



# Sarah Martinez

Human Resources Business Partner |

Talent Development Specialist

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## Certifications

### Unity Certified Expert: Programmer

March 2022

Unity Technologies

### Unreal Engine 5 C++ Developer

June 2023

Epic Games (Udemy)

## Awards & Recognition

### Best Gameplay - Ludum Dare 48

April 2021

Ludum Dare

Awarded for puzzle game 'Deeper and Deeper' which ranked in the top 5% overall among 3,000+ submissions

### Employee Excellence Award

December 2021

Pixel Forge Interactive

Recognized for exceptional contributions to 'Starbound Odyssey' development and dedication to code quality

## Languages

### English

Native

### Polish

Conversational

Passionate game developer with 5+ years of professional experience creating engaging gameplay systems and polished player experiences across multiple platforms. Specialized in Unity and Unreal Engine with strong expertise in C#, C++, and game design principles.

## Online Presence

### LinkedIn

@davidkowalski

### itch.io

@dkowalski

## Technical Skills

### Unity Engine

Expert

C#, Editor Tools, Performance Profiling

### Unreal Engine

Advanced

C++, Blueprints, UE5 Features

### Programming Languages

Expert

C#, C++, Python, HLSL/GLSL

### Game AI

Advanced

Behavior Trees, FSM, Pathfinding,

Navigation

## Education

### University of Washington

Bachelor of Science • 3.6 GPA

Computer Science

Seattle, WA • 2014 – 2018

Concentration in Game Development. Relevant Coursework: Game Engine Architecture, Computer Graphics, Artificial Intelligence, Physics Simulation, 3D Mathematics, Software Engineering, Data Structures & Algorithms

## Professional Experience

### Cascade Studios

Seattle, WA

Senior Game Developer

March 2022 – Present

- Lead gameplay programmer on an unannounced AAA action-adventure title built in Unreal Engine 5 for PC and next-gen consoles
- Architected and implemented core combat system including hit detection, combo mechanics, and enemy AI behavior trees serving 15+ enemy types
- Developed custom editor tools in C++ that reduced level designer iteration time by 40% and improved workflow efficiency across the team

### Pixel Forge Interactive

Bellevue, WA

Game Developer

June 2020 – February 2022

- Core developer on 'Starbound Odyssey,' a sci-fi roguelike that achieved 500K+ sales on Steam with 'Very Positive' user reviews
- Implemented procedural generation systems for level layouts, enemy encounters, and loot drops using Unity and C#
- Designed and programmed player progression systems including skill trees, equipment upgrades, and meta-progression mechanics
- Created robust save/load system supporting cloud saves and cross-platform play between PC and Nintendo Switch

## Interests

### Game Design

Mechanics, Level Design, Player Psychology

### AI & Procedural Generation

PCG, Machine Learning, Emergent Gameplay

### Indie Game Development

Solo Dev, Game Jams, Community

### Technical Art

Shaders, VFX, Optimization

## Publications & Talks

### Optimizing Unity Games for Mobile: A Practical Guide

September 2021

Game Developer Magazine

Technical article covering mobile optimization techniques including draw call batching, LOD systems, and memory management

### Building Modular Dialogue Systems

May 2022

Seattle Indie Game Developers Meetup

Presented talk on designing flexible dialogue systems for narrative games, attended by 60+ local developers

## Notable Projects

### Echoes of the Void (Indie Game)

2023 – Present

Solo developer for a narrative-driven 2D platformer built in Unity. Features custom dialogue system, branching story paths, and atmospheric pixel art. Currently in development with demo released on itch.io garnering 5K+ downloads and positive community feedback. Planned Steam release Q2 2025.

[View on itch.io](#)

### Open Source: Unity Dialogue Framework

2021 – 2023

Created and maintain an open-source dialogue system for Unity with visual node-based editor, localization support, and voice acting integration. Project has 800+ GitHub stars and is actively used by indie developers worldwide. Includes comprehensive documentation and example projects.

[View on GitHub](#)

### Game Jam Participation

2019 – Present

Regular participant in Ludum Dare and Global Game Jam events. Created 12+ game prototypes exploring experimental mechanics and art styles. Won 'Best Gameplay' award at Ludum Dare 48 with puzzle game 'Deeper and Deeper' that ranked in top 5% overall.

## Community Involvement

### Seattle Indies

2020 – Present

Seattle, WA

Active member of local indie game development community. Organize monthly game showcases and provide mentorship to aspiring game developers through code reviews and technical guidance.

### Code.org Game Development Workshops

2021 – Present

Seattle, WA

Volunteer instructor teaching basic game programming concepts to middle school students. Led 8+ workshops introducing Unity fundamentals and game design principles.

## References

Available upon request