

# Labelbox



Dinner with the team in Montréal at the Perception team offsite.

JENNA WANG  
AUGUST 2022

# Thank you, Labelbox

I've sat down to write many times over the last 5 months, hoping to summon the inspiration I felt last year when I wrote my [Year 26 report](#). For one reason or another, I felt like I didn't have much to share this year. I had ideas for essays, but when I went to write about them, they felt shallow—like thoughts more than articles of substance.

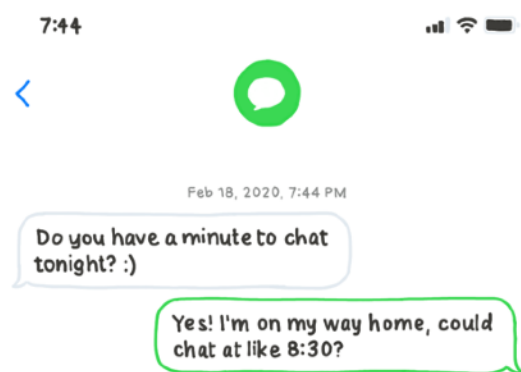
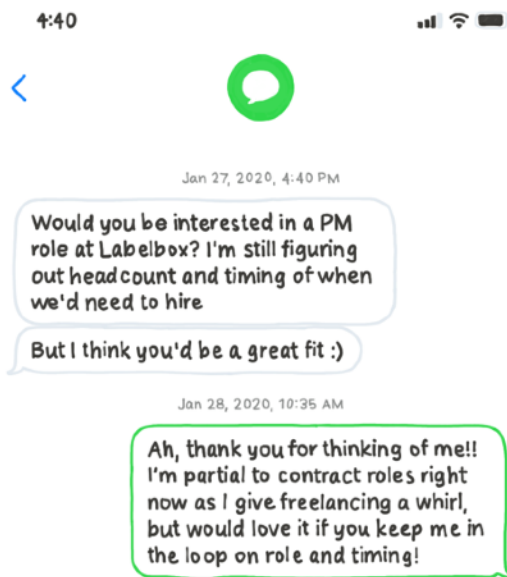
Then, of course, in the months that followed, my world got shaken up. My cycling (and all-around) idol, Moriah Wilson, was killed in the midst of her breakout season. My grandma, Popo—my best friend and one of the most important people in my life—died from a brain bleed the week after. Things weren't all bad, though: Alec and I also found out our offer was accepted on our dream house in Vermont. We moved into that house in mid-July, and have already created so many fun memories with each other, our old friends, and our families.

Last week, I was laid off from my job as a result of a reduction in force, much like many of my peers at other tech companies, including some of my close friends. I spent the first few days going over all the small signs I missed, considering many “what ifs”, and finding a narrative for the sudden end to my chapter at Labelbox that felt right to me. There are a lot of insights and emotions that have played a part in my understanding of this experience and how I will remember it, but I've realized that what I need most to find closure and feel present is to see the whole of my chapter at Labelbox, in addition to its ending.

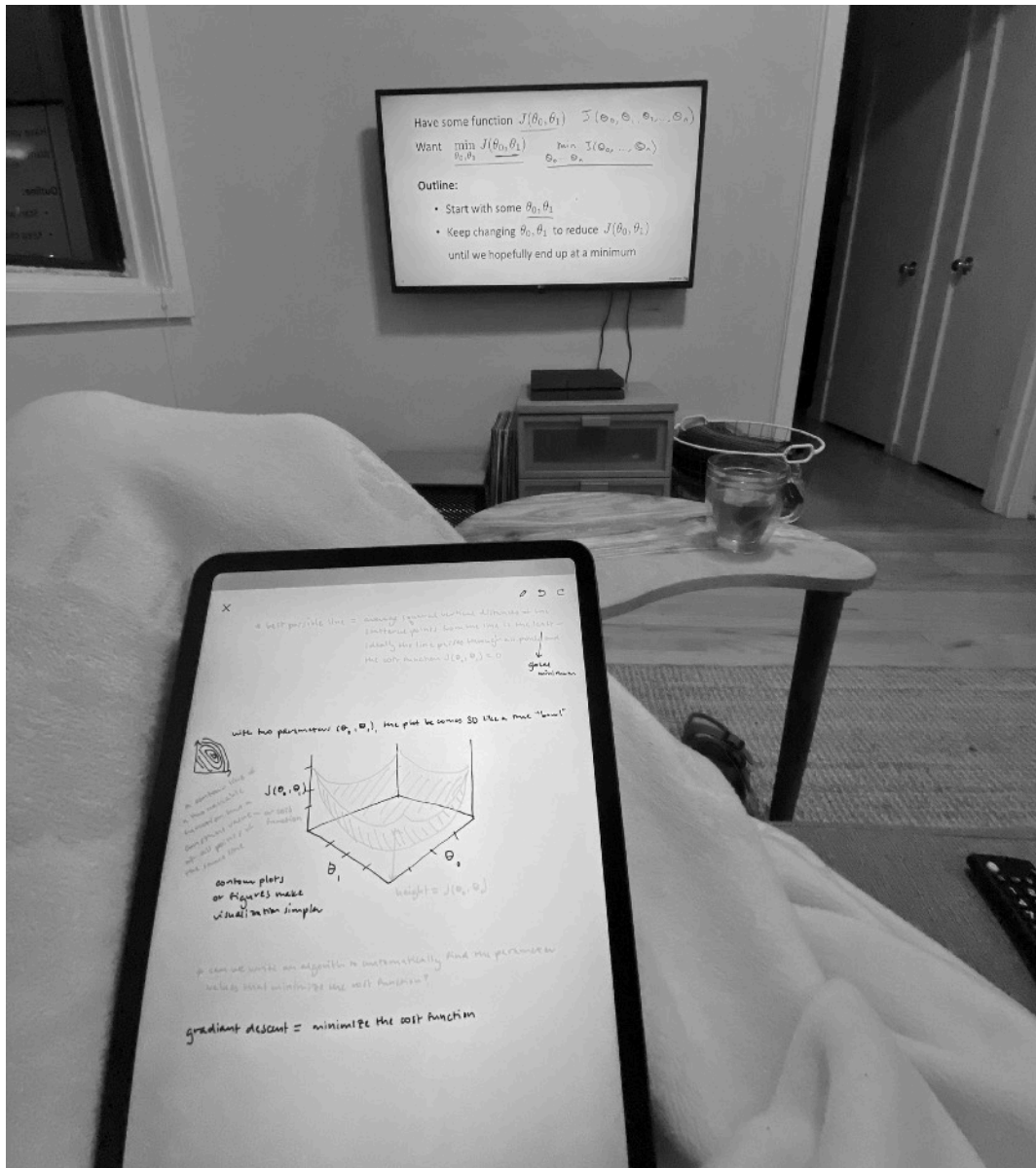
Ironically, there's so much I could dive deep into across my experiences over the last few months, but instead, I want to use this space to remember my time at Labelbox and express my gratitude to all of the people and experiences I had the opportunity to enjoy during my time there. What follows are some of my memories from the last 2.5 years and reflections on what comes next.

Whether you've recently been laid off, know me personally, or just happen to be reading this by some random chance, I hope you find connection with a piece of all the joy, growth, and vulnerability I felt during my time at Labelbox.

Thanks for reading,  
Jenna



The text message that sparked my journey at Labelbox, and the one I got a few weeks later that was followed by a phone call letting me know I got the job. 🙄

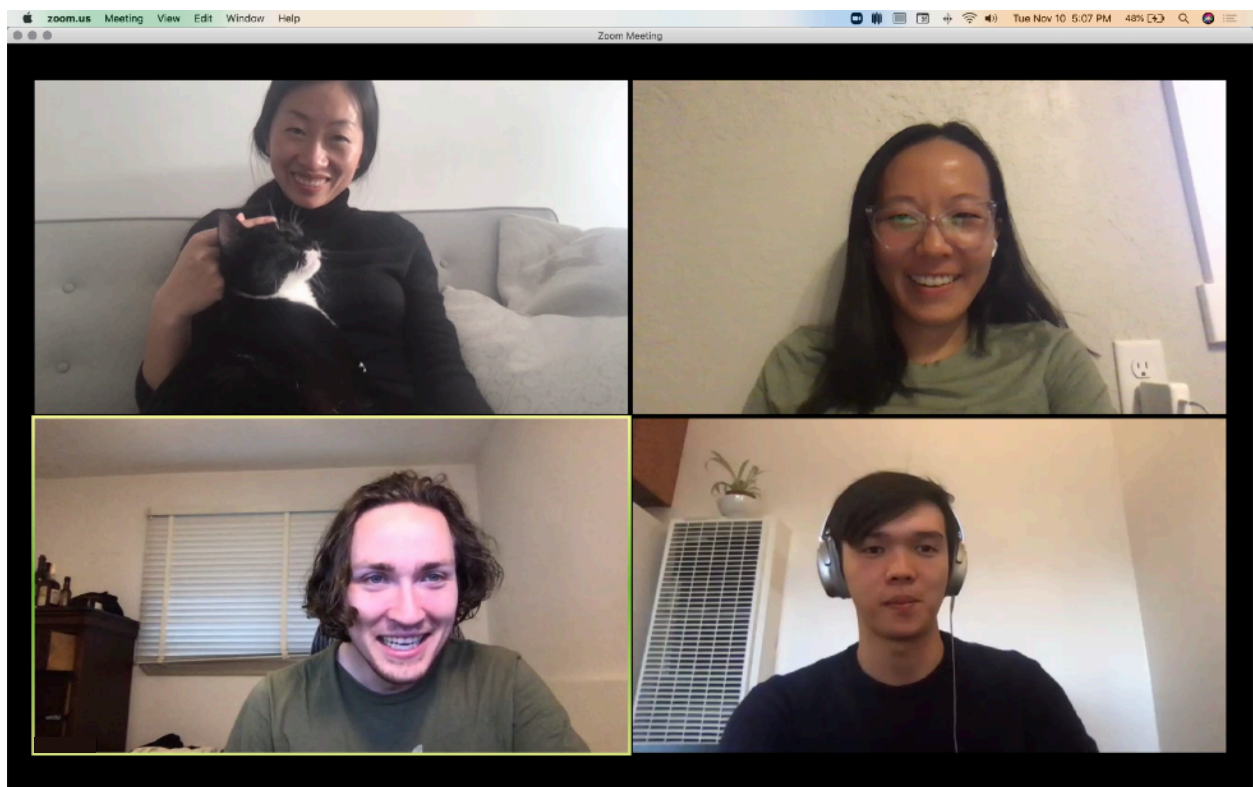


Panic cramming Andrew Ng's machine learning course during my last weeks of unemployment. (I relaxed a few days later. 😂)





Trying on “office clothes” for my new job in March 2020 when we naïvely still believed we’d only be working from home for a few weeks. 🤔



Early days! Team meeting with the V1 members of the PM team.



The very first workday lunch c/o the Labelbox lunch stipend. \$20/day plus some extras from our kitchen fed both me and Alec every weekday, and allowed us to support local restaurants during the worst of the pandemic. Forever grateful.





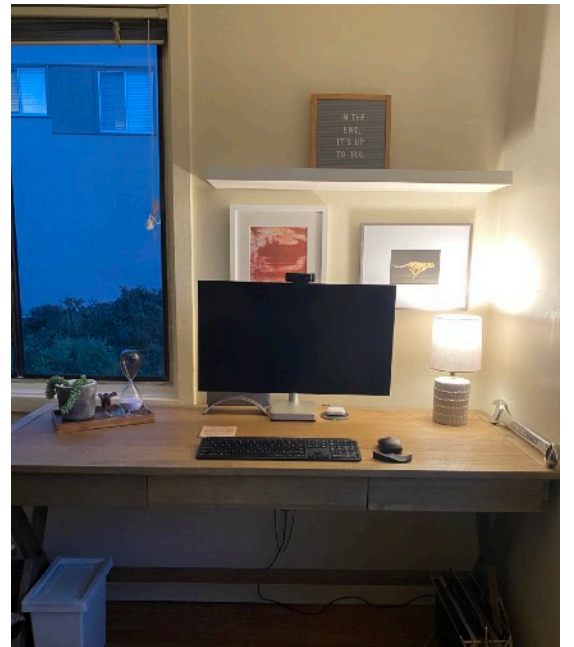
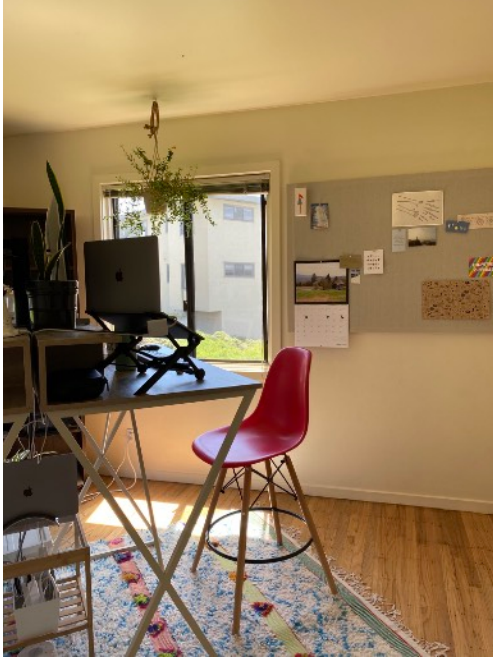
## Welcome Jenna Wang!



### Product Manager

- Used to swim competitively
- Dream of one day writing for SNL
- Recently got my bike back after it was stolen (and was featured in the Richmond Police Station newsletter)

My intro slide for my first day at Labelbox. Looking back on this reminds me of how much I've grown into myself over the last few years. It may not be readily obvious from the contents, but I spent **hours** in genuine distress as I tried to come up with not one, not two, but *three* fun facts about myself. I was deeply paralyzed by what I imagined others thought about me.



The evolution of my workspace. May 2020 to March 2021 to January 2022. (Yes, that's a marble run.)

Labelbox TASKS jake@labelbox.com Labelbox

## Pastries

Identifying flaky goodness

[START LABELING](#)

OVERVIEW **LABELS** PERFORMANCE EXPORT SETTINGS

Activity  
Predictions  
Queue

**FILTER**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Asset ID	Date	Created by	Type	Dataset	Label time	Review time	Consensus
<input type="checkbox"/>	ck7mp77c712070...	1d	madisen.hinkley...	Submitted	collision_eval_qa...	8s	3s	
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*Scrolls horizontally*

My first project at Labelbox: Timer in Pictor. Words that most likely mean absolutely nothing to most people, but transport me to a previous lifetime.

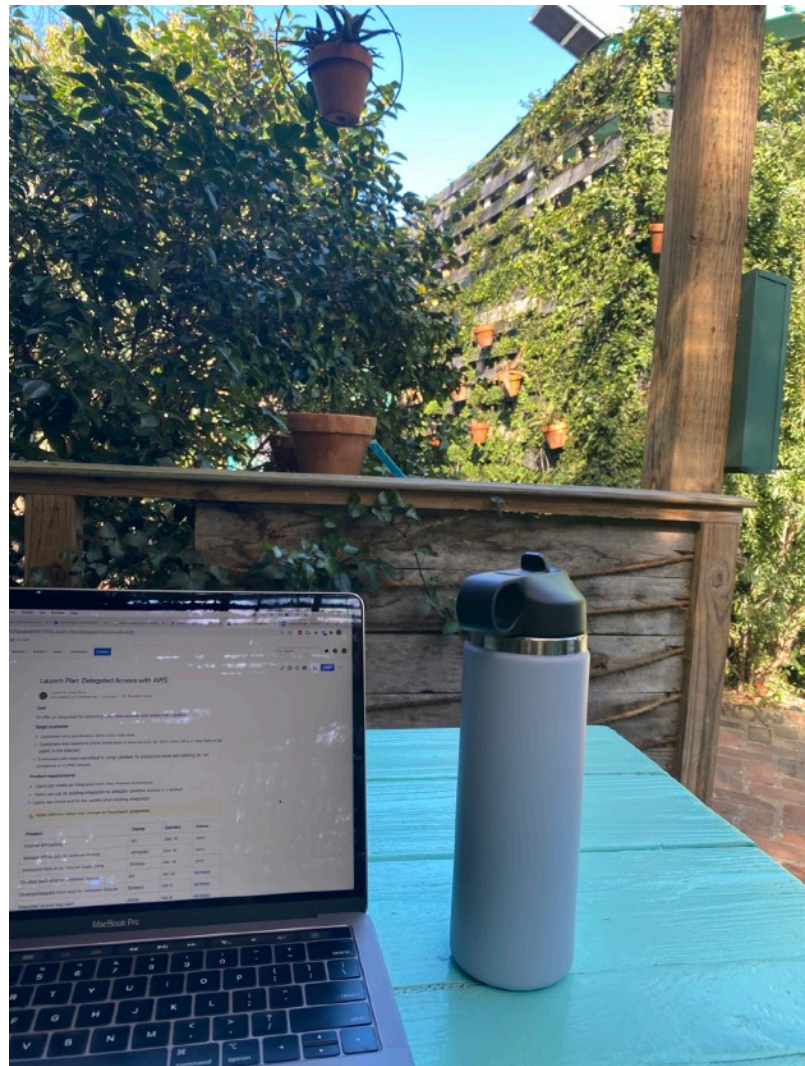




Virtual holiday cocktail-making class with the Labelbox ladies







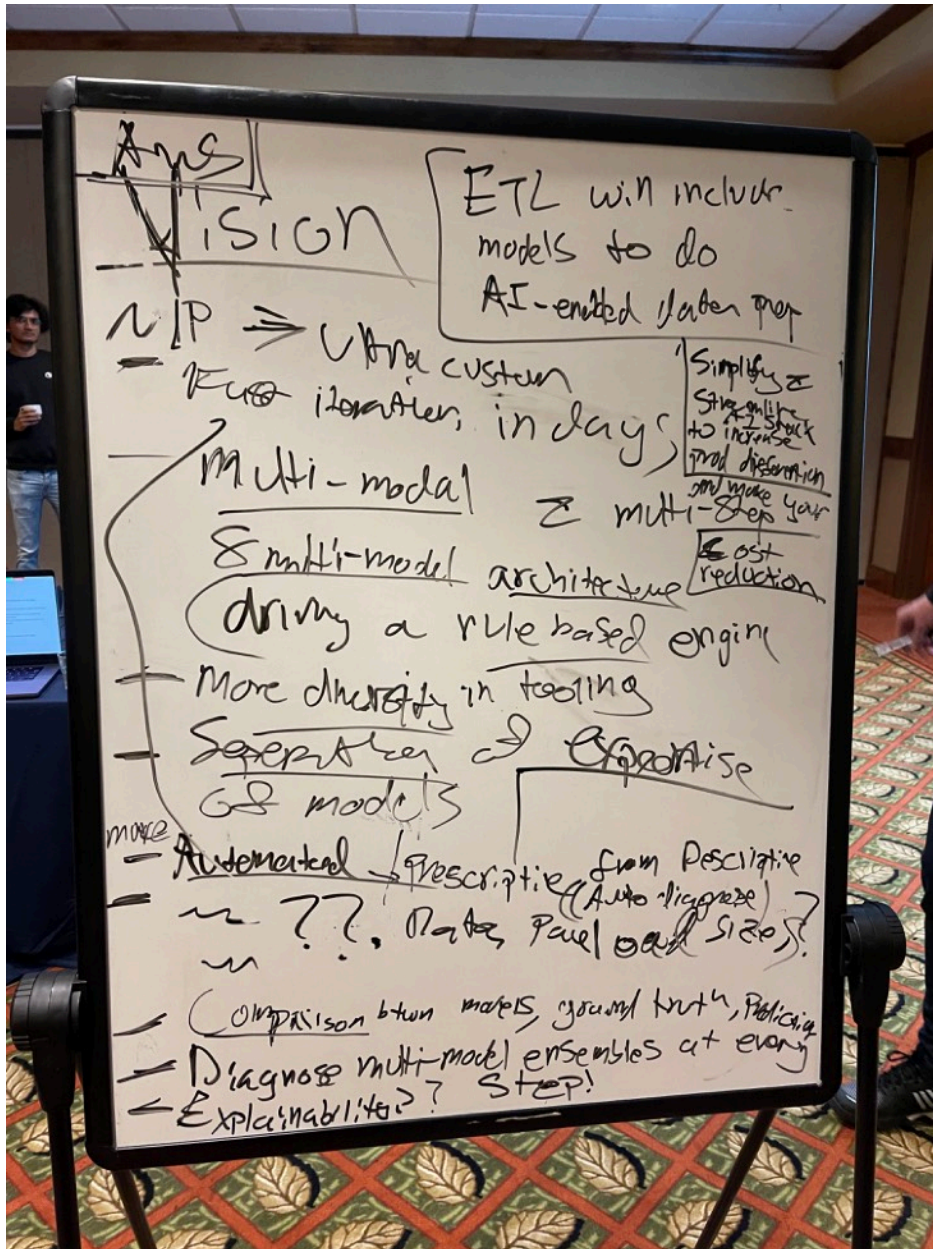
Collecting all my Labelbox photos and wandering down memory lane, it's impossible to not notice how much travel I was able to do working for a remote-first company. I'm extremely grateful to have savored views like these during my workdays and to be writing this from my new home in Vermont. All would not have been possible without a company like Labelbox.

Above: Lake Arrowhead, CA (left) and Charleston, SC (right).



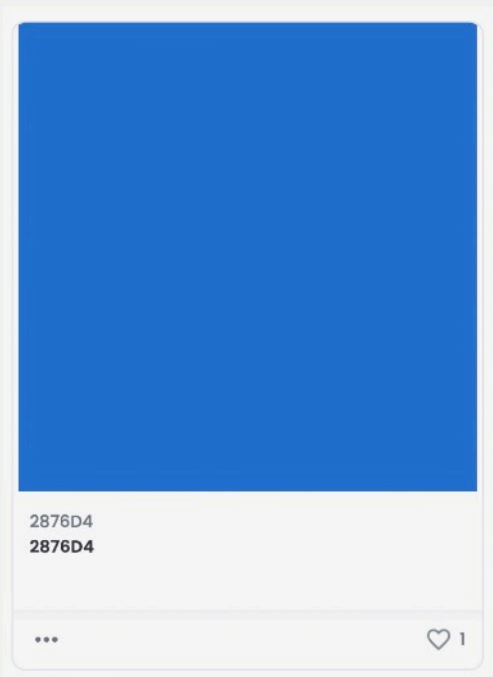
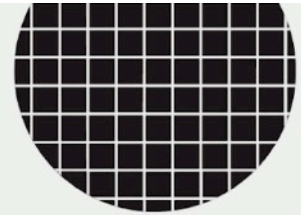


First product team offsite; Whitefish Lake, Montana.



Long-awaited in-person collaboration or the work of a mad scientist?





## “2876D4”

Own your piece of Labelbox history. This 1/1 edition NFT pays tribute to Labelbox’s iconic main color: #2876D4.

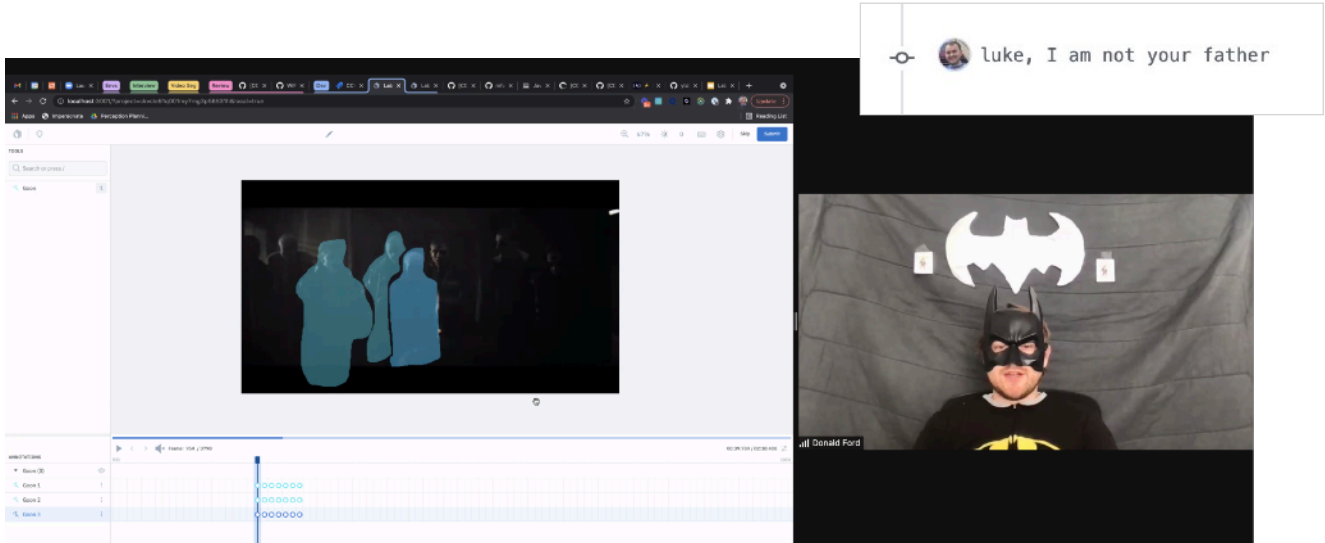
“2876D4” will be transferred to the auction winner’s wallet.

[Link](#)

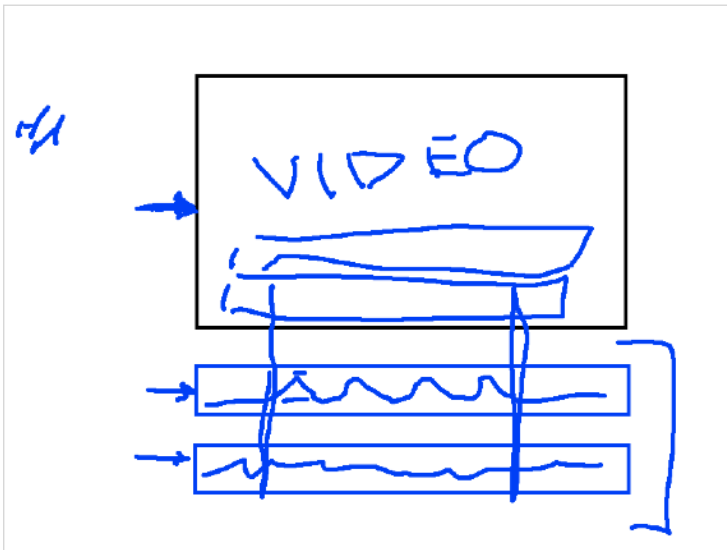
**Starting Bid: \$10**

One of my favorite memories of the incredible employee experience at Labelbox was the virtual auction held to benefit Ukrainian refugees. People offered handmade items and services, often related to their side projects and personal hobbies. There were so many cool and creative offers like a 5-course dinner with wine pairings, a set of custom mini games for kids, personal fitness coaching, hand-thrown salad bowls, 5 starting guesses for Wordle 😊, and so many more.





```
403 + [ 'bargh', -1500507052 ],  
404 + [ 'never eat pickled okra', -1084647427 ],  
405 + [ '...', -1100000000 ]
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The people, the people, the people. A couple of my favorite team memories preserved via my cherished "Hall of Fame" folder.

Meeting up with my favorite Utah residents for dinner during a ski trip! Remote work makes these in-person moments extra special.



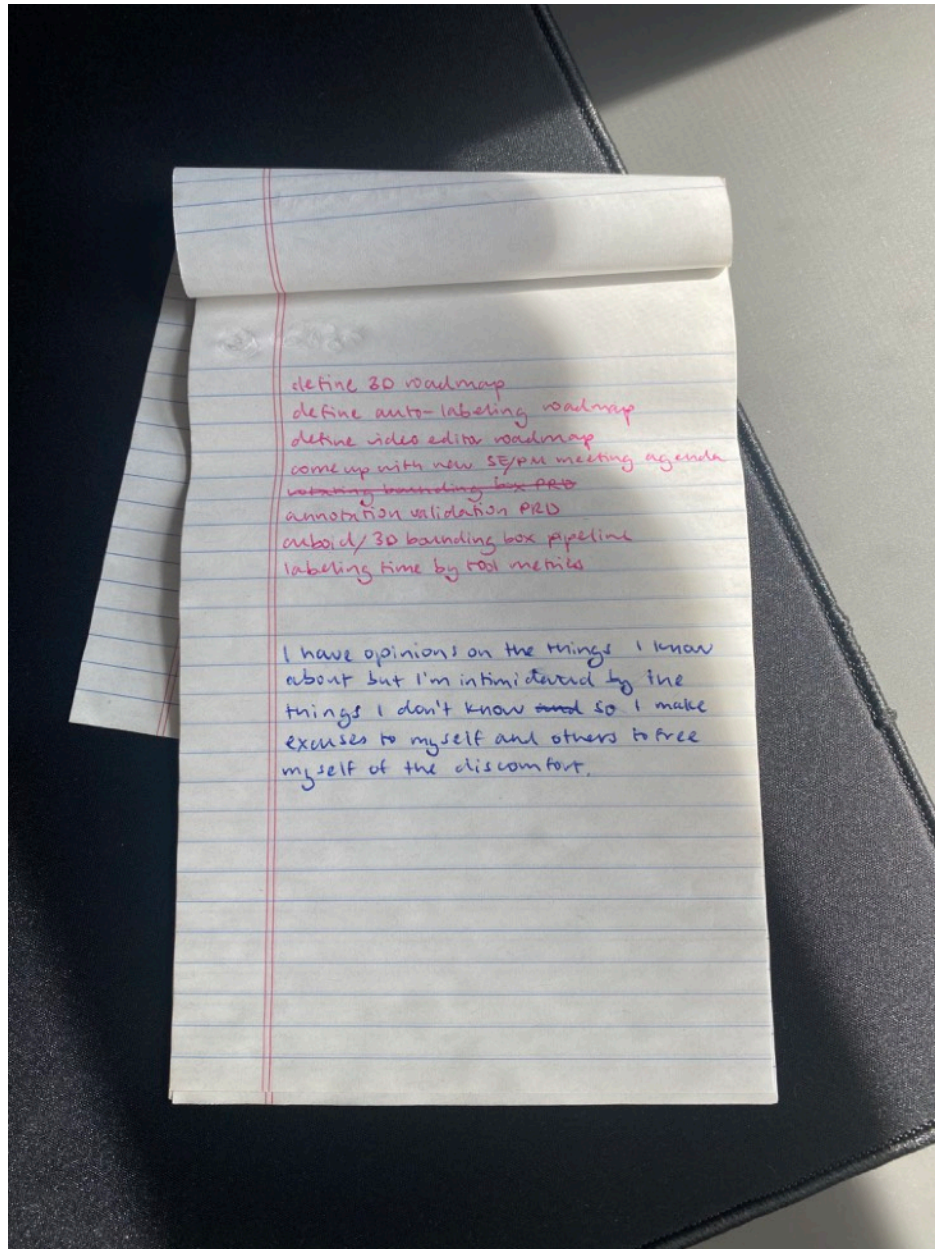


One of my absolute favorite things about Labelbox was the culture of craftsmanship. Everybody loved to make things, whether it was Great British Bake Off-level cakes, vegetable garden beds, video games, pottery, smoked meats, art... nowhere did craftsmanship show more than in the Labelbox swag. I will wear those sweatshirts and sport my workiversary pins for years to come.









One of my last learnings at Labelbox, above in blue. The formal reason for my layoff was the company's reduction in force, but I know in my heart that I had been neglecting to deepen my knowledge of machine learning and stay relevant in the industry, which limited my ability to do my job effectively. Facing my fear is something I wish I had done sooner, but doing so now has opened my eyes to the ways fear has been playing a role in my decisions and life.

1:54



I will miss you too! If I hear anything about someone needing a PM I'll let you know (I honestly think finding someone like you is one of the hardest things to do)

You have hands down been the absolute best PM I have ever worked with. I can't stress that enough. So thanks for everything and I hope we can stay in touch. Let me know if you find somewhere cool in case I ever jump ship or am forced to walk the plank.



Hey Jenna, I am so sorry to hear about the news today.. you are truly one of the best PMs I've ever gotten to work with in my career. I hope you're doing alright.

3:41 PM



Jenna!

I wanted to shoot you a quick note just to express how grateful I am to have had the opportunity to observe your work and occasionally work alongside you.

Not that you need to hear this from me, but I truly admire your patience, clarity, and steadfastness. Thank you for being a great role model in my first "real job" out of school!

I always hoped I could join a team of yours one day, and that sentiment hasn't changed a bit.

5:16 PM

Oh, the people. A smattering of the impossibly kind words and support that poured out in the wake of my departure. It never hurts to hear how much others value and appreciate you, and it's never a bad time to share your gratitude with those who make you feel this way. There are many things I will miss from this chapter, but there are no words for how much the people at this company have meant to me.

# Fin.

875 days. Something about translating the time into units of days makes it feel like a more accurate representation of my time as a product manager at Labelbox.

And yet, it's impossible to fully capture all of the experiences, highs, lows, joy, fear, exhaustion, gratitude, frustration, fun, grief, belonging, and growth that filled my cup at Labelbox. The photos I have are a mere glimpse; even in conversation, I'm frequently reminded of moments and events during the last few years that had completely slipped my mind.

But, I don't want or need to remember everything. As I've aged, I've learned that more often than I'd like, the details actually don't matter much. Getting it 100% accurate doesn't matter; often the gist gets the job done just fine.

And so, the gist is this: being at Labelbox taught me how to be me. I've spent a lot of my life in spaces where I felt like the odd one out and like I needed to change to belong, but at Labelbox, I was surprised to realize, "oh, they want me to be... me." I will be forever grateful to the people I worked with for supporting me, trusting me, celebrating me, and holding me accountable to being the best version of myself.

At many companies, sticking around for 2.5 years is no big feat, but at an early-stage startup, it makes you a seasoned veteran. I'd often get asked what kept me at Labelbox for so long and my answer was always: my growth and the people. I saw my ability to adapt through many stages of restructuring, turnover, and expansion as directly correlated with my growth, and I also feared that leaving Labelbox would mean losing my ability to grow in such a fulfilling way.



In retrospect, I realize that we create opportunities for growth simply by seeking and facing discomfort rather than trying to stay away from it. The growth I've experienced since the day I decided to say yes to Labelbox has been reliably uncomfortable and at times painful, but also deeply gratifying and fulfilling and completely and totally worth it. I can't wait to continue growing in my next chapter.

As for the people, well, I will miss them dearly. Thank you to everyone I had the opportunity to work with at Labelbox for collaborating with me, teaching me, building with me, and laughing with me. I am so proud to have been a small part of your journey and will be cheering you all on fanatically.