

Carmen Palafox

United States

c@2045vc.com

310-293-1080

[linkedin.com/in/carmenpalafox](https://www.linkedin.com/in/carmenpalafox)

Summary

Carmen Palafox is the Founding Partner at 2045 ventures, a pre-seed and seed-stage venture capital firm. Carmen is also a Partner at MiLA Capital, a seed-stage Venture Capital firm specializing in hardware tech.

She was Vice President at Dimensional Fund Advisors where she scaled operations into LATAM, Canada, and Europe going from \$75 Billion AUM to \$300 Billion AUM.

Carmen believes in the power of capital markets to spur growth and innovation. She enjoys coaching entrepreneurs on finance and strategic planning.

Carmen was awarded the Rising Star Award from the Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce. She was spotlighted by the NVCA as a Rising Star in VC and featured by LA Magazine as 1 of 13 of LA's Powerful Women. In 2019, Carmen spoke on Bloomberg TVs Top Tech Trends to watch. Carmen is also on the founding team of LatinxVCs.

Carmen holds a BA in Economics from the University of Southern California, an MA in Sports Management from the University of San Francisco, and an MBA from Berkeley-Haas.

Twitter: @palafoxcarmen

Experience

2045
ventures

Founding Partner

2045 Capital

Jul 2020 - Present (1 year 10 months +)

2045 ventures thesis is backed by data that shows that diverse founding teams return more capital to investors. 2045 ventures invests in pre-seed and seed-stage technology startups led by immigrant, female, or BIPOC founders building solutions in Climate-tech, Health-tech, Fin-tech, and beyond.

Firm Building

- * Develop fund thesis and themes
- * Form all fund and firm entities

Fundraising

- * Raise capital from HNWI and Institutional investors

Finding new investment opportunities

- * Conduct industry deep-dive & landscape analysis
- * Utilize platforms to prospect target companies
- * Grow network of top PreSeed to Series B funds in the ecosystem
- * Amplify the 2045 Capital brand

Lead investments on behalf of the firm

- * Screen and evaluate investment opportunities
- * Conduct due diligence on prospective investments, construct financial

model, write investment memos

Support portfolio

- * Advisor to portfolio CEOs

- * Support management teams

- * Board Observer

- * Identify opportunities for follow-on funding

Investment Operations

- * Manage and oversee Service Providers including legal, fund administration, tax, and banking



Partner

MiLA Capital

Oct 2015 - Present (6 years 7 months +)

MiLA Capital is a seed-stage venture capital firm that invests in hardware tech. With a proven track record, MiLA offers a bespoke, dynamic experience with access to hard and soft resources.

Found new investment opportunities

- * Conducted industry deep-dive & landscape analysis

- * Utilized platforms to prospect target companies

- * Grew network of top PreSeed to Series B funds in the ecosystem

- * Amplified the MiLA Capital brand, presence, and influence by deepening networks curating high-impact events and being a thought-leader through content writing

Led investments on behalf of the firm

- * Supported deal screening and evaluated accelerator and non accelerator investment opportunities

- * Conducted due diligence on prospective investments: assess decks, construct financial model, wrote investment memos

Accelerator

- * Recruited technical and business mentors

- * Recruited corporate sponsors to support events

- * Created programing

Supported portfolio

- * Advisor to portfolio CEOs

- * Owned critical relationships with portfolio companies and support management teams across a broad spectrum of needs

- * Identified opportunities for follow-on funding

Investment Operations and personnel

- * Manage and oversee Service Providers including legal, fund administration, tax, and banking

- * Created and oversaw PledgeLA Summer Associate program

Advisory Board Member

Aura

Dec 2017 - Present (4 years 5 months +)

Management Consultant

Propina

Nov 2012 - Oct 2015 (3 years)

Propina helps organizations find that next level of growth using frameworks that guide critical thinking and surface solutions to business challenges.

Client engagements have focused on increasing profitability through business development and promotional activities. Our projects have also helped enhance client's customer experience through process improvement.



Vice President Investment Operations

Dimensional Fund Advisors

Jun 2006 - Sep 2011 (5 years 4 months)

Provided leadership and support to investment operations staff. Developed operating and strategic plans including budgets. Oversaw vendors. Established and managed metrics and service level agreements. Identified, measured and mitigated risk. Managed large initiatives including implementation of new products and services. Evaluated impact of regulatory changes.



Investment Operations Manager

Dimensional Fund Advisors

Mar 2000 - Jun 2006 (6 years 4 months)

Managed and trained operations staff. Implemented policies, procedures and controls to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Represented department in audits as needed. Managed day-to-day relationships with service providers. Liaised with information technology to prioritize system enhancements. Reviewed operational components of legal documents and negotiated contracts.



Senior Investment Operations Associate

Dimensional Fund Advisors

Mar 1998 - Feb 2000 (2 years)

Approved mutual fund and commingled trust transaction orders for shareholder accounts. Opened new shareholder accounts, coordinated their initial investments, and reviewed legal agreements. Created client investment reports. Provided customer service to institutional clients, banks, trust companies and brokers.



Client Operations Associate

Dimensional Fund Advisors

May 1996 - Feb 1998 (1 year 10 months)

Executed mutual fund transactions for shareholder accounts. Resolved trade and wire discrepancies between transfer agent and client. Communicated daily trade flows and pricing of funds to portfolio managers. Reconciled client share positions and cash balances.

Education



University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

2012 - 2014



University of San Francisco

MA, Sports Management



University of Southern California

BA, Economics, International Relations

NSHMBA Scholar

Licenses & Certifications

➤ **Series 24- Lapsed - FINRA**

➤ **Series 7- Lapsed - FINRA**

Skills

Relationship Building • Process Improvement • Team Leadership • Budgeting • Strategic Planning • Budgets • Leadership • Investments • Management • Mutual Funds

Honors & Awards

LALCC Business Award - Latino Chamber of Commerce

2018

Recognizing the dedication, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit displayed by the Latino business community in the greater Los Angeles area.

Aspen Institute Scholar - Aspen Institute

2018

She was also selected to participate in the Socrates Program's seminar on Geopolitical Ramifications of China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Rising Stars - NVCA

Oct 2018

NVCA Rising Stars showcases individuals in the venture industry from different backgrounds and across the workforce to share experiences, spotlight their journeys and successes, and educate the next generation of people considering a career in venture capital.

Honoree - Mexican American Opportunity Foundation

2019