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## Melinda Gates Has a New Mission: Women in Tech

Philanthropy's first lady returns to her roots to tackle gender inequality in computer science. Melinda Gates has spent the past 16 years seeding social change through the world's largest private philanthropy, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She and her husband have presided over an endowment that has grown to \$39.6 billion—and they've added Warren Buffett as a third steward. The foundation funds initiatives that aim to enhance healthcare and reduce extreme poverty globally, as well as expand educational opportunities and access to information technology in the United States. But even

with such a broad mandate, it can't do everything. So Gates is stepping out on her own. Though she'll continue to work on the foundation, she's building up a personal office to dedicate resources and attention to an issue of central personal importance: getting more women into tech—and helping them stay there. [ Backchannel ]



### **How Refinery29's Founders Built a \$500 Million Business on a Simple Idea: Women Don't Have to Be Perfect**

After a decade of slowly honing its [business model](#), Refinery29 is growing quickly. Founded by Justin Stefano, [Philippe von Borries](#), Piera Gelardi, and Christene Barberich, it was the fastest growing media company on the [Inc. 5000](#) in 2012 and 2013, and has made the list every year since. Coming in at No. 928 this year, it pulled in \$80 million in revenue in 2015. A year ago, Refinery29 opened its first international office in the U.K. And in August, it closed \$45 million in a second round of investment lead by cable giant Turner, placing its valuation at \$500 million. The founders are dreaming big, talking of offices all over the world and their desire to bring a voice to women in oppressed communities. [ Inc. ]



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