



## NY Tech Alliance Announces New Leadership

*Andy Saldaña Named Executive Director;  
Thatcher Bell Named Acting Board Chair*

**New York, NY** November 1, 2018 – The NY Tech Alliance has named **Andy Saldaña**, a six-year veteran of the organization, as its new Executive Director. NY Tech Alliance Board Member, CoVenture Partner, and prominent venture capitalist **Thatcher Bell** will assume the role of Acting Chair of the NY Tech Alliance Board of Directors.



**Andy Saldaña**

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In his position as Executive Director, Saldaña will work alongside Bell, NY Tech Alliance President Emeritus Erik Grimmelmann, the full NY Tech Alliance Board of Directors, and the organization's 60,000-plus members to encourage growth, access, and innovation in the New York tech startup ecosystem.

Saldaña has been with NY Tech Alliance for nearly six years, most recently serving as Director of Operations, and is a key player in leading and planning the organization's monthly event, the NY Tech Meetup (NYTM). An advocate for increased diversity, access, and inclusion in tech, Saldaña also organizes the Queer Tech Meetup NYC and is on the programming board for StartOut, a non-profit organization that provides a network to LGBTQ entrepreneurs in the business world. Prior to his time with NYTM and the NY Tech Alliance, Saldaña was Senior Operations Manager at United Business Media, LLC from 2007 to 2013, where he managed project schedules, directed operations and event teams, and negotiated contracts with speakers, vendors, and clients, among other responsibilities. Saldaña graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Business Foundations.

Saldaña will take over from Grimmelmann who will serve on the Board as President Emeritus and will devote the majority of his time to teaching computer science at the undergraduate and graduate levels.



**Thatcher Bell**

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Thatcher Bell has been on the NY Tech Alliance Board of Directors since its inception and will serve as Acting Chair of the organization. He is currently a Partner at CoVenture, a venture capital firm that invests in and develops software for early-stage startups, and works with students and professors to productize academic research at Cornell Tech in his role as Investor-in-Residence. Prior to joining CoVenture, Bell was a Managing Director at Gotham Ventures. He received his MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and studied Engineering at Cornell University prior to that.

Bell will take over for Andrew Rasiej, who voluntarily resigned as NY Tech Alliance Chair to focus more of his time on Civic Hall, where he serves as Founder and CEO. Civic Hall is a non-profit organization that fosters collaboration and builds community to advance technology for the public good and a partner organization to NY Tech Alliance. Rasiej will remain on the board of the NY Tech Alliance.

“In my time with the NY Tech Alliance, I’ve seen the association grow into a fundamental pillar of support for the thriving tech startup ecosystem in New York City,” said Saldaña. “We are now a community over 60,000 members strong that is consistently encouraging the city’s finest minds in tech to go beyond. In my new position, I hope to bolster the NY Tech Alliance’s identity as an advocate for the growth and success of all entrepreneurs in New York City.”

“Given the steady growth of the NY Tech Alliance and the success that we have achieved in recent years, I am confident in Andy’s leadership and his ability to elevate the NY Tech Alliance both in the city and beyond,” said Bell. “I am thrilled to be given an opportunity to lead the board in support of Andy’s work, and grateful to Andrew Rasiej for helping to make the NY Tech Alliance a true resource for the New York City tech community.”

“It was an honor to serve as chair of the NY Tech Alliance and to help and see it grow from 10,000 members to over 60,000 today,” said Rasiej. “We are fortunate to have both Andy and Thatcher leading our organization to ensure even more positive impact for New York’s tech community and New York itself.”

“I’ve worked side-by-side with Andy over the past several years,” said Grimmelmann. “Given his strong commitment to the NY tech community and to helping increase its diversity and inclusiveness, he’s a great choice to lead the NY Tech Alliance into the future.”

Founded in 2016 as a merger of the NY Tech Meetup and New York Technology Council, the NY Tech Alliance is New York City’s most prominent collective of individuals in tech and hosts the largest monthly tech Meetup in the country. NYTM events host several demoers monthly, sometimes collaborating with other organizations to create diverse offerings and perspectives at every event. The largest Meetup group in the world, NYTM has been praised by Forbes, BizBash, AlleyWatch, and more, solidifying its identity as a must-attend event and key contributor to the growth of New York City as one of the world’s most accessible collaborative spaces in tech.

Saldaña can be found on Twitter at [@CholoCouture](#). For more on Bell, visit his website [here](#). To learn more about the NY Tech Alliance, visit their website [here](#).

#### **ABOUT THE NY TECH ALLIANCE**

The mission of the NY Tech Alliance is to represent, inspire, support, and help lead the New York technology community and ecosystem to create a better future for all. Founded in 2016 with the merger of NY Tech Meetup and the New York Technology Council, the organization has over 60,000 individual and institutional members, reflecting the full spectrum of the greater New York area tech community and making it the largest tech organization in the region. Led by Executive Director Andy Saldaña with Acting Chair Thatcher Bell, the NY Tech Alliance continues the work of its predecessor organizations, hosts a monthly Meetup as well as educational and social events, and continues to focus programming and advocacy efforts on issues important to the technology sector and New York.

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