

Karen Clark Cole

Karen is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Co-Founder of Blink, and is primarily focused on growth, strategic planning and culture.

Blink is a UX research and design firm that works with great companies to create meaningful digital products, brands, and experiences. With studios in Seattle, San Diego, and Boston, Blink brings two decades of experience using our evidence-driven design process to projects for clients such as Microsoft, Amazon, Starbucks, and NASA.

Karen began her career studying Fine Arts in Vancouver, BC at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design. She holds a degree in Art History & Visual Arts from the University of Victoria and is a graduate of the Information Technology & Multimedia program from Capilano University, Vancouver. Karen also started a Ph.D. program in [Values Driven Leadership](#) at the Benedictine University in 2015.

Through her work at Blink, Karen was a winner of the [2016 Enterprising Women of the Year](#) award and she was a finalist for [Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year](#) award in 2015. In 2016 Blink was listed on [Forbes Magazine's Best 25 Small Companies in America](#) list. Blink won the Puget Sound Business Journal's [Washington's Fastest-Growing Private Companies](#) award in 2015 and 2012, Seattle Business Magazine's [Tech Impact Silver Award](#) in 2015, The Women President's Organization's [50 Fastest-Growing Women Led Companies Worldwide](#) award in 2014, and was listed on Inc. Magazine's [Top 5000 Fastest-Growing Companies](#) in America list in 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

Karen currently writes a column for Forbes.com on the [Entrepreneurs channel](#), has been written about in [Inc. Magazine](#), [Puget Sound Business Journal](#), [Geekwire Magazine](#), [Seattle Business Magazine](#), Seattle Metropolitan Magazine, The [Center for Values Driven Leadership](#), [St. Margaret's School](#), [Chapter Be](#), [LTD Daily](#), and [The Pacific Institute](#).

Karen is an active member of the [International Leadership Association \(ILA\)](#), [Small Giants Community](#), and a board member for the [World Trade Center Seattle](#). Karen is currently the Executive Director and President of the Board for the non-profit organization she founded in early 2014, [Girls Can Do](#). Girls Can Do is an event series for girls with the mission to inspire a generation of Possibility Thinkers and ignite a vision for Equal Opportunity.

Karen was born and raised in Victoria, Canada, and loves to run, garden, kitesurf, ski and hang out with her amazing daughter. You can read Karen's [full LinkedIn bio](#) and follow her on Twitter [@karenclarkcole](#).