

## Contact

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(LinkedIn)

## Top Skills

Management  
Team Building  
Leadership

# Kwame Anku

CEO & Chairman, Black Star Fund | TEDx Speaker  
Greater Sacramento

## Experience

### Black Star Fund

#### Chairman & CEO

October 2018 - Present (6 years 1 month)

Sacramento, California Area

Kwame Anku is the CEO and Chairman of the Black Star Fund, an early stage innovation fund. Prior to the Black Star Fund, Kwame co-founded and served as Principal of the Black Angel Tech Fund, a pioneering fund that focused on capitalizing Black technology entrepreneurs.

Recently named "One of the Top 25 Black Venture Capitalists to Watch in 2018" by Pitchbook, Kwame has worked extensively in business development and media marketing for over two decades. In September 2018, Kwame was selected to be one of only twenty-one recipients of the prestigious Aspen Ascend Fellowship from The Aspen Institute.

Kwame entered into the tech industry after being personally recruited by the late legendary rock star Prince to develop his mobile app, overseeing business and development teams in Africa, Asia and the US. He later went on to serve as the National Director of Strategic Development for the Prince-inspired #YesWeCode initiative, where he developed corporate and media partnerships. Kwame now serves as a mentor for both the AT&T Aspire Accelerator and Founder Institute Sacramento.

Kwame has appeared on numerous national television and radio programs including CNN, MSNBC, BBC Worldwide, SiriusXM, & National Public Radio. His work garnered two invitations to the Obama White House to share ideas and best practices with leaders from around the United States.

Kwame has delivered powerful keynote addresses and been a featured speaker at events such as the Google For Entrepreneurs' Black Wall Street Conference to the First-Ever Ghana Tech Summit in West Africa.

Kwame serves on the Board of Regents for North Central University, on the board of directors for Operation iDream in Zambia, the startup tech firm,

Bandwagon and on the Presidential Advisory Board for the Carlsen Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at Sacramento State University.

Kwame is an honors graduate of Stanford University.

### **The Aspen Institute**

6 years 2 months

#### **Aspen Ascend Fellow**

September 2018 - Present (6 years 2 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

#### **Aspen Ideas Festival Speaker & Scholar**

June 2019 - June 2019 (1 month)

Aspen, Colorado

### **North Central University**

#### **Board of Regents**

October 2018 - Present (6 years 1 month)

Minneapolis, Minnesota

### **New Community Transformation Fund**

#### **Board Member**

May 2021 - Present (3 years 6 months)

Grand Rapids, Michigan, United States

### **Actively Black**

#### **Investor, Board Director**

October 2020 - Present (4 years 1 month)

Los Angeles

### **CeekVR**

#### **Investor, Board Director**

July 2019 - Present (5 years 4 months)

### **Partake Foods**

#### **Investor**

May 2019 - Present (5 years 6 months)

Jersey City, New Jersey

### **BandwagonFanClub, Inc.**

#### **Investor, Board Director**

June 2017 - Present (7 years 5 months)

Greenville, South Carolina

### PopCom (formerly Solutions Vending)

Investor

July 2019 - Present (5 years 4 months)

### Win-Win

Investor, Board Director

September 2018 - Present (6 years 2 months)

Oakland, California

### On Second Thought

Investor, Senior Growth Strategy Advisor

April 2019 - Present (5 years 7 months)

San Francisco, California

### Ujama Inc.

Investor, Senior Growth Strategy Advisor

September 2018 - Present (6 years 2 months)

Cupertino, California

### Amp.It

Investor, Senior Growth Strategy Advisor

April 2019 - Present (5 years 7 months)

Los Angeles, California

### Color Farm Media

Strategic Growth Advisor

October 2018 - Present (6 years 1 month)

Los Angeles, California

### AT&T

Mentor, AT&T Aspire Accelerator

May 2017 - Present (7 years 6 months)

San Francisco Bay Area

### Founder Institute

Mentor

July 2017 - Present (7 years 4 months)

Sacramento, California

## Carlsen Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship

### Advisory Board Member

January 2018 - Present (6 years 10 months)

Sacramento, California

The Carlsen Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Sacramento State will be established in a 10,000-square-foot space in the University Library and will include entrepreneurship education, services and programs for students and the community. It is meant to forge alliances between the campus community, and public and private organizations at the forefront of developing innovative leaders.

Initiated with a \$6 million gift from Dale and Katy Carlsen, the Center is expected to be a significant cornerstone for Sacramento State as it builds on its role as a driving economic force in the region.

Kwame was appointed by Sacramento State University President, Dr. Robert Nelsen, to the Carlsen Center Advisory Board to provide strategic thinking into the design, operations and strategic partnerships. Kwame joins Sac Republic CEO and Investor Kevin Nagle, Sacramento Kings COO Matina Kolokotonis, Moneta Ventures Managing Partner Lokesh Sikaria and other business leaders in the Sacramento region all working towards building the vision of this powerful new institution.

## Black Angel Tech Fund

9 years 6 months

### Co-Founder

May 2015 - Present (9 years 6 months)

### Founding Principal

June 2016 - August 2018 (2 years 3 months)

## New Dawn Global

### Principal

June 2016 - Present (8 years 5 months)

United States & Africa

## Ghana Tech Summit

### Ambassador, United States

October 2019 - October 2020 (1 year 1 month)

United States

TEDx

Featured Speaker

December 2019 - December 2019 (1 month)

Ghana

YesWeCode

Director of Strategic Development

January 2013 - August 2015 (2 years 8 months)

LegalShield Official

Regional Manager, Executive Director Group Benefits & Security  
Specialist

2005 - August 2015 (10 years)

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## Education

Stanford University

Bachelor's Degree · (1990 - 1994)