



# VIDEO GAME FESTIVAL

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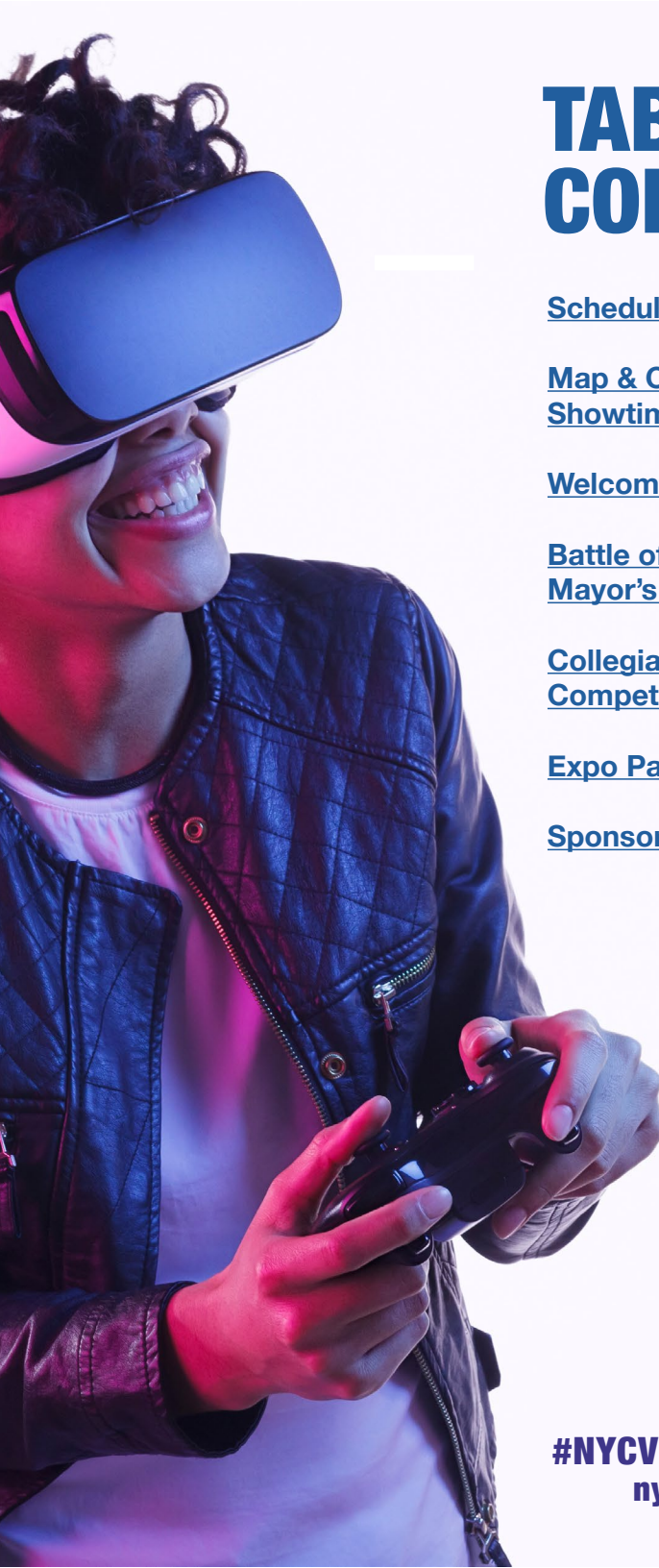


**SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026**

**#NYCVideoGameFestival**  
**[nyc.gov/DigitalGames](http://nyc.gov/DigitalGames)**

**NYC**  
Media &  
Entertainment

**NYC**  
Public  
Schools



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# SCHEDULE

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- 8:30 AM**      **Registration Open**
- 8:45 AM**      **Festival Open**  
*Hall 1, Hall 2, Indie Village, Freeplay, Arcade, F1 Simulator, Drone Zone, Target Darts, Cinema*
- 9:00 AM**      **Collegiate Esports Circuit Kickoff**  
**Valorant & League of Legends**  
*Hall 2*
- 9:30 AM**      **Battle of the Boroughs: Kickoff - Hall 1**
- 10:00 AM**     **Battle of the Boroughs: Mayor's Cup Middle School Finals - Hall 1**
- 12:00 PM**     **Premiere Film Screening + Filmmaker Talk:**  
***Battle of the Boroughs***  
by Simone de Rochefort - *Cinema*
- 12:30 PM**     **Battle of the Boroughs: Mayor's Cup High School Finals - Hall 1**
- 2:00 PM**      **Cxmmunity Foundation TED Talk:**  
***College Options for Gamers*** - *Cinema*
- 2:45 PM**      **Cosplay Parade - Drone Zone, Indie Village, Freeplay, Hall 2, Arcade, Hall 1**
- 3:15 PM**      **Battle of the Boroughs: Mayor's Cup Elementary School Finals - Hall 1**
- 4:45 PM**      **Battle of the Boroughs: Finale - Hall 1**
- 5:45 PM**      **Collegiate Esports Tournament: Finale**  
*Hall 2*
- 6:00 PM**      **Festival Closes**

# WELCOME

歡迎

Bienvenidos

Добро пожаловать

Buenvini

ברוך הבא

어서 오세요

أهلاً وسهلاً

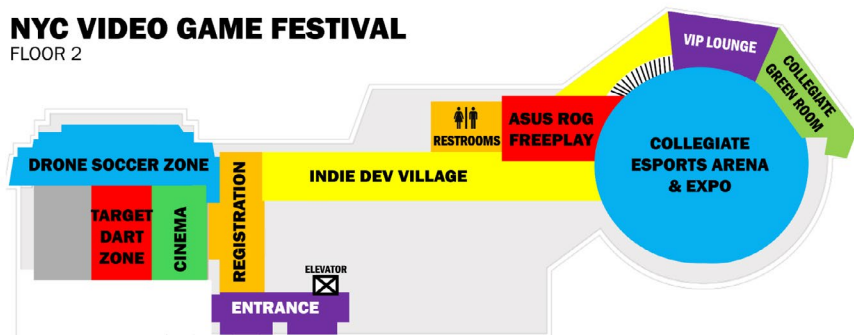
**New York City speaks in many voices.  
Today, they all come together.**



# FESTIVAL MAP & CINEMA SHOWTIMES

## NYC VIDEO GAME FESTIVAL

FLOOR 2



## NYC VIDEO GAME FESTIVAL

FLOOR 1



## CINEMA SHOWTIMES

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 10:30AM  | <b>Cxmmunity Foundation TED Talk:</b><br>College Options for Gamers  |
| 12:00 PM | <b>Premiere Screening + Filmmaker Talk:</b><br>(2026-39 min-Polygon-G) Polygon's Battle of the Boroughs Documentary by Simone de Rochefort |
| 2:00 PM  | <b>Cxmmunity Foundation TED Talk:</b><br>College Options for Gamers  |
| 4:00 PM  | <b>Encore Screening:</b> (2026-39 min-Polygon-G)<br>Polygon's Battle of the Boroughs Documentary   |

**#NYCVideoGameFestival**  
[nyc.gov/DigitalGames](http://nyc.gov/DigitalGames)



Dear Festival Attendees,

Welcome to the 2nd Annual NYC Video Game Festival!

This day represents a commitment made by the City of NY to make NYC a global hub for the digital games industry. It is meant to signal to AAA studios, and large-scale gaming event producers, that the industry is strong here. And to celebrate the local indie gaming community that live and work here.

We believe that our differentiator from other video game festivals is our focus on education and building a strong local workforce of coders, video game designers and city planners. That's why we have kindergartens through college aged New Yorkers here, and a College and Career Lane with representatives from local studios, CUNYs, private colleges, and more, where students and parents can learn how to take their child's love of video games towards a career.

New York City is home to more than 380 game companies and over 7,900 indie game developers, making it the largest game development hub on the East Coast. We are proud of those numbers, and want to see them grow.

To all the esports competitors here today, good luck. Your city is proud of you.

To all the educators, officials, gamers, families, brands, partners, bloggers, reporters here today, thank you for being a part of this moment/

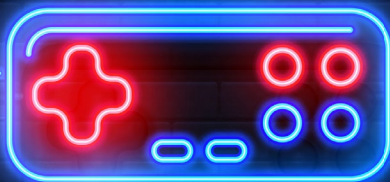
Enjoy the festival!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rafael Espinal".

Rafael Espinal, Commissioner  
NYC Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment





# TEAMS

Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
<b>Brooklyn Champions</b>		
<b>Hyper Pigmentation</b> P.S. 889 Principal Maria Lucia Miltello Teacher/Coach Jessica Aujero	<b>The Innovatives</b> Fort Greene Preparatory Academy Principal Paula Lettiere Teacher/Coach Kelly Saranii Muller	<b>Tele Squad</b> K371 Lillian Raskin High School Principal Heather Miller Teacher/Coach Emily Chandler
<b>Bronx Champions</b>		
<b>PS 86 Tigers</b> PS 86 The Kingsbridge Heights School Principal Fiona Tyson Teacher/Coach Kim Judin	<b>SVA U.G.T (Ultimate Gaming Technology)</b> Soundview Academy for Culture and Scholarship Principal Paulette Christie Teacher/Coach Kymberle Gillcrese	<b>Alexis</b> Mott Haven Village Preparatory High School Principal Jaime Dubei Teacher/Coach Jason Scott
<b>Manhattan Champions</b>		
<b>Manhattan Green Lions</b> P.S. 084 Lillian Weber Principal Evelyn Lolis Teacher/Coach Sori Ahn	<b>Yellow Pandas</b> New Explorations into Science, Technology and Math High School (NEST+) Principal Meaghan Lynch Coach Richard Sullivan	<b>Behemoth</b> Frank McCourt High School Principal Danielle Salzberg Coach Kevin Ota
<b>Queens Champions</b>		
<b>The Fearless Firebirds</b> P.S. 239Q Principal Nina Morris Coach Brenda Henriquez	<b>Top Secret Developers</b> P.S./M.S. 200 - The Magnet School of Global Studies and Leadership Principal Tracy Harrison Coaches Christina Lee & Danielle O'Connor	<b>The Miners</b> Young Women's Leadership School, Astoria Principal Allison Persad Coach Andreas Jordan
<b>Staten Island Champions</b>		
<b>PS 21 SPARK Warrior Eagles</b> P.S. 21 Margaret Emery-Elm Park Principal Valerie Panzella Coach Melissa Neglia	<b>Brains Over Blocks</b> I.S. 027 Anning S. Prall Principal Eileen Barone Coach Joel Soto	<b>STREAM TEAM 3.0</b> Tottenville High School Principal Gina Battista Coach Zach Rosch

**Hosted by:**  
VGA's Luiggy Gomez

**Shoutcasters:**  
Rick "FocusLikeBull" Sepulveda  
Lola Brown

**NYC Public Schools  
Shoutcasting Competition  
Winners 2026:**

Lia Abric-Sun, Elementary School  
Shoutcaster  
Diyanah Ahmed, Middle School  
Shoutcaster

**Judges:**

**Elementary Division (Grades 3-5)**

- Corey L. Gordon, M.Ed., Senior National Educational Strategist, CDW Education
- Amy Hobson, Senior Director K-5 Computer Science, CS4All, Office of Student Pathways, NYC Public Schools
- Kareen Ndema, Director, New York Education, Microsoft
- Amy Patterson, Chief Program Officer, Urban Arts
- Zach Dane, Executive Director of EdTech+, Bronx DIIT

**Middle Division (Grades 6-8)**

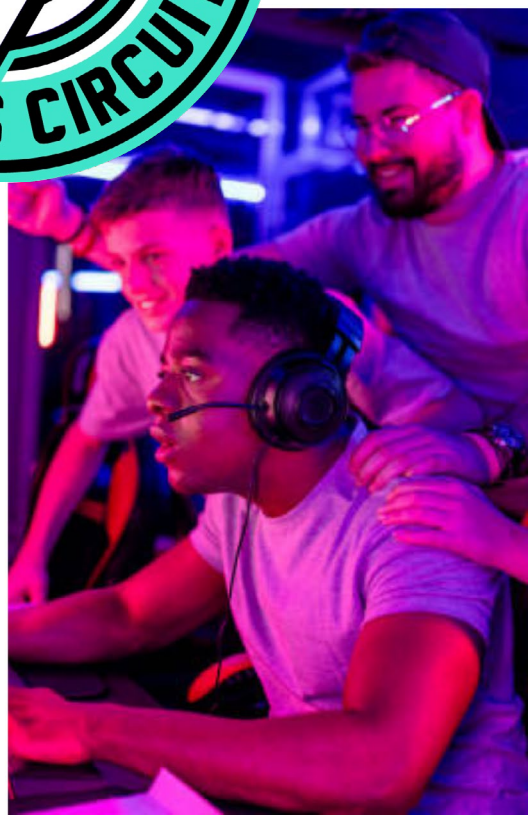
- Shannon Moran, Director of National Programs
- Sabine Maura, Senior Director- Financial Empowerment
- Melissa Cisco, Director of Strategic Initiatives and External Partnerships
- Chris Hunte, Senior Systems Engineer
- Emily Mertin, Assistant Vice President, Innovation Industries

**Senior Division (Grades 9-12)**

- EJ Park, Senior Director, 6-12 CS Education, Office of Student Pathways, NYC Public Schools
- Julie Mavrogeorge, Esports Implementation Architect, WorkED
- Amanda McFee, Director of Arts Programs & Education District 75, NYC Public Schools
- Aria Azizi, Worldwide Education, Apple
- Oliver Tingling, Teaching & Learning Coordinator, kami

**#NYCVideoGameFestival**  
**nyc.gov/DigitalGames**





# Collegiate Valorant® Competition Teams

1st Seed	Baruch College White	Baruch Esports Association
2nd Seed	Pace University Gold	Pace University
3rd Seed	CCNY PAPERS (rex)	The City College of New York
4th Seed	Brooklyn College Maroon	Brooklyn College

# Collegiate League of Legends® Finalists

1st Seed	Brooklyn College Maroon	Brooklyn College
2nd Seed	CCNY Progresses	The City College of New York
3rd Seed	Hunter College Hawks	Hunter College
4th Seed	Farmingdale Rams	SUNY Farmingdale State College

## Valorant Teams

- Pace University Gold
- Baruch College White
- Brooklyn College Maroon
- CCNY Papers Rex
- Pace University White
- Hunter College Valorant
- Binghamton University A
- Baruch College Blue
- Queens College Silver Knights
- RPI Red
- Molloy Lions
- CSI Valorant
- ASC Valorant
- RPI White,
- SUNY Poly Val Blue
- Brockport Eagles
- Empire Elites

## League of Legends Teams

- CCNY Progresses
- Brooklyn College Maroon
- Hunter College Hawks
- Brooklyn College Gold
- Farmingdale Rams
- Brooklyn College White
- John Jay Bloodhounds
- CCNY Orcas
- Pace University White
- Keuka College Wolves

# NYCCEC Board of Directors

**Brandon Henriquez**  
*Founder, VGA*

**Ivan Gatón**  
*VGA*

**Johnson Scoggins**  
*ECAC Representative*

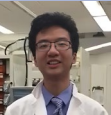
**Alexander Raff**  
*Director of Esports, Brooklyn College*

**Julia Cardillo**  
*Director of Esports, Pace University*

Stream the Festival on Twitch  
**[twitch.tv/NYCVideoGameFestival](https://www.twitch.tv/NYCVideoGameFestival)**

**#NYCVideoGameFestival**  
**[nyc.gov/DigitalGames](https://nyc.gov/DigitalGames)**

# Expo Partners



# Expo Partners

*\*listed in alphabetical order by zone*

## Indie Dev Village

dank.game  
Planetary Games  
AniTOMO  
WhaleFood Games  
Computer Lunch  
Jia Jie Chen  
Bungo Studios  
Yarg Productions  
by Sam Eng  
@PixelappOfficial  
Hot Chai Games  
Muditaheart Games

Dusk Sharp  
Davis Aguilera Studios LLC  
SPIN Encyclopedia  
Immersive Gamebox  
Scramble Heart City  
Mokuni  
GliK Games  
Shattered Journal Games  
Play All Gaming LLC  
Alter Staff  
Kaiju Fruit Labs  
Velveteen Coyote

## Activations



### Collegiate Hall

Halucinated Digital Show  
EGD Collective  
Gen.G Global Academy  
Vibe XP  
St. John's University  
Long Island University  
NYU Game Design Future Lab  
NYU Game Center Incubator  
SUNY Downstate Health  
Sciences University

### Battle of the Boroughs Hall

DominicanosUSA  
OSP  
NYCPS / DIIT/ NYSCATE  
NYVGCC  
GameU  
Urban Arts/ Unity  
Day of AI  
Games for Change  
AOIT  
CCNY  
Cleverlike Studios  
Cosplay Hollow



## **FESTIVAL PRODUCTION TEAM**

Alia Jones-Harvey

Associate Commissioner, Education, Workforce & Policy,  
NYC Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment

Johanna McCabe

Press Secretary, NYC Mayor's Office of Media &  
Entertainment

Nicole Sarfo

Programs Associate, NYC Mayor's Office of Media &  
Entertainment

Jose Perez

Director of Instructional Technology, Division of  
Instructional & Information Technology, NYC Public  
Schools

Anthony Casasnovas

Ed Tech Program Manager/Teacher Team Leader, Division  
of Instructional & Information Technology,  
NYC Public Schools

Brandon Henriquez

Founder | Director of Business Development  
Video Game Amateurs (VGA)

Unicorn Roar

Bianca Nieves, Co-Founder

Halucinated

*NYC Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment*

*Communications & Marketing Team*

*Melanie Scharler, Associate Commissioner*

*Zanub Saeed, Digital & Social Media Manager*

*Roxanna Allen, Marketing & Communication Design  
Manager*

## **NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS BATTLE OF THE BOROUGH'S TEAM**

Chancellor Kamar Samuels

Randy Asher, Deputy Chief Information Officer for School  
Planning, Modernization, and Partnerships

Onika Richards, Deputy Press Secretary, NYC Public  
Schools

*Division of Instructional & Information Technology*

*Jose Perez, Director of Instructional Technology*

*Anthony Casasnovas, Ed Tech Program Manager*

*Juan Carlos Jordan, Executive Director of Field Operations*

*Paul Fernandez, Bronx Technology Director*

*Computer Science for All*

*Sean Arnold, Director of School Pathways*

*Tunisia Mitchell, Computer Science Education Manager*

*Nadia Taylor, Computer Science Education Manager*

*Kevin Sukhoor, Computer Science Education Manager*

*Kerry McGarvey, Information Technology Specialist*

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## **SPECIAL THANKS TO**

Premiere Vibes

Promethean

MOME Team: Jake Dore, Amanda Nguyen, Morgan Pearlman, Lloyd Basen, Roxanna Allen, Zanub Saeed  
The Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC

Principal Moses Ojeda & the students, Thomas Edison High School

Principal Kayode Ayetiwa, Health, Arts, Robotics & Technology HS

Assistant Principal Nancy Wood, John Dewey HS

## **SPONSOR THANK YOU**

ASUS Republic of Gamers

Howard Industries

TranslateLive

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Samsung

TargetDarts

Vivid Imagination

MegaMinds

CDW

Microsoft

Red Bull

Apple

## **MEDIA THANK YOU**

GamesBeat

Polygon

HipHopGamer



# VIDEO GAME FESTIVAL

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