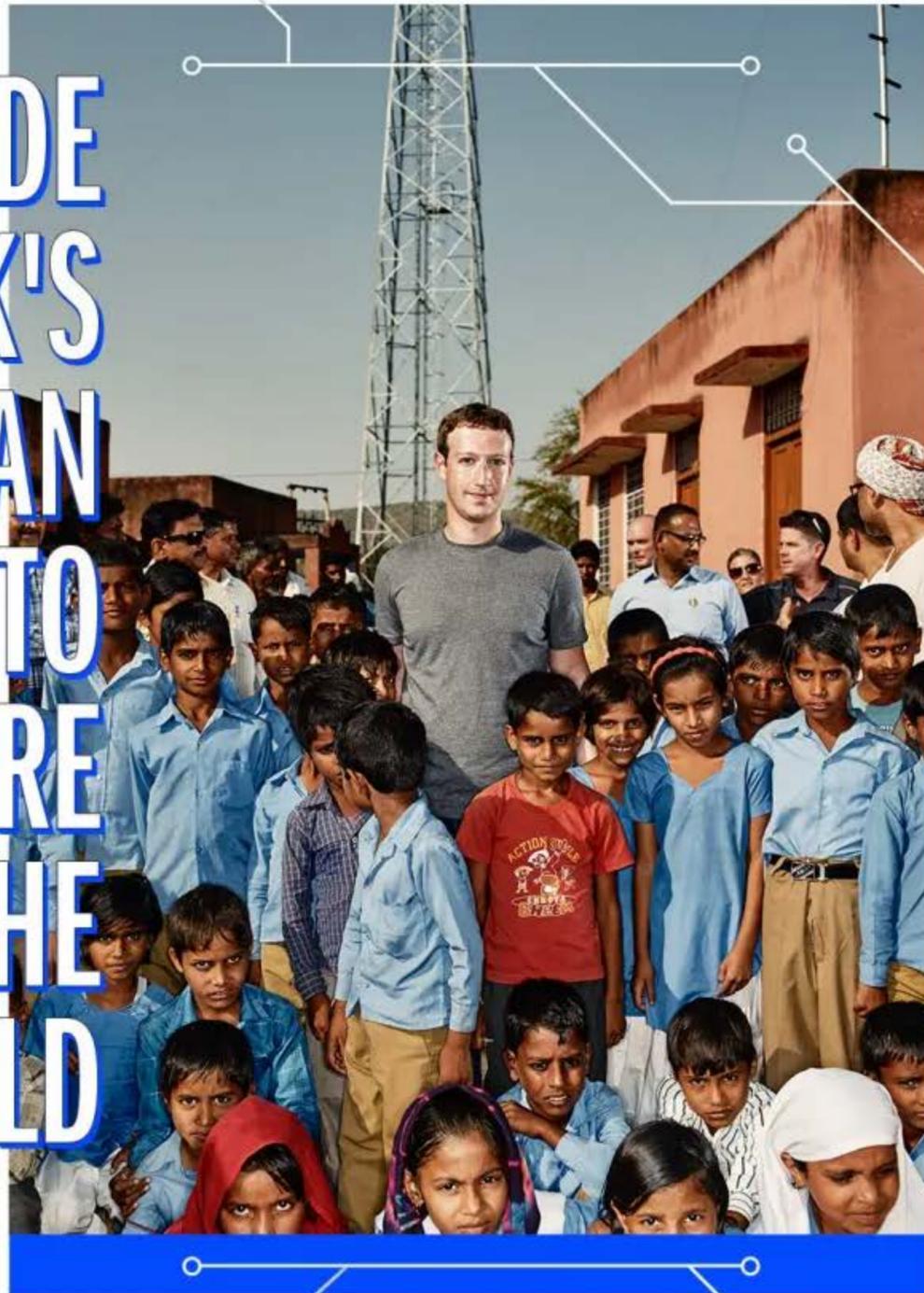




Strong Opinions, Weakly Held: How Finance Shapes Hype in Silicon Valley

Michelle Venetucci, PhD candidate | Anthropology, Yale University

INSIDE
FACEBOOK'S
PLAN
TO
WIRE
THE
WORLD



MARK
ZUCKERBERG'S
CRUSADE
TO
PUT
EVERY
SINGLE
HUMAN
BEING
ONLINE

BY LEV GROSSMAN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN ALLEN FOR TIME

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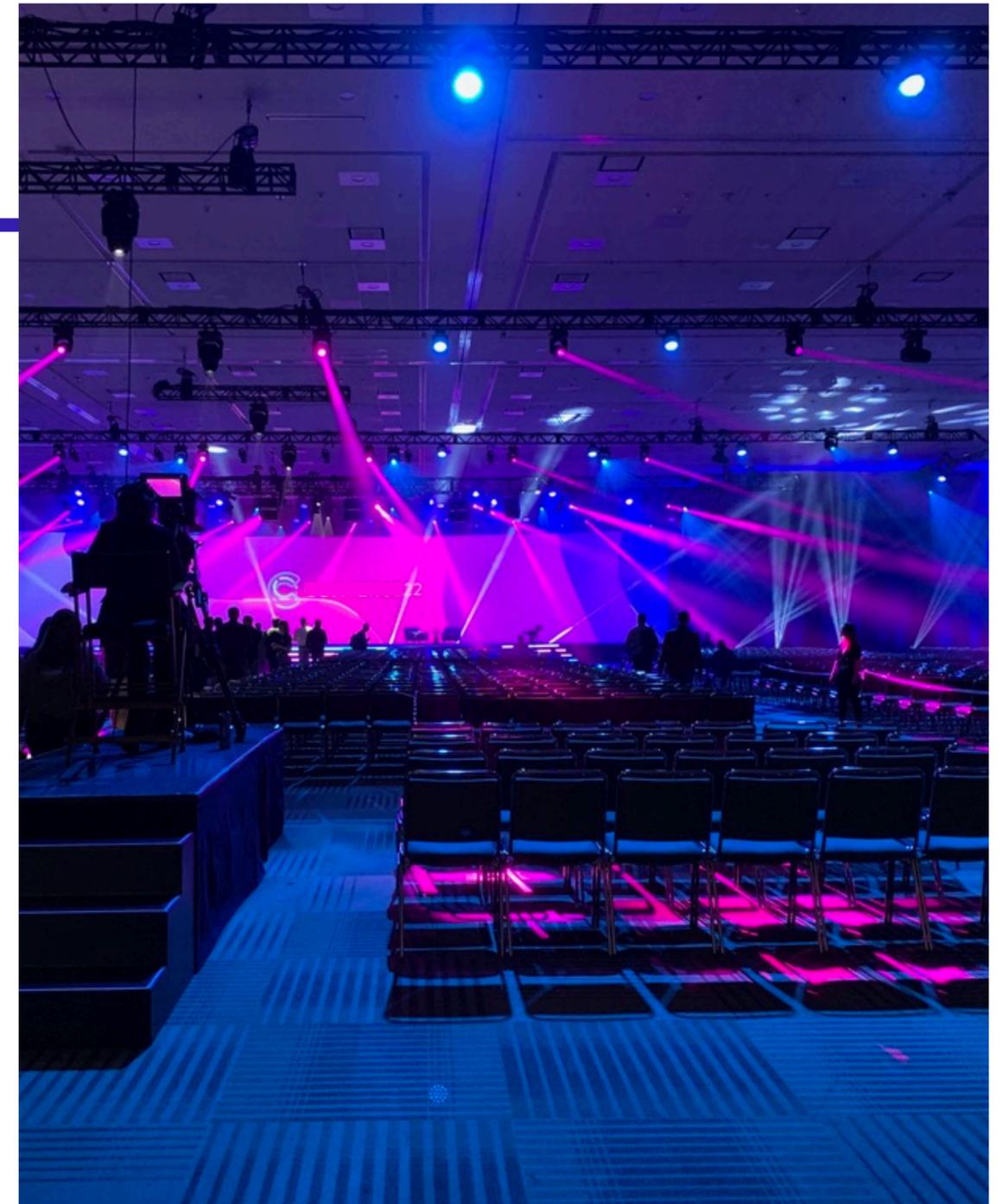
The industry functions as **one interdependent network**
almost entirely structured by the
speculative financial models of venture capital

VENTURE CAPITAL

High risk, high reward through early stage investing (speculative)

Exponential growth mandate:

- Needs “grand slam” businesses to make up for the guaranteed losses
- Needs an overall network with lots of startups to invest in





Strong Opinions, Weakly Held



Jeff Atwood

29 May 2008 — 6 min read — Comments (174 replies)

I seldom pause to answer criticism of my blog. If I did, I'd have time for little else in the course of the day, and no time for constructive work. But occasionally I'll encounter a particularly well written critique that gives me pause, such as Alastair Rankine's [Blogging Horror](#). Since I feel that Alastair wrote it out of genuine good will, and that his criticisms are sincerely set forth, I want to try to answer his statement in what I hope will be patient and reasonable terms.

However, Coding Horror I struck out on his own. To deserve more scrutiny than

Not only has Atwood has called stackoverflow to co community. It is early day Atwood's editorial hand in generated content.

In other words, **Atwood's software development** an

I'd like to first answer this with here verbatim with no modifi



By PASCAL FINETTE

November 23, 2020

Strong Opinions Weakly Held

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My friend, colleague and futurist **Paul Saffo** coined the quip "strong opinions weakly held" sometime in the mid to late 2000s (at least that is when I first heard about it). Paul writes about the concept on [his blog](#).

I always like the idea – but also think that it is being used as a justification for people to do the first part ("strong opinions") without actually buying into the concept of the second part ("weakly held"). Which is, of course, the exact opposite of what Paul intended to achieve.

The Heretic x GYSHIDO: Raw, unfiltered dispatches for entrepreneurs and change makers navigating the unknown. Where radical thinking meets relentless execution. No BS—just the insights and methods to



Paul Saffo: Forecasting is "Strong Opinions, Weakly Held"

3 Comments / Quotes, Rules of Thumb / By Sean Murphy / August 16, 2010



Paul Saffo defines "strong opinions, weakly held" as an effective mindset for foresight or making forecasts. This is a good approach for entrepreneurs.

Paul Saffo: Forecasting is "Strong Opinions, Weakly Held"

From Paul Saffo's blog entry for July 26, 2008: "[Strong Opinions, Weakly Held](#)"

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VC Company Growth Trajectory

**Seed Stage
(Pre Product-
Market Fit)**

Product-Market Fit

Scale

High Growth

Growth

Time





“You’re right, the message changes. I’m always trying out a different narrative to see what sticks.”

Gross volume ⓘ

\$1.63M

\$626.2K

\$0.00

Jan 2019

May 2021

[View more](#)

Updated 10:23 PM

Gross volume ⓘ

\$5.11M

\$2.03M

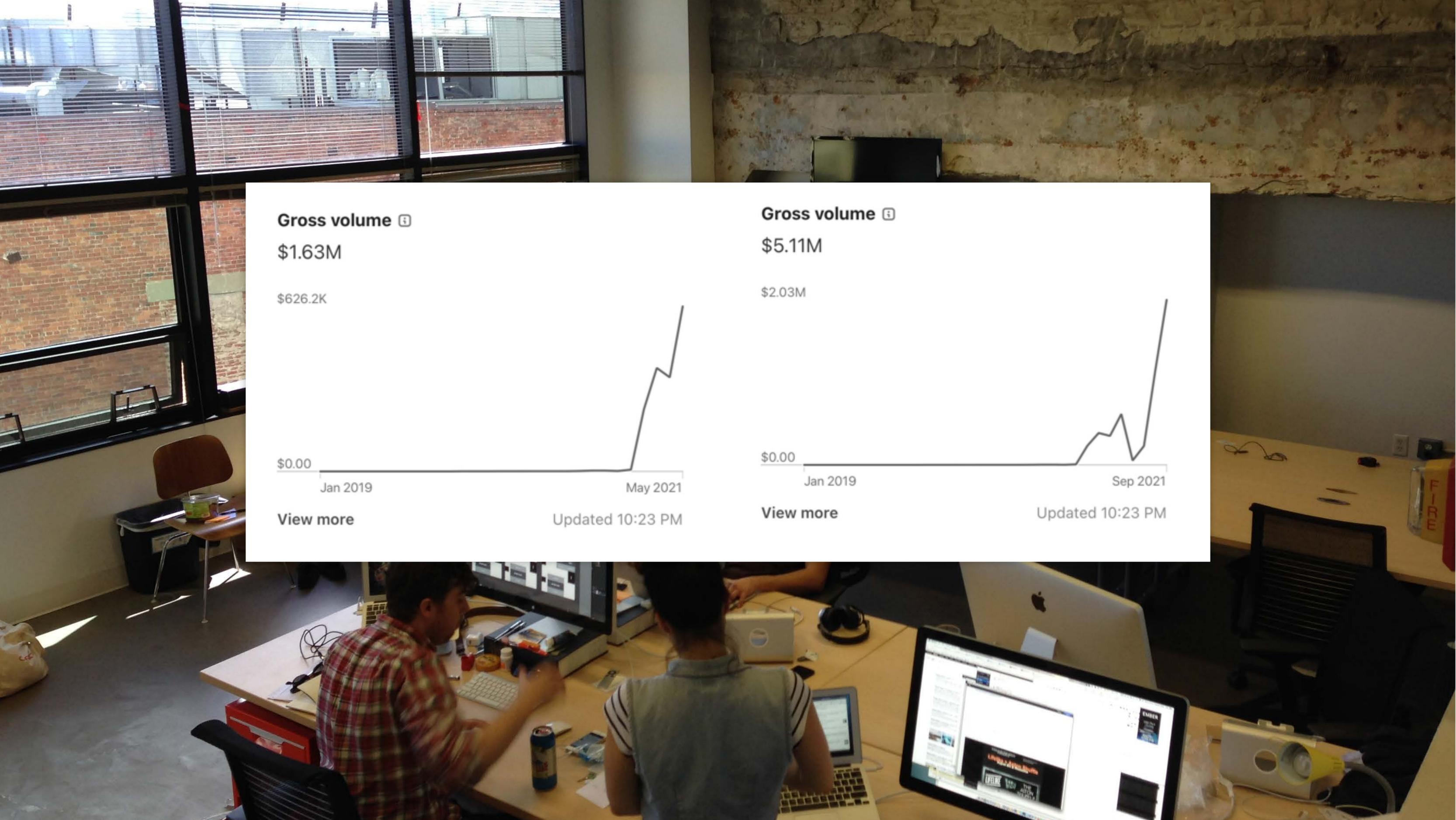
\$0.00

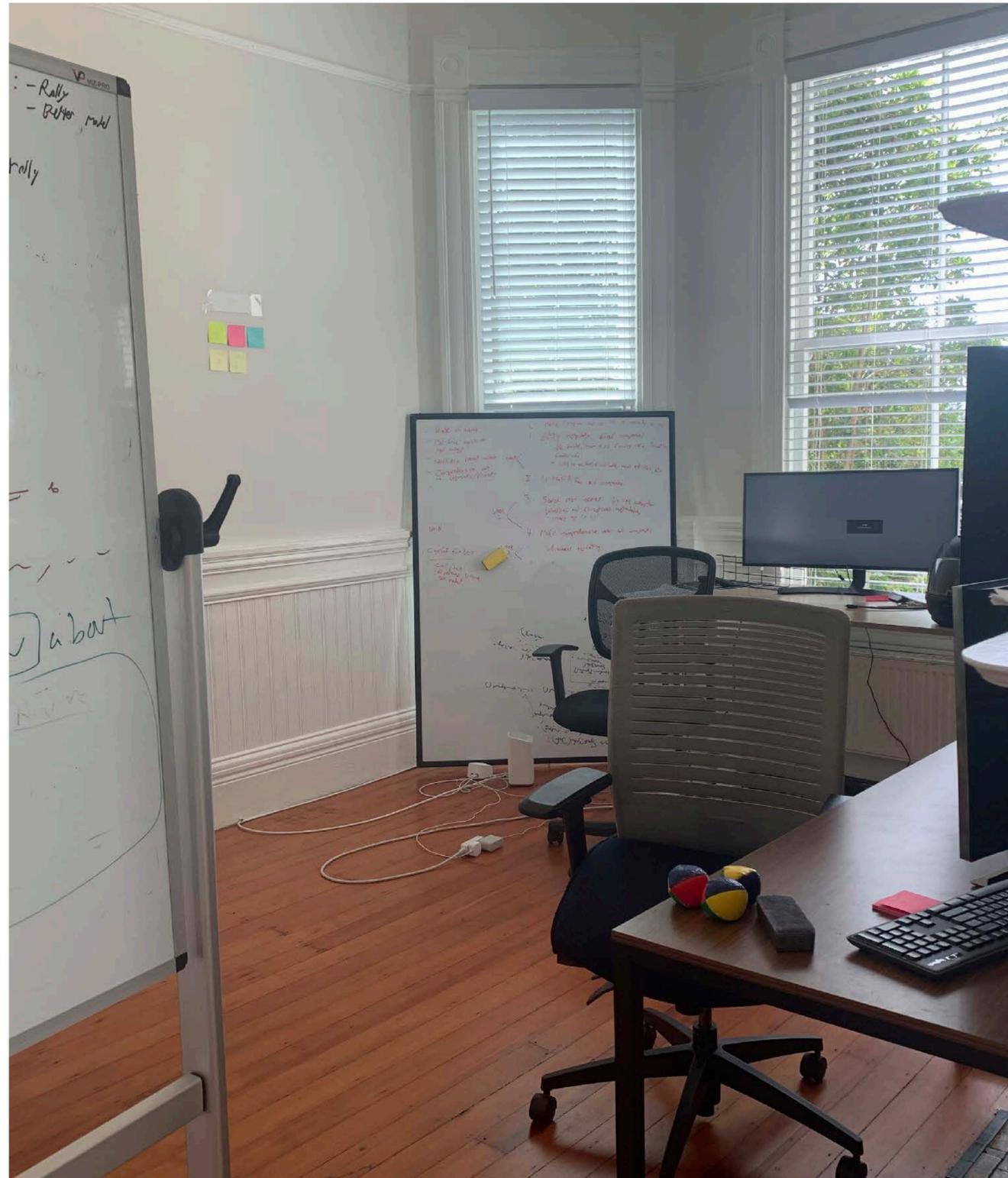
Jan 2019

Sep 2021

[View more](#)

Updated 10:23 PM





“It’s like I’m at the bottom of an inverted pyramid, with the market and investors making decisions. I just have to respond to that.”