

Who is Innovate Public Schools ?

Innovate's ads describe it as a nonprofit organization, staffed by "community organizers" committed to empowering parents to create high quality public schools. **But who are they really?**



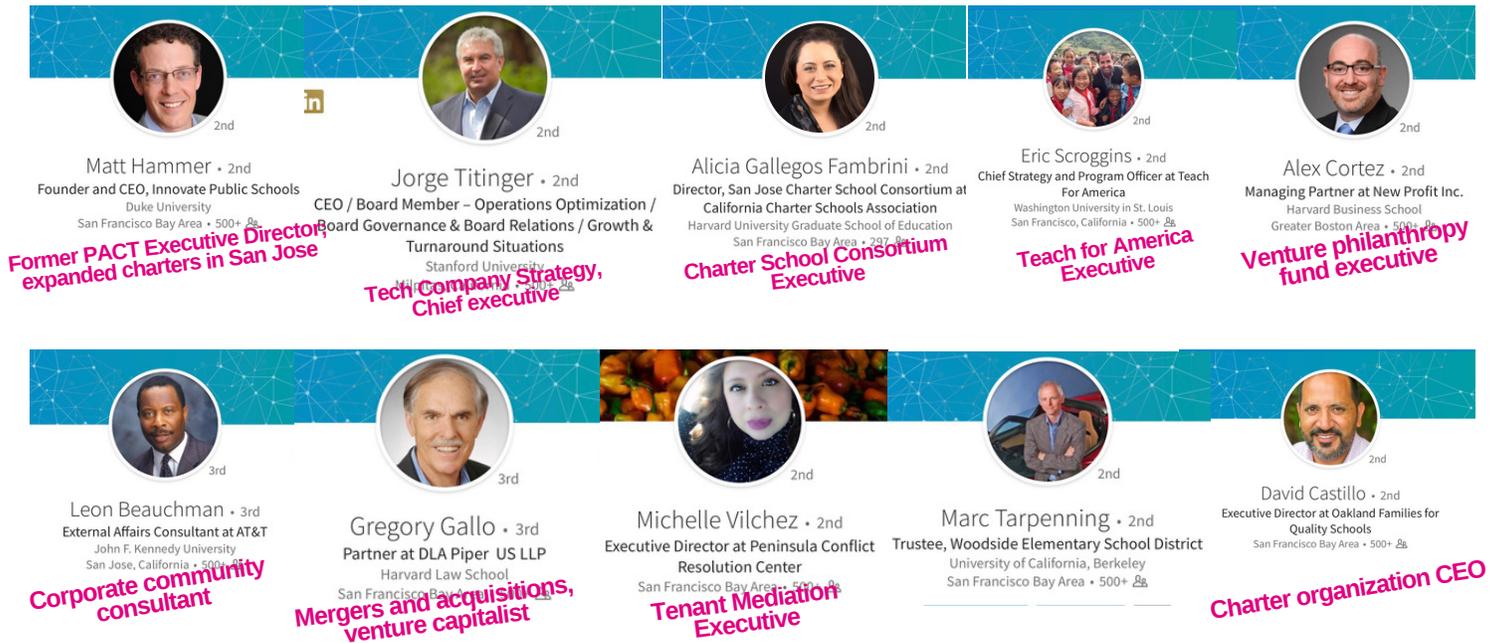
Tweet 1: Dozens of people have sent a letter to their elected officials after viewing our #SF Report! Join them: bit.ly/2zcVko2 #SFdobetter

Tweet 2: We agree that building parent power is key to improving our education system.
Richard Metro @RichardMetro
 Replying to @InnovateSchools
 This is refreshing. Stop the dumping down of schools. Parents unite.
 11/3/17, 1:58 PM
 2 Likes

Tweet 3: Parents all over #SF are calling on @SFUSD to take bold action. Read our #SF Report to see why they want action NOW! bit.ly/2y0x98C
 "I think the district needs to completely re-evaluate its approach. And we, as parents, if we see that a school is not what we want for our kids, let's not just accept it."
 - Juana Laura Chavero
 10/27/17, 3:08 PM

Tweet 4: Norma Valenzuela knows all too well the realities of having a child in @SFUnified. More here: bit.ly/2gDB2cf #SFDoBetter
 "It's a huge difference - from one school to another. It's not the fault of the teachers. It's the fault of the system."
 - Norma Valenzuela
 11/2/17, 12:00 PM

When you look at their Board of Trustees, you see a very different picture:



Matt Hammer • 2nd
 Founder and CEO, Innovate Public Schools
 Duke University
 San Francisco Bay Area • 500+ 
Former PACT Executive Director, expanded charters in San Jose

Jorge Titingier • 2nd
 CEO / Board Member – Operations Optimization / Board Governance & Board Relations / Growth & Turnaround Situations
 Stanford University
 San Francisco Bay Area • 500+ 
Tech Company Strategy, Chief executive

Alicia Gallegos Fambrini • 2nd
 Director, San Jose Charter School Consortium at California Charter Schools Association
 Harvard University Graduate School of Education
 San Francisco Bay Area • 297+ 
Charter School Consortium Executive

Eric Scroggins • 2nd
 Chief Strategy and Program Officer at Teach For America
 Washington University in St. Louis
 San Francisco, California • 500+ 
Teach for America Executive

Alex Cortez • 2nd
 Managing Partner at New Profit Inc.
 Harvard Business School
 Greater Boston Area • 500+ 
Venture philanthropy fund executive

Leon Beauchman • 3rd
 External Affairs Consultant at AT&T
 John F. Kennedy University
 San Jose, California • 500+ 
Corporate community consultant

Gregory Gallo • 3rd
 Partner at DLA Piper US LLP
 Harvard Law School
 San Francisco Bay Area • 500+ 
Mergers and acquisitions, venture capitalist

Michelle Vilchez • 2nd
 Executive Director at Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center
 San Francisco Bay Area • 500+ 
Tenant Mediation Executive

Marc Tarpenning • 2nd
 Trustee, Woodside Elementary School District
 University of California, Berkeley
 San Francisco Bay Area • 500+ 
Charter organization CEO

David Castillo • 2nd
 Executive Director at Oakland Families for Quality Schools
 San Francisco Bay Area • 500+ 

Let's be honest at least. Innovate organizes to grow and develop privately managed charter school chains.

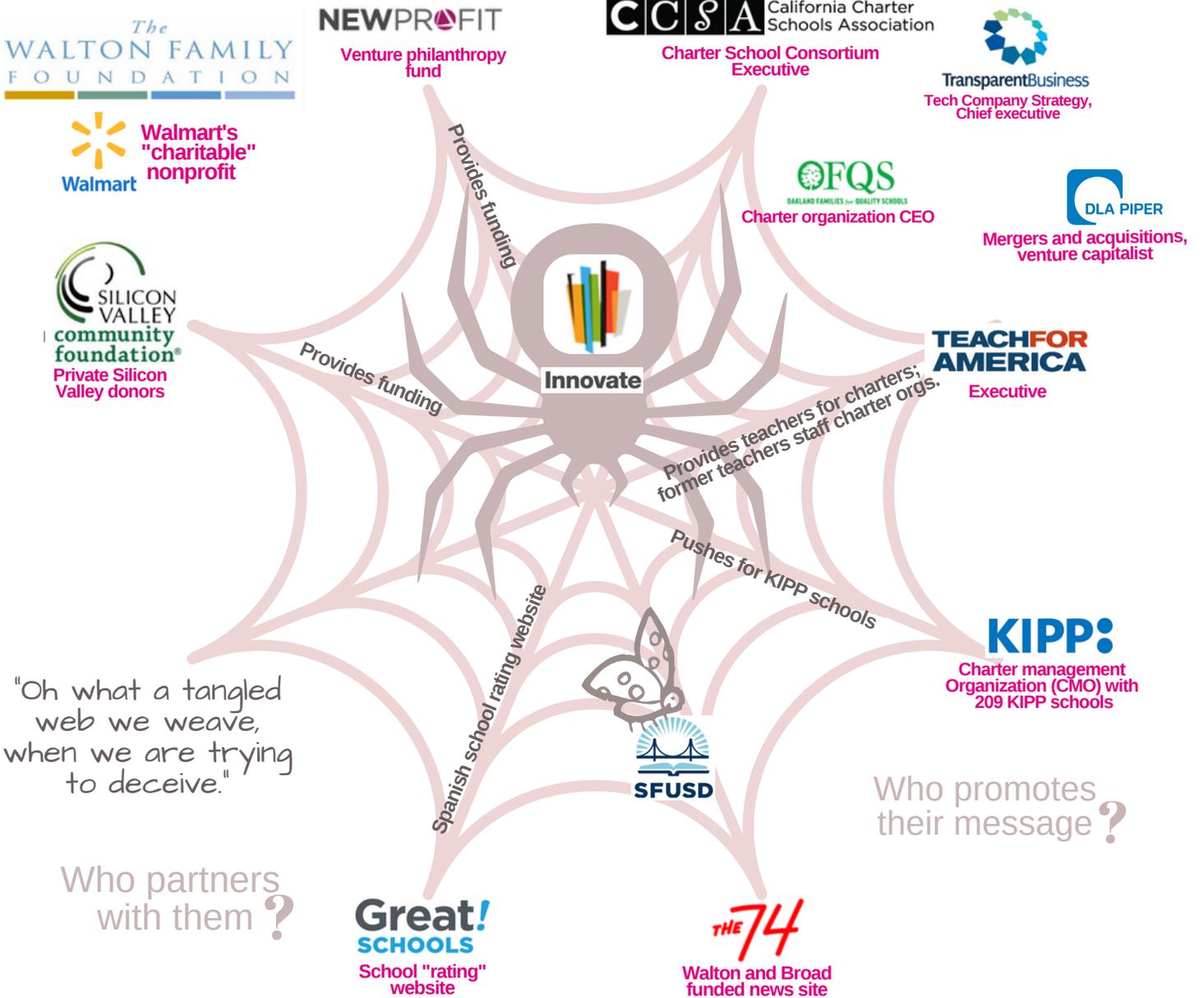
Created in 2013, Innovate Public Schools is often described as an "accelerator" for charter schools, a term normally applied to organizations that fund the growth and development of charter school chains within a particular region. But, operationally, Innovate Public Schools focuses more on parent organizing/turnout and training of school leaders to support privately-managed charters schools than providing direct financial support to their charter partners. Previous campaigns by Innovate Public Schools involve partnering with specific schools and operators to use extensive financial resources to organize parent support for charter expansion in San Jose and elsewhere. The parent payment model was pioneered in New York with Families for Excellent Schools, a billionaire-backed charter school advocacy organization that pays parents between \$250 and \$1000 to attend rallies and protests.*

*<https://www.thenation.com/article/9-billionaires-are-about-remake-new-yorks-public-schools-heres-their-story/>

Innovate's Web of Deception

Who funds them?

Who is on their Board of Directors?



Prior to her role in the Trump cabinet, DeVos headed up the American Federation for Children, an advocacy group that received substantial backing from the Walton Family Foundation (Walton). Walton has given Innovate over \$1.5 MIL with \$750K the first year.* The venture philanthropy organization New Profit committed \$1 MIL to Innovate Public Schools.** The Silicon Valley Community Foundation had committed to seed Innovate Public Schools with \$950,000 over two years, the bulk of which reportedly came from the Walton Family Foundation.* The Schwab Family Foundation donated \$500,000 to Innovate Public Schools in 2013. Schwab was one of the largest donors to Donald Trump's inauguration committee in 2017, coughing up \$1MIL.

*<https://www.siliconvalleycf.org/press-release-october-15-2012>

**<http://blog.newprofit.org/amplify/investment-announcement-innovate-public-schools>

***<http://www.mercurynews.com/2012/10/21/two-funds-raise-money-to-help-bay-area-schools/>