

Magic give financial boost to Disney Entrepreneur Center

The organization's support will provide \$50,000 for the Disney Entrepreneur Center.

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The Disney Entrepreneur Center landed a prominent sponsor this week, as the Orlando Magic signed on to provide \$50,000 in financial support to the small-business partnership during the next five years.

The Entrepreneur Center is home to several organizations, including the UCF Small Business Development Center, SCORE and the African American Chamber of Commerce.

Through its partner organizations, the Center offers business assistance and educational programs.

The Magic sponsorship will provide \$10,000 a year for five years.

"It's a commitment to small business in Central Florida and giving them tools to be successful," said Joel Glass, vice president of communications for the Magic.

The sponsorship follows other signs of support the Magic have made toward local businesses.

In April, the Magic kicked off a series of forums to educate local companies and minority- and women-owned businesses about construction opportunities for the new Orlando Events Center.

The Magic are the second community sponsor to sign on with the Entrepreneur Center this year, bringing the total number of sponsors to 11.

BankFirst announced support earlier this year.

The new source of private funding comes at a key time for the center, which could face a trickle-down effect from statewide cuts in the budgets of local governments and higher education.

"We rely on these community sponsors to keep the doors open," said Jerry Ross, executive director of the Disney Entrepreneur Center. "Our community sponsors are coming through at a time when we need them."

The sponsorship agreement now awaits official approval by the center's executive board, which is scheduled to meet in July.

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