

# GLOBAL TECH ADVOCATES US 'EAST COAST SWING'

Following my visit to Toronto for the re-launch of Tech Canada Advocates, I then continued the #WheresRussOnTour to three GTA hubs in the US: Washington DC, Boston and New York.

## WASHINGTON DC ON 14TH JULY:

After all this time, I was delighted to meet Aneysha Bhat, who is going to co-lead Tech DC Advocates, in person, along with Jacob Aladejobi. Aneysha took me through the ideas and plans for the group, including both an in-person and virtual launch. Being in DC, there is an opportunity to focus on topics which are very relevant, including RegTech and AI. They also have a strong interest in skills and inclusivity.

I then met with Deputy Mayor of DC, Nina Albert, who I first met in 2024 at London Tech Week. She and her team have been very supportive in helping to set up Tech DC Advocates and are eager to be involved. We also discussed the Deputy Mayor's upcoming visit to London in October and how to build stronger bridges between both tech hubs. Joining the Deputy Mayor, I also met Brennan Hicks, who is Director of Economic Policy for the Deputy Mayor.

I then moved on to meet Andrew Bleeker, who is CEO of Bully Pulpit International (BPI Group). BPI Group acquired Seven Hills, the agency that has worked with TLA & GTA since 2012. It was an opportunity to discuss tech policy, geopolitics and how BPI can help support Global Tech Advocates.



## BOSTON ON 15TH JULY:

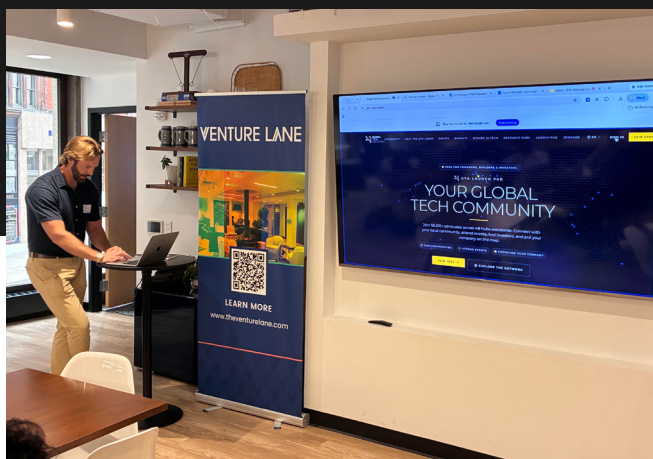
The first stop was to meet up with fellow Advocate Dave Burwick, who I have known for a very long time and is one of my dearest friends. Over the years, Dave has made several helpful introductions in supporting GTA (and spoke at one of our events in the early days).

I then went to Venture Lane, an excellent accelerator in Downtown Boston supporting early-stage B2B startups, run by Kathy Pattison, who hosted us.

At Venture Lane, I met with Jesse Witkowski, who is the lead of Tech Boston Advocates. Jesse organised a webinar to introduce GTA Launch Pad 2.0 on the DFX platform. Jesse runs DFX, and he is using AI tools to build an incredible platform, which includes many features, and now it includes GTA Launch Pad 2.0.

Jesse also explained a second phase of the platform, which will enable Advocates to meet other Advocates from wherever they are in the world. This next phase will also include a GTA app to enable Advocates to do this. More to come, and a big thank you to Jesse.

After the webinar, Jesse and I met with several founders who came to the webinar, and we brought them into Tech Boston Advocates and Global Tech Advocates. It was an incredible group of founders, reminding me of the strength and dynamism of the Boston Tech Ecosystem.





## NEW YORK ON 16TH JULY:

My visit started with a very old friend and Advocate Jose ‘Joshy’ Sanchez – Joshy has made several introductions over the years and is just super helpful.

Then it was onto the new New York office of TLA & GTA partner Spencer West, meeting with Marc Halsema, Crystal Banse, Jonas McDavit and Bill Kerr. We discussed tech in New York, along with ways Spencer West in New York can become more involved with Tech New York Advocates.

I caught up with Advocate Mark Henning, who joined Tech New York Advocates from the beginning of the group back in May of 2025, and specifically discussed the healthtech and medtech sectors in both the US and the UK.

At the end of the ‘tour’, I rewarded myself with a patty melt at one of Manhattan’s great diners!

