

Summer Company 2025 DIRECTORY



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



The City of Vaughan's Summer Company program is one of the many ways entrepreneurship continues to thrive within the community.

Since 2002, this program has supported hundreds of students in building and maintaining their businesses. It gives young entrepreneurs the tools they need to start their own companies, hands-on coaching from local leaders and an opportunity to receive a provincial grant of up to \$3,000 toward startup expenses and operating costs.

As Mayor, I aim to build a city where young people can chart their own paths and find success in their pursuits because they are the innovators and future employers who will continue to drive our economy forward.

The mentorship, resources, skills and connections these students receive through the Summer Company program are invaluable, and it is my hope that this will lead them to a very exciting and rewarding career in business. I commend this talented group of young people for their inspiring drive and passion, and I look forward to seeing them achieve new heights.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Steven Del Duca".

Steven Del Duca
Mayor, City of Vaughan

2024 SUMMER COMPANY RECAP



112

student applications received



16

new businesses started



16

new summer jobs created



13

**students considering
entrepreneurship**



2024 SUCCESS STORY



Kurtz Karpentry

Kurtz Karpentry offers a variety of custom-made wood products, such as live edge tables, benches, outdoor bars, garden planters, pergolas, outdoor wood sectionals/banquettes and charcuterie boards. All products come in standard sizing and pricing, but they can also be fully customized to suit the needs of each client. For custom projects,

3D modelling software is used to create a design with each client. The tagline of Kurtz Karpentry reflects the company vision: “Don’t Just Build... Create.” Kurtz Karpentry makes its products using locally sourced materials. Local woods include black walnut, spalted maple, maple, oak, cedar, pine, cherry and plum wood. Kurtz Karpentry has created beautiful outdoor bars for such clients as The Food Network, and live edge charcuterie boards for many customers, including Fruit of the Land and Nosh Co. Matthew is in his third year in the civil engineering program at the University of Toronto. He aims to continue specializing in building wood structures, a passion he has developed over the years.



MATTHEW KURTZ

Update!

Matthew’s business, Kurtz Karpentry, is still operating and thriving. During his participation in the Summer Company program last year, Matthew successfully scaled his business to generate over \$60,000 from May to July 2024, showcasing his business acumen and dedication to his craft.

Matthew continues to develop Kurtz Karpentry in the Vaughan area and beyond. This includes larger projects in Peterborough, Mississauga and Markham this past spring which coincided with the completion of his third year of Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto. Additionally, he is fully booked with smaller projects in his Vaughan workshop.

2025 SUMMER COMPANY STUDENTS









Abbie Li

CHASSE DANCE SCHOOL

Founded for families. Built from experience. Powered by passion.

Chasse Dance School is a dance-focused dance studio offering high-quality, affordable training in acro, jazz, tap, ballet and contemporary. Founded in 2022, the studio began as a school dance team and quickly grew into a thriving community. Chasse was created in response to the high cost and the intense time commitment often associated with competitive dance, with the

goal of making elite training accessible to more families through a flexible, one-day-a-week model.

The school offers both performance and competitive opportunities throughout the year, including appearances at local malls, festivals and regional competitions. Signature events include an annual Winter Showcase, in-studio Competitive Finals and family fun events. In the summer, Chasse also runs week-long dance camps and intensives. Chasse Dance School stands out for its inclusive community, transparent pricing and commitment to helping young dancers grow as performers and as people.

Abbie Li is a high school student with a passion for dance, teaching and innovation. A competitive dancer, choreographer and certified instructor, she founded Chasse Dance School in grade 8 to offer a unique dance experience that promotes skill development, confidence and community – all without overwhelming students or families. Outside of dance, Abbie stays active through track and field and enjoys participating in Model UN, where she sharpens her leadership and problem-solving.



Cameron Boland

NOVAPRINTS

Cameron Boland is the founder of NovaPrints, a company dedicated to delivering innovative 3D printing solutions for a wide range of clients, including those in the Vaughan community. NovaPrints specializes in 3D models and high-quality prints using advanced technology. Cameron's vision for NovaPrints is to help bring ideas to life through personalized solutions tailored to each client's needs.

Cameron's entrepreneurial journey began with Canadian Youth Champions, where he and his team earned first-place finishes for projects addressing senior loneliness and textile waste. Promoted to team lead, he guided his group to develop solutions for senior cognitive decline as he furthered his leadership and problem-solving abilities. Cameron also expanded his business skills as a member of his school's DECA team and by listening to marketing podcasts such as CBC's Under the Influence.

Outside of NovaPrints, Cameron is a dedicated athlete, competing in water polo, swimming, cross country and track and field. His competitive spirit has led him to qualify for OFSAA in swimming and YRAA championships in both cross country and track. He enjoys brainstorming new business ideas and connecting with peers who share his enthusiasm for entrepreneurship and innovation.



Cole Rutman

CR VIDEO

CR Video is a digital production company that creates short form content for small businesses. They help local brands build their online presence through engaging content that is tailored for reel platforms like Instagram, YouTube and TikTok. Their services include reel packages including content such promotional videos, customer testimonials, product showcases and event coverage. CR Video is designed to be agile, efficient and easy to work with in the digital age. Our service is based on a simple pain point: many

small businesses know they need quality video content to compete online and make an image but don't have the budget or expertise to make it happen.

Cole Rutman is a filmmaker, director, screenwriter and current student at Ivey Business School at Western University. He was a semi-finalist at the Oscar-qualifying Flicker's Rhode Island International Film Festival, has been nominated for the Canadian Screen Awards, and is a Scholastic "Gold Key" recipient. Currently entering his fourth and final year and planning to graduate with a certificate in entrepreneurship, his summer company endeavour with CR Video helps him achieve his goal of pairing his expertise in filmmaking with marketing, digital media and brand storytelling to help local businesses succeed online in an ever-changing digital world.



Evelyn Siewert

JOPPLO SHOP

Jopplo Shop is an online jewellery business specializing in colourful, one-of-a-kind pieces. Each item is designed and handmade from scratch by Evelyn Siewert. Jopplo Shop aims to fill a niche in the fashion industry, focusing on artistic statement jewellery that can enhance one's self expression.

Evelyn has always been interested in DIY projects and fashion and is combining these passions through Jopplo Shop. She has always been inspired by unique fashion styles and wishes to help others discover theirs.

Evelyn is currently attending Tommy Douglas Secondary School and is in grade 12. She is going to attend post-secondary for Computer Science. In her free time, Evelyn enjoys drawing, learning instruments and playing video games.



Johnathan Kimelman

JOHNNY'S GOALIE EQUIPMENT REPAIR

Johnny's Goalie Equipment Repair specializes in restoring and enhancing goalie gear through affordable, high-quality repairs and custom modifications. The goal is simple: extend the life of your equipment without compromising performance, so you stay protected, confident and game-ready. Services include pad repairs, glove relacing, T-Trap repairs, gear trade-ins and refurbished resale options. Johnny integrates custom parts from top brands and reinforces high-wear areas with precision

repairs to give equipment a second life.

A former AA goaltender and coach with a passion for both hockey and community, Johnny has volunteered with organizations supporting individuals with developmental disabilities, bringing empathy and leadership to his work. Now a second-year psychology student at Wilfrid Laurier University, he serves as an incoming Changemakers Learning Community Don, VP of Finance for Best Buddies Laurier and the Marketing Director for Laurier Consulting for Change. With aspirations of pursuing his PhD., Johnny is committed to making his repair service accessible to goaltenders across North America while continuing to grow academically and professionally.



Lakanya Vijayaruban

BARBDWIRE

BarbdWire is more than a clothing brand, it's a movement stitched with confidence, resilience and unapologetic self-expression. Founded by a passionate team, BarbdWire was created for those unafraid to put themselves first. Its bold designs carry an even bolder message: protect your peace, embrace your story and never apologize for loving yourself.

The brand symbolizes the balance between strength and vulnerability. Like barbed wire, life can be sharp and full of obstacles, but your worth is untouchable. BarbdWire creates more than clothing, it creates a statement – a reminder that healing isn't linear, confidence is built and resilience defines you more than struggle ever could.

BarbdWire is not just about what you wear, it's about what you stand for. A portion of its earnings is donated to mental health organizations across Canada, ensuring that no one has to face their battles alone. Real change starts with community, and BarbdWire is committed to being part of that change.

This brand is for the unapologetic. For those rewriting the definition of strength. For those learning to love themselves, even on hard days. At BarbdWire, fashion is more than appearance, it's a platform for empowerment, mental health advocacy and authentic self-love.



Lukas Romano

MNTR MADE NORTH THREADS

MNTR Made North Threads (MNTR) is a premium streetwear brand proudly designed and produced 100 per cent in Canada. Founded by young entrepreneur Lukas Romano, MNTR is rooted in identity, intention and impact — more than just fashion, it's a symbol of purpose and personal growth.

The name stands for Made North Threads but also draws inspiration from Greek mythology. During the Trojan War, the goddess Athena took the form of Mentor to guide and protect Telemachus, offering wisdom and courage to the next generation. This spirit of mentorship is woven into MNTR's mission today.

Lukas' journey was shaped by his greatest mentor — his mother — a creative entrepreneur and wellness advocate who helped him navigate his ADHD and anxiety. Her guidance inspired him to transform personal challenges into a meaningful brand narrative that empowers others.

Every MNTR piece is crafted with premium, ethically sourced materials, reflecting pride, quality and timeless streetwear appeal. MNTR is more than clothing — it's a movement. With a vision to build community and support youth, the brand seeks to empower those facing mental health challenges while exploring ways to support aligned initiatives.

MNTR Made North Threads. 100 per cent Canadian. 100 per cent purpose. Built to inspire.



Nathan Wang

SECONDCHAPTER BOOKS

SecondChapter Books is a second-hand bookstore that collects and sells used books in a physical and online setting. The bookstore features a large variety of books, including academic textbooks, children's books and novels and fiction and non-fiction books. There are only a few second-hand online bookstores in Canada which have limited collections for students and professionals. Although SecondChapter Books initially catered to students, the store offers a

diverse selection of books catered towards every interest and need.

Almost everyone has books laying around. SecondChapter Books was made to change this. The objective is to keep books in circulation, allowing more people to read them at a lower cost while making better use of resources. A book's value, whether for education or entertainment, is not diminished by its second use, and they believe in giving every book a second chapter.

Nathan Wang is currently a high school student who is passionate about creating change in his community. He hopes to launch a technology business in the future to solve real world problems. Nathan enjoys reading books, playing sports and travelling around the world.



Patrick Bran

BRAN'S GARDENING SERVICES

Bran's Gardening Services is a lawn care business that offers different services like mowing, trimming, weeding, yard clean up, mulching, fertilizing, aeration and general gardening services. Their aim is to help people who don't have time to tend their own lawns and provide them with results that they'll be happy with. Most people already have 101 different things to juggle, and Bran's Gardening Services aims to take lawn care off that list.

Patrick Bran is currently in grade 11. He enjoys helping people and making their lives easier – and providing lawn services was a perfect way to do that.



Remy Aleagha

SIGNATURE DETAILING

Signature Detailing grew from Remy Aleagha's genuine, lifelong fascination with cars. Since childhood, the appeal of a well-maintained vehicle and the satisfaction of a spotless car, was something they fully understood and enjoyed. This wasn't just about appearances; it was about respecting the engineering and the design that went into building the car. Signature Detailing is the result of appreciation; a commitment to treating every vehicle with the same care and attention Remy has always felt they deserve.



Sophia Arat

KIKAI'S TRINKETS

Kikai's Trinkets is a vibrant collection of handmade accessories — buttons, hair clips, stickers and keychains — designed to add a splash of colour and creativity to everyday life. Founded in spring 2025 by 15-year-old entrepreneur Sophia Arat, the brand celebrates individuality and self-expression with the motto: "Adding a little colour to your life."

The name was inspired by the Filipino word "kikay," which describes someone who loves to experiment with style, beauty and fashion. This cultural influence captures Sophia's vision for her business: fun, playful and fashionable trinkets that allow people to showcase their unique personalities.

Creativity has always been central to Sophia's life. Influenced by pop culture, music and film, she explores her passions through drawing, painting, jewellery-making and crafting accessories for Kikai's Trinkets. Beyond her business, she is a dedicated musician and enjoys blogging, podcasting and writing short stories as outlets for her imagination.

Currently in grade 10, Sophia balances academics with diverse extracurriculars while pursuing her entrepreneurial journey. Looking ahead, she hopes to merge her love for the arts, leadership and community engagement into a career that inspires others and amplifies creativity.



Tyler Lee

KANVRT DIGITAL

Kanvrt Digital is a social enterprise providing affordable, results-driven digital marketing solutions tailored to small businesses in Canada and the United States. Specializing in targeted, integrated Meta ads management and website development, all services are delivered by a Meta-certified team of high-achieving local students — not outsourced overseas like others.

The company's distinctive approach lies in its commitment to both business results and social impact. Unlike traditional agencies, Kanvrt Digital operates as a social enterprise with two core missions: providing affordable, professional digital marketing services for small businesses and developing youth tech talent while expanding STEM education. By channeling up to 50 per cent of profits into STEM educational initiatives and offering hands-on AI and digital marketing training, Kanvrt Digital creates a sustainable cycle where today's clients help develop tomorrow's tech innovators.

Tyler Lee's path into technology started early — learning Scratch programming at age six and beginning his robotics journey by age seven. His grade 3 experience designing a website for a social enterprise with his sister planted the seeds for what would become Kanvrt Digital. That early project, which successfully raised thousands for educational causes, showed him how business, technology and social purpose could work together effectively. Currently in grade 10, Tyler continues expanding his impact by running a free robotics program for elementary students, embracing his belief that early STEM exposure can spark interests that create lifelong opportunities.



Yalda Jamasi

ADORE & AMORE DESIGNS

Adore & Amore Designs was launched in 2025 as a heartfelt passion project born from a love of beauty, art and meaningful celebration. Specializing in bespoke wedding invitations, signage and event stationery, the brand brings a romantic charm to modern weddings through thoughtfully designed pieces that tell a story.

Founded by Yalda Jamasi, a biochemistry student at the University of Toronto, Adore & Amore Designs began as a creative outlet alongside a demanding academic path.

Since its launch, Adore & Amore has expanded its offerings to include complete wedding invitation suites, custom stamps, party favor packaging and rental décor items like signage stands and florals. The brand is inspired by soft pastel palettes, vintage elements and a timeless, romantic aesthetic.

What started as a small creative project is quickly growing into a full-service studio with a loyal client base and a mission to make every celebration feel deeply personal and beautifully designed. As Adore & Amore Designs continues to bloom, it remains rooted in love, intentionality and the art of making life's moments unforgettable.



Zahra Ali

HENNA IN THE 6IX

Henna In The 6ix is a henna art business offering on-demand services across the GTA, specializing in events such as weddings, festivals, parties and private bookings. The goal of this business is to bring beautiful, high-quality body art to clients in a convenient and personalized way. In addition to traditional services, the business also features custom handmade henna-inspired decor made by Zahra Ali, as well as aftercare kits adding a unique touch to every celebration.

What sets Henna In The 6ix apart is its commitment to safety, artistry and modern expression. Many consumers are now more conscious about the products used on their skin. All products used, including traditional organic henna and jagua gel, are 100 per cent natural and skin safe, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all clients. The business offers a diverse perspective to henna by offering customized decor pieces, blending cultural inspiration with creative design to suit each client's vision. The focus on quality, education and creativity makes Henna In The 6ix a catered business in the henna art industry.

Zahra is a student in grade 11 with a love for art and entrepreneurship. When she's not designing intricate henna patterns, Zahra can be found playing soccer, baking or reading. Her hobbies fuel her passion for creativity, detail and connection—values she brings to every client interaction. Through the Summer Company Program, Zahra looks forward to growing her business and developing her entrepreneurial skills to continue building something meaningful and inspiring.



NIAGARA UNIVERSITY SUMMER COMPANY TRAINING PARTNER



NIAGARA
UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK • ONTARIO

Summer Company Training Partner Niagara University (NU), a private Catholic university, was established in 1856 in Lewiston, New York, by members of the Vincentian order. As the oldest of three Vincentian institutions in the United States, NU offers students access to highly credentialed faculty and small class sizes, preparing graduates for positions of responsibility while embodying the vision of St. Vincent DePaul's compassion toward the poor and oppressed.

In 1984, NU became the first New York institution to offer a Master of Educational Leadership program in Ontario under ministerial consent. Since then, a wide range of education professionals, including principals, superintendents, ministry officials and accreditation leaders have graduated from NU. In response to Ontario's teacher shortage, NU introduced its Bachelor of Professional Studies in Education program in 2007.

Accredited by the Ontario College of Teachers and offered under ministerial consent, more than 2,000 teachers have graduated from this program to date.

NU consolidated its Ontario-based education programs at a single site in Vaughan in 2019. Later that year, the university received approval to launch three new graduate programs: a Master of Science in Information Security and Digital Forensics, a Master of Business Administration, and a Master of Science in Finance. These offerings were designed to meet the community's growing demand for advanced, specialized education. NU's Faculty of Business Administration is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business — a prestigious designation held by fewer than five per cent of business schools worldwide. This distinction reflects the faculty's dedication to teaching excellence, research in top-tier journals, strong industry partnerships and a commitment to mission-driven education.

In 2022, NU launched a new international student strategy focused on academic excellence, career development and long-term settlement in Vaughan. Through internship opportunities and community integration, NU aims to support international students in building meaningful careers locally. The university also envisions becoming a vibrant community hub, hosting events and serving regional business and civic needs.

NU is proud to contribute to the City of Vaughan's growth and development. From hosting a pandemic speaker series to collaborating with the Vaughan Chamber of Commerce and the City of Vaughan's Economic Development department, NU actively supports local engagement and innovation. As part of this year's Summer Company program, NU is once again delivering university-level business workshops on customer relationship building, growth marketing and the fundamentals of business finance. At the end of the program, each student will receive a Certificate of Completion, recognizing their entrepreneurial growth and dedication throughout the summer.





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CONNECT WITH US

Economic Development

City of Vaughan

2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.
Vaughan, ON
Canada L6A 1T1

905-832-8526

 ed@vaughan.ca

 vaughanbusiness.ca

 Vaughan Economic Development