

HAUTE LIVING

# BOSS *Ladies*

*MEET THE TOP TEN MOST SIGNIFICANT FEMALE  
MOVERS AND SHAKERS IN THE BAY AREA*

*BY KATIE SWEENEY*

THE BAY AREA HAS NO SHORTAGE OF POWERFUL FEMALES IN INFLUENTIAL LEADERSHIP ROLES. NAMES like Sheryl Sandberg, Meg Whitman, Nancy Pelosi, and Dianne Feinstein instantly come to mind. Oakland native Kamala Harris—who has become a star in the recent Senate hearings—is another woman who we respect and admire. In terms of food and philanthropy, you've probably heard of Dominique Crenn, the only female chef in the nation whose restaurant has two Michelin stars, and Dede Wilsey, SF's patron saint who helped rebuild the Fine Art Museums. But who are the wonder women you might not be as familiar with? Who are the tastemakers and dealmakers defining and changing the Bay Area right now, at this very moment? Allow us to introduce you to them. The following ten ladies, listed in alphabetical order, are behind the scenes making stuff happen. Get to know them here and prepare to see their names everywhere in the near future.

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*"You don't always  
have to know  
everything. I take  
it as a reminder  
to listen."  
— Claudia  
Altman-Siegel*

## CLAUDIA ALTMAN-SIEGEL *The Art Impresario*

In 2007, Claudia Altman-Siegel quit her job in New York, broke up with her boyfriend, put everything she owned in storage, and headed to San Francisco. She slept on the floor in her sister's apartment for nine months before finding her own place. A year later, in 2009, she opened her namesake gallery, where she shows some of the best contemporary artists around, and got engaged in the same weekend. She explains the experience like this: "I knew that my life before wasn't going in the direction I wanted it to, so I gave up everything and started over. That exercise in having nothing allowed me to rebuild my life from scratch in a way that is healthier and more productive than anything I had before." Now less than ten years later, she is one of the most inspiring gallery owners in the Bay Area. Last fall, she moved from 49 Geary Street—an address known for being home to many famous galleries—to the newly built Minnesota Street Project, into a 5,000-square-foot space that she designed herself. "When I opened the gallery in 2009, I imagined being in a space like this some day and I managed to accomplish it much faster than I anticipated," she says. Not only is she a champion of contemporary art—two of her artists (Liam Everett and KRM Mooney) have solo shows at SFMOMA this summer—she's also a champion of the SF art community. "It's a small scene so we have to be supportive of it. The more we are excited about it locally, the more the rest of the world will start to pay attention."

