



For Immediate Release
March 19, 2024

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Insider Exclusive: Behind the Scenes with Derek Andersen & Startup Grind Global 2024

[Startup Grind Global](#) is the ultimate Startup Grind experience: at the intersection of startups and innovation, it's an annual gathering for tech teams who are building the next big thing. On April 23rd-24th, Startup Grind Global will kick off in the heart of Silicon Valley for its 11th year running, bringing with it a veritable who's who of startup founders, investors, and funders.

The [headliners for 2024](#) are transforming technology and shaping the new era of startups and AI. Garry Tan of Y Combinator, Howie Liu of Airtable, Jack Altman of Lattice & Alt Capital, Manish Chandra of Poshmark, Aileen Lee of Cowboy Ventures, Emily Chang of Bloomberg's The Circuit, Tim Draper, plus leaders and founders of Zapier, Whatnot, Miro, Notion, OpenAI, Coinbase, and so many more will be covering topics like:

- Investor Insights: Defining Your AI strategy
- A New Era of Unicorns and What's Next for Silicon Valley
- AI-Driven Expansion: Scaling Growth with Multi-Product Strategies
- Striking a Balance: Revenue and Venture Funding for Startups
- The New Founder-VC Relationship
- Fintech 2024: Navigating Current Trends for Startup Success

The list of experienced and influential leaders bringing their expertise to bear for conference attendees is as remarkable as the success these visionaries have accomplished - many of whom got their own headstart through experiences at Startup Grind Global.

The history of the Global Conference begins in 2012, amidst the early days of Startup Grind's expansion. New Chapters were starting up every month, and local "Directors" were bringing together founders in their cities, but they struggled to connect across the globe.

“We started to think of excuses to bring these people together in a cost-effective way, and the most natural idea was to throw a big event and hope that we could entice the organizers to come and to build relationships and to work together,” says Derek Andersen, Startup Grind Co-founder and CEO.

The idea was that if Startup Grind invited all the best speakers from around the world to Silicon Valley, and offered access to their insights, their expertise, and maybe even their funding, it might be just enough to get the Startup Grind directors around the world to come.

And, says Derek, “that's exactly what happened.”

Since those early days, Startup Grind Global has evolved into the #1 event for startups. It is a magnet for not only the top leaders of the startup community but thousands of aspiring entrepreneurs from the global startup ecosystem.

“It's really like the Grand Central Station of Startup Grind. It's the place where anyone and everyone, no matter where you are, can come here and regroup with the broader community, and connect with other people, no matter where they're from around the world.”

As an entrepreneur and startup founder himself, Derek knows the difficulty that comes with trying to break through with a new business or product, no matter how revolutionary your ideas might be. While Startup Grind Global can't build you the perfect team or design a bestselling product for you, it can shine a significant light on what you've created.

“Many of the companies that have exhibited [at the conference] have gone on to major success,” notes Derek. “Many of the people that have led a Startup Grind chapter have gone on to major success, personally and with their own companies. So if you're working hard and you're sharp, or you've built something really impressive, [Startup Grind Global is a great place for the world to start to see it.](#)”

The power of the Startup Grind Global platform for entrepreneurs and founders to share their stories and educate the next generation - or to be educated while on their own journey - is impossible to overstate. Part of this power comes from the Startup Grind values, which, as Derek says, are “super simple. It's about giving more than you take, helping others before you help yourself, and making friends (not contacts).”

As Derek and the Startup Grind team look forward to this year's upcoming conference, they continue to be amazed by the fact that no matter how the year before it unfolded, Startup Grind Global always seems to be ahead of what's happening. Attendees can be confident that regardless of [which talks you attend](#), you're sure to hear kernels of the future being spoken about by the leaders who are transforming technology and shaping the new era of startups and AI.

Of course, each year has its own uniquely memorable moments, like being in the audience to watch Clayton Christensen, Jermaine Dupri, or MC Hammer talk. Or hearing from Utah Jazz team owner Ryan Smith, who sold his company for \$8 billion dollars.

Or when, so early on in the days of digital currency, an attendee in 2013 tried to pay for their conference ticket with Bitcoin, and the team thought they were being scammed. (“Not only did we not accept it, we may have told the person to leave,” Derek confesses. “That \$500 ticket would be worth like \$150,000 today!”)

But there’s another memory that tends to stick out for Derek even more in recent years - the time when Sam Altman, a near-constant trending name on X these days, spoke at the conference in 2015. Like everybody else at the time, Derek had no idea the way OpenAI would transform the world years later - or, Derek jokes, “I probably would have begged him for a job!”

The one thing he does know, year after year, is this: “Whatever the things are that *are* going to change the world, they’re going to be at Startup Grind Global 2024.”

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Join Derek Andersen and the incredible lineup of speakers this April at Startup Grind Global Conference. Whether you're looking to learn, to network, or to find inspiration, this event has it all and more. [Purchase your ticket today](#) and become a part of the community shaping the future of startups worldwide!