

Inception Studio Team



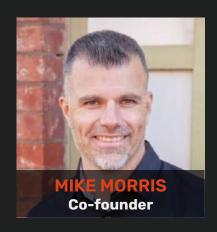
25 years in Silicon Valley

3x Founder (UnifyID, Moka5, Redcoat AI) (2 x acquired)

Forbes AI 50, Upstart 50, MIT AI Startup of the Year

Teach GenAl in Stanford CS Dept





25 years Engineering in Bay Area startups (3 x acquired, 1 IPO)

Founder Redcoat Al

Early engineer @ VMware 2001-2012

VPE @ exited startups (Netcitadel, UnifyID)

Inception Studio Team



Michael Liu 15+ years of entrepreneurship experience, Founder, Ecosystem builder, Non-profit



Tiffine Wang Former Partner, MS&AD Ventures Strategic investments Singtel Innov8 **Alchemist Accelerator** Industry Fellow, UC Berkeley & Advisory Board, UC Santa Cruz



Monisha Perkash 2x founder (Lumo Bodytech, TuitionCoach) Meta "Intrapreneur" - smart glasses, music Teach Startup Garage at Stanford Stanford MBA & MA Education, Yale BA



Sophie Vu Founder w/ 20+ years tech startup GTM & brand category leader (3x acquired) Broadvision, Google, Kony, Hootsuite, Unbabel, UCLA Anderson MBA, Startup Mentor, SFSU



Patricia Liu Pitch Deck Specialist Angel Investor, Startup Advisor Restaurant Consultant, Line Cook Ex-Accenture

Why we do what we do

Inception Studio's mission is to empower exceptional individuals to fulfill their full potential, fostering a diverse and inclusive community that drives positive global impact through entrepreneurship.

We organize Inception Studio as a nonprofit as a testament to this mission. Our focus is to attract the most exceptional founders and provide them unconditional support. We believe there is inherent value in curating a group of highly-engaged, exceptional, and diverse founders.

Traditional accelerators are not a good fit for the most talented builders.

- Serial entrepreneurs.
- Exited founders.
- Highly experienced engineers.
- Specialists with deep domain expertise.

Founders of this caliber have different standards.

Quality Higher standards than inexperienced founders.

Earliest stage Looking for ideas and co-founders of similar caliber.

Time/value Don't want to waste time in a low value-add program.

Intensity Thrive in the most high-pressure environments.

Inception Studio is a new accelerator model for the most experienced builders.



An exceptional community of Inception founders

- Built around our intense 72-hour, in-person retreats.
- Carefully curated cohorts of world-class talent.
- Focus on idea validation and company acceleration.
- High-stakes pitch at a Demo Day on the 3rd day.

Inception Studio retreats are part hackathon, part founder matchmaking and part early-stage startup workshop.

Our retreats manufacture serendipity

- Change of surroundings, removing distractions.
- Diverse, smart, creative people working in the same physical space.
- Ultra-rapid iteration of ideas and prototypes.
- A culture of cooperation and open collaboration.
- High-pressure scenarios to stress-test relationships and form deep bonds.

We provide long-term value to our Inception Founder community.

Ongoing support after the event

- Market validation, pitch, fundraising support.
- Network of experienced advisors.
- Online community for ongoing connections.
- Weekly in-person "Mini-Inception" co-working days.
- Other sponsored Inception Founder events.

Cohort 3-April 2023 | Vacaville, CA



Cohort 9-March 2024 | Woodside, CA



SheStarts by Inception Studio

We strongly believe in the value of diverse founding teams.

Our long-term goal: 50% women founders attend Inception events

SheStarts is a program designed specifically to encourage and support great women entrepreneurs on their startup journeys.



Meet Andy Chou





BS from Berkeley & Stanford PhD Founded Coverity as CTO in 2003 Acquired by Synopsys in 2014 for \$350M Successful angel investor







"Inception gave us that initial push to get over the 'activation energy' required... Our company would not exist without Inception."

Andy Chou Founder & CEO, Ventrilo

Before:

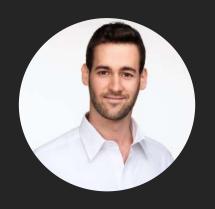
Joined Inception Cohort 1 with no co-founders and no conviction on an idea for his next company

After:

Left with a demo, a team, and a pitch that led to raising \$10M from a16z

Meet Josh Payne





2x Stanford dropout Founder Autograph (unicorn) Founder AccessBell (acquired) Co-creator of Coffee (1k+ GitHub stars) 20+ papers/patents in Al



"Inception is an absolutely incredible community and it came at just the right moment for me. I tell every top founder I know to join Inception."

> Josh Payne Founder & CEO, Ventrilo







Before:

Joined Inception Cohort 3 with the early stages of an idea combining GenAl, code generation, and reinforcement learning

After:

Founded Coframe Raised \$9M from Khosla Ventures and NFDG (Nat Friedman and Daniel Gross)

Testimonials from Inception Founders

The most valuable 72 hours I've ever spent. The lessons, the energy, the community post-retreat are priceless!

One of the most positive experiences in my life!

This was a magical event. An intense, concentrated, espresso shot of ideas, building, and connecting. It changed my life.

It was a really great program and I'm so happy to have participated! Really, cannot thank you enough for everything! I'm happy to help in the future as much as I can.

Thank you soooo much for having me! I really really enjoyed the program! All my encounters & experiences there are my treasures in my life!

I'm delighted to witness first-hand that the future is being shaped by compassionate individuals, which fills me with hope. Meeting so many down-to-earth and kind people has been a truly gratifying experience. Their positive energy is contagious and uplifting.

I loved the caliber of people and energy of everyone hacking away at a project!

The way you care about the founders is unmatched! Thank you so much!

Honestly, more of the same - the vibe was incredible and I hope Inception can recreate that spirit in follow-on cohorts.

Inception is an absolutely incredible community. I could not say better things about it.

This was really an amazing experience, so just thanking you again for putting it together!

Had a great time and am really appreciative for the opportunity. Met many awesome people and excited to stay connected and help in any way I can!

Selected Inception Studio Companies

Company	Founder(s)	Description	Amount Raised
₩ Ventrilo.ai	Andy Chou: Stanford PhD Coverity Founder/CTO (acq. by Synopsys)	Al-powered quality partner for developers	\$10M from a16z
coframe	Josh Payne: Stanford, Founder Autograph (unicorn), AccessBell (acquired), 20+ papers/patents in Al	Automatically refine UX with Al	\$9.3M from Khosla, Nat Friedman
Synth pop	Elad Ferber: Founder Spry Health Jan Jannick: Stanford PhD, Founder imeem and VoiceBase	Unlocking Al for healthcare	\$8.2M from Newfund, OVO
Axiom (آچ)	Alex Beatson: Princeton PhD, ML Lead at Redesign Science, Genesis Therapeutics, Google	Replacing lab and animal testing with Al	\$7M from Amplify,Zetta
mem0	Taranjeet Singh: First GPT Store (400K MAU), Khatabook (10M MAU), eval.ai; Deshraj Yadav: Led Al Platform at Tesla, 1350+ citations	Personalizing LLM responses	\$3M from Kindred, Inception
Guest OS	Jessie Fischer: 20+ years in hospitality Superhost for 7 vacation properties 10 years in startup operations	Al Concierge for hospitality	\$175K from Inception

Selected Inception Studio Companies

Company	Founder(s)	Description	Amount Raised
First Intelligence	Kelly Peng: UC Berkeley EECS, Stanford, 15+ patents, Forbes 30u30, 2x CES Innovation Award Bayley Wang: MIT EECS, Researcher at MIT CSAIL, MIT Mini-Cheetah Robot	Al that helps you remember what you see, hear, and experience	\$3.7M from a16z, Inception, Susa
Scorecard.io	Dare Emrani: Simulation and evaluation expert Prior founder, ex-Waymo, SpaceX, Uber	LLM model evaluation	\$3M from Neo, Tekton
⊗ PIN AI	Bill Sun: Stanford Math PhD, Portfolio Manager at Millennium, Google Brain, Citadel, P72	Privacy-first personal Al assistant	\$10M from a16z
📴 Dryft	Anna-Julia Storch: Stanford MS Data Science, McKinsey, Amazon Leonie Freisinger: Stanford MS ML, TU Munich, Porsche, built DL framework with 3M downloads	Al-powered decision intelligence for industrial	\$3.3M from General Catalyst, Neo
omi	Nik Shevchenko: Exited founder of \$4M ARR marketplace, Thiel Fellow	Open source Al wearable platform	\$2.7M from Tim Draper

... plus 30+ other amazing companies!

Inception Companies raise from Top VCs

SEQUOIA LE GENERAL CATALYST PERKINS PERKINS AIFUND Bloomberg





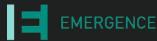
















khosla ventures



















































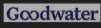






























PETERSON VENTURES







Events Calendar

7 cohort retreats between late January & November 2025

Each cohort:

- 12-15 builders
- 3-5 teams
- Target: 1-2 funded companies

Other Inception Events

- Weekly Mini-Inceptions
- Biannual Super Demo Days
- Cohort kickoff Happy Hours
- Company Launch Parties
- Private Donor-only Events

Inception 2025 Calendar of Events

Apr Founders' Retreat in SF VIP Dinner x Rho Wellness Gatherings Pitch Workshops Technical Workshops	May Super Demo Day VIP Dinner x Rho GTM Mansion Dinner Pitch Workshops WebSummit Vancouver SusHi Tech Tokyo: Panels, Side Events	June VIP Fundraising Dinner New York Tech Week Events Afterparties
July Buildathon in Japan: IVS VIP Fundraising Dinner GTM VIP Mansion Party Fundraising Workshop GTM Workshop	Aug VIP Fundraising Dinner Co-Founder Matching Inception AI Career Fair	Sept Founders' Retreat in SF VIP Fundraising Dinner GTM VIP Mansion Party Fundraising Workshop GTM Workshop
Oct Super Duper Demo Day VIP Fundraising Dinner SF Tech Week (Buildathon, Afterparty) LA Tech Week John and Mike's Century Party	Nov Founders' Retreat in SF VIP Fundraising Dinner WebSummit Lisbon (Afterparty)	Dec Super Demo Day VIP Fundraising Dinner GTM VIP Mansion Party Fundraising Workshop GTM Workshop

