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## eNews: September 2022

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Michigan Tech Week Conference Preview: Startups APPLY NOW to win over \$100,000 💰

Song Foundation and MFF sponsor NEW Venture Competition

🔥 Lt. Gov. Gilchrist will recognize Google Black Founders Fund Award Winners

TechCrunch's Matt Burns joins to moderate ClimateTech/Energy Panel

Entrepreneur and Author, Pete Wilkins of Hyde Park Angels will keynote 🗣️

👏 Startup founders close multi-million \$ funding rounds and join global accelerators

UM Football - Founders Tailgate this weekend with eLab Ventures

ToDooly Founder Sergio Rodriguez shares the "Rules of Fundraising"

Community Trailblazer Award - \$15,000 in grants to leaders advancing Racial Justice

MFF Discount Code to attend Bamboo Business Bash

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**First-Ever Michigan Tech Week Launches in Detroit Oct 12-13**

[All-Inclusive Early-Bird Tickets Now Available!](#)

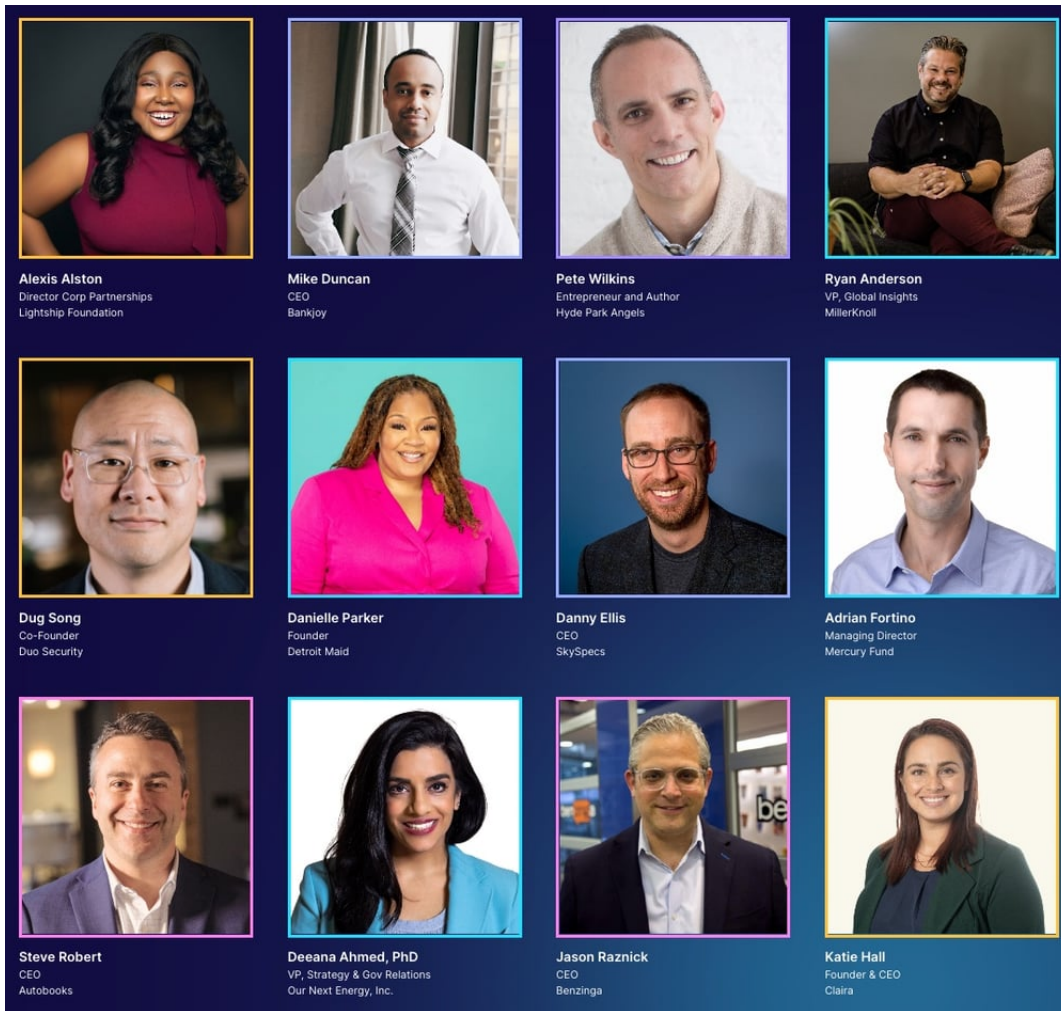
2 Days

+25 Speakers and Panelists from across the U.S.

+\$100,000 in funding available

Black Founders Brunch

Startup Showcase  
Culture Tours  
Breakfasts, Lunches, Happy Hours  
Laptop Lounge (work from the GEM Theatre!)  
Closing Party - Venture Winners Announced



## Michigan Tech Week Venture Competition

*presented by Song Foundation and Michigan Founders Fund*

Up to 60 companies may be accepted to compete in teams on the Main Stage of the historic GEM Theatre on October 13th for \$100,000 of non-dilutive funding and free legal services from Varnum LLP.

**APPLY NOW**



**FOUNDER TO FOUNDER**

**Fundraising is a 'game' these are the rules**

Sergio Rodriguez-Valenzuela, Founder & CEO, ToDooly

I didn't have a safety cushion or the ability to do a family and friends round, so a meaningful capital injection into the company was necessary in order to go full-time. I went full-time on [ToDooly](#), a marketplace for manual labor, in February 2019 thanks to a \$75k check from [my alma mater](#). Fast forward to today, I have raised \$2.7M through three different financing rounds, so I have seen everything from SAFEs to equity rounds (and some of the funky stuff in between). There is plenty of content online around the legal and technical stuff; however, the "game" itself seems to be discussed mostly behind closed doors. The truth is, whether we like it or not [fundraising is not an equitable process](#), so sharing what I've learned will hopefully put this information in the hands of more people who need to know it before they go out to raise their first (or next) round of financing. [CLICK HERE FOR THE RULES OF FUNDRAISING](#)



### **MFF MEMBERS ARE CRUSHING IT!**

- Voxel51 closes [\\$12.5 Million Series A](#) to accelerate R&D for data-centric machine learning solutions
- [Hush raises \\$4 Million](#) led by Greycroft
- [Google Black Founders Fund](#) awards Athlytic, Hush and NixCode!
- Athlytic accepted into the [A16 Talent x Opportunity Accelerator](#)
- Nickels [selected for global Fintech Accelerator](#) to help banks and credit unions
- KMI [awarded \\$750,000](#) in U.S. Space Force contracts
- ReallINGUA Founder, Keith Phillips, [joins Cronicle as VP of Content](#)
- Bankjoy rings the Nasdaq opening bell as part of SoftBank's Opportunity Fund celebration 🙌



**Sep 24: MFF Founders Tailgate** co-sponsored by eLab Ventures

[Register here](#)

**Sep 28-29: Bamboo Business Bash.** MFF is co-hosting a venture capital discussion in Detroit with Plymouth Growth, Commune Angels, RedStick & Detroit Venture Partners. *MFF Members get 30% off tickets using the code MFF.* Learn more and [RSVP here](#)

**Nov 17:** MFF Community Trailblazer Award: Celebrate, Learn & Contribute [Join us!](#)



- MVCA released their [2022 Impact Report](#) and announced [Nominees for their Annual Awards Dinner](#)
- **MFF Service Days:** Let MFF help you schedule a team volunteer day before the end of the year! [Sign up here](#)



- **MFF Internship Program for underrepresented students:** in July we celebrated the 16 talented college students who were offered internships at MI-based tech startups and VCs through the MVCA program. Startups who are interested in furthering their DEI practices and recruiting underrepresented college students from across the state can [learn more about participating here](#). Recruiting for 2023 will begin next month!



Photo Credit: Leisa Thompson Photography

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The Michigan Founders Fund (MFF) is a vibrant hub for peer learning and networking that enables local entrepreneurs to turn business success into positive community impact.

*Interested in becoming a member?* Please contact us at [community@michiganfoundersfund.org](mailto:community@michiganfoundersfund.org).



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