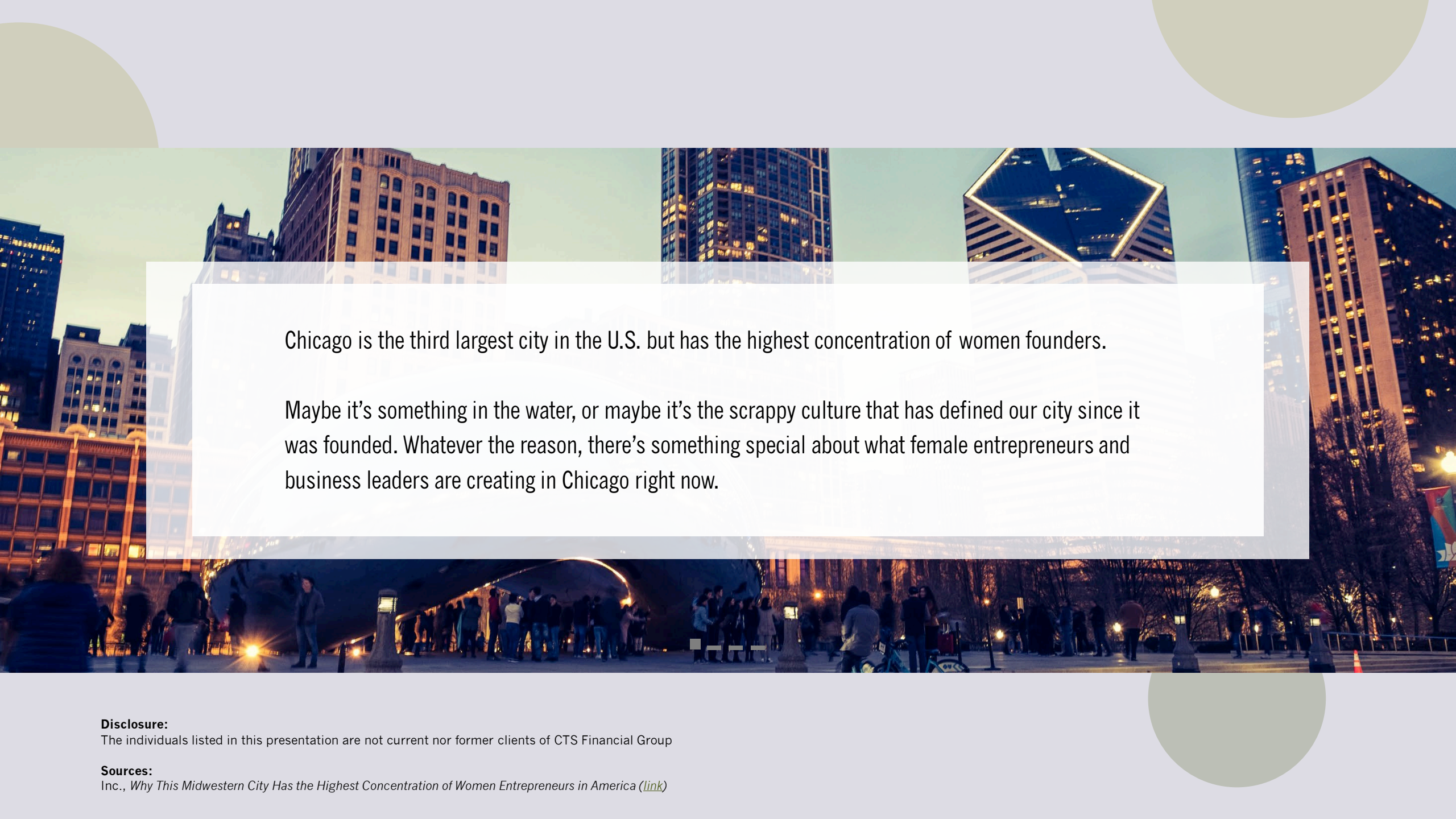


BOSS LADIES OF CHICAGO

A look at, and celebration of,
six women that are leading the way



A composite image featuring a night view of the Chicago skyline with illuminated skyscrapers in the background and a crowd of people walking on a city street in the foreground. A semi-transparent white box is centered over the image, containing text.

Chicago is the third largest city in the U.S. but has the highest concentration of women founders.

Maybe it's something in the water, or maybe it's the scrappy culture that has defined our city since it was founded. Whatever the reason, there's something special about what female entrepreneurs and business leaders are creating in Chicago right now.

Disclosure:

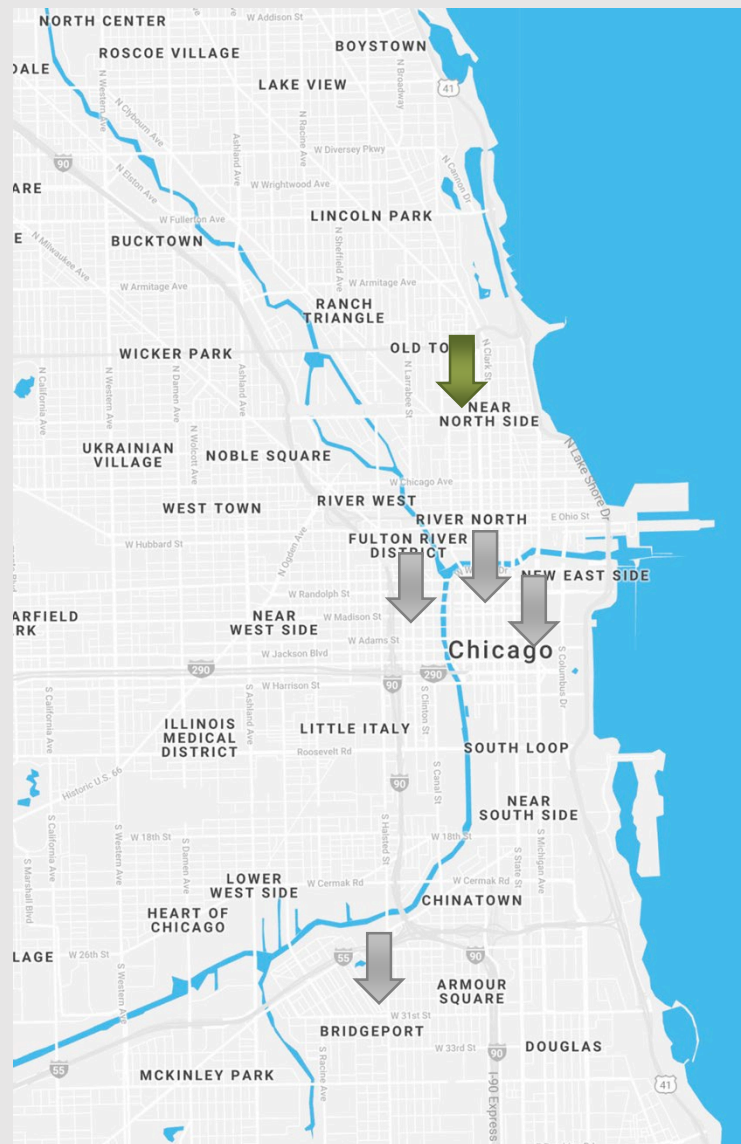
The individuals listed in this presentation are not current nor former clients of CTS Financial Group

Sources:

Inc., *Why This Midwestern City Has the Highest Concentration of Women Entrepreneurs in America* ([link](#))



Let's take a moment to
celebrate six women that
are leading the charge.



Jennifer Brandel

She's A Boss Because...

She took her journalism experience and developed a platform called [Hearken](#) where journalists and the public can partner in creating relevant news stories.

Has Worked At: Thoughtly Crew, Zebras Unite, and was a freelance journalist for Vice and The New York Times

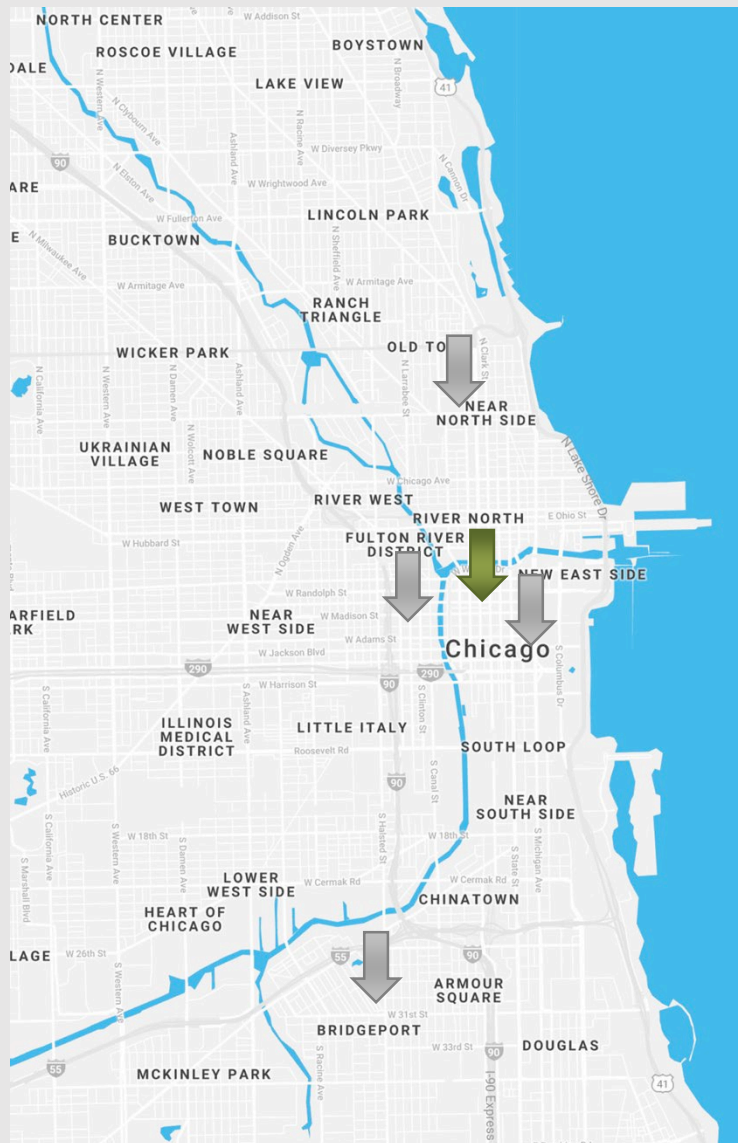
Education: Art History and Integrated Liberal Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Journalism degree from Columbia University.

[[Find her on LinkedIn](#)]

Sources:

Croissant Blog, 8 Female Entrepreneurs to Watch in Chicago ([link](#))

LinkedIn ([link](#))



Maria Christopoulos Katris

She's A Boss Because...

She co-founded [Built In](#), a company that serves as a powerful recruiting tool and information source across seven industries. In 2019, the company completed a \$22 million Series C round of investment.

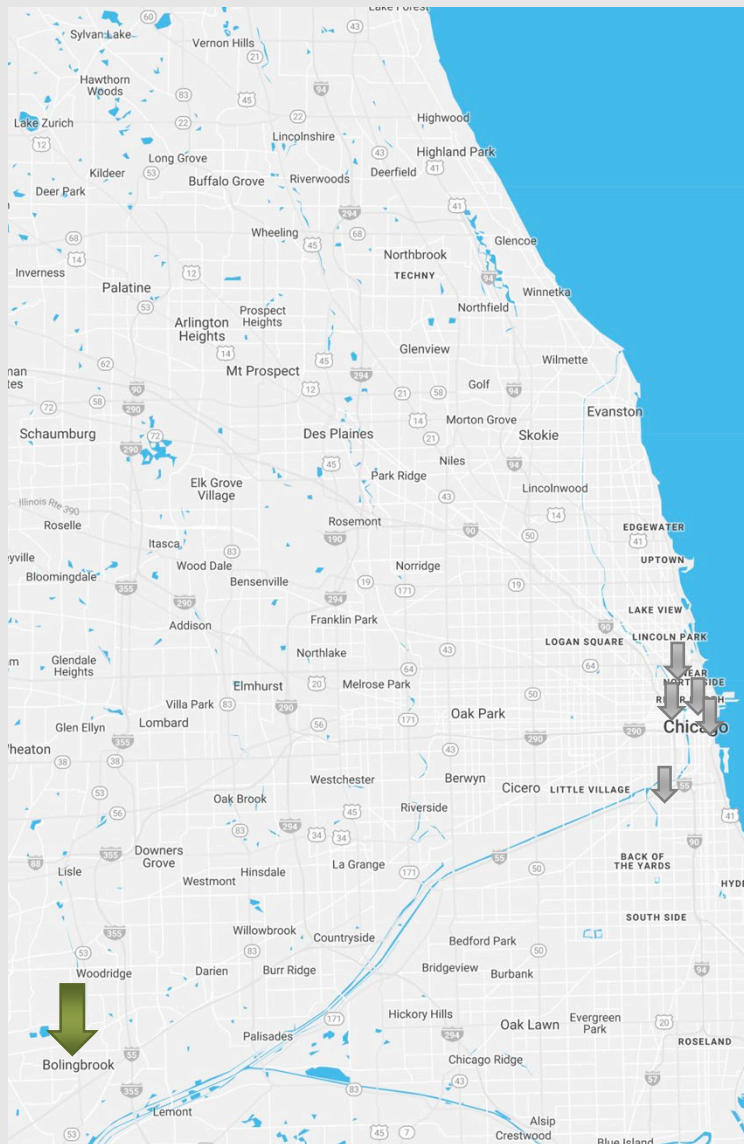
Has Worked At: TiE Midwest, The Nanny Boutique, Northwestern Memorial Hospital

Education: MBA in Marketing and Entrepreneurship, Northwestern University

[\[Find her on LinkedIn\]](#)

Sources:

CrunchBase, *Built In Company Overview* ([link](#))
LinkedIn ([link](#))



Mary Dillon

She's A Boss Because...

She took over [Ulta Beauty](#) in 2013 and doubled the company's store count and revenue. Today, the company has 1,100 locations, generates \$5.9 billion in annual revenue, and employs 3,000 people – 92% of whom are women.

Has Worked At: U.S. Cellular, McDonalds Corporation, and PepsiCo

Education: Bachelor of Science in Marketing from the University of Illinois at Chicago

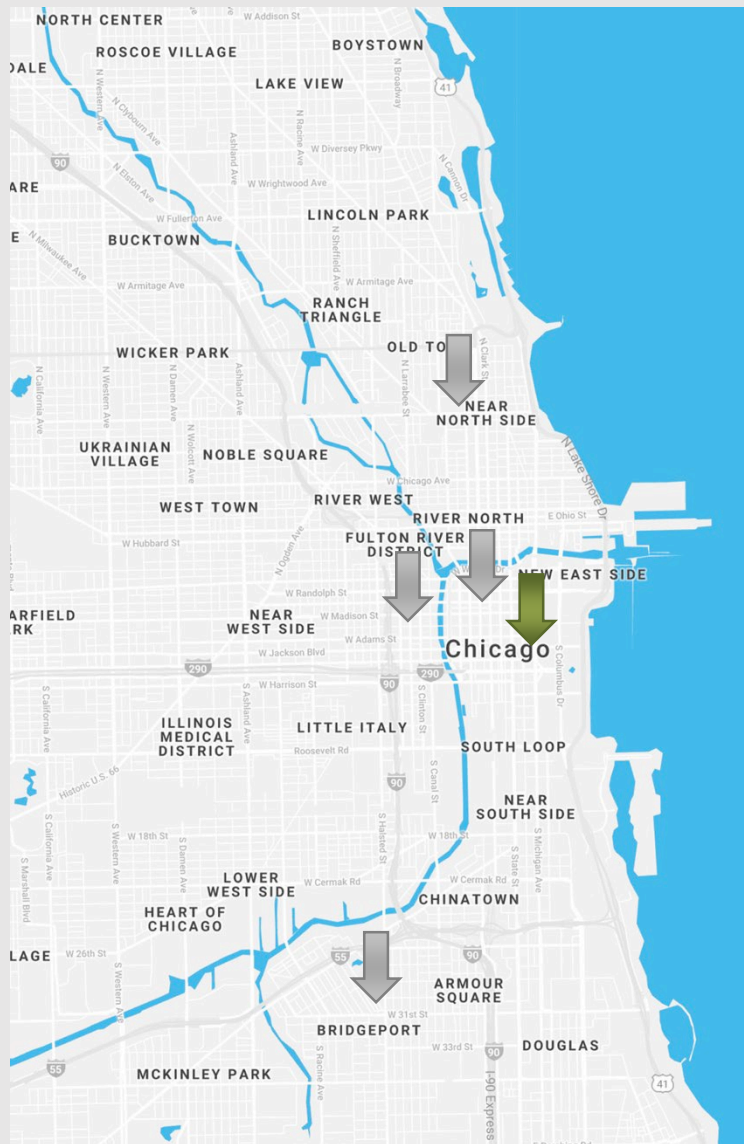
[\[Find her on LinkedIn\]](#)

Sources:

Crain's Chicago Business, *The Most Powerful Women In Chicago Business* ([link](#))
LinkedIn



BENEFIT
CHICAGO



Julia Stasch

She's A Boss Because...

As the President of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, she leads a \$7 billion philanthropic organization with offices in Chicago, Mexico City, New Delhi, and Nigeria. Most recently, she launched [Benefit Chicago](#) through the MacArthur foundation, an impact-investing loan program for socially minded businesses and nonprofits.

Has Worked At: City of Chicago, South Shore Bank, Stein and Company, the General Services Administration

Education: Master's Degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago

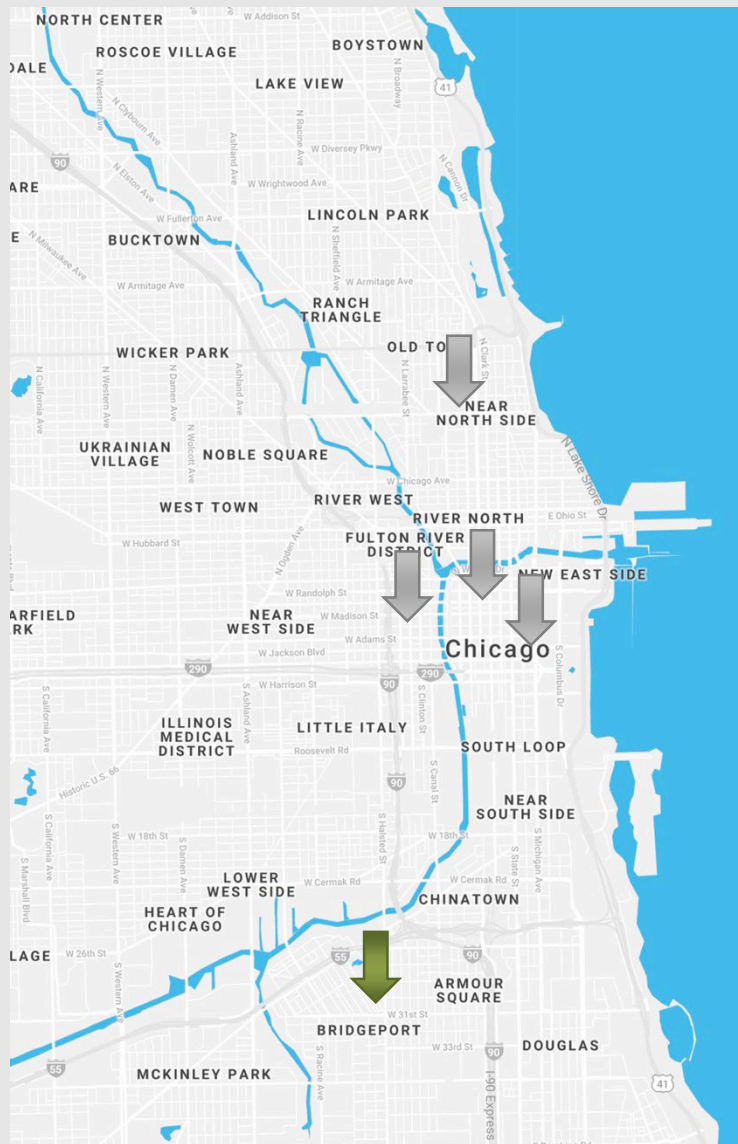
[\[Find her on LinkedIn\]](#)

Sources:

Crain's Chicago Business, The Most Powerful Women In Chicago Business ([link](#))
MacArthur Foundation, President Julia Stasch ([link](#))



INVEST•HER
VENTURES



Gerri Kahnweiler

She's A Boss Because...

In 2016, she founded a women-focused venture capital firm call [InvestHER](#). Why? Because businesses with women on the executive team are worth 64% more at first funding yet receive less than 3% of venture capital investment.

Has Worked At: Winnetka Park District, Arabella Philanthropic Investment Advisors

Education: MBA from Northwestern University

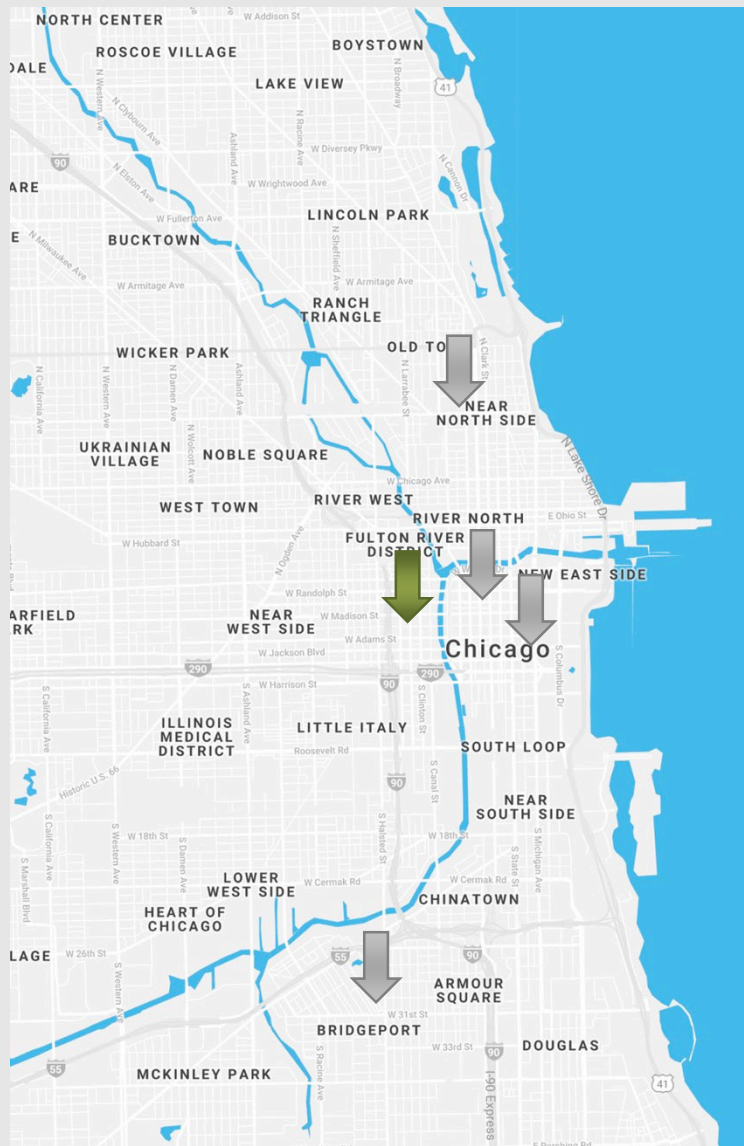
[[Find her on LinkedIn](#)]

Sources:

InvestHER, home page ([link](#))

Croissant Blog, 8 Female Entrepreneurs to Watch in Chicago ([link](#))

LinkedIn ([link](#))



Kristi Zuhlke

She's A Boss Because...

She founded [KnowledgeHound](#) in 2015, a company that has been called the “Google of Market Research”. This is because their platform allows companies to store, search, and visualize their customer research.

Has Worked At: Proctor & Gamble, Flix Corporation

Education: Marketing and Entrepreneurship from Xavier University

[[Find her on LinkedIn](#)]

Sources:

InvestHER, home page ([link](#))

Croissant Blog, 8 Female Entrepreneurs to Watch in Chicago ([link](#))

LinkedIn ([link](#))



Over the years, we've had the privilege of supporting male and female entrepreneurs on their big ideas.

If you are looking for strategic guidance for your next venture, connect with the team at CTS Financial Group.

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