The company made a strategic shift to a 100% channel model for midmarket accounts, fueling scalable growth. It also doubled down on its cloud-native approach, allowing it to win business from legacy providers. By 2024, Saviynt had become profitable, reaching 88% of revenue from subscriptions and achieving strong customer retention (above 95%). More than a business leader, Nayyar is an innovator who embraces personal growth alongside professional achievement. His emphasis on holistic wellbeing has informed his leadership style and empowered him to drive sustainable success for Saviynt.



Veronica Osetinsky and Patrick Quigley

Sidecar Health
Covina

Sidecar Health is a medical insurance company on a mission to make high-quality health care more affordable and accessible for everyone. The company lowers costs by putting

people in control of their health decisions — no prior authorizations, no referrals, no networks. Members can visit any provider and pay directly with the Sidecar Health Visa card. And because they see what their plan covers up front, they're motivated to make cost-conscious choices. If they spend less, they keep half of the savings; if they spend more, they pay the difference. This model reshapes behavior, reduces costs and cuts through the traditional insurance red tape. With fewer than 1% of claims denied, Sidecar Health puts people at the center of the system.

Sidecar Health was born from a deeply personal moment. When cofounder Patrick Quigley used his insurance and was forced to wait two weeks and pay \$1,300 for an MRI — only to learn he could have had the same scan for \$330 in cash the same day without using his insurance — it sparked a fundamental question: why doesn't health insurance work like the rest of the economy?

Today, Sidecar Health serves employers ranging from 50-person businesses to Fortune 100 companies. It has eliminated prior authorizations, networks and surprise bills — while consistently saving employers 20% and giving employees more control. For one school district client, the savings achieved from switching to Sidecar Health helped fund salary increases for teachers. In another market, members' choices sparked price competition between major hospital systems — real proof that consumer-powered models can bend the cost curve.



Hossein Bassir, Erich Kreidler, Amir Mansouri and Jing Zhang

SprintRay
Los Angeles

SprintRay is a health care technology company that has reimagined how dental care is delivered — bringing 3D

printing into the dental office to enable same-day treatments that once took weeks. The company's success is rooted in an extraordinary entrepreneurial journey — one that began in a university lab and has grown into a global category leader.

In 2014, Amir Mansouri was a PhD student at the University of Southern California when he and fellow engineer Jing Zhang began developing a high-precision 3D printer. They believed dental care should be faster, more affordable and more accessible — especially in underserved communities. Despite having no background in dentistry or business, they envisioned a future where dental professionals could design and print custom appliances — crowns, night guards, dentures — in their own offices in a single visit. To validate their idea, the cofounders launched a Kickstarter campaign that raised the needed funds in under four hours. SprintRay was born. Mansouri soon brought in his professor, Erich Kreidler, a seasoned entrepreneur, and together with Hossein Bassir, they formed the founding team.

In 2017, SprintRay made the bold decision to pivot fully to dentistry. Rapid growth followed. By 2023, SprintRay had captured 55% of the US chairside 3D printing market and surpassed one million appliances printed. By 2024, that number doubled. Major breakthroughs included the world's first FDA-cleared 3D-printed ceramic crown resin and the launch of MIDAS, a 3D printer that produces three crowns in under 10 minutes. Today, SprintRay operates in more than 100 countries with a team of more than 600 employees. The company is profitable, growing rapidly, and continues to invest more than 18% of revenue into R&D.



Arad Levertov

Sunbit
Los Angeles

Sunbit's financial technology products have helped millions of people ease the stress of paying for life's expenses by giving them more options on how and when they pay. The company was the first to bring "buy now, pay later" (BNPL) to brick-and-mortar businesses, and has already served millions of customers in the US at tens of thousands of locations. The company's BNPL solution is now found in more than 50% of all

auto dealership service centers and is the fastest-growing and second-largest dental patient financing solution, as well as in other vertical markets.

After moving to the US, Arad Levertov experienced firsthand the flaws in traditional credit. While shopping at Costco, he applied for a credit card and was declined after a lengthy process. The awkward experience sparked his desire to create a more inclusive credit system, one that builds trust and long-term relationships with customers.

Sunbit brings the ease of online installment payments to real-world transactions. The technology is fast, transparent and effortless for consumers, with no fees. Despite the size of the brick-and-mortar market, pay over time has historically been dominated by legacy banks. Sunbit empowers in-person sales associates with seamless technology and a full ecosystem of tools and training. Virtually everyone qualifies for a 0% interest option without hidden fees. With investments from JP Morgan, Citi and Ares Management; tech integrations with Stripe; endorsements from OEMs such as VW and Honda; and retail partnerships with fast-growing brands like Ollie's, Sunbit is changing the consumer finance experience for the better.



Loren Castle

Sweet Loren's
Los Angeles

Loren Castle launched Sweet Loren's, one of the fastest-growing food brands in the US, in 2012. Leading with simple ingredients and unparalleled taste, the bootstrapped brand is in more than 35,000 stores nationwide, and is the top-ranked better-for-you cookie dough in the US. Beyond its cookie dough, Castle has recently expanded Sweet Loren's into shelf stable products and additional refrigerated dough

categories, setting a new standard for inclusivity in food and addressing the needs of the 33 million Americans with food allergies.

Castle was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in her early 20s, and cut out artificial and highly processed ingredients from her diet. As a former employee of the original Levain Bakery, Castle has a major sweet tooth and saw firsthand the simple joy and comfort a warm cookie brought to people. When yearning for that familiar comfort during treatment, she couldn't find a cookie on the market that both satisfied her sweet tooth and fit into her new diet, so she decided to make her own. After hundreds of recipe iterations using simple, wholesome ingredients, Sweet Loren's was born out of her studio apartment.

Castle has grown Sweet Loren's into a cross-category leader. The brand is in 35,000 retail doors nationwide and continues to outsell legacy competitors, as the No. 1 selling natural cookie dough brand. Notably, the entire product collection remains free of the top common allergens, including gluten, dairy, eggs and peanuts. A true pioneer of the better-for-you movement, Castle has established the dominance of Sweet Loren's by leading with taste, great packaging and an authentic brand that builds trust.



Grant LaFontaine

Whatnot
Culver City

When Grant LaFontaine cofounded Whatnot in 2020, he set out to build a platform that made shopping social, dynamic and personal again. A longtime collector, LaFontaine recognized that commerce wasn't just about transactions — it was about community. What started as a platform for buying and selling Funko Pops quickly evolved into a broader vision: creating an interactive marketplace

where passion could drive economic opportunity. Whatnot cornered the market on collectibles — connecting sports fans and entertainment junkies to buy and sell trading cards, comic books, Funko Pops and other memorabilia. Maintaining its strong base of collectors, Whatnot now supports hundreds of different categories, including sneakers, fashion, beauty, electronics, antiques, and live plants and is the largest marketplace dedicated to live shopping in North America, the UK and Europe.

LaFontaine's approach as CEO is grounded in three principles: move quickly, stay relentlessly user-centric and take big swings. Early on, LaFontaine focused narrowly, building liquidity around collectibles and learning directly from the community. That focus led to one of the company's defining moves: pivoting to livestream shopping after seeing sellers hack together live auctions on other platforms.

The decision changed the trajectory of the company. Today, Whatnot is the largest livestream shopping marketplace in North America and Europe, hosting more than 175,000 hours of livestreams each week. Viewers spend more than 80 minutes a day on the platform, connecting with sellers in real time and building communities around everything from trading cards to fashion.



Sabrina Ng

WonderFold
Irwindale

WonderFold was born from a moment of curiosity and a desire to solve a real-world problem. While observing how families navigated life with young children, Sabrina Ng noticed a creative trend — parents were repurposing utility wagons to transport their kids. It was a clever workaround, but it lacked the comfort, safety and thoughtful design families truly needed. That insight sparked a bold

idea: what if we could combine the spacious practicality of a wagon with the function and security of a premium stroller? That vision led to the birth of WonderFold's stroller wagon — an entirely new category created to support the evolving needs of modern families.

WonderFold's stroller wagons are built to handle real family life — offering spacious seating for up to six children, secure harness systems, ample storage and a one-step fold for effortless transport. Beyond stroller wagons, WonderFold has expanded into pet strollers, utility wagons and smart accessories that support active, on-the-go lifestyles.

Sold direct-to-consumer and through select retailers worldwide, WonderFold continues to focus on listening to the community, evolving its designs and staying true to the mission of making life easier, more joyful and more connected for parents and children. Ng has invested in learning from families, building meaningful relationships across the industry and constantly evolving as an entrepreneur. That commitment to growth, community and innovation is what continues to drive WonderFold forward. Today, WonderFold leads the category it helped create. The journey has been defined by listening, learning and taking calculated risks to serve families in new and meaningful ways.



Congratulations

to our Founder, CEO, and Chairman **Sachin Nayyar**, on being a finalist for the prestigious Entrepreneur Of The Year® Award.

With a relentless focus on innovation and a lifelong passion for identity security, Sachin has transformed the way global enterprises protect what matters most.

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– The Saviynt Team



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