



John
Kobara

Biography: John E. Kobara

Social Entrepreneur and Facilitator of Change

At this stage of my career, I want to share what I have learned from my ongoing adventure that has traversed all sectors and the 18 jobs I have had since graduating from college. Along the way, I have had the privilege of training, coaching, and helping thousands of people align their personal and professional paths with their passions and priorities. I am now focused on freeing the potential of organizations and individuals to pursue positive social change. I believe that this potential is energized by strengthening our understanding of ourselves through our connections to one another.

I am the wildest dream of my immigrant grandparents who came to this country with nothing and my loving parents who lost everything in the Internment camps of WWII.

Born and raised in the early days of Silicon Valley, I headed to Los Angeles to continue my education. Earned degrees from UCLA, Occidental, and USC. Completed a Coro Fellowship. My education, both formal and experiential, has grounded me and empowered my curiosity. After a series of start-up experiences and C-suite positions in every sector, I worked primarily in the so-called non-profit arena or what I call the "for-purpose" field, interrupted by for-profit and public-sector jobs. I held many big titles and important positions, but usually not at the same time.

I have had the privilege of delivering hundreds of workshops and keynote presentations for leaders of Fortune 500 corporations, universities, non-profits, and philanthropists all over the world. I generally speak on the pursuit of passion and purpose, career change, philanthropy, life portfolio design, mentoring, and networking. I post my written provocations, ideas, thoughts, and recommendations on my blog @ johnkobara.com or @jkobara on Instagram.

I am the proud father of three college graduates with no student debt. A struggling writer and poet. A humbled activist who still is trying to change the world and not grow up.

I am grateful for the opportunities to sustain the dream of my grandparents and my parents by dedicating my life to helping others build a more joyful, equitable, just, and compassionate world.