



Community Engaged Learning

Connecting students to
the campus community
and beyond.



Ringling College
of Art + Design

Here's a sneak peek →



Who We Are

At Ringling College of Art and Design, we strive to teach our students the fundamental artistic skills they will need to become practicing professionals and socially responsible artists. Our efforts generate an average of over 15,000 hours of service annually!

The Community Engaged Learning professional and student staff create numerous service opportunities that help develop the entire Ringling College community. We reach out to the city of Sarasota and beyond to find ways that leverage students' strengths as creative individuals while crafting meaningful service experiences. You belong with like-minded artists who share the same passion for social responsibility, diversity, and leadership, so why not get started?

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**THE BEST WAY TO FIND
YOURSELF IS TO LOSE
YOURSELF IN THE SERVICE
OF OTHERS.**

MOHANDAS
KARAMCHAND
GANDHI

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What We Do

New Student Orientation Service Projects

Our staff works to expand on the educational and social experiences presented to new students during Orientation each fall. As part of the Orientation experience, students participate in an individually chosen service project. Every project we engage in connects you to your new community and explores what it means to be a leader and a team player while building friendships with new peers.

Past partners have included The Haven, Friends of Sarasota County Parks, InStride Equine Therapy, Mote Marine Aquarium, and Orange Blossom Community Garden.

Ringling Volunteerism Opportunities (RVO)

Our Federal Work Study team, known as Ringling Volunteerism Opportunities (RVO), is made up of student leaders who collaborate with peers, faculty, and nonprofits to expand opportunities for the campus to serve and connect with the community. RVO builds awareness, increases student engagement in service, and builds partnerships with local nonprofits to create engaging and meaningful opportunities for campus volunteerism.

Youth Experiencing Art (YEA) Program

Supported by the John H. and Robin E. Sullivan Foundation, the YEA Program connects our talented student artists to children from PreK-12 schools that have limited exposure to the arts. Our staff and students coordinate arts projects for children, co-taught by classroom teachers and Ringling College students, to enhance core-curriculum learning through arts integration.

Lazarus Engaged Learning Assistantship

The Lazarus Engaged Learning Assistantship program recognizes the importance of active citizenship, and the opportunity to pair service in the community with professional development. Lazarus Scholars go through extensive training about various causes, themes in service, leadership, and diversity, and work to engage their non-profit partners in a holistic way. This four-year program includes scholarship and work-study opportunities and is designed to support students in their exploration of non-profit community partners; building of relationships with specific organizations; development of a creative and sustainable solution for a community challenge or initiative; and reflection of their roles as an artist in their local community. The Lazarus Engaged Learning Assistantship is made possible thanks to the generous support of The Rudi Lazarus Foundation.

Student Ambassadors

A select group of student volunteers is nominated to hold the special title of Student Ambassadors. Nominations are based on each individual student's ability to go above and beyond outside of the classroom. Student Ambassadors serve as prominent representatives of Ringling College during important events every semester.

Ringling Votes

The Ringling College campus recognizes the importance of civic engagement and supports students with opportunities to become well-informed about elections processes, register to vote, and get to the polls. Ringling Votes is an initiative led by students and staff in collaboration with community partners to increase civic engagement throughout campus.

How We Connect



Building Houses

Working with local organizations to build, repair, and restore homes.



Supporting Animals

Giving support to local organizations that care for animals.



Painting Murals

Improving community sites with creativity and artistic talent.



Environmental Stewardship

Helping to keep our parks, waterways, and beaches happy and clean.



Collecting Donations

Helping provide basic necessities for those in need within the community.



Painting Faces

Painting joy on the faces of kids during events throughout the community.



Educating Youth

Incorporating art into academic curricula and bringing arts experiences to local youth.

and much more...



Fall 2025

Get in Touch

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See What We're up To



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RinglingVolunteerism

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