

Speaker Biographies

Dakota Ortiz Tech Program Lead Annenberg Foundation

Dakota is Program Lead at AnnenbergTech, - the Annenberg Foundation's initiative to engage the hearts and minds of LA's tech and creative ecosystem to be a part of the force for good. He wants to help make LA a better place to live and work for all Angelenos. Locally raised, UCLA educated, socially activated.

Kat Yalung Director Bixel Exchange

Kat leads the Bixel Exchange, the innovation and tech arm at the second largest Chamber of Commerce in the US, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. Bixel Exchange is uniquely at the intersection of public, private, corporate and tech sectors and believes in making entrepreneurship accessible and inclusive. Our mission is to elevate and foster the greater Los Angeles Tech ecosystem by preparing the next generation of Angelenos for opportunities in tech and empowering L.A.'s entrepreneurs through an impact driven tech incubator.

Kat believes in the power of people centered solutions, purpose driven passion and she serves on the Executive Council Board for NFTE Greater LA (Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship). She formerly led Strategic Partnerships in Southern California for General Assembly connecting leading startups, tech influencers, ventures firms, public sector organizations and Fortune 500 companies. Prior to Los Angeles, Kat dove into the world wide San Francisco web where she worked to motivate, grow and operate early stage startups in NFC, e-commerce, gaming, fashion, marketing, and linguistics. Kat speaks fluent Spanish, and devoted four years of service to the Peace Corps in Nicaragua where she taught students and educators in entrepreneurship education and curated annual national business plan competitions. During her time in Nicaragua, Kat advised the creation and execution of over 200 small businesses in communities where the average annual income is less than \$2,100.

Kat graduated from Gonzaga University with a degree in international business and human resource management. She hails from Eastern Washington, and she first traveled to Los Angeles in 2007, as a founding member of Gonzaga's first alternative spring break in East LA with Homeboy Industries & the Guadalupe Homeless Project. Outside of work, you'll find her on the mountains and tearing up the bachata dance floors!