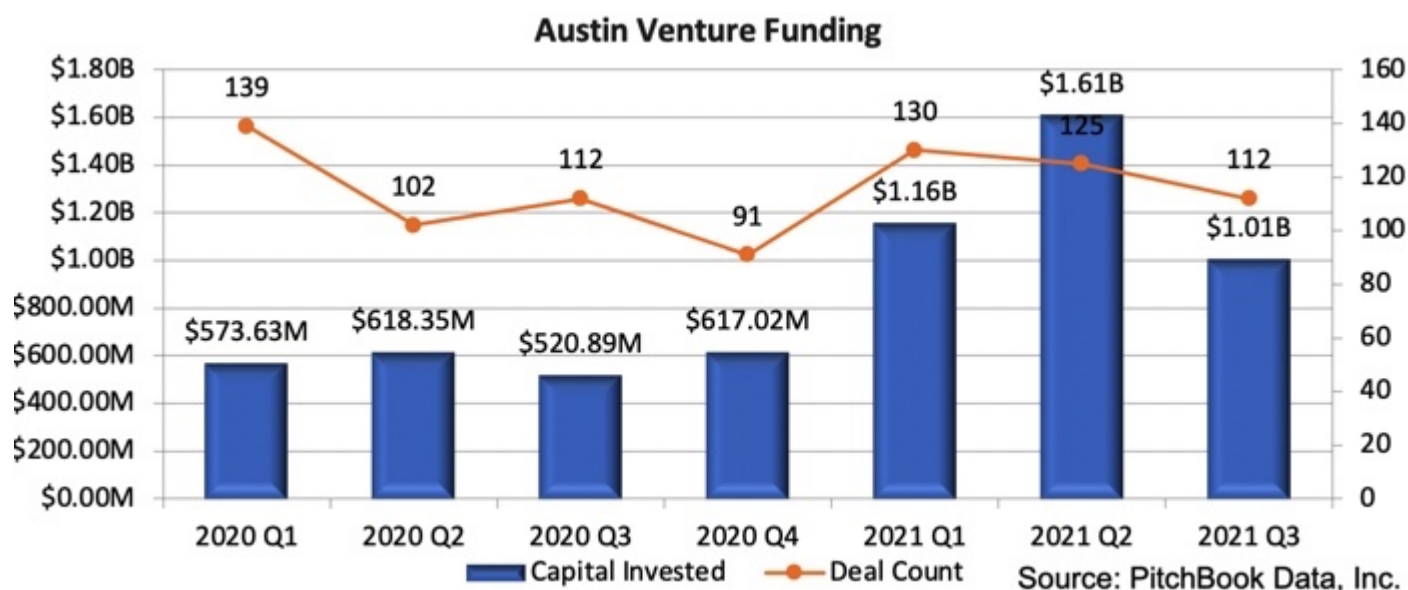


From: "Mason Rathe" <mason@texasdealhighlights.com>
Sent: Sunday, 17 October 2021 23:50
To: masonrathe@gmail.com
Subject: Austin Weekly Deal Highlights - Oct 17, 2021

Austin Weekly Deal Highlights

October 17h, 2021

Alright, the below chart might be a bit misleading. Sure, we didn't have another \$1.6B venture funding quarter like we did in second quarter, but 5 years ago we could barely crack \$1M in venture funding annually, and now we are routinely doing in quarterly. I'd say that's pretty damn good. Not to mention, Austin-area startups generated more than \$2.9B in exits in the third quarter. That is a record by the way. It's one thing to receive substantial funding, but to have those investments actually result in a significant return...no wonder so many investors are now targeting the Lone Star State.



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Thank you to this week's sponsor, [Vela Wood](#)! Wondering what all these venture terms mean? Check out Vela Wood's [Venture Glossary](#)! Vela Wood is a boutique corporate law firm with a local feel and a global impact. Vela Wood focuses its practice in the areas of M&A, Sports & Gaming, Venture Capital, and Corporate Transactions.

Austin Weekly Deal Activity

- **[Profound Commerce](#)**, an acquirer and operator of Amazon third-party businesses, [secured \\$53M](#) in a combined equity and debt financing from [Atalaya Capital Management LP](#).
- **[Lendflow](#)**, a SaaS company enabling embedding of lending services, [raised a \\$10.8M](#) Series A from 8 investors, led by **Underscore VC** and including **2048 Ventures**, taking Lendflow's total funding to \$13.M.
- **[INK Games](#)**, the interactive gaming arm of **InfluenceInk, Inc.**, [announced a raise](#) of \$9.5M for their Series A, without naming their investors. INK Games has now raised \$10.6M, all within 2021.
- **SIERA.AI ([Stocked Robotics](#))**, inspection software and industrial IoT technology designed to add advanced driver assistance to manual vehicle fleets, raised a \$5.3M Series A from **Texas Halo Fund, MicroVentures** and **Dorm Room Fund**, according to Pitchbook.
- **[Project Venkman](#)**, an e-commerce engagement solutions platform, [raised \\$3M](#) of seed funding in a deal led by Valor Equity Partners

Austin M&A Activity

- **[Forcepoint](#)**, a cybersecurity firm (NASDAQ: WBSN), has [acquired](#) security startup **[Bitglass](#)** for an undisclosed amount. Bitglass had previously raised \$150.1M.

Other Texas Deal Activity

- **[Vaxxinity](#)**, a Dallas-based vaccine maker, with a valuation \$1.35B valuation has [filed for IPO](#) on the Nasdaq with the symbol VAXX, seeking a listing size of around \$
- **[Lexipol](#)**, a Frisco-based provider of policy, training and wellness support software for first responders and public servants, [received a "significant growth investment"](#) from **GTGR**.
- **[AmplifAI](#)**, a call center software firm, has raised \$18.5M via equity funding and venture debt, led by **Greycroft**, taking their total funding to \$22.4M.
- **[Vivante Health](#)**, a Houston-based chronic disease management platform, raised \$13.5M from undisclosed investors. The company has raised approx. \$30M to date.
- **[Rs2 Ventures](#)**, a fintech company in acquired card payments, [reported](#) an \$11.9M Series A round with 19 investors.
- **Genesis Park** executives in Houston [launched a \\$275 million fund](#) to invest in growing companies in Texas and the Gulf Coast region. The newly formed **GP Capital Partners LP** provides debt and equity financing to fund growth and recapitalizations in the lower middle market.
- **Braemont Capital**, led by Robert Covington formerly of **RedBird Capital Partners**, [has launched](#) in Dallas and New York aiming to be a relationship-driven investment fund, with investments between \$25M and \$200M in both enterprise and consumer markets.
- **[Lone Star Analytics](#)**, an Addison-based predictive analytics company, [announced receiving](#) a \$22M contract from the **Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division** running through September, 2026.
- **[Verily](#)**, a life sciences company under the **Alphabet** umbrella, has [announced](#) a planned Dallas hub for which 115 employees are expected to be hired.

Featured Job of the Week

[Senior Backend Engineer](#), **Lithic** is a hyper-growth, Series C FinTech start-up making digital payments safer and easier for everyone.

Austin People

- **Allen Narcisse**, former head of market strategy at **Lyft**, has joined **Workrise** as their [new COO](#). Workrise last raised a \$300M Series E in 2020, at a \$2.9B valuation, with total funding of approx. \$750M.
- **Ralph DeBernardo**, recently head of investor relations at **Peak Rock Capital**, was [named](#) to the same position as well as partner at **Sapphire Ventures**. Sapphire has invested in 120+ companies since 2011 and currently has 6.8B in AUM.

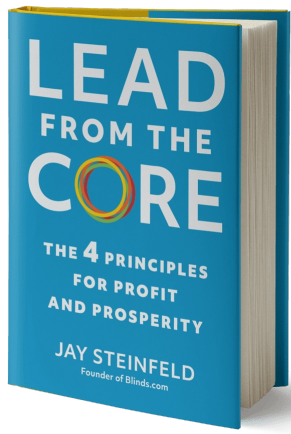
Austin News

- Third Quarter and 2021 VC Investments [Hit Record Levels](#) for Texas and Austin
- Austin area [nearing another record](#) for new jobs announced. More than 150 companies have announced 20,840 new jobs in the Austin area so far in 2021. About 30 California companies have announced moves here as well.
- **REX Homes**, a real estate digital platform, reportedly had a [second round of layoffs](#) while it continues its antitrust lawsuit against **Zillow**. REX has raised \$135.5M to date, including a 2020 private equity round of \$25M.
- **Austin Black Business Journal** [named](#) their top 10 Black technologists in central Texas, celebrating those operating at the executive level with an engineer, scientist, or tech background that are thinking most in the cutting-edge.
- **Honor Technology** [Closes \\$370 Million in Financing](#), Plans to Triple its Engineering and Product Teams. The world's largest senior care network and technology platform has a footprint in Austin with over 150 employees
- **Wheel**, a telehealth startup platform, was [labeled](#) on **Forbes** Most Likely to Become Unicorns list. Wheel has raised approx. \$65M through their Series B, from investors including **Lightspeed Venture Partners**, **CRV**, and **Silverton Partners**.
- AI company **Moveworks** [relocates its headquarters](#) to Austin
- **Paradromics Inc.**, a medtech startup focusing on brain-computer interfaces, has [received a \\$3.2M](#) research award from the **National Institute of Mental Health**. Paradromics has raised \$49.4M in total, with nearly half of that coming in their latest seed round led by Prime Movers Lab.
- **Oracle** could [buy 9 acres next to HQ](#) in land swap
- **The 2022 SXSW** Schedule Is Here: [Browse Events and Customize Your Favorites](#)

Thank you!

[Mason Rathe](#)

Additional research and newsletter support provided by [Nirjhar Mundkur](#)



“Lead from the Core is required reading for any startup founder.”

~Blair Garrou, Co-founder and Managing Partner, Mercury Fund

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