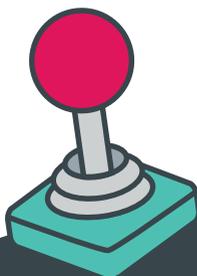




PLAY
CREATE
COLLABORATE



norwichgamesfestival.co.uk

Presented by

the
forum

Lead Partner

NORWICH
UNIVERSITY
OF THE ARTS

Welcome to NGF26!

Brought to you by The Forum – with lead partner Norwich University of the Arts – Norwich Games Festival has something for everyone. Whether you're a beginner, expert, competitive player or absolute pro, all can get involved. Play on our retro arcade, show off your skills, discover your new favourite indie game, or explore opportunities and careers in the industry.

Talks, workshops and shows are on throughout the week, covering everything from how to make a game, to entertaining and interactive game themed fun.

But don't forget, you can just show up to The Forum any day of NGF and get involved. Grab a controller, spark a conversation, and try something new!



Entry to the main Festival is FREE for everyone.



Visit norwichgamesfestival.co.uk for the full programme and to book tickets for special events.

  **Norwich Games Festival**  **[norwichgamesfestival](https://www.instagram.com/norwichgamesfestival)**

Festival Highlights



NEW

The Gaming Lounge Tues 26-Sat 30 May

The Forum | 10am-4pm (10am-1pm on Wed 27 May) | Drop-in

Experience the power of games, together. Join us in the cosy board game and puzzle lounge where hosts John 'Actualol' Purkis, Slice + Dice and Norwich Games Convention will teach you how to play new, traditional and locally made tabletop games.

WiFi Wars Thu 28 May

Norwich Theatre Playhouse
Ages 6+ | Adult £15, Child £9 | 3pm (family) and 7pm (adult)

Be part of a live comedy game show, hosted by comedian Steve McNeil. The entire audience competes, both as teams and as individuals, on games, quizzes and more that are magically beamed into your phone!

Fantasy and Miniature Worlds Various days

DnD, Warhammer, scale models and painting – we're hosting a variety of community groups, games, activities and free play areas across the week. Whether a seasoned Dungeon Master, fledgling mage or active model painter, there'll be a campaign, competition or craft for you.

Don't miss guided DnD and Blood on the Clocktower evening sessions at Slice + Dice gaming café.



Throughout the Festival

The Forum is home to The Arena during NGF26 (Tue 26-Sat 30 May) where you'll find a huge variety of **FREE** interactive gaming fun for all ages. You can just drop by and play. There'll be plenty of your favourite games there, plus lots to discover and try out!



The Game Cave Mon 25-Sat 30 May

Join the Norwich Retro Gamers and friends on floor -1 of The Arena (at The Forum) to experience a vast range of playable retro consoles and computers. Whether new or nostalgic, there will be something for everyone. Also check out The Video Game Preservation Museum Thu 28-Sat 30 May.



All details correct at time of print.

Game Anglia's NGF Jam – Play and Vote Zone Tue 26-Sat 30 May

In the run up to NGF26, game designers and developers have the opportunity to create brand new, incredible games that you get to play for the very first time at NGF!

You are welcome to just drop by and play, but you can also cast your vote for your favourite entries. The live award show will take place on the final day of the Festival (Sat 30 May).

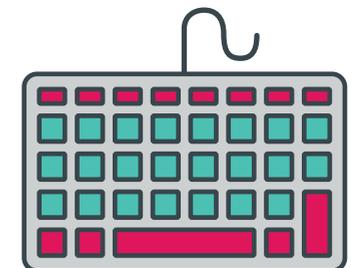


Want to **ENTER** the Game Jam? See the website for entry details!

Careers and Industry Tue 26-Sat 30 May

Interested in a career in Games? Our education and industry experts are here to help. Join Norwich University of the Arts and local colleges alongside local businesses, studios and freelancers to get you on the right track.

PLUS Don't forget to book onto our Work in Norwich Networking event on Fri 29 May.



More events this way 



@Verdphoto

Sat 23 and Sun 24 May Albion Arena Gaming Tournament

NEW

The Forum | Ages 12+ | From 10am
Visit start.gg/albion-arena for entry fees and tickets.

Join us for a competitive tournament with Albion Games Café featuring Super Smash Bros. Ultimate as the main title, alongside other smaller fighting games. It's free to spectate, and there will be a free play area for the more casual gamers.

PLUS Talks from those who have managed to turn their passion as part of the 'Fighting Game Community' into a career.

Open to all experience levels!
You can take part in more gaming challenges each day of NGF26.



In partnership with



Mon 25 May Trader and Collector Day

The Forum | 10am-4pm

Fantastic traders and local developers will be showcasing video and tabletop games and trading cards. Come along to browse, buy and play games throughout the day.



Tue 26 May Relaxed Day



All the fun of the main Festival but with fewer people, more space to move around, and specific SEND focused events to support accessibility and comfort. We will be running a limited capacity between 10am-1pm (booking essential).

Game Design and Creation with Playlab.ai

Workshop | The View
Ages 13+ | Free | 11am & 1pm

Expert SEN Practitioner Nicci Rossini

Workshop | The Auditorium
Open to all | £3, £6 or £10 (Pay What You Can) | 10am, 11.15am, 12.30pm, 2pm (Talk)

Games, Worksheets and Resources: Use AI to Engage

Workshop | The View
For educators | Free | 3pm

All details correct at time of print.

How to Make Tabletop Gaming More Inclusive

Talk | The Auditorium
Ages 13+ | Free, £3, £6 or £10 (Pay What and If You Can) | 4pm

Plastic Invasion: How Warhammer Conquered the World with James Wallis

Talk | The Auditorium
Ages 15+ | £10 | 7pm

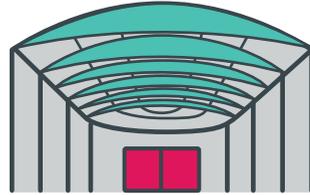
BOOKING PREFERRED for ALL ticketed events – book in advance to secure your spot.

Navigating NGF26

The majority of the Festival takes place in and around The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich.

The Arena

Here you'll find free gaming activities for all ages. The Arena occupies The Atrium (Developer, Education and Community, Charity and Commercial Zones), The Gallery (The Gaming Lounge), Lower Gallery (The Game Cave) on level -1, and outside.



The Atrium | The Gallery | Lower Gallery | Outside

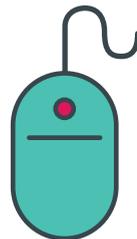


Any Questions?

The NGF26 Info Desk can be found in The Arena at The Forum every day, staffed between 10am-4pm (5pm Saturday). Book events, workshops and talks (subject to availability) and play the tombola. Our friendly NPCs (Events Team) will also help you find out what's on and where.



Visit norwichgamesfestival.co.uk for the full programme and to book tickets for special events.



Events in other Forum spaces

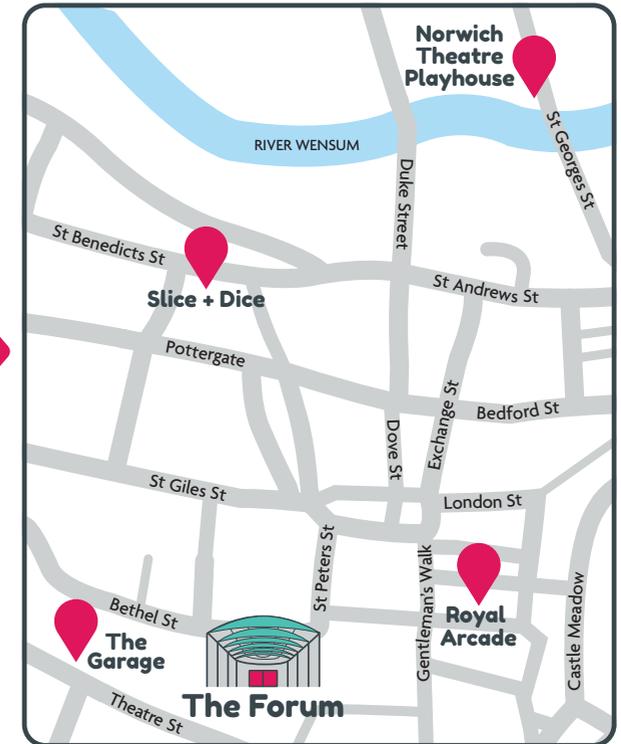
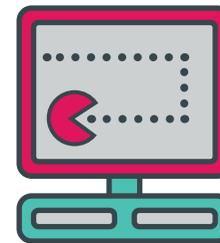
Bookable events are also taking place in The View, The Auditorium, and Café Bar Marzano at The Forum.

The View | The Auditorium | Café Bar Marzano



Events around the city

Other events are taking place at Norwich Theatre Playhouse, The Garage, Royal Arcade and Slice + Dice.



More events this way



Wed 27 May

Game Design and Creation with Playlab.ai

Workshop | The View
Ages 13+ | Free | 10am & 12pm

Games, Worksheets and Resources: Use AI to Engage

Workshop | The View
For educators | Free | 2pm

Game Design Masterclass

Workshop | Gaming Lounge
Ages 8+ | Adult £20, Child £15 | 2pm

Navigating Networking

Workshop | The Auditorium
Ages 16+ | £8 | 4pm

Give Us A Cluedo with James Wallis

Talk | The Auditorium
Ages 14+ | £8 | 6pm

Thu 28 May

Developing the Next Generation of Technical Game Audio Professionals

Talk | The Auditorium
Ages 12+ | Free, £3, £6 or £10 (Pay What and If You Can) | 11am

Game and Play

Workshop | The Garage
Ages 5-7 | £10 | 11.15am

Discovering Your Video Game Character

Workshop | The Garage
Ages 8-15 | £10 | 12.45pm (8-11 yrs) & 2pm (12-15 yrs)

Making Decisions When Development Gets Messy

Workshop | The Auditorium
Ages 14+ | Adult £6, Child £3 | 2pm

WiFi Wars

Show | Norwich Theatre Playhouse
Ages 6+ | Adult £15, Child £9 | 3pm (family) and 7pm (adult)

Make Games That Matter - Games Beyond Entertainment

Talk | The Auditorium
Ages 14+ | Free, £3, £6 or £10 (Pay What and If You Can) | 4pm



Fri 29 May

Plan and Make a Game

Workshop | The View
Ages 8+ | £8 | 10am and 12pm

It All Flows Somewhere

Workshop | The View
Ages 12+ | Adult £12, Child £10 | 2pm

Tamagotchis and Death in the Internet Age

Talk | The Auditorium
Ages 16+ | £6 | 11am

Skill Trees: How Learning to Make Games Can Unlock Many Careers Paths

Talk | The Auditorium
Ages 12+ | Free, £3, £6 or £10 (Pay What and If You Can) | 1pm

How to Validate Your Game Ideas

Talk | The Auditorium
Ages 16+ | £3, £6 or £10 (Pay What You Can) | 4pm

Stamina is Key: How to Build a Sustainable Studio

Talk | The Auditorium
Ages 16+ | £3, £6 or £10 (Pay What You Can) | 5.15pm

Work in Norwich Networking Evening

Networking | The Forum
Ages 16+ | Free | 6.30pm

BOOKING PREFERRED for ALL ticketed events – book in advance to secure your spot.

All details correct at time of print.

Sat 30 May



Ashens



The Big Quiz

Sensible World of Soccer

Tournament | The Atrium
Ages 11+ | Free (sign up on the day)
11am until finish (register before start time)

How to Make a Game in Under an Hour

Workshop | The View
Ages 8+ | £8 | 10am and 2pm (SEND)

Building Confidence in Networking and Pitching

Talk | The Auditorium | Ages 14+
Adult £6, Child £3 | 11am

Introduction to Games Design

Workshop | The View
Ages 15+ | £8 | 12pm



All details correct at time of print.

Starting a Games Studio

Talk | The Auditorium
Ages 12+ | Adult £6, Child £3 | 2pm

Ashens

Talk | The Auditorium
Ages 12+ | £8 | 5pm

The Big NGF26 Quiz & After-Party (supporting SpecialEffect)

The Atrium | Ages 18+ | £10 | 7pm

The NGF26 quiz will feature live music from video game cover band High Scored and 25% of all ticket sales will be donated to SpecialEffect, the game-changing charity supporting physically disabled gamers.

BOOKING PREFERRED for ALL ticketed events – book in advance to secure your spot.

Access and Inclusion

We want to ensure that your visit and experience at Norwich Games Festival is as enjoyable and as accessible as possible.

You can contact us to discuss access requirements at info@theforumnorwich.co.uk



Essential Companions

Visitors with access needs, who require a carer or companion to support them at events, are welcome to book a free Essential Companion ticket, alongside one paid ticket. No proof of eligibility is required. When booking directly through Norwich Games Festival, our booking platform, Ticketsolve, will also give you the option to share any access requirements at checkout which is super useful for us to make your visit as easy as possible. For events booked through external venues, please refer to the venue's own policy.

Sunflower Snug

We understand that the Festival can be busy and overwhelming for some of our visitors. The Sunflower Snug Marquee is our accessible, quieter breakout space, and is open Tues 26-Sat 30 May from 10am-4pm (5pm Sat). It's ideal for transitioning into activities, taking a calm break, or spending your visit in a more relaxed setting. Staffed by trained team members, the Snug offers sensory and calming activities for all ages. You can also borrow ear defenders and fidget toys to use around the Festival. No booking is required, please check the website for specific daily activities.



Inclusive Events

The NGF Programme includes events and contributors exploring many themes around access, inclusion and belonging. Visit the Access and Inclusion page on our website for further details.

Our Relaxed Day is on Tuesday 26 May and features tailored ticketed and drop-in events, all set in a calmer environment.

Entry to The Arena on Relaxed Day is ticketed between 10am-1pm.



Meet our Patrons



Melissa Phillips

Founder of Games Leadership®, Melissa works as a Consultant supporting Studios with strategic planning, leadership, and more. Her work bridges real-world Studio experience with evidence-informed Leadership practice, supporting Developers and Teams to lead more sustainably.

“NGF is a brilliant way to connect with the Games Industry and better understand how Games are made. It opens doors, offers engaging experiences, and celebrates Games, creativity, and talent in the heart of Norwich.”

Melissa



Daniel Scales

Daniel has worked on a number of indie titles such as 10 Second Ninja X, Thief VR and Peaky Blinders: The King's Ransom.

He is Lead Gameplay Programmer at Rhino Rock Games and has a passion for encouraging young people to explore careers in games and for making games accessible to all. Dan produced Norwich Games Festival for a number of years and his work on the Festival saw him nominated for the MCV 30 under 30 award in 2019.



Stuart Ashen

A comedian from Norwich, whose YouTube channel “Ashens” boasts over 1.6 million subscribers. He has written two books on video games: Terrible Old Games You've Probably Never Heard Of and its follow-up Attack Of The Flickering Skeletons. He also co-wrote and starred in the comedy films The Quest For The GameChild and The Polybius Heist.

“I'm very pleased to be an ambassador for the Norwich Games Festival. It's a great event for both gaming enthusiasts and the general public alike – it's wonderful to have a local event like this.”

Ashens



Thank You

The Forum Trust is an independent, self-financing educational charity that runs and manages The Forum building and creates a year-round programme of free events for the community. Thank you to our supporters for your generous donations that also go back into delivering our free festival programme.

A big thank you to everyone who supports the Festival and The Forum's activities, from sponsors, partners, students, industry professionals, and of course, all of you for visiting and celebrating the world of games with us!



Presented by

the
forum

Lead Partner

**NORWICH
UNIVERSITY
OF THE ARTS**

Partner

 **Connected
Innovation**

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Partner

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Norwich**

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TOWNHOUSE**

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Royal Arcade, RC Snellings, Anguish's
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Bitmap Books, Orchard Toys

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Printed by Saxon Digital Services.



The Royal Arcade Trail

Let the quest begin!

Sat 16-Sun 31 May

Seek the hidden clues at The Royal Arcade and at The Forum, then scan the QR code below and submit your answers, to be in with a chance of winning some amazing prizes!



**Submit
your clues**



Full details are available on the NGF website.



Trail Partner



Royal Arcade, Castle Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 1NQ

norwichgamesfestival.co.uk