



**Sustainable
Communities
Foundation**



Money – It's Not What You Think It Is

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My History with respect to Money, Entrepreneurism and Economic Development

Viet Nam 1968

As a payroll clerk, each payday I used to hand out over \$700,000 worth of alternative money called [Military Payment Certificates](#) (MPCs) issued in the war zone by the Federal Government to military personnel in lieu of dollars



Back to U.S.

- Got married
- Went to college – business major with a finance concentration
- Started my first business in 1977



BSBA
\$\$



- Over the next 30 years, launched and ran a half dozen businesses in Silicon Valley, some self financed, some raised \$ millions for.
- They ranged from Construction, Real Estate Development (700-acre high tech park), a Telecommunications Company, a Software Development Company, a Computer and IT Company and an Electronics Manufacturing Company

20 Years in, initiated what would have been the first corporate incubator in Silicon Valley in partnership with Hewlett-Packard Company & the Hewlett family

- Planned site for the incubator was the 10,000 sq. foot [HP Redwood Building](#) that housed all of HP in the 1940s



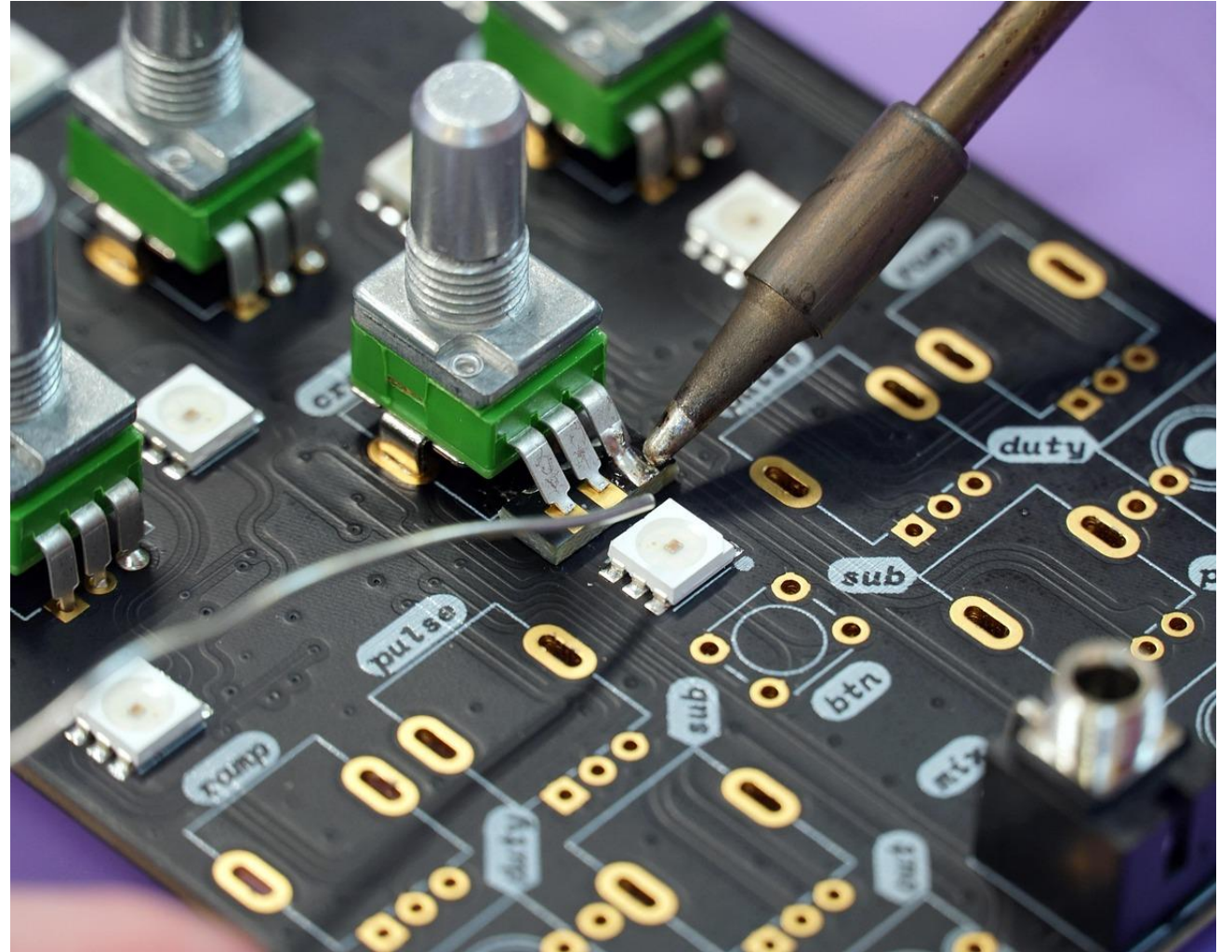
Recruited [Harvard Professor Clayton Christensen](#), father of “[disruptive innovation](#)” to guide me & the project



2 yrs later, got exposed to a game changing technology and decided to launch a new disruptive electronic manufacturing company with Clay Christensen as my advisor and mentor.

That led to me being selected in 2001 by the World Economic Forum a [Technology Pioneer](#), one of 35 worldwide. Sergey Brin, co-founder of Google was another.

I ran the company for 8 years.



Time To Give Back

- After 30 years as an entrepreneur, decided it was time to give back.
- Launched an economic development nonprofit focused on helping small businesses and nonprofits – especially with funding



- Got deep into banking and securities (equity and debt) looking for solutions to provide \$ to those entities. None worked.
- Our national securities laws actually impeded capital formation for small business, rather than helped them.



- Provided my research to the Obama WH, which helped them craft the [2012 JOBS Act](#) legalizing crowdfunding.
- Still not good enough.

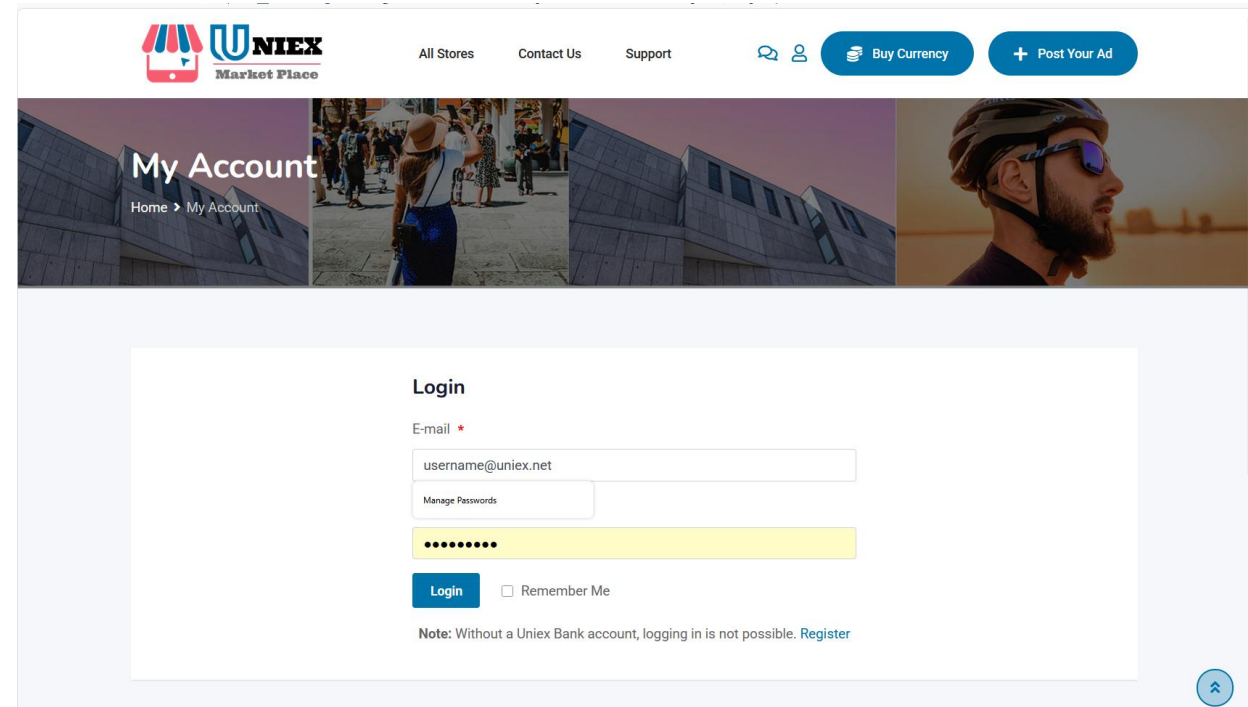
Everything changed in 2017

- Learned from the [Bank of England](#) that the majority of money in our economy is actually created by banks when they make loans.
- Also learned about [times and places](#) in history where communities issued their own money (called [complementary currencies](#)) and created widespread prosperity.



That was the Eureka Moment

- Figured out what made those communities so successful.
- Applied Clay Christensen's disruptive framework and developed a modern replica.
- That included [UNIEX](#), a [complementary currency bank](#) and [online marketplace](#) where goods and services can be bought and sold using those currencies.



Problems That Can Be Solved and Eliminated by Issuing Our Own Money

Extreme Poverty	Food Insecurity	Blight Remediation	Lack of Basic Income
Lack of Free Health Care	The Housing Crisis	Stop Residential Foreclosures	Stop Plant Foreclosures
Food Deserts & Need to Encourage Locally Grown Food	Insufficient Child, Elder & Invalid Care	Need to Offset Job Loss Due to AI & Other Factors	Lack of money to support the arts, science, technology and more
Environmental Degradation and Need for Environmental Cleanup	Bad Actor Corporations Who Abuse their Employees, Customers, Communities & the Environment	Excessive Consumer Debt, including Credit Cards, Education Loans, & Medical Expenses	Lack of Fully Funded State and Local Governments
Lack of Free College & Trade Schools	Small Business and Small Farm Closures	Lack of Fully Funded Infrastructure Programs	Lack of Full Funding for Small Businesses & Nonprofits
Insufficient Clean Energy & and Too Much Fossil Fuels		And Much More...	

The LIFT Act

Let Individual communities Finance Themselves

<https://theliftact.com>

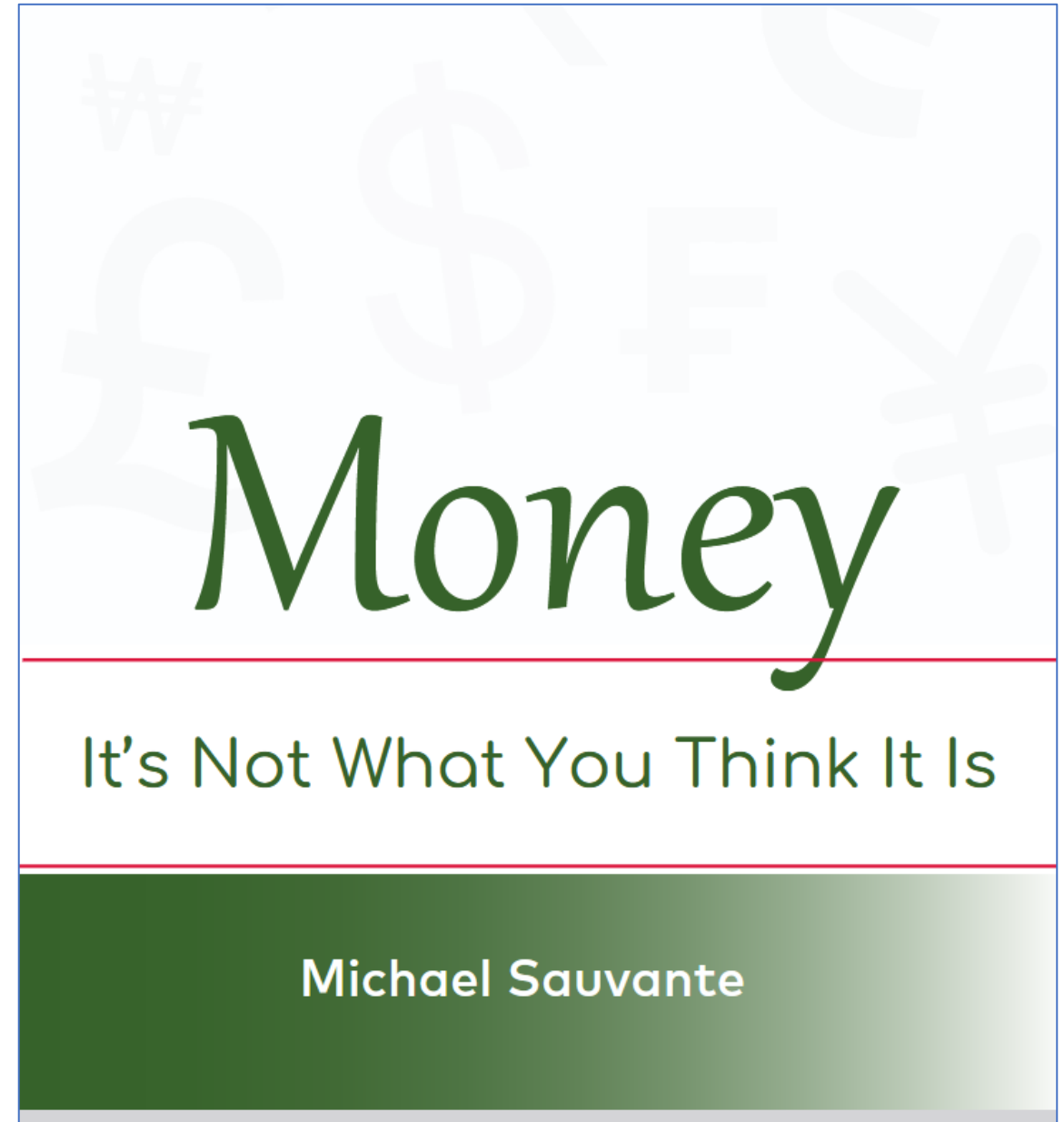
And while most of what was listed on the previous page can be done under current law, there are two small changes that can be instituted by a simple rider that any member of Congress can add to an existing bill that will enable far more. They are:

- Make such currencies, issued by a non-profit for community economic development purposes, tax exempt, and
- Require the Federal Reserve to purchase those currencies from banks and credit unions that wish to sell them to the FED. (i.e., convertibility to dollars)

All of these ideas are captured in a comprehensive free eBook titled

[“Money – It’s Not What You Think It Is”](#)

The last page provides a link to the book, the LIFT Act, and much more info.



For links to this presentation, the eBook,
signup for UNIEX bank and UNIEX
Marketplace, The LIFT Act and much,
much more information on this entire
new financial ecosystem, go to

<https://michaelsauvante.me/links>

Thank you