

Lorenzo Thione

Board Director | Venture Investor | Serial AI & Technology Founder and Executive

Chicago, IL

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BOARD AND GOVERNANCE PROFILE

Board-level executive, venture investor, and technology founder with deep experience across artificial intelligence, search, enterprise software, media, and creative industries. Over ten years of full-time institutional venture investing and more than fifteen years of board service across for-profit and nonprofit organizations. Brings technical fluency, capital allocation judgment, and governance experience from early-stage formation through acquisition, scale, and mission-driven growth.

BOARD, GOVERNANCE, AND INVESTMENT LEADERSHIP

Gaingels – Co-Founding Partner and Managing Director; Management Committee Member

Full-time investor and senior leader for over eight years. Serve on the firm's Management Committee, the functional equivalent of a board of directors, with responsibility for firm strategy, capital allocation, portfolio construction, governance standards, and risk oversight across hundreds of venture-backed companies.

StartOut – Board Director (Nonprofit)

Sixteen years of board service, including one term as Board Chair, supporting the leading nonprofit focused on LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs. Contributed to organizational governance, leadership transitions, fundraising strategy, and long-term mission stewardship. Served on multiple committees as both member and chair.

Powerset, Inc. – Founder and Board Director

Served on the board from company formation through acquisition by Microsoft, contributing to strategy, executive oversight, and M&A.

Algebraix Data Corporation – Independent Board Director

Enterprise software company developing data algebra technology for database optimization, later pivoting to blockchain-based personal data monetization. Provided independent board oversight during product evolution and strategic pivot.

CrowdFlower (Figure Eight) – Board Director (Early Stage)

Early investor and board member advising on product direction, scaling strategy, and venture positioning.

iBrii – Board Director

Provided governance oversight and strategic guidance during early company development.

Kenzen – Board Director

Advised leadership on growth strategy, technology positioning, and organizational development.

EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

- Gaingels – Co-Founding Partner and Managing Director
- Sing Out, Louise! Productions – Founder and Managing Partner
- The Social Edge – Founder and CEO; now President
- Artify.it – Founder and CEO
- Microsoft Corporation – Principal Development Manager, Bing
- Powerset, Inc. – Founder and Product Architect

EDUCATION

M.S., Computer Engineering (Software Engineering), University of Texas at Austin

B.S.E.E. Equivalency, Politecnico di Milano / University of Texas at Austin

GOVERNANCE-RELEVANT EXPERTISE

AI strategy and deployment risk; M&A and acquisition readiness; venture financing and capital allocation; portfolio governance; founder oversight and succession risk; nonprofit governance and fiduciary duty; product-market inflection analysis; media, IP, labor, and reputational risk management.