



Center for the Creative Economy

Where creativity meets
entrepreneurship.



Here's a sneak peek →



The Center for the Creative Economy (CCE) is Ringling College's hub for entrepreneurship, industry experience, and professional practices.

It's where students develop the skills that make a creative career sustainable: business acumen, financial literacy, client communication, and self-promotion, so you can turn your passion into profession on your own terms.

Over 75% of arts and design graduates have been self-employed at some point in their careers. Many build portfolio careers: layering freelance work, client projects, commissioned pieces, and self-started ventures into something that's genuinely their own. That kind of career takes both talent and knowing how to run your business.

The CCE brings together industry experience, entrepreneurship programming, and professional skills development under one roof so that every Ringling student, regardless of major or year, has a clear path to building the career they want.

Whether you're looking to gain real client experience, launch your own project, earn a credential, or just start understanding the business side of your practice, the CCE has a program for where you are right now.

Gain Industry Experience

Work with real clients on professional projects that build your resume and portfolio.

Launch Your Own Ideas

Develop your own creative projects or ventures with entrepreneurial courses and startup support.

Build your professional resume while finishing your degree.

INDEX (Industry Experience) is an experiential education initiative that provides students with the opportunity to gain professional experience by connecting them with leading businesses and organizations, helping them build their portfolios, strengthen their resumes, and become familiar with industry best practices. The INDEX initiative represents the College's long-standing priority and purpose: to focus on students' futures in the creative industries and empower them to thrive as creative leaders.



Client List

Students have worked with leading organizations and multinational brands, companies, and initiatives, including:

Art Ovation Hotel
Asolo Theater
Baltimore Orioles
Center for Building Hope
Cirque du Soleil
Feld Entertainment
General Motors
Goodwill Industries
IMG Academy
Jewish Family and Children's Services of the Suncoast
L'Oréal
League of Women Voters
Maker's Mark
Moffitt Cancer Center
Newtown Alive
Patriot Plaza
Planned Parenthood
Porter Family Vineyards
Sarasota Bradenton International Airport
Sarasota Film Festival
Sarasota Humane Society
Sarasota Opera
Sarasota Police Department
Selby Botanical Gardens
SiestaCon
Smithsonian American Art Museum
The Ringling Museum
US Tennis Association



Opportunities through the Center for the Creative Economy

JUST GETTING STARTED

Creatives Minding Their Business Speaker Series

Talks from founders, cultural leaders, and working creatives who've built careers worth talking about.

EXPLORE AND EXPERIMENT

Workshops and events

Each semester brings a new set of short-form events designed to help you explore topics and skills at your own pace. Past programming has included a crowdfunding workshop, pitch competitions, startup weekends, and pop-up shops

GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

INDEX: Industry Experience

Work directly with real businesses, industry clients, and non-profit organizations on real creative work before you graduate.

BUILD A BUSINESS FOUNDATION

Minor in Business of Art and Design

Understand the business behind creative industries and gain a competitive edge in the job market with a minor in business.

LAUNCH YOUR BUSINESS

Certificate in Creative Entrepreneurship

Build the entrepreneurial thinking and business fundamentals you need to start a creative venture with a certificate in creative entrepreneurship.

STAY AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Certificate in AI

Stay ahead of the curve with hands-on experience with AI tools and gain a clear understanding of how AI is reshaping art, design, and the broader creative economy.

**INDEX is an initiative developed by Ringling College in partnership with The Patterson Foundation.*

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