

Revealed: The PSBJ's inaugural Power 100 leaders who define what the region has become



By [Ryan Lambert](#) – Editor-in-Chief, Puget Sound Business Journal
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The influence that resides in our region is undeniable.

The two wealthiest people in the world, [Jeff Bezos](#) and [Bill Gates](#), call the Seattle area home. And the Puget Sound region is home to 12 Fortune 500 companies.

As the Business Journal prepared its Power 100, the objective was to identify those who define what the region has become and reflect its lineage.

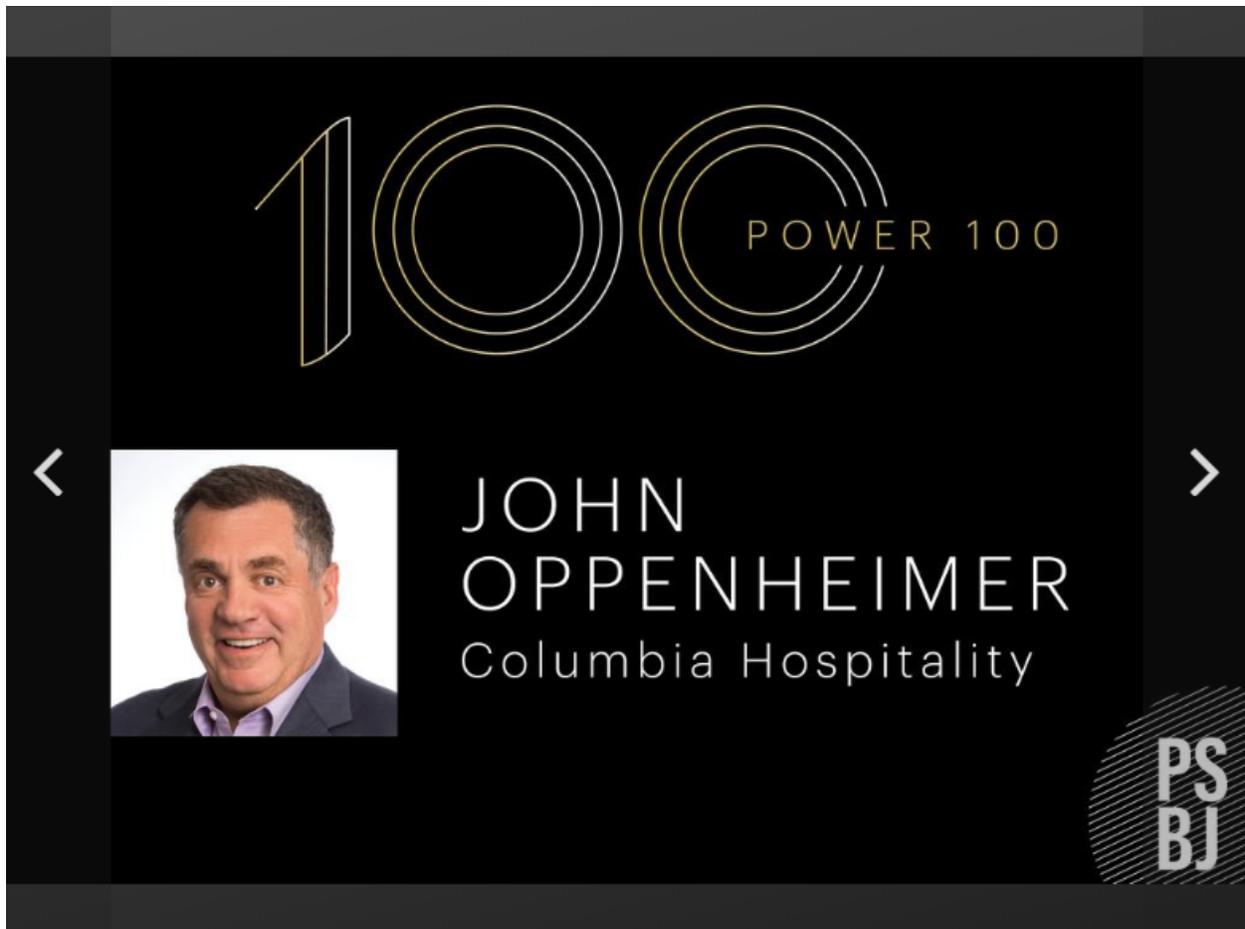
These people have built iconic companies on a global scale. They are influencers, innovators and luminaries in their respective fields.

The Business Journal's leadership team solicited insights from the business community to craft the Power 100. We looked for leaders who are representative of their industries and carry the clout to shape those industries. This list is dynamic and follows the news. Many of the Power 100 were newsmakers this year, and this list is certain to change next year.

These discussions became an ideal starting point for our Executive of the Year selection process. One of these 100 individuals will earn that distinction, which will be revealed in the coming weeks. Last year, we awarded our first posthumous [Executive of the Year](#) to [Paul Allen](#), who died Oct. 15, 2018, [at the age of 65](#). In [2017 the honor went](#) to Amazon's [John Schoettler](#).

Biotech leaders are well represented, but that's the extent of the science behind this Power 100. This is not a ranking; rather it's a roster that aims to reflect this moment in time.

We hope this list will also surprise and spark conversations.



John Oppenheimer is CEO of Columbia Hospitality hospitality management and consulting company specializing in the management of conference centers and boutique hotels and inns. The company is one of the largest private companies in the state, pulling in \$160 million in revenue in 2018, up from \$151.5 million in 2017. Columbia is part of the project team working on the historic St. Edward Seminary, which is being turned into the 82-room Lodge at St. Edward State Park.