GLOBALLY IN 2019, VENTURE CAFE WELCOMED OVER 100,000 VISITORS!

18,000+ Total Unique Visits since 2017
6,444 Visits since 2019
625 Free Educational Sessions

350+ Programming Partners
30,000 Hours of Connection

2ND* MOST DIVERSE VENTURE CAFÉ GLOBALLY

2019:
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Hispanic/LatinX
- African American/Black
- Caucasian/White
- Other

2017:
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Hispanic/LatinX
- African American/Black
- Caucasian/White
- Other

"I feel like Venture Cafe is a connector, you know, I’ve met so many people and new colleagues now that I have worked with or that I know I’ll be working with and most of them I’ve met either directly at Venture Cafe or through someone that I have met at Venture Cafe."
- E.A. Green, Founder and CEO of Opin Media Lab

OUR FREE, WEEKLY THURSDAY GATHERINGS SERVE AS A PHYSICAL NEXUS FOR INNOVATORS AND ENTREPRENEURS TO CONNECT, COLLABORATE, BRAINSTORM AND BRING THEIR NEXT BIG IDEAS TO LIFE.

Almost one-third identify as Startup Employees or Founders, showing that we have risk-takers, innovators and decision-makers in our audience every week.
OUR COMMUNITY

WINSTON-SALEM IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Ranked "4th Best Place in the US to Start a Business in 2020" by Zen Business

Listed in Inc. Magazine's Surge Cities Index article

Named a Global Leader in Creating Innovation Districts by the Brookings Institute

Local startup Fluree closes Second Largest Seed Round in NC history

Tied with Charlotte, NC and Austin, TX as “The Best Place in The Country” for Rate of Small Business Growth

Named an Emerging Innovation Hub by NationSwell

Ranked a Top 10 City for Expected Job Growth in Q1 2020

Ranked a Top 20 City for millennials looking to buy a house

"I think Venture Cafe gives young people especially that push and that support system because we'll be the first ones to say that starting your own business and leaving your corporate job can be really terrifying, but with the support of Venture Cafe we've had people say, 'It's not so bad. You're going to be OK.' It really filled that void for us."

- Maggie Pendalwar, COO, Proodos

AMERICA AT WORK, BUILDERS AND BACKERS

We were so excited to be part of the kickoff for America at Work: Builders and Backers - a major storytelling venture, backed by Walmart, that will highlight the boldest ideas and creative problem solvers emerging from communities across the country. Follow the journey, and learn about builders and backers in our own community, here: www.buildersandbackers.com.

ALIGNMENT, AMPLIFICATION, ACCELERATION

We’re proud of the work we’ve done with our partners to elevate our ecosystem.

14
NEW COMPANIES launched by New Ventures and Velocity accelerators in 2019

20+
GROWTH STAGE COMPANIES in Winston Starts

40+
MAIN STREET BUSINESSES LAUNCHED in the last 2 years by Forsyth Tech Community College Launch Challenge

500+
ENTREPRENEURS served through Launch Greensboro programs
START, BUILD, SCALE, GROW

“AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, WE EXIST TO SERVE ENTREPRENEURS AND INNOVATORS TO CONNECT THEM WITH ONE ANOTHER AND WITH THE RESOURCES THEY NEED TO START, BUILD, SCALE AND GROW THEIR BUSINESSES.”

“Without ACCESS, we would not be able to fulfill contracts...because we needed funding. They eased our hearts and minds and allowed me to sleep at night and gave our business the ability to keep growing, to keep moving, and really gave us a boost that we would not have received any place else.”
- Vincent Brown, Statesville Painting & Maintenance

"THE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES WITH VENTURE CAFE ARE PRICELESS. WITH THEIR HELP, WE TOOK OUR IDEA FROM NAPKIN TO LICENSING DEAL."
- Justin Baum - CEO, ZZZBEARS

SWEET READS- WINSTON- SALEM POLICE PROGRAM AS SOCIAL INNOVATOR

Third grade reading levels set the number of beds in prison. After seeing this chilling correlation between literacy and crime, the Winston Salem Police Department and the Winston-Salem Police Foundation decided to get directly involved. Rather than passing the buck onto parents, schools or communities, the police developed an innovative solution to impacting child literacy rates in the communities they protect and serve: The Sweet Reads Literacy Program.

“We have an obligation to help our children be successful. The more successful children we have, the more possibility of having a successful adult who contributes in a positive way to society and reduces our crime rate.” — Chief Catrina Thompson, Winston-Salem Police

Opened in June 2019, the ACCESS Center for Equity + Success helps minority- and woman-owned businesses thrive equitably by providing access to resources, technical support, contract opportunities and financing.
VENTURE WINSTON GRANTS

RECRUITING THE NEXT 100 STARTUPS

Through a unique public-private partnership and collaborations between the Winston Salem Chamber of Commerce, Venture Cafe Winston Salem and Winston Starts, Venture Winston plans to accelerate our city’s transition to an innovation, knowledge and creative economy.

“We’ve been to a lot of different Venture Cafes, but the one that they have here in Winston-Salem is great because it’s always a reflection of the community. You have people from all over the world who have discovered and come to Winston-Salem.”
– Kevin Clark, Founder and CEO, Point Motion

IN 2020, THE VENTURE CAFE GLOBAL NETWORK IS EMBRACING THEMATIC MONTHLY PROGRAMMING AROUND THE UNITED NATIONS’ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

Check out what’s coming up at VCWS!

LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? HELP ENSURE THAT WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FREE PROGRAMS THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL BY SUPPORTING VENTURE CAFE - EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS!
REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS

THANK YOU TO THE MEMBERS OF THE TRIAD'S ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM FOR CHAMPIONING COLLABORATION OVER COMPETITION AND FOR MAKING VENTURE CAFE HAPPEN! WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ALONGSIDE YOU.

ACCESS Center for Equity + Success
BB&T Leadership Academy
Business High Point
Center for Creative Economy
Center for Design Innovation
Center for Private Business (WFU)
City of Greensboro
City of High Point
City of Winston-Salem
Collab
Downtown WS Partnership
East Greensboro Now
Elon University Doherty Center
Elon Law
Flywheel
Forsyth County
Forsyth Tech Small Business Center
Goodwill Industries
Goler Community Dev Organization
Greensboro Chamber
Guilford County
HQ Greensboro
Hustle Winston-Salem
Kenan Institute for the Arts
Kernersville Chamber
Launch Greensboro
Leadership Winston-Salem
Lewisville-Clemmons Chamber
Mixer
NC Biotechnology Center
NC IDEA
New Ventures Accelerator
North Carolina A&T
Nussbaum Center
Piedmont Business Capital
Piedmont Triad Partnership
Piedmont Triad Regional Council
Plant Seven/HP 365
Salem College CWEB
SBTDC
SC Atkins Comm Dev Org
Soy Emprendedor
The Forge
Triad Minority Expo
UNC Greensboro
UNC School of the Arts
Venture South
Wake Forest Innovation Quarter
Wake Forest Law
Wake Forest University
Wake Forest School of Business
Wake Health
Wexford Science + Technology
Winston-Salem Business Inc.
Winston-Salem Black Chamber
Winston-Salem Chamber
Winston Starts
Winston-Salem State Univ

*Many individuals also support entrepreneurial efforts in our ecosystem

THANK YOU TO OUR PROGRAM SPONSORS WHO HAVE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND TO FINANCIALLY CONTRIBUTE TO OUR THURSDAY GATHERING PROGRAMMING. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

PROGRAM SPONSORS
ALLEGACY CREDIT UNION
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COOK MEDICAL
JAVARA/GREATER GIFT
NC BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER
PIEDMONT BUSINESS CAPITAL
WAKE FOREST INNOVATION QUARTER
WOMBLE BOND DICKINSON, LLP

WE'RE INCREDIBLY THANKFUL FOR OUR PARTNERS WHO PROVIDE CRITICAL FUNDING AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT THAT ENSURES VENTURE CAFE WINSTON-SALEM REMAINS ACCESSIBLE AND OPEN TO ALL!

PARTNERS
DATAMAX FOUNDATION
L. DAVID MOUNTS FOUNDATION
TRUIST FINANCIAL
WAKE FOREST INNOVATION QUARTER
WEXFORD SCIENCE + TECHNOLOGY
CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM
FORSYTH COUNTY
THE MILLENNIUM FUND
WOMBLE BOND DICKINSON, LLP

SOCIAL REACH: 92K+
SOCIAL FOLLOWING: 11,000+
SIGN UP HERE FOR OUR NEWSLETTER, AND JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF 5,000+ READERS!
In October 2019, Venture Cafe Winston-Salem participated in a special collaboration with our partners at Venture Cafe Miami to bring a cohort of female entrepreneurs to Capital Days Miami – a big step in opening up access to capital for many women and minority founders in our community, and a great look ahead at the possibilities for leveraging the Venture Cafe Global Network in the future. Check out what some of the founders had to say about their experience, and what we’re excited to bring to the Winston-Salem ecosystem.

“We as Executive Directors in this global network are trying to create more connectivity between our sites, and this was one of the first opportunities we’ve had to really collaborate with our friends here in Miami. I also wanted to have a better personal understanding of what investors are looking for as we at Venture Cafe start to look at how we are attracting startups to Winston-Salem with economic development incentives. I want Winston-Salem to be known as one of the best places to grow a startup for women and minorities in the entire country.”

HERE'S TO WHAT'S NEXT!