Black Panther Movie Screening Brings Atlanta Tech Founders Together



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Clients, prospects and partners are accustomed to seeing exceptional accomplishments when they engage with SVBers. Still, it's not every day that actual superheroes are involved. Such was the case on November 10, when SVB's Atlantabased Startup Banking team hosted a private screening of Marvel Studio's film "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" for founders at an intimate local theater a day before it opened to the public.



Jaisa Gooden welcomes early arrivals at the "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" screening

Vice President of Startup Banking Jaisa Gooden hosted the event, with support from Administration Manager Jaqueline Sandy.

"Jackie and I were talking about the movie coming up," said Jaisa. "And I had already been anticipating it because of my involvement with SVB at AfroTech and knowing that the movie premiere was happening at the same time. I was considering doing a Black Panther screening in Austin with the 10 Atlanta founders that I brought out there for AfroTech and the other SVB clients and SVB members that were going to be there, but I was a little overwhelmed at the idea of trying to plan a movie premiere in a city I didn't know well. And then Jackie suggested, 'Why don't we do it in Atlanta before you go out there for AfroTech?"

The plan then came together, with Jaisa promoting the event and Jackie managing logistics. "It was really just teamwork across both of our groups and a lot of persistence," said Jaisa. "I also have to thank Director, SVB Startup Banking Rochelle Stewart from the new strategic channels team because she also played a big role in helping to make it happen."

Jaisa Gooden joined SVB in February 2022 to lead the Startup Banking team serving pre-series A companies across Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. In her first few months, she focused on establishing relationships and building the SVB brand. "A lot of Atlanta-based founders had the impression that SVB didn't work with early-stage companies," she noted. "So, I've done a lot of work to reframe how people think about SVB and to help them better understand how we're going to be showing up in the market going forward."



Before the screening, (left to right) Liquidity Solutions Chief of Staff Walter Ward III, Jaisa Gooden and Jaqueline Sandy pose with a client on the red carpet

Recalling the night of the screening, Jaisa said, "It was so fantastic. We had really bad weather that night, which was unexpected, so people were struggling to get across town in the traffic. We still had such a great turnout even in the midst of all of that, and we had not only SVB clients but also some of the major community ecosystem organizers with whom I work. Some of them even brought their kids to attend, so I got to meet their families. For other founders, it was date night with their significant other, and they were relieved not to have their kids there. So, we saw the whole spectrum of how people wanted to experience the movie. It gave me a way to have a more intimate human-

centric connection with clients. I was really happy with the outcome and how people showed their appreciation."

Jaisa added, "This event emphasized the importance of connection beyond tech when it comes to the people who we work with because I think those common interests are the foundation of how we get to have deeper relationships in a way that's focused on community."

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