



The Alpha List of Rising Star Pre-Partner Venture Investors

“Who are the smartest, most prudent pre-partner venture investors in your network?”

In mid 2022, we asked this question to junior investors working at 100 venture capital funds. The guidelines were simple: name up to two pre-partner investors from outside of your fund. We received 179 nominations for 150 unique junior investors. While our sample was small and biased by Alpha’s VC network and response rates, we feel the results are directionally positive and helpful to the community. Alpha will update this list each summer.

Our intent here is to encourage interaction and support our future partners in the industry, as that’s how we grew as investors ourselves.

There are many junior investors that deserve credit for great work, but if you are on this list, at least one of your peers believes that you deserve recognition for being one of the best pre-partner investors in venture capital.

Notably, of the top 20 mentioned, 13 were women and 5 were from minority backgrounds. While many are worried about today’s VC partner makeup, as demographics is destiny, this list augurs that the industry’s future will be more diverse.

Thank you to all the venture junior investors who participated from the following firms:

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|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Afore Capital | Comcast Ventures | King River Capital | PEAR |
| Allstate Investments | Compound | Launch | Playground Global |
| Alpha Square Group | Counterpart Ventures | Lavrock Ventures | Prism Capital |
| Altimeter Capital Management | Crossbeam | Lerer Hippeau Ventures | Radian Capital |
| Andreessen Horowitz | Crosslink Capital | Link Ventures | Redpoint Ventures |
| Anthemis | Equal Ventures | Loeb.nyc | Revolution |
| Audible Ventures | Expa | Lumos Capital Group | Route 66 Ventures |
| AVG Basecamp Fund | Female Founders Fund | Lux Capital Management | SaaS Ventures |
| Bain Capital Ventures | ff Venture Capital | M13 | Solasta Ventures |
| Bastiat Partners | Fika Ventures | M25 | Strata Equity Group |
| Battery Ventures | Firstmark Capital | MaC Venture Capital | Stripes |
| B Capital Group | F-Prime Capital | March Capital | Surface Ventures |
| BDMI Fund | General Catalyst | Mark Cuban Companies | Susa Ventures |
| Blue Collective | GIC | Maveron | The Chernin Group |
| Blu Venture Investors | Glasswing Ventures | MetaProp | The Venture Collective |
| Bond Capital | Greycroft | Motivate Venture Capital | The Yard Ventures |
| Bonfire Ventures | Gutbrain Ventures | Navitas Capital | Thomvest Ventures |
| Boost VC | Harlem Capital Partners | New Enterprise Associates | Toba Capital |
| Box Group | Haystack | Next Level Ventures | Trail Mix Ventures |

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| Caffeinated Capital | Headline | NextView Ventures | Tribeca Venture Partners |
| Canaan Partners | Hyperplane VC | Noro-Moseley Partners | Unseen Capital |
| Catalyst Investors | ICONIQ Capital | Northwestern Mutual Ventures | Upload Ventures |
| CEAS Investments | Insight Partners | NTTVC | VamosVentures |
| Clocktower Technology Ventures | K50 Ventures | Nyca Partners | White Star Capital |
| Cobalt Capital | K5 Global | OMERS Ventures | XYZ Venture Capital |

The Top 20 Pre-partner venture capital investors
Ranked by number of nominations

| | Name | State | LinkedIn | Fund | Quote |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Caroline Broder | CA | LinkedIn | Crosslink Capital | "Caroline is awesome! She's a great person, so thoughtful, super smart, and just an all-around rockstar! It's fun to collaborate and riff with her on things we're both looking at" |
|  | Jackson Bubala | IL | LinkedIn | Motivate Venture Capital | "Jackson is incredibly thoughtful and genuinely hard working, always eager to help, no questions asked" |
|  | Brittany Walker | CA | LinkedIn | CRV | "Feels like Brittany sees and hears everything. I have 15 people that I'm close with in venture, all or most can be tracked back to her" |
|  | Nicole DeTommaso | NY | LinkedIn | Harlem Capital Partners | "There are a lot of secrets in vc, and people tend not to share them because they want to keep others out, Nicole is leveling the playing field" |
|  | Henry Magun | NY | LinkedIn | New Enterprise Associates | "Henry is super knowledgeable, well connected and thoughtful about the spaces he invests in, where he knows all the players and pros and cons off the top of his head. I always learn things when we chat" |
|  | James Hueston | NY | LinkedIn | NTTVC | "James has a unique human understanding of drivers and risks with companies and founders. He strikes me as having very few blind spots in his thinking" |
|  | Adele English | CA | LinkedIn | March Capital | "Adele is a natural community builder, especially when it comes to women supporting women, not to mention phenomenal organizational and leadership qualities" |

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|  | De'Havia Stewart | GA | LinkedIn | Anthemis | "De'Havia is so well connected and has such a great rapport amongst her peers and senior colleagues" |
|  | Chelsea Zhang | NY | LinkedIn | Equal Ventures | "Chelsea does a lot both from portfolio support and thesis building" |
|  | Claire Smilow | NY | LinkedIn | Box Group | "Claire is super sharp and an amazing thought partner to founders" |
|  | Emma Silverman | NY | LinkedIn | Trail Mix Ventures | "Emma is amazingly talented and a source of tremendous knowledge" |
|  | Misha Gordon-Rowe | CA | LinkedIn | Susa Ventures | "Misha finds allocation in competitive deals and has a great network of founders who trust him; all without a huge public presence. He also has legit markups" |
|  | Dan Eidell | CA | LinkedIn | SaaS Ventures | "Dan gets in early in great deals, I don't know how he does it" |
|  | Aashay Sanghvi | NY | LinkedIn | Haystack | "Aashay is a rare combo of a VC who can identify and evaluate early-stage startup talent very early - often highly technical at the pre-seed stage and be a partner to companies as they grow" |
|  | Nelson Mills | NY | LinkedIn | Link Ventures | "Nelson is someone you want on your team. He's dependable, wicked smart, and passionate about building, but he's more known for his good-hearted, fun, and helpful attitude. He always finds the best angel deals" |
|  | Adrianna Samaniego | NY | LinkedIn | Female Founders Fund | "Adrianna is a rockstar and it means a lot that there are other Latinas in the venture space to look up to. Her feedback to founders is always extremely thoughtful and real. She is genuine in her mission to diversify this space and it shows" |
|  | Sofia Guerra | MA | LinkedIn | Bessemer Venture Partners | "Sofia is quite thoughtful, see the healthcare SaaS benchmark report she just published for instance" |

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|  | Ashley Aydin | NY | LinkedIn | Vamos Ventures | "Ashley is always working but always awesome, she's a fast responder and my go-to for any weird question. She's a super connector and deep thinker. She's also a huge advocate for diverse investors & founders in the ecosystem" |
|  | Gabriella Brignardello | CA | LinkedIn | Fika Ventures | "Gabriella really knows her stuff, she understands the venture industry well above her title, just overall impressive" |
|  | Taylor Brandt | NY | LinkedIn | Headline | "Taylor has incredible deal flow and deep knowledge of just about every industry. Her previous operating experience gives her a significant edge" |

Alpha List Honorable Mention with a Quote and a Nomination
(sorted by first name)

| Name | Location | LinkedIn | Fund | Quote |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Akash Bajwa | London, England | LinkedIn | Earlybird Venture Capital | "Akash is the most connected VC in Europe" |
| Alexander Carvalho | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Kli Capital | "Alex's skills are well aligned to being a great partner one day. He's always sharing deals, always excited, and enthused about LATAM. He has great banking experience and has what it takes to be a partner." |
| Amelia Gandara | Columbus, Ohio | LinkedIn | Nationwide Ventures | "Amelia is really smart" |
| Anthony DeCamillo | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Meritech Capital | "Anthony is really impressive in all things software" |
| Ashika Kalra | New York, New York | LinkedIn | First Round Capital | "Ashika is super sharp and very helpful, always enjoy my time with her" |
| Bree Buysse | New York, New York | LinkedIn | FTV Capital | "Bree has great business acumen, she sends thoughtful leads and has done really well at FTV." |
| Carlos Costa | São Paulo, Brazil | LinkedIn | Valor Capital Group | "Carlos is the most articulate and thoughtful person I've ever met. He can explain concepts at level 1, then level 100, then back to 37. He understands everything at a crazy level" |
| Chase Packard | United States | LinkedIn | Coatue Management | "Chase is incredibly hard-working, wicked sharp, forms his own opinions, and noticeably thoughtful and thorough in everything he does" |
| Chelsea Chen | United States | LinkedIn | Oak HC/FT | "Two words: very smart" |

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| Chenny Zhang | Washington, District of Columbia | LinkedIn | In-Q-Tel | "Chenny is very smart and a really nice person" |
| Chris Yin | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Scale Venture Partners | "Chris sees every stage, knows enterprise software and crypto incredibly well, he's able to provide a ton of value" |
| Christopher Cheng | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Obvious Ventures | "Chris is one of the most thoughtful and measured decision makers I know when it comes to fintech" |
| Danny Brown | Los Angeles, California | LinkedIn | MaC Venture Capital | "Danny is smart AF" |
| Deborah Chu | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | NextGen Venture Partners | "Deborah is super thoughtful, super prudent" |
| Elise King | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Human Ventures | "Elise is amazingly talented and intelligent" |
| Evaline Tsai | Boston, Massachusetts | LinkedIn | Fine Structure Ventures | "Evaline is really sharp, she has a PHD and gets up to speed on spaces very quickly: things like aerospace, new materials, and bio. She works well with founders and has a pretty solid reputation among them." |
| Evan Hamilton | Los Angeles, California | LinkedIn | Upfront Ventures | "Evan is super enlightening, every conversation with him I learn more about how to think critically" |
| Everett Randle | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Founders Fund | "There are a ton of people I respect, but Everett is the one person that comes to mind" |
| Francesca Labianca | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Mantis VC | "Francesca is awesome, she's been absolutely killing it at Mantis" |
| Gaby Goldberg | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | The Chernin Group | "Gaby is willing to talk to anyone that wants an intro into the web3 space, she's definitely a subject matter expert" |
| Harry Chiang | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Seven Seven Six | "Harry is a smart guy and a hard worker" |
| Harry Kioko | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Canapi Ventures | "Everything that comes from Harry is good" |
| Jack Moshkovich | Stanford, California | LinkedIn | 8VC | "Jack is very smart and is rising up the ranks fast at 8vc. He's very driven in how he looks through frameworks and establishes a thesis" |
| James Swings | Cambridge, Massachusetts | LinkedIn | General Catalyst | "James has really interesting perspectives for analyzing companies, but I'm more impressed with his ability to summarize his thoughts on an opportunity. He focuses on consumer, which is typically super hard to analyze" |
| Jane Chen | New York, New York | LinkedIn | blue 9 capital | "Jane has the IQ and EQ that make a great investor" |
| Jeffrey Lu | Hong Kong, Hong Kong | LinkedIn | Princeville Capital | "Jeffrey is just super switched on, super sharp, and a nice guy" |
| Jonathan Smith | Boston, Massachusetts | LinkedIn | 645 Ventures | "Jonathan is great at building relationships with founders and conducts solid diligence on everything he does. He knows every deal I mention to him and more" |
| Josh Chin | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Lead Edge Capital | "Josh is pretty smart, does a good job of not getting distracted by the hype and thinking strategically about opportunities" |

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| | | | | off the beaten path. He has great returns to date, and they're not deals that a lot of people would have recognized were good deals at the time. He has a great investor lens" |
| Kamran Ali | New York, New York | Linkedin | Inspired Capital Partners | "Kamran is extremely thoughtful, figured out the business of VC very quickly, and consistently develops deep relationships. He does a great job in crypto" |
| Kevin Zhang | Los Angeles, California | Linkedin | Upfront Ventures | "Kevin is an incredible hustler and cares deeply about the entrepreneur/founder experience" |
| Kleida Martiro | Boston, Massachusetts | Linkedin | Glasswing Ventures | "When it comes to cyber and the more technical stuff, I respect Kleida more than anyone else" |
| Kyle Dolce | Boston, Massachusetts | Linkedin | Glasswing Ventures | "Kyle knows how to grind and knows a lot about a wide variety of topics. Plus, he always has great deals and intros" |
| Leeor Mushin | Palo Alto, California | Linkedin | Floodgate | "Leeor is super thoughtful. He punches above his weight class and he is great at carving out unique opportunities, he's been able to make an impact at floodgate, and founders tend to love him. In this industry with tough relationships, he comes down as one of the most genuine people around" |
| Luke Skertich | Chicago, Illinois | Linkedin | FJ Labs | "Luke is very thesis driven and makes sure he has a value-add, which is rare for a co-investor" |
| Marcos Martinez-Villa Iba | New York, New York | Linkedin | Revel Partners | "Marcos stays true to his own conviction and doesn't buy into things because of FOMO. He's made some fantastic investments and gives great advice to founders" |
| Mat Kaliski | New York, New York | Linkedin | Acronym Venture Capital | "I've really enjoyed my interactions with Mat and find him super sharp" |
| Meera Clark | San Francisco, California | Linkedin | Redpoint Ventures | "Meera is one of the sweetest, most intelligent junior investors I've met in VC. She's accomplished so much already from being a Forbes30u30 recipient to being a Kauffman Fellow. If you haven't checked out her thought leadership pieces, I highly recommend giving those a read." |
| Mendy Yang | New York, New York | Linkedin | Lerer Hippeau Ventures | "Mendy asks incredibly thoughtful questions" |
| Michael Spiro | Scarsdale, New York | Linkedin | Insight Partners | "Michael is sharp, creative and gritty when it comes to all things VC" |
| Michael Tolo | Melbourne, Australia | Linkedin | Blackbird Ventures | "Michael is insanely sharp, he's smart beyond his years. He works extremely well with founders and knows the ecosystem really well" |
| Mike Heller | Los Angeles, California | Linkedin | Navitas Capital | "Mike is very impressive, he's really deeply knowledgeable about his areas of interest and asks really good questions, he's also very personable" |

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| Morgan Blumberg | New York, New York | LinkedIn | M13 | "Morgan knows everyone, she's quick to respond, and really sharp at picking up new categories" |
| Nicole Ruiz (Williams) | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Compound | "Nicole is phenomenal, she's a great blogger and makes really difficult things very easy to understand" |
| Nikita Satish | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Blisce | "Nikita is quarterbacking an entire 500M fund, super impressive" |
| Parker Rasmussen | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Adams Street Partners | "Parker is very willing to share deals and thoughts, he's got a great personality and is highly motivated" |
| Robin Guo | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Andreessen Horowitz | "Robin has only been there a few months, but really nice and very impressive" |
| Russell Yue | Los Angeles, California | LinkedIn | Greycroft | "With Russell, it's rare to see someone so successful, yet so humble" |
| Sakib Jamal | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Crossbeam | "Sakib is super, super sharp. I can count on him to be thoughtful and thorough" |
| Sofie Starck | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Insight Partners | "It's hard to corner a market in venture, especially at Insight, but Sophie found her niche" |
| Stephanie Weiner | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Firstmark Capital | "Stephanie goes deep in sectors and has insightful thoughts about where spaces are going" |
| Sujude Dalieh | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Jazz Venture Partners | "Sujude is genuine and passionate about investing in good people" |
| Varun Sridhar | New York, New York | LinkedIn | VMG Partners | "Varun works hard and really hustles for his team" |
| Vikram Ramakrishnan | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | First Round Capital | "Vik is just fantastic" |
| Zeya Yang | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Andreessen Horowitz | "Zeya is super thoughtful on the a16z enterprise team" |

Alpha List Honorable Mention
(sorted by first name)

| Name | Location | LinkedIn | Fund |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Abigail Risse | Boston, Massachusetts | LinkedIn | Hyperplane VC |
| Alexandra Sukin | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Bessemer Venture Partners |
| Ali Aly | Miami, Florida | LinkedIn | Black Venture Capital Consortium |
| Alysa Co | Toronto, Canada | LinkedIn | Inovia Capital |
| Amee Kapadia | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Cantos Ventures |
| Amy Wang | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Blue Cloud Ventures |
| Andrew Kangpan | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Two Sigma |
| Andrew Maxman | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Imaginary Ventures |
| Ansley Carlisle | Dallas, Texas | LinkedIn | Mark Cuban Companies |
| Avery Klemmer | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Thrive Capital |
| Ben Futuriansky | Los Angeles, California | LinkedIn | Cobalt Capital |

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| Bill Collier | Washington, D.C. | LinkedIn | TEDCO |
| Brandon Gleklen | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Battery Ventures |
| Brian Anderson | Columbus, Ohio | LinkedIn | Nationwide Ventures |
| Brian Martinez | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Correlation Ventures |
| Caroline Jacobs | New York, New York | LinkedIn | BAM Ventures |
| Christina Fa | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | NewView Capital |
| Christina Farr | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | OMERS Ventures |
| Connor Sundberg | Los Angeles, California | LinkedIn | Amplify.LA |
| Davis Treybig | Mountain View, California | LinkedIn | Innovation Endeavors |
| Dawit Heck | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Bain Capital Ventures |
| Earnest Sweat | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | GreatPoint Ventures |
| Elaine Dai | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Norwest Venture Partners |
| Emily Man | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Redpoint Ventures |
| Eric Dobosh | Washington, District of Columbia | LinkedIn | Route 66 Ventures |
| Eric Shu | New York, New York | LinkedIn | ff Venture Capital |
| George Ribaroff | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Meridian Street Capital |
| Ginny Miller | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | 1Sharpe Ventures |
| Grace Isford | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Lux Capital Management |
| Graham Stoddard | Atlanta, Georgia | LinkedIn | Panoramic Ventures |
| Gwen Umbach | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Altimeter Capital Management |
| Hannah Murdoch | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Union Square Ventures |
| Isabel Steinhaus | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Nyca Partners |
| Jack Abramowitz | New York, New York | LinkedIn | NextView Ventures |
| Jared Newman | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Canaan Partners |
| JeanClaude Dorsainvil | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | XYZ Venture Capital |
| Jerry Lu | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania | LinkedIn | Maveron |
| Jillian Cohn | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Mouro Capital |
| Joe Botsch | New York, New York | LinkedIn | RTP Ventures |
| Justine Moore | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Andreessen Horowitz |
| Karolina Mrozkova | New York, New York | LinkedIn | White Star Capital |
| Kate Murdock | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | CRV |
| Kelly Shaw | Boston, Massachusetts | LinkedIn | Vestigo Ventures |
| Kj Sidberry | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Forerunner Ventures |
| Kristine Harjes | Washington, D.C. | LinkedIn | Motley Fool Ventures |
| Lauren Messner | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Better Tomorrow Ventures |
| Lauren Weston | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Thomvest Ventures |
| Lily Bernicker | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Wireframe Ventures |
| Lisa Liu | New York, New York | LinkedIn | General Atlantic |
| Lisa Xu | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Firstmark Capital |
| Luisa Sucre | Stanford, California | LinkedIn | Collaborative Fund |
| Mahati Sridhar | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Revolution |
| Mahila Amjad | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Leeds Illuminate |

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|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Maya Mathews | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | March Capital |
| Nicole Friedman | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Blue Collective |
| Olivia Deng | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Banana Capital |
| Olivia Moore | Stanford, California | LinkedIn | Andreessen Horowitz |
| Patrick Lopez | Chicago, Illinois | LinkedIn | B Capital Group |
| Priyanka Somrah | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Work-Bench |
| Rachel Kern | Chicago, Illinois | LinkedIn | First Trust Capital Partners |
| Rachel Schow | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Left Lane Capital |
| Ronnie Martinez | Delray Beach, Florida | LinkedIn | CEAS Investments |
| Ryan Peslis | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Sidekick Partners |
| Sarah Holmes | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Unshackled Ventures |
| Sean Simons | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Newark Venture Partners |
| Shan Shan | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Lightspeed Venture Partners |
| Shaquille Vayda | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Lux Capital Management |
| Spencer Clark | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Saints Capital |
| Tali Vogelstein | New York, New York | LinkedIn | Avid Ventures |
| Tyler Churchill | Santa Monica, California | LinkedIn | Bonfire Ventures |
| Vardan Gattani | New York, New York | LinkedIn | 645 Ventures |
| Veronica Parks | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Maveron |
| Vivian Cheng | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | CRV |
| Vivien Ho | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | PEAR |
| Zain Rizavi | Salt Lake City, Utah | LinkedIn | Pelion Venture Partners |
| Zeeza Cole | San Francisco, California | LinkedIn | Bain Capital Ventures |