

MELINDA **HIGHTOWER**

Biography

Melinda (Mel) Hightower is a dynamic thought leader on the topics of inclusive growth and generational wealth building. Her work is centered on how diversity, equity and inclusion drives innovation, influence and impact in business. An accomplished strategist and leader, she's spearheaded efforts at financial institutions to deliver advice and solutions that better serve all investors.

Mel is a frequent speaker at industry conferences and has been featured in several media outlets and publications including The New York Times, The Boston Globe, Barron's, Essence, Bloomberg Radio and PBS. She also serves on the board of the Financial Health Network, a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing improvements in people's financial lives, particularly those that are most vulnerable.

She believes in the power of intellectual curiosity and her 20+ year, multidisciplinary career spans financial services, media and the law. She graduated from Cornell University with a B.S. in Industrial and Labor Relations and also holds degrees from University of Chicago Booth School of Business and University of Virginia School of Law.

A Detroit native, Mel currently lives in San Francisco. She enjoys traveling and discovering the world's cultural treasures, including art, literature, fashion, and music.