

> Venture Forward is building a better future for VC

[Venture Forward](#) is a 501(c)(3) supporting organization to [NVCA](#), dedicated to correcting imbalances within the VC industry and creating a stronger, more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community. Women, people of color, and other marginalized communities are underrepresented in the venture ecosystem. Our mission is to change that. We provide education, resources, and connections to support emerging investors, empower current investors, and drive intersectional diversity within the VC community. Meet our [team](#) and [board of directors](#).

> VC University: democratizing access to VC education

Created in partnership with NVCA and Startup@BerkeleyLaw, [VC University](#) is our industry-leading certificate course that offers a structured introduction to the fundamentals of VC. The course consists of self-paced lectures by industry experts and university faculty, live office hours, webinars, networking opportunities, and more. A robust scholarship program (including a mentorship program), [funded](#) by VC firms, is available to select qualified applicants.

Highlights	Participants	Scholarship Program
3 cohorts/year	2,350+ total participants	345 full scholarships awarded to new/aspiring investors from underrepresented backgrounds
300 participants/cohort	72% completion rate (certificate eligibility)	275 scholarship participants in Mentorship Program
11 sold-out cohorts to date	97% program net promoter score	95% of mentors would participate again

Learn more: Meet our [Cohort 9](#), [Cohort 10](#), and [Cohort 11](#) scholarship classes

> LPOH: transparency and connections for underrepresented EMs

[LP Office Hours](#) (LPOH) is an educational program for emerging VC fund managers (EMs) of diverse backgrounds to connect with LPs and GPs with extensive fundraising experience. EMs learn about the fundraising process, GP-LP relationship management, and receive guidance for success as a VC, in an open, candid, and collaborative environment.

Highlights	Participants	Demographics
5 in-person programs (Palo Alto , Boston , DC , LA , Chicago)	200 EMs from underrepresented backgrounds	Latest (Nov. 2022) program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88% people of color 64% female or non-binary 52% based outside CA, MA & NY 20% LGBTQ+
3 virtual programs (funds of funds , foundations & endowments , family offices)	88 LPs & 45 experienced GP office hour hosts	

Learn more: On [November 15](#), we hosted our most recent LPOH with a spotlight on family offices

> VC Human Capital Survey: accountability through data

Powered by NVCA, Venture Forward, and Deloitte, the [VC Human Capital Survey](#) captures critical data on workforce demographics and the current state of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) across the industry. The survey is a critical resource for VC firms to benchmark and accelerate the diversity of their teams and portfolio.

Learn more: View the 3rd edition (2020) [report](#) & [interactive dashboard](#), with data from 375+ firms. The 4th edition (2022), with data from 300+ firms, will be released in early 2023. Plus, see the [#VCHumanCapital pledge signatories](#). [Read more](#) about why this survey is critical for the health of the industry.

"LP Office Hours was a great event that has served to move me one step closer to my goal of launching my own VC fund to invest in women and underrepresented people of color." – [Nikolai Spence](#)



"Venture Forward propelled me from ideation to an actual fund through the VC University Scholarship and Mentorship Programs." – [Himalaya Rao](#)
[Bonus impact video featuring Himalaya](#)

> Other community engagement

2022 highlights include: [LGBT Investor Mixer](#), [ESG in VC: Moving Beyond Talk to Action](#), [2022 Holiday Party](#) (upcoming)

> Recognizing and celebrating diversity in VC

2022 campaigns include: [Women in VC: 10 Rising Stars to Watch](#); [13 LGBTQ+ Investors Making a Big Impact](#); [15 Black VCs Making a Big Impact](#)

> Venture Forward's increasing importance to VC public policy

- [Testified](#) at the House Financial Services Committee's Task Force on Financial Technology's [hearing](#) on June 30 to stress the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in VC ([testimony](#) and [recording](#))
- State Small Business Credit Initiative – [SSBCI Webinar for Emerging Managers](#) & [resource page](#)
- SSBCI [comment letter](#) to unlock technical assistance funds for VC fund administration & management expenses
- [Webinar](#) with U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to discuss programs supporting underrepresented EMs

> Our work and impact would not be possible without the support of our donors

Venture Forward is funded through tax-deductible donations from 130+ VC firm and investor [donors](#) and corporate donors SVB, Deloitte, and Gunderson Dettmer. THANK YOU!

> What's ahead in 2023 and beyond

In 2023, we will:

- Educate 900 individuals through VC University and provide full scholarships to approximately 120 new/aspiring investors from underrepresented backgrounds. Each Scholarship class will receive access to dedicated office hours and a highly-rated [Mentorship Program](#).
- Convene 50 underrepresented EMs for LP Office Hours
- Release the results of the 2022 VC Human Capital Survey
- Provide programming to accelerate DEI practices at VC firms
- Launch a new website to make our programs, resources, and community better accessible

Looking ahead, we also seek to expand our initiatives to:

- Provide further education and resources to emerging GPs from underrepresented backgrounds to help them successfully raise and manage VC funds
- Connect our community of strong talent and VC firms via job placement opportunities
- Support VC firms in prioritizing and accelerating DEI strategies within their organizations

> Get involved – Contact hello@ventureforward.org

- **Donate** – Join 130+ VC firms and investors by making a [tax-deductible donation](#)
- **Volunteer** – VC University Mentor, VC University office hour host, LP Office Hours host
- **Submit your DEI data** – The next VC Human Capital Survey will be fielded in 2024
- **Sponsor** – VC University Scholarship Program, LP Office Hours, or a new initiative
- **Source diverse talent** – Share job postings with our community
- **Join the community** – [Sign-up](#) for our mailing list and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)