



Panel Intro: About Ecosystems

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Cultivating Success: Unleashing Entrepreneurial Ecosystems for Thriving Startups

About Ecosystems

Ecosystems are the answer. Entrepreneurship doesn't happen in a vacuum.

It's the result of countless complex interactions in a community. No single organization can provide sufficient help to all the entrepreneurs in a community.

We have to build the ecosystem that surrounds entrepreneurs. Ecosystems help entrepreneurs thrive at each step. Just as the complex biological system of soil, water, sunlight, flora, and fauna in a rainforest allows individual plants to flourish, so the ecosystem for entrepreneurs is essential to their success.

Healthy, diverse, and inclusive ecosystems allow talent, information, and resources to flow quickly to entrepreneurs as they need it.

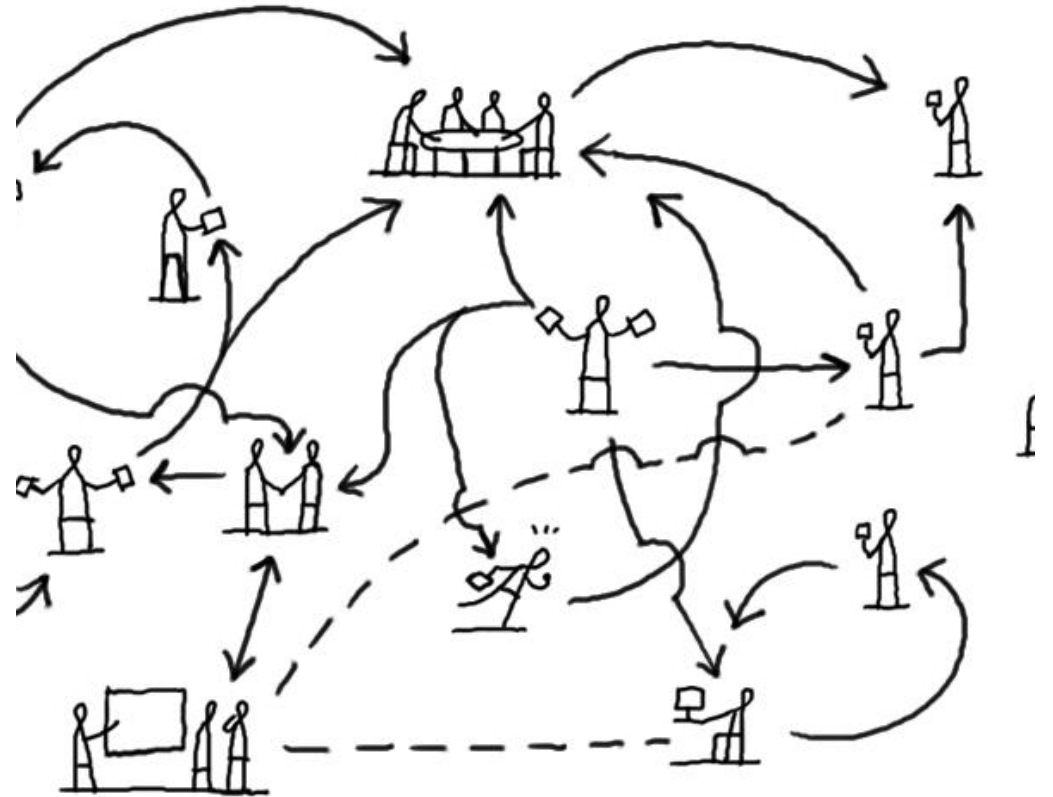


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KAUFFMAN
FOUNDATION


<https://www.kauffman.org/ecosystem-playbook-draft-3/entrepreneurs/>

What are Ecosystems?

An entrepreneurial Ecosystem is a network of people supporting entrepreneurs, and a culture of trust and collaboration that allows them to interact successfully. The speed at which talent, information, and resources move through the ecosystem can affect entrepreneurs at each stage in their lifecycle.

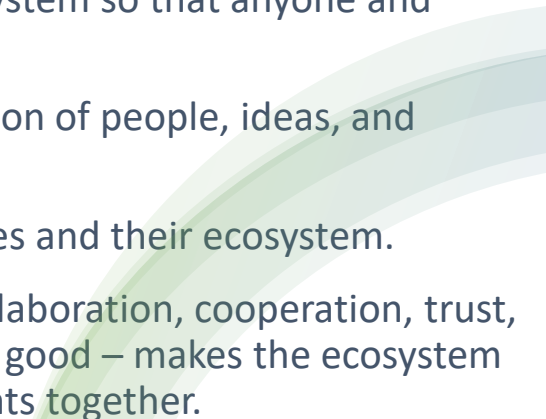


“the smartest person in the room is the room itself”

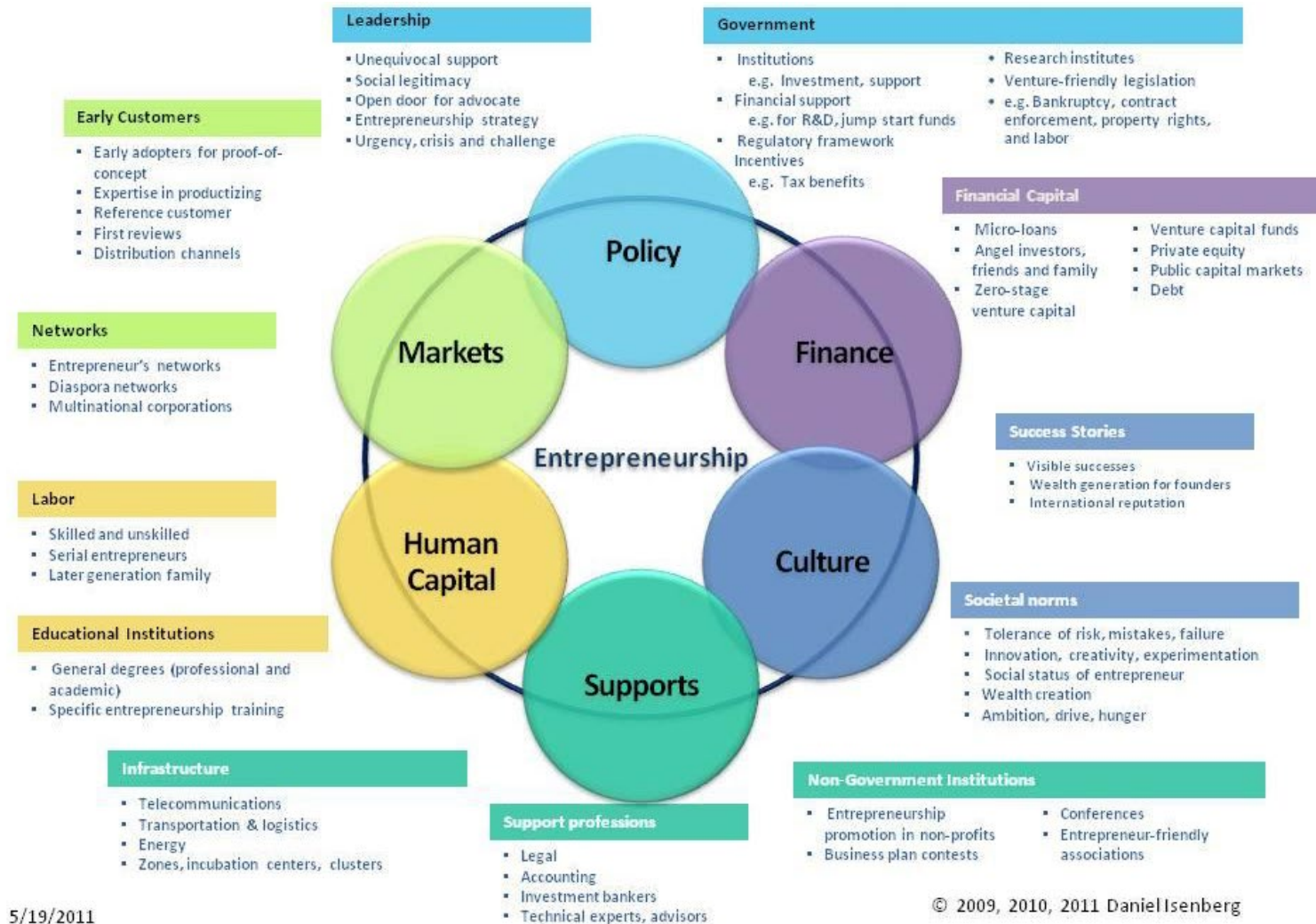


Elements of an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

A thriving ecosystem includes these key elements:

- **Entrepreneurs** who aspire to start and grow new businesses, and the people who support entrepreneurs.
 - **Talent** that can help companies grow.
 - People and institutions with **knowledge and resources** to help entrepreneurs.
 - Individuals and institutions that serve as **champions and conveners** of entrepreneurs and the ecosystem.
 - **Onramps** (or access points) to the ecosystem so that anyone and everyone can participate.
 - **Intersections** that facilitate the interaction of people, ideas, and resources.
 - **Stories** that people tell about themselves and their ecosystem.
 - **Culture** that is rich in social capital – collaboration, cooperation, trust, reciprocity, and a focus on the common good – makes the ecosystem come alive by connecting all the elements together.
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Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Domains



Popular Ecosystem Models

Regional -> could be within a cluster of cities, state/cluster of states, or multiple nations

Healthy ecosystems draw together community stakeholders

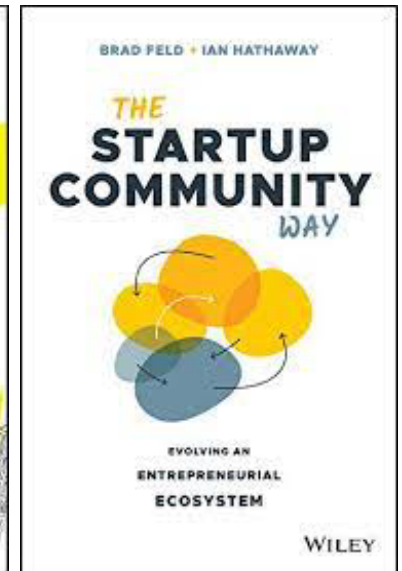
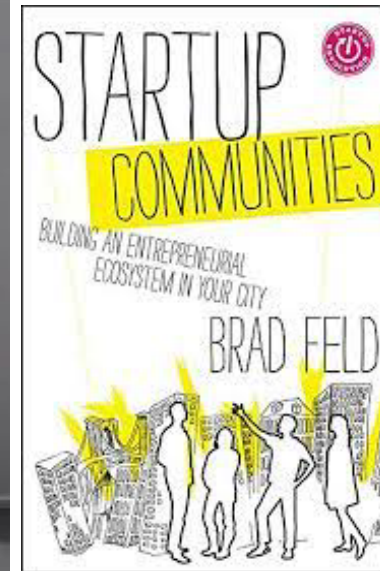
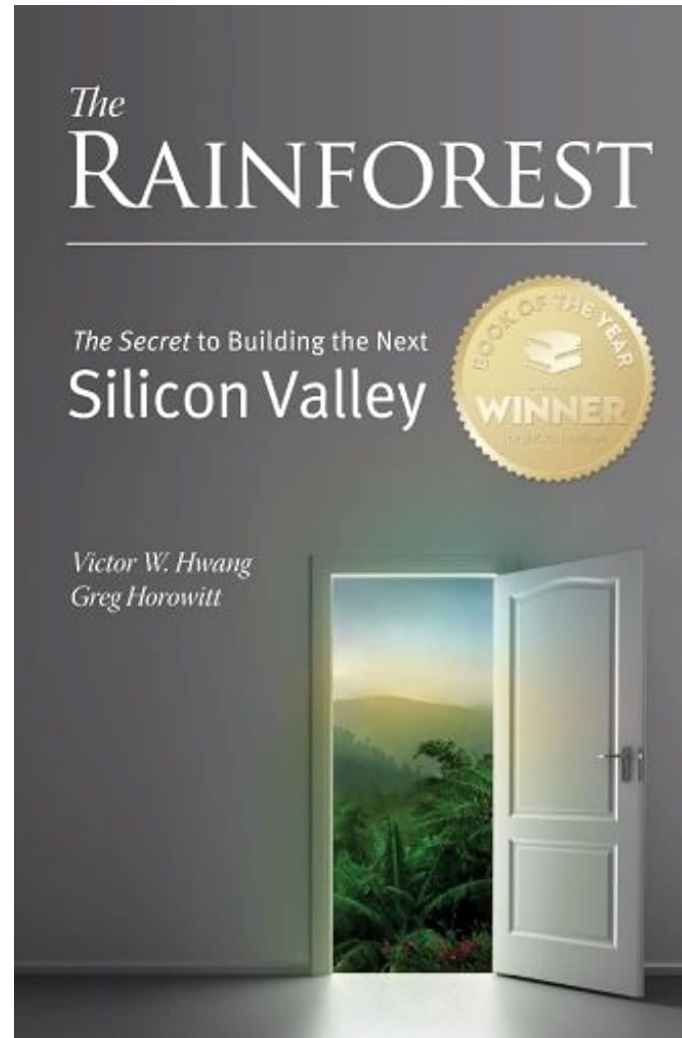
- Seekers
- Innovators/solution providers
- Allies

Ecosystems can be defined by many things but should always make sense

- Geography
- Demographic
- Sector, technology or another asset theme
- Greater societal need (far outside the community)
- Infrastructure or community demand



Successful Ecosystems



“Entrepreneurship is a community sport”

A word cloud illustrating the concept of entrepreneurship as a community sport. The words are arranged in a cluster, with 'researchers' and 'investors' being the largest and most prominent. Other roles include 'policymakers', 'community leaders', 'accountants', 'first customers', 'mentors', 'local experts', 'potential employees', 'lawyers', 'developers', 'bankers', 'teachers', and 'designers'. The colors used are primarily blue and orange.

designers
mentors local experts
policymakers
accountants first customers
researchers potential employees
lawyers
developers community leaders
bankers teachers investors