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Upcoming Big Ideas Events



[Innovators @ Cal](#)

Monday, October 8 | 6 PM | UC Berkeley (Sutardja Dai Hall - Banatao Auditorium)

Innovators@Cal is Big Ideas' showcase event that fosters entrepreneurship and collaboration across the entire UC Berkeley campus. The event features keynote speaker Sasha Orloff, CEO and Founder of [LendUp](#), who will talk about his pathway to becoming a successful entrepreneur. There will also be opportunities for students to pitch their early-stage ideas, followed by a networking session with whiteboards where teams can brainstorm, recruit new team members, and get feedback from attendees. [RSVP required](#), and **fill out [this pitch form](#) by Oct 3rd to participate in the fast-pitch session and/or whiteboard opportunity!**

[Big Ideas Pre-proposal Writing Workshop: Landscape Analysis](#)

Wednesday October 10 | 6 PM | B100 Blum Hall

Receive guidance and feedback on how to effectively craft your Big Ideas pre-proposal. Big Ideas advisors will walk through every element that is required in your pre-proposal submission and answer questions. In addition, this workshop will emphasize the Landscape Analysis section of the pre-proposal, frequently cited as an area for improvement by Big Ideas judges.

[Inventing Green Workshop: Roadmap for Sustainable Design](#)

Monday, October 22, 2018 | 5:30 PM | B100 Blum Hall

To launch the new partnership with the Lemelson Foundation, Big Ideas will host a workshop on sustainable design principles, facilitated by [Jeremy Faludi](#), author of VentureWell's "[Tools for Design and Sustainability](#)." This interactive workshop will teach you how to incorporate circular economy and environmental design principles into your project and provide you with

valuable resources from experts in the field. This workshop will help student innovators examine the potential environmental impacts of their innovations from the very beginning phase of their invention/innovation. Inventing Green is an initiative of The Lemelson Foundation, built in collaboration with VentureWell, NeSST, Presidio Graduate School and ANDE.

Big Ideas Highlights

Enhancing the Importance of Environmental Responsibility

[The Lemelson Foundation](#), the world's leading funder of invention in service of social and economic change, and the [Blum Center for Developing Economies](#) are embarking on a yearlong collaboration to enable students participating in the University of California [Big Ideas Contest](#) to increase their expertise in developing environmentally responsible inventions and innovations. [Read more here.](#)

The Daily Cal promotes Big Ideas for Data Science Students

The Daily Cal's article on creating a pipeline program for data science students mentions how the program was created to leverage existing resources on campus, like Big Ideas, so students can establish long-term data science projects. [Read more here.](#)

Alumni Spotlights



[The Blum Center](#) recently highlighted Aukrit Unahalekhaka, co-founder of [Ricult](#), (2016 & 2017 winner) as he described his journey into social entrepreneurship. Ricult uses technology-based solutions to give smallholder farmers the tools they need to be better informed and empowered economic actors and to work their way out of poverty. [Read More here.](#)

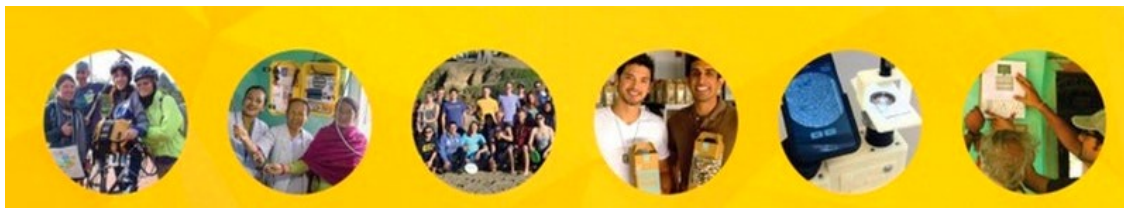
Rachel Sklar (2018 winner), founder and executive director of [Pit Vidura](#), was recently featured in the podcast [Finding Impact](#) where she talks about the importance of social impact competitions like Big Ideas in providing seed funding and support to early-stage social enterprises. [Learn more and listen here.](#)

Sarah Normanbhoy (2018 winner) and co-founder and executive director of [Marhub](#), discusses how her research as well as funding and support from Big Ideas helped her create a digital means to help inform asylum seekers. Marhub is a chat bot to help refugees prepare about what to expect at asylum interviews and to convey a variety of legal rights, including the option to review interview transcripts to replace a translator. [Read more here.](#)

Alumni Job Opportunity

Communications Internship with Pit Vidura: This position focuses on social media relations and crowdfunding efforts, offering the opportunity to learn the strategies and tactics used in fundraising and outreach for a non-profit organization. [Read more and apply here](#)

Big Ideas Alumni: [Email us](#) if you have an update to share, an opportunity to advertise, and/or are in need of additional resources!



Resources for Early Stage Innovators

NextGen Cup Challenge

Open to all Innovators!

Hosted by [OpenIDEO](#), The \$1 million NextGen Cup Challenge is an open innovation initiative seeking to identify and commercialize existing and future solutions for the single-use, hot and cold fiber cup system. The Challenge, managed by Closed Loop Partners' Center for the Circular Economy, is the first phase of a multi-year, multi-industry global consortium that aims to accelerate the design, commercialization, and recovery of packaging alternatives. **The Challenge opens up on October 9, 2018.** [You can learn more here.](#)

D-Prize Global Competition

Open to all aspiring entrepreneurs and change makers!

[The D-Prize Global Competition](#) is LIVE and seeking social entrepreneurs! D-Prize challenges bold new leaders to tackle extreme poverty, awarding winning teams with up to \$20,000 each to launch organizations that can distribute proven poverty interventions to large communities. Learn more about the D-Prize challenges (in girls' education, energy, agriculture, global health, governance and infrastructure, and more). **Early decision applications are due by October 14 and the regular submission application deadline is November 4, 2018.** [Learn more and apply here.](#)

The Wege Prize

Open to current student teams anywhere in the world!

[The Wege Prize](#) is an annual competition that ignites game-changing solutions for the future by inspiring college/university students around the world to collaborate across institutional, disciplinary, and cultural boundaries to redesign the way economies work. Participants contend for over **\$30,000 in total cash prizes**, to show the world what the future of problem solving looks like. **Applications are due by November 18, 2018.** [Learn more and apply here.](#)

Bear Founders

Open to anyone in the UC Berkeley network!

Are you a Cal founder? Do you want to work at a Berkeley startup? **Bear Founders** is a portal for connecting with Berkeley startups. Look for jobs, founders, and entrepreneurship resources and connect with Cal's top founders directly. Between thousands of Cal students

Upcoming Events

[Spring 2019 Lean LaunchPad Course Info session and mixers!](#)

Thursday, October 4 | 3:30 PM | South Hall

Wednesday, October 10 | 4:30 PM, location: TBD

Interested in a real world, hands-on experience course to turn hackers, hustlers, and designers into entrepreneurs? Come attend the information session/mixers to learn more information and start forming teams for Lean LaunchPad, the capstone entrepreneurship class at Berkeley! If you have questions, reach out to [Maryli Cheng](#) and [Joe Interlandi](#). [Sign up here for the 10/4 event.](#) [Sign up here for the 10/10 event.](#)

[CITRIS Tech for Social Good Info Session](#)

Monday, October 8 | 4:30 PM | Banatao Auditorium, Sutardja Dai Hall

The [CITRIS Tech for Social Good Program at UC Berkeley](#) supports student-led learning and technology development to support healthy, sustainable, connected, and equitable livelihoods in the United States and abroad. Students can find out more about the application process and how you can apply for \$5K to support your tech dev project! Contact [Dr. Brandie Nonnecke](#) with any questions about the program. [Sign up here to attend.](#)

Blum Center Author Series Presents: "Doing Capitalism in the Innovation Economy 2.0"

Monday, October 8 | 3:00 PM | Blum Hall, B100

Please join The Blum Center in hosting a book talk and reception featuring Dr. Janeway's book, "[Doing Capitalism in the Innovation Economy.](#)" Through this book, William H. Janeway provides an accessible pathway for readers to appreciate the dynamics of the innovation economy. The author, [Dr. Bill Janeway](#), has been an active growth equity investor for more than 40 years. He is a senior advisor and managing director of [Warburg Pincus](#). Reception and Refreshments to follow.

[Blum Center Career Discussion with Nancy Lindborg \(President, US Institute for International Peace\)](#)

Tuesday, October 9th | 5 PM | B100 Blum Hall

The US Institute for Peace is an independent institution founded by Congress to provide practical solutions for preventing and resolving violent conflict around the world. As the current President of USIP and the former assistant administrator for the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) at USAID, Ms. Lindborg has led critical response teams on global conflicts such as the ongoing Syrian Crisis, the droughts in Sahel and Horn of Africa, the Arab Spring, the Ebola response as well as numerous others. During this discussion, Ms. Lindborg will speak of her career path to the Institute, as well as current innovations and challenges in preventing and resolving violent conflict around the world.



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