

Sarah Franco-Vila

Project Management ▪ Engineering ▪ Media Production

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EXPERIENCE

Project Manager | VESL (Virtual Experiences Simulation Lab), University of Miami Oct 2025 – Present

- Manage cross-functional teams of designers, developers, and 3D artists, coordinating schedules, deliverables, and communication while balancing creative direction with technical execution.
- Managed Eyeball IFX, a VR experience built in Unity that lets medical students see eye diseases on an interactive 3D model of the eye. The team presented it at EyeCon Miami.
- Managed Platform of Venus, a VR adventure game that teaches the Mayan calendar, and voiced its spirit guide character.

Founder & Team Principal | Canes Motorsports, University of Miami Sep 2024 – Present

- Founded a student motorsport organization and grew it to more than 140 members, leading planning, recruitment, and cross-functional coordination.
- Organize guest speakers, networking, and events, and coordinate member volunteer crews at Formula 1 (as race marshals), Formula E, the Mille Miglia, and the Miami Concours.
- Secured Red Bull's support for club meetings and events.

Research Assistant | Alfred C. Glassell Jr. SUSTAIN Laboratory, University of Miami Apr 2025 – Present

- Support simulation-based coastal defense research for a U.S. Naval Research Laboratory initiative by designing, building, and iterating real-world experimental models.
- Assemble and test the SEAHIVE coastal protection system in a wind-wave tank capable of producing Category 5 hurricane-force winds of up to 155 mph.
- Wrote a user manual for the lab's Nortek Aquadopp instrument.

Dockhand | Key Biscayne Yacht Club, Key Biscayne, FL Aug 2024 – Jun 2025

- Coordinated daily marina operations: scheduled docking, assisted vessels up to 60 ft with fueling and handling, managed fuel quality, maintained dock systems, and delivered high-level member service.

Vehicle & Equipment Technician | Miami Kiteboarding, Key Biscayne, FL Oct 2021 – Jul 2024

- Maintained and repaired marine and recreational equipment by diagnosing mechanical issues, performing full-service repairs, and preparing gear for reliable daily use.

SKILLS

Technical: Project Management (Asana, Teams), Fusion 360, AutoCAD, CAD/CAM basics, Experimental Design, Equipment Diagnostics

Creative: Adobe Creative Suite, Video Editing (Premiere Pro), Color Grading, Procreate, Visual Storytelling

Operational: Team Leadership, Coordination, Logistics, Communication

EDUCATION

University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL

Expected May 2028

Major: Interactive Media | Minor: Entrepreneurship

MAST Academy, Key Biscayne, FL