



The  
Dobson Centre  
for Entrepreneurship

invites you  
to a special celebration of

# ENTREPRENEUR'S DAY in NY

Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 PM



McGill

Dobson Centre  
for Entrepreneurship

BUILDING **INNOVATIVE** COMPANIES WITH A **PURPOSE**

# At a Glance

## Celebration of ENTREPRENEUR'S DAY in NY

The McGill Dobson Centre For Entrepreneurship is proud to be creating international relationships with prominent startup ecosystems abroad. Our mission is to develop, support and accelerate emerging innovation at McGill while expanding global growth opportunities for our startups.

In a special event celebrating **Entrepreneur's Day**, we are delighted to present a lively conversation with leading New York City based Entrepreneurs and investors – and friends of the Dobson Centre.

Animated by **McGill alumnus, Gregory Larkin**, Founder at Punks & Pinstripes and best-selling author of *This Might Get Me Fired*, the event,

which will be live streamed on **Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 PM**, will feature special guests **Charles Bonello**, Founder of Vivvi and Grand Central Tech – the biggest incubator in NYC; **Peter Crysdale**, SVP of Minerva; **Gary Hoberman**, CEO of Unqork and former CIO of Metlife; **JJ Kasper**, one of the most respected VCs in NYC and former McKinsey partner; as well as **Amanda Kirby**, former SVP Tech Startup Partnerships at Bank of America.

Our discussion will focus on the journey of entrepreneurship and celebrate the important contribution that entrepreneurs bring to our economy and society.

[Click here to register](#)

### NATIONAL ENTREPRENEUR'S DAY

Proclaimed as a national holiday in 2010, National Entrepreneur's Day is an annual event that honors entrepreneurship.

Ways to celebrate entrepreneurship day include:

- ✓ Attending an event highlighting business owners – whether it be a pop-up or an industry conference
- ✓ Bringing your idea to life by starting to research competing companies or similar businesses
- ✓ Supporting fellow entrepreneurs on social media – spreading the word and highlighting their success



# SPEAKERS in detail



## **Gregory Larkin, Partner, Boundless Tech and best-selling author of *This Might Get Me Fired***

McGill Alumni, Greg Larkin began his product-building life twelve years ago after nearly getting fired from an investment research start-up for predicting that the booming housing market would collapse. (He wasn't, and it did). Since then, Greg has built more than thirty digital products, generating millions in revenue for companies like Google, PWC, Nestle, and Bloomberg, as well as startups. In 2015, Greg launched his own consultancy, Bowery315, as part of his mission to help more good products enter the world. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and their two kids.



## **Gary Hoberman, CEO of Unqork and former CIO of MetLife**

Gary is a finance and tech industry executive who has been innovating and bringing transformative solutions to market for 24 years. Most recently, Gary served as Executive Vice President and Global CIO for MetLife, overseeing technology across 47 countries. During his five-year tenure, he led transformational programs designed to improve insurance product sales, and reduce spend and cost ratios. His most notable accomplishment was the deployment of digital solutions that resulted in a \$500 million increase in sales to clients, including the world's largest global bank and pension fund.

Gary holds seven patents, six of which are still in use in the finance industry today. His most recent patent for MetLife Infinity has won 15 industry awards to date, including Gold for 'Best Use of Digital' at the PRWeek Awards in 2015.

**[Click here to register \(Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 ET\)](#)**

# **SPEAKERS in detail**

## **Gary Hoberman, CEO of Unqork and former CIO of MetLife (Cont'd)**

Gary has also been featured as a thought leader in major national publications like Fortune, Forbes, and the Financial Times. He was called the “New Face of Thought Leadership” by CEB, served on the Board of Directors at Acord Inc., and was a strategic advisor and member of Guidewire Research Board.



## **JJ Kasper, founder and partner at Blue Collective**

JJ is a former academic (critical theory), lawyer (not for him), management consultant (loved it, but glad to be out of it), and operator (tech and restructurings). He devotes time these days to singing, walking Louis and Kiwi (dogs), reading, and investing crack-pot conspiracy theories. JJ is an uncle and god-father many times over, but has yet to move beyond dogs in his own household.



## **Charles Bonello, Founder of Vivvi and Grand Central Tech**

Charlie Bonello is co-founder and CEO of Vivvi, and its very proud “First Dad”. Prior to starting Vivvi, he co-founded Grand Central Tech and helped build it to NY’s largest, most selective and most inclusive tech ecosystem, with over 100,000 sq ft and 100 companies under its purview. Most recently, Charles was a Venture Partner at RTP Ventures, where he focused on fintech, healthcare and Industrial IoT companies. He started his career in finance as a buy-side research associate at Fred Alger Management and River Twice Capital, and is a lifelong New Yorker who graduated from Tufts University and Regis High School.

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# **SPEAKERS in detail**



## **Peter Crysdale, Cofounder and SVP of Minerva**

Peter Crysdale is a serial operator, seed investor, and mentor in the startup community. He is passionate about making the internet more open and accessible. Previously he has held roles as Cofounder and in the C-suite, including as CMO for a \$5B private company in Travel. Peter holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Cornell University, and previously served as a Peace Corps volunteer for three years in Burkina Faso.



## **Amanda Kirby, former SVP Tech Startup Partnerships at Bank of America**

Amanda Kirby is an experienced business technology professional with a focus on strategic partnerships and masters in translating between business and technology. Amanda was previously a Senior Vice President at Bank of America, where she was responsible for finding solutions for internal technology problems. She drove the build-buy-partner strategies across the entire enterprise and was the sole team member responsible for Wealth Management Technology, including U.S. Trust, Merrill Lynch and the Private Bank. Prior to joining Bank of America in 2017, Amanda spent nearly a decade in financial services with roles in Wealth Management at Deutsche Bank and Corporate Finance at Universal Music Group. She graduated from Vanderbilt University with double majors in Spanish and Psychology and has her FINRA Series 7 and 63 licenses.

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