

Joel Callou

Founder, OpenPinna

Joel Callou is a visionary leader making waves in the tech industry. He is the founder of OpenPinna, a Toronto-based startup transforming community safety with groundbreaking AI technology. A proud alumnus of the prestigious Kingston College, where he served as president of the student council, Joel's leadership journey began early. He later studied law at the University of the West Indies, laying the foundation for his enduring commitment to equity and justice.

Born and raised in Jamaica, Joel grew up in a single-parent home with his mother and sister, who continue to inspire him with their resilience and strength. He also draws motivation from his grandmother, who, despite halting her education at grade 8, ensured that her children achieved what she could not. These personal experiences shaped Joel's passion for creating opportunities for marginalized communities.

One of Joel's first tech roles in Canada was with Obsidi/BPTN (Black Professionals in Tech Network), the largest collection of Black tech professionals in North America, where he served as Member Acquisitions Lead. During his time there, Joel contributed to expanding the community and advancing opportunities for Black professionals in tech. BPTN is renowned for hosting BFUTR, one of North America's largest Black tech conferences, which aligns closely with Joel's vision of breaking barriers and creating equity through technology.

Under Joel's leadership, OpenPinna has gained recognition through programs like the League of Innovators and partnerships with organizations such as the IP Innovation Clinic at Osgoode Hall Law School. The company's solutions focus on fostering trust, accountability, and improved communication between law enforcement and the communities they serve. At the heart of OpenPinna's work is "Pinna," a law enforcement tool inspired by "Siri," offering AI-driven, real-time support to officers and advancing public safety innovation.

Beyond OpenPinna, Joel serves as a director at Zimi Entertainment, one of Jamaica's largest entertainment companies. Zimi creates exceptional experiences across Jamaica, Canada, and the USA, working with renowned artists such as Bayka, Intence, and Sadboi. Joel is equally passionate about mentorship, encouraging youth and professionals to embrace entrepreneurial thinking and innovation to drive change and break barriers.