PRESS RELEASE

As AI Levels the Playing Field, Successful Founders Are Finding Their Next Advantage in the Room

Speakeasy Mastermind

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ORANGE COUNTY, Calif. — AI is changing the math of entrepreneurship.

Founders can build bigger companies with smaller teams, move faster and do more themselves than ever before. But there’s another side to that equation.

The fewer people leaders need to build a business, the more intentional they have to be about who they surround themselves with.

No founder has all the answers, experience or relationships. Put the right entrepreneurs in a room together and one person’s experience solves another person’s problem. One person’s relationship becomes another person’s opportunity. One person’s perspective exposes another person’s blind spot.

The room makes everyone in it better.

That is the idea behind Speakeasy Mastermind, a San Diego-headquartered entrepreneur mastermind built around curated local groups of successful founders who meet face-to-face every month and connect to a global community.

Its philosophy: Never Build Alone.

The Bigger the Business, the Fewer People Founders Can Really Ask

As companies grow, founders don’t run out of people around them. They run out of people they can talk to as peers. Their teams look to them for answers, while the decisions get bigger and harder to undo.

New research has put a name to part of the problem: entrepreneurial role isolation — the isolation that can come with carrying responsibility for strategy, financial risk, employees and the future of a company.

For successful founders, this isn’t just about feeling less alone. It’s about making better decisions faster.

The right room gives founders access to experience they haven’t had yet. Someone has already made the hire, entered the market, lost the money, sold the company, made the mistake, found the partner or built the team.

Instead of figuring everything out from scratch, founders borrow the experience of the room. Trusted peers make introductions, share opportunities, challenge thinking and expose blind spots.

AI can help founders execute more on their own. It doesn’t mean they should think on their own.

From One Room to a Growing Global Entrepreneur Community

Speakeasy’s roots go back to a mastermind dinner in San Diego in 2008, where entrepreneurs came together to talk openly about what was working, what wasn’t and what they were learning — without pitches or posturing.

Co-founder Eric Berman had participated in numerous masterminds and entrepreneur communities, but felt something was missing: deeper relationships.

“I’ve been part of a lot of masterminds, and I kept coming back to what I felt was missing,” said Berman. “It wasn’t more content. It was deeper relationships. I wanted a room where successful entrepreneurs could drop the performance, talk honestly about what was happening in their businesses, share what they knew and genuinely help each other.”

Today, Speakeasy reports 30+ chapters operating or launching, more than 540 curated entrepreneurs and more than $1.1 billion in annual revenue represented across its community.

Each local chapter brings together approximately 15–30 vetted entrepreneurs who meet face-to-face monthly while accessing Speakeasy’s global network.

Meet locally. Connect globally.

Orange County Shows What Happens When the Right Room Sticks

Now in its third year, Speakeasy Orange County brings together approximately 20 established founders and business owners. The invitation-only chapter meets in person monthly and has maintained a 100% member renewal rate.

“There’s a different kind of growth that happens when you’re deeply connected to the people in the room. They see what you may be missing, challenge you when you need it and genuinely want to see you win — in business and in life. You get to be fully yourself, without having to be the founder with all the answers,” said Marni Hale, Captain of Speakeasy Orange County.

Speakeasy isn’t designed to put as many people as possible into a room. The curation is the point.

Exclusivity determines who gets into the room. Generosity determines what happens once they’re there.

For a founder, one conversation can prevent an expensive mistake. One perspective can change a decision. One introduction can change the trajectory of a company.

That’s the unfair advantage created by the room.

Never Build Alone.

About Speakeasy Mastermind

Headquartered in San Diego, California, Speakeasy Mastermind is an invitation-only, in-person entrepreneur mastermind and peer advisory community for established founders and business owners. Members meet face-to-face monthly in curated local chapters while connecting to a global network of successful entrepreneurs.

Its philosophy is simple: Never Build Alone.

Website: SpeakeasyMastermind.com

About Speakeasy Orange County

Speakeasy Orange County is an invitation-only, in-person entrepreneur mastermind for established founders and business owners in Orange County, California. Now in its third year, the chapter meets face-to-face monthly while connecting to Speakeasy’s global network.

The Orange County chapter is led by Marni Hale and has maintained a 100% member renewal rate.

Qualified Orange County entrepreneurs and business owners may request an invitation to experience an upcoming meeting.

Orange County Chapter: SpeakeasyMastermind.com/orangecounty

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VIDEO

https://youtu.be/kQ5HRpgb974?is=yIoEIrpk7Wz5-DQH

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