

Meet the Graduates of Founder Gym Cohort 5



Mandela SH Dixon [Follow](#)

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"Because of Founder Gym, I now have the resources to think big, ask big, and change the world in really big ways." — Rebecca Channer, Founder of ProsperCity, Cohort 5

For six weeks, from January 9th to February 16th, 2019, we trained another 22 founders in Founder Gym Cohort 5, teaching them how to create the essentials of a fundraising toolkit and hone their two-minute pitch. These founders live in four countries (Lebanon, the United States, Egypt and the United Kingdom), and their homes span 15 cities. This brings the total number of Founder Gym Graduates to 253.

Founder Gym's membership has grown by 954% since launching FG Cohort 1 on January 1, 2018.

Prior to being admitted into Founder Gym Cohort 5, many of the founders were already in the process of creating incredible solutions. They ranged from an app that delivers feminine products to consumers in under one hour, to a token-based social network that safely connects friends, family and those with similar interests, to an on-demand mobile app that connects customers to professional line sitters allowing customer to bypass long lines, and even a platform making it easy for talented people to volunteer away their student loan debt..

Our founders are building products and services that are making the world a better place for their customers, users, and communities.

But fundraising as an underrepresented founder comes with its own unique set of challenges.

...and that's where Founder Gym stepped in.

For six weeks, we provided an intense virtual training experience for those selected, led by some of the most experienced venture capitalists in Silicon Valley and New York.

Now, after completing the rigorous requirements to graduate, we are excited to officially introduce the graduating class of Founder Gym Cohort 5, along with their Peer and Expert Trainers!

But first, let's look at the numbers.

Here's a quick breakdown of the Cohort 5 membership:

Gender

- Female: 76%
- Male: 19%
- Genderqueer: 5%

Race

- African American / Black: 14%
- East Asian: 5%
- Latinx: 4%
- Middle Eastern: 24%
- Multiethnic: 10%
- South Asian: 5%
- White: 38%

Age

- Twenties: 14%
- Thirties: 43%
- Forties: 43%

Parenting Status

- With children: 58%
- Without children: 42%

Geography

- Bay Area: 14%
- NY Area: 5%
- Washington, DC Area: 5%

- International: 14%
- Pacific Northwest: 19%
- Southern California: 24%
- Houston Area: 10%
- Other US locations: 10%

Immigrant Status

- Native to the country they reside in: 76%
- Immigrated to the country they reside in: 24%

Employment Status

- Full-time founder: 71%
- Part-time founder and full-time employee: 19%
- Part-time founder and part-time employee: 10%

Product Stage

- Product in the market: 48%
- Product in private beta: 24%
- Product in development: 29%

Technical Ability

- Engineer: 5%
- Engineering & Business: 5%
- Engineering & Technical: 5%
- Designer: 10%
- Business: 10%
- Non-technical: 62%

Previous Fundraising Experience

- No previous fundraising experience: 33%
- Friends & Family: 33%
- Incubator and/or accelerator: 4%
- Venture capitalists: 4%
- Angel investors: 15%
- Pitch competition: 8%

Meet the Graduates of FG Cohort 5



Elissa Kuykendall Unton

"Finish a version of your executive summary and pitch deck before you start fundraising."

Company: ArcVida, a technology-enabled, personalized career guidance service.

Location: Los Angeles, CA