



Information for workshop attendees Games about the Future: sci-fi and storytelling

Thank you for booking the online workshop, *Games about the Future: sci-fi and storytelling*, which takes place online on Saturday 23 October, 2-4pm.

The workshop will be led by digital storyteller and game designer, Melanie Frances.

This workshop explores game design and sci-fi storytelling. Together we will explore games we like and how we feel about the future. There will be opportunities to develop skills in interactive storytelling, game design and in using a tool called Twine (used to make interactive stories).

How the workshop will be set up

We want to create an atmosphere that feels welcoming, where everyone feels safe to take part. We know that people can prefer workshops to be set up in different ways, and that feeling safe is a personal thing. It absolutely isn't the same for us all. We've set up a few things for this workshop, which we've listed below:

- We'll check in at the beginning of the workshop. Normally this is a version of 'how are you doing today?'. You can share as much or as little as you want during the check in. You don't have to share anything.
- We'll ask everyone to introduce themselves: to tell us the name they'd like to be called and any other information they want to share. You might tell us the pronouns you use, or something you'd like people to be aware of during the workshop. For example, I (Mel) will often talk about how my anxiety impacts how I behave in workshops. I like people to know this when I'm in a workshop with them. You don't need to tell us anything about yourself that you don't want to, just share what you want.
- We'll talk about the kind of atmosphere we want for the workshop, and agree on how we'll collaborate together. For me (Mel) it's really important that the workshop is built on respect, meaning there is absolutely zero tolerance of hate speech or discriminatory language, and that we respect others opinions, perspectives and creations.
- We'll invite everyone to turn on their cameras. We think this is a great way of making it feel more like we're in the same room. However, you don't have to have your camera on if you'd prefer not to.

If there is anything we can do to make you feel more safe, comfortable or welcome, please do let us know.

Overview of the workshop

Games about the future: sci-fi and storytelling is an online workshop exploring forms of game design and science fiction storytelling.

In the workshop we will:

- Introduce ourselves and the workshop
- Play some games
- Talk about games we like, and why we like them
- Discuss game design.

Game design means the rules and behaviours that make up a game, and how we create games that are fun and interesting to play.

- Talk about 'the future'. What does the future mean to us? How do we feel about it?
- Look at 'Twine', a free interactive storytelling tool
- Invite people to work alone or in small groups to make a short game. There will be templates and guidance available.
- At the end there will be an option to share your game, or your ideas, with others.

Getting the best experience:

The workshop will take place on Zoom. You'll be sent the Zoom link on the morning of the workshop. If you'd like to have the link further in advance, please let us know.

The workshop will be run in spoken English, with live captioning. If there is anything else you would need or appreciate, do get in touch to let us know.

The workshop is best experienced on a computer, as it will be useful to have access to Zoom and Twine at the same time. However, there is absolutely no need for a computer if you'd prefer to join us via a tablet or a phone. If accessing technology or WIFI will be a challenge for you, do let us know. Space, computers and refreshments will be available in the gallery if anyone wants to join us there.

If you have any difficulties joining the workshop, you can email media@modernartoxford.org.uk or call 44 (0) 1865 722733.

The session will last for 2 hours, we'll take a 5-10 minute break about half way through. If these timings will pose a challenge to you, and you'll need more regular screen breaks, or a longer period of time in the middle, let us know and we can adapt. You are also of course welcome to participate as much or as little as you want and on the terms that suit you.

If there is anything you'd like us to know about you before the session just pop us a message at media@modernartoxford.org.uk or call us on 44 (0) 1865 722733.