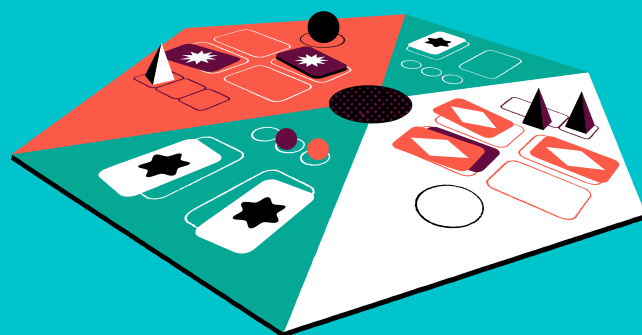


SESSION 1: FEBRUARY 1 - APRIL 30TH



2021 Tabletop Mentorship Program

MENTEE WELCOME PACKET



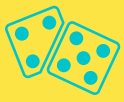
WELCOME!



We're thrilled to have you as part of the program. Over the next three months, you'll be working to build a good relationship with your partner and to make progress on achieving your goals. As a mentee, you'll be listening, asking questions, and trying new things with the support of your mentor. Your mentor is there to listen and help guide you towards becoming more confident and empowered in your field. Along the way, the Mentorship Program will be supporting you by offering a video Speaker Series, roundtable discussions, online workshops, community spaces, and email assistance. We hope you'll take whatever you want or need from the program – don't feel obligated to do anything beyond your core mentorship! Everything else is there for you if and when you need it.

For now, let your enthusiasm and excitement carry you through. We hope this program leads you to new and exciting places in your tabletop journey. We're rooting for your success, however you define it!





NEXT STEPS



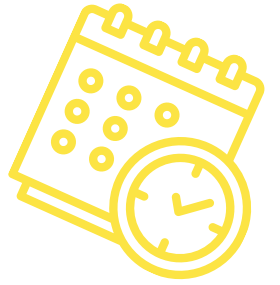
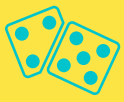
Now that you're in the program, there's a few things you should do to start off on the right foot.

- Join the Discord, set your nickname, and introduce yourself
- Take some time to fill out the included worksheet on goal-setting or keeping track of your mentorship (whichever feels useful for you!)
- Check out our website for useful creator resources, videos from last year's Speaker Series, and micro-grants for underrepresented tabletop creators
- Once you've got your mentorship assignment, send an email to your mentorship partner(s) and tell them a bit about yourself, why you're in the program, and suggest a time for your first meeting

SAFETY TOOLS

Mentorship is a really emotional process, often much more than people expect when signing up. It's normal to feel overwhelmed, stressed, or like you don't belong, but don't let these feelings take you over. If you *are* feeling overwhelmed or unsafe at any point during this mentorship period, please know that these resources are available to you.

- Code of Conduct
- Anonymous reporting form
- Mental health resources from Take That
- Games and Online Harassment Hotline (US only)
- International suicide hotlines
- Email us for any reason (TabletopMentorshipProgram@gmail.com)



EVENT SCHEDULE

2021 SPECIAL EVENTS

While the focus of the program should be your mentorship, we also offer additional opportunities to learn and connect with others in the program. Don't feel like you need to attend everything or that you're wasting the opportunity if you miss something. It's not practical to attend everything, so just choose what interests you.

Events that will be viewable after they are over have an asterisk (*) next to them. All of these events are offered free of charge and are 100% optional. **All time zones are EST.**

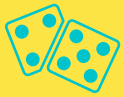
Feb 5 @ 8pm – **Orientation*** followed by Social

Mar 19–20 – **Roundtable Discussions**

Apr 17 – **Pitching Your Game Practice Event***

Apr 24 @ 4pm – **Speed Pitch Event** (invitation only)

Apr 30 – **Wrap-Up Party*** followed by Social



SPEAKER SERIES

EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS FROM EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELD

This video series was created in partnership with New Voices in Gaming and Tabletop Network. Every week throughout the mentorship session we will share a video about a topic related to the tabletop industry. Most of these will be brand new live presentations with a Q&A at the end, and some will be archived talks released from the Tabletop Network vault and followed by a written Q&A on Discord.

All of these videos and Q&A sessions will be archived on our website so you can watch them at your own pace. *Titles in green indicate the rerelease of a previously recorded video, usually followed by a written Q&A session on Discord.*

Feb 13 – **Game Design Workshop** with Kathleen Mercury

Feb 21 – **The Lens of Tempo** by R. Eric Reuss

Feb 28 – **How to Effectively Lead a Playtest** with Emma Larkins

Mar 7 – **Anticipation** with Tim Fowers

Mar 14 – **Managing Social Media** with Danny Quach

Mar 21 – **Designing from the Inside Out** by Matt Leacock

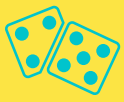
Mar 28 – **Sell Sheet Workshop** with Sen-Foong Lim

Apr 3 – **Creating Representation for Marginalized Groups**
by Nikki Valens

Apr 11 – **How to Run a Kickstarter** with Omari Akil

Apr 18 – **How to Trick a Board Game Critic Into Loving Your Game** by Dan Thurot

Apr 25 – **How to Take a Great Board Game Photos** with Luna



DEAR MENTEE

HERE'S WHAT PAST PARTICIPANTS WANT YOU TO KNOW:

"Don't be afraid to ask questions."

"Be honest with yourself when you set your goals: estimate realistically the number of hours you will be able to invest in your project, if you don't know how long you'll need, discuss it openly during your first meeting."

"Be ready for your goals to change. If you've been having trouble achieving them, your mentor may be able to provide you with a different approach that may help, even if it means changing your goals. I exceeded my goals thanks to my mentor's advice!"

"Take things a few steps at a time and don't be afraid to meet up with your mentor midway through a planned update. You may have a plan to complete a dozen or so changes to your game. If said changes will take weeks of your time, complete them in bite-size pieces and review with your mentor often. This will help avoid missing valuable time with your mentor if your changes take longer than expected."

"Don't be afraid to open up, don't apply undue pressure causing you to shutdown. Embrace who you are, pursue your creative ambitions to create."

"Be kind to your mentor, and respect their time and expertise. Their mentorship of you is a gift and should be treated as such. Participate as fully in the program as you can!"





MEETING TRACKER

FOR MENTEES

Mentor: _____

Pronouns: _____

Project: _____

Goal: _____

FIRST MEETING (NOTES & END GOAL)

SECOND MEETING

THIRD MEETING



MEETING TRACKER

FOR MENTEES

Mentor: _____

Pronouns: _____

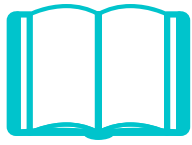
Project: _____

Goal: _____

FOURTH MEETING (NOTES & END GOAL)

FIFTH MEETING

SIXTH MEETING



GOAL-SETTING EXERCISE

ONE SPECIFIC GOAL I WANT TO SET:

STEPS I CAN TAKE TO REACH THIS GOAL:

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THESE STEPS?

OBSTACLES THAT MIGHT ARISE:

WAYS TO OVERCOME THOSE OBSTACLES:

HOW I FEEL ABOUT THIS GOAL RIGHT NOW:

HOW I WILL FEEL WHEN I REACH MY GOAL:



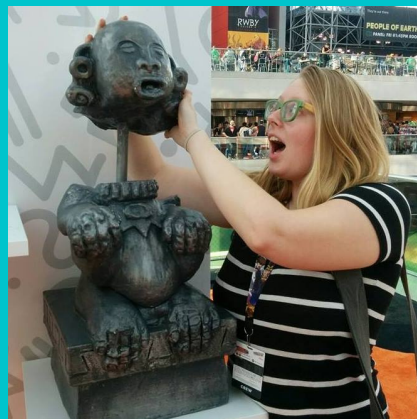
THANK YOU!

We're so glad you took a chance on this program, and we hope you find some satisfaction, challenges, and joy while you're here. Thanks for joining us for another amazing session!

YOUR ORGANIZERS:



MIKE (HE/HIM)
[@MIKEBELSOLE3](https://twitter.com/MIKEBELSOLE3)
ON TWITTER



GRACE (THEY/THEM)
[@GRACE_KENDALL](https://twitter.com/GRACE_KENDALL)
ON TWITTER

Reach out to us ANY TIME you need:
TabletopMentorshipProgram@gmail.com

This program is run by volunteers. If you'd like to donate to help us keep the mentorship program operating, check out the following links.

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[Make a one-time donation through PayPal](#)