



For more information, contact:

Marketing and Public Relations
407-835-7481
mpr@ocls.info

Melrose Center's Orlando Game Jam and Gaming Expo Challenges Teams to Create a Video Game in One Weekend

ORLANDO, Fla. (January 15, 2025) – Unleash your creativity at this year's Orlando Game Jam and create a video game in just one weekend. Bring your team or create one at our information session on February 27 where you'll learn the secret theme and special challenges.

Game Jam participants will make a game from scratch, showcase their games at the Orlando Gaming Expo and vote on who will win bragging rights and cash prizes, sponsored by the Friends of the Orange County Library System. The events will be hosted at the Dorothy Lumley Melrose Center for Technology, Innovation and Creativity at Orlando Public Library February 27-March 2.

"Game Jam is a real test of who can organize their time and scope their project effectively," said Juan Rivera, Melrose Center senior digital media design instructor. "The teams that have done well in the past recognize there's not enough time to create a multiplayer, 48-level game but have created some really fun games."

The concept is modeled after musician jam sessions, with the goal of fostering creativity and innovation among game developers and designers. Interested gamers can visit the Melrose Center on Thursday, February 27 from 4-10 p.m. for an information session to learn the secret theme, form a team and make a plan. Teams can then make use of the Melrose Center's extensive resources to craft their game during extended hours on Friday, February 28, and Saturday, March 1. Game Jam participants must turn in their games and have their booths ready by noon on Sunday, March 2.

All games will be open to the public for play, feedback and voting during the Orlando Gaming Expo at the Melrose Center from 1-5 p.m. on Sunday, March 2. Local video game studios, educators and developers will also be present to mingle, answer questions and allow guests to learn more about Orlando's gaming scene. The winners of the Orlando Game Jam will be announced during the closing ceremonies at 5 p.m.

Learn more about the Game Jam and register to participate at ocls.org/orlando-game-jam/. For more information about Melrose Center resources for game designers, see this video with former Game Jam winner Julie Nguyen - [OCLS Game Designer Story](#).

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