

# SVCE Event Calendar - Fall 2019

---

**When:** October 28, 2019

**Topic:** Fundraising Best Practices for Startups

**Where:** SJSU Student Union Theater

**Time:** 6:00 – 7:15 pm

**Registration:** [Register Here](#)

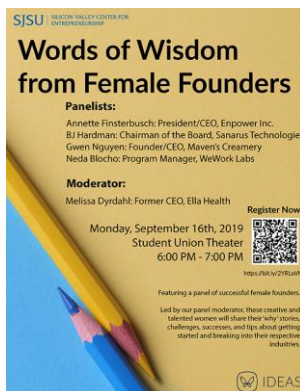
**Speaker:** Sam Heshmati, Senior Managing Director, First Republic Bank



## Speaker bio:

Sam Heshmati has 17 years of experience in the technology ecosystem, serving clients not only as a banker, but also as an advisor. He leads efforts for FRB's early stage startup team focused on providing programs to serve the tech community, cultivating and managing relationships with some of the country's top incubators, micro-VCs and entrepreneurs. Over his career, he has worked with over 1000 early-stage tech companies in addition to several hundred micro-VCs. Prior to joining First Republic in 2012, he spent 10 years as a tech banker at Silicon Valley Bank and Square 1 Bank. He earned a bachelor's degree from San Jose State University.

---



**When:** September 16, 2019

**Topic:** Words of Wisdom from Female Founders

**Where:** SJSU Student Union Theater

**Time:** 6:00 – 7:15 pm

**Event Flyer**

## Panelists:

- Annette Finsterbusch, SJSU Alumna, is President & CEO of EnPower Inc, an early stage startup developing next generation Lithium-ion batteries. She has 25 years of operating, management, and venture capital, and extensive global corporate board experience.
- BJ Hardman, SJSU Alumna, is Chairman of the Board of Sanarus Technologies, an invasive breast therapy system helping women tackle breast cancer, where she was

previously CEO. Her industry experience ranges from biomedical devices, financial services, manufacturing to distribution.

- Gwen Nguyen, SJSU Alumna, is the founder & CEO of Maven's Creamery, a macaroon ice cream sandwich company that she started alongside her sister in 2014. She recently appeared on Shark Tank where she was able to land a deal with Barbara Corcoran!
- Neda Blocho has valuable insights into the startup ecosystem, based on several years of experience guiding and mentoring numerous startup founders. She also spent a few years as a venture capitalist. Today, she is the Program Manager at WeWork Labs, WeWork's global innovation platform powering the next generation of transformative startups create the future.

**Moderator:**

- Melissa Dyrdaahl, SJSU Alumna, is an accomplished entrepreneur, board member, and business adviser. Previously, Melissa was CEO of Ella Health and CMO of Adobe Systems. She currently sits on the board of the Dignity Health Foundation along with two early stage healthcare startups.

---

**When:** October 28, 2019

**Topic:** Startup Fundraising: Best Practices and Strategy

**Where:** SJSU Student Union Theater

**Time:** 6:00 – 7:15 pm

**Registration:** Will open soon.

**Speaker:** Sam Heshmati, Senior Managing Director, First Republic Bank & SJSU alumnus.

---

## SVCE Event Calendar - Spring 2019

---

**When:** April 10, 2019

**Topic:** Global Sustainability & Entrepreneurship

**Where:** Campus Village Building 2, Multipurpose Room (1st floor of CV2)

**Time:** 4:00-5:30 pm

**Speakers:**

Christoph Frehsee (Amour Vert co-founder and Stanford sustainability lecturer)

Joyce Hu (Wildlife Works marketing director, Sustainable Fashion Alliance co-founder)

Andrea Plell (Ecologique Fashion consultant, Sustainable Fashion Alliance co-founder)

**Event Flyer**(PDF)

**Registration:** <https://tinyurl.com/SustEntrep>

---

**When:** February 25, 2019

**Topic:** From Founder to Funder: Pebble to YC

**Where:** SJSU Student Union Theater (Ground Floor)

**Time:** 6:00 pm - 7 pm

**Speaker:** Eric Migicovsky



### **Speaker's Bio:**

Eric Migicovsky will share his journey from becoming founder and CEO of Pebble Technology, the company behind the Pebble smart watches, to joining Y Combinator as a Partner.

While studying engineering at the University of Waterloo, Canada, Eric began building smartwatches alongside a group of friends. He founded Pebble Technology, which was accepted into the prestigious Y Combinator startup accelerator. In April 2012, Eric and his team launched Pebble on the Kickstarter crowdfunding platform, where it became the most successful crowdfunded project in Kickstarter's history. In February 2015, they launched two more watches on Kickstarter, which became the fastest funded project in Kickstarter history. In late 2016, Pebble was shut down, and the IP acquired by Fitbit.

Since January 2018, Eric has been a Partner at Y Combinator, "focused on finding, funding, and helping great founders".