

Nashville Business Leaders

EMPOWERING CREATORS

With purpose and drive, Studio Bank is revolutionizing Nashville's local banking scene.

It all started with a recognition of humanity's greatest talent: creating something from nothing.

"The ability to conceive of something that doesn't yet exist and have the drive to make it a reality is extraordinarily unique to humankind," says Aaron Dorn, chairman, president, and CEO of Studio Bank. Whether a family bearing new life, an entrepreneur starting a new business, or a songwriter producing new music, each can create something new, yet all require a partner who can help them on their road to success.

"The role we play in this process is a sacred thing," says Dorn, "as 99% of the population turns to a bank to provide capital for a home, business, or real estate project."

It's his heart for service and desire to make an impact that influenced Dorn to open Studio Bank. With a career in banking and a four-year stint in the military, he recognized that Nashville needed a modern local bank, so he formed a team of sector experts driven by the same vision.

In 2018, Studio Bank opened its doors, welcoming the community to experience its mission of fueling creativity.

How to Make an Impact

Convening Nashville's best and brightest to staff Studio Bank's inimitable institution came easy to Dorn, who sees the value in establishing a recognizable culture. Named a Best Place to Work by the *Nashville Business Journal* every year since its inception, the bank's cultivation of a work hard, play harder mentality is intentional.

"Our founding culture is built around making this a great place for people to spend their lives," says Dorn, "because life is too short for anything else."



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Studio Bank's bankers are more than financiers. They're creatives and connectors who help clients network and gain new business. Through workshops, seminars, and events, bankers bring clients together to form lasting business partnerships.

"Our goal is to create opportunities for our clients to find their next client," says Dorn. "When our bankers view it as their responsibility to not just provide a loan but to make warm introductions, then they can make a significant difference in a client's success."

This culture directly impacts clients, whose needs and aspirations influence every facet of the bank's technology and services. With streamlined, intuitive programs that make banking easy, and accessible yet robust resources, Studio Bank is fulfilling its goal of becoming Nashville's modern local bank.

"Providing all the sophistication of a large bank with the familiarity of a local bank—that's what we call boutique banking," says Dorn.

Exceeding Expectations

With over \$600 million in assets at the end of 2021, 73 employees, and plans to open a new location in early 2022, Studio Bank's approach is paying off. The bank exceeded its original business plan and the performance of other de novo banks in Nashville as it became profitable less than two years after its founding.

"We're blessed to be in an industry where we can impact our community and the world at large," says Dorn. "And this is just the beginning."



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