



Lead Designer

We are Velan Studios, an independent game developer with a passion for the unconventional. We make innovative games in a variety of genres with accessibility and depth to delight our audiences, no matter who they are. We believe in maintaining a creative, collaborative, and diverse team environment at our studio, and we are looking for passionate and capable people to join our team of experienced AAA console developers.

We are seeking a seasoned Lead Designer whose communication skills, organization, focus on iteration, and polish are all exceptional. The ideal candidate will work to maintain strong partnerships with art, level design, tools, UI, gameplay engineering, monetization, rewards, etc., and actively look for opportunities to make the game better than the sum of its parts. This individual loves games of all sorts - and it's clear that the best, most rewarding game of all... is making a great game for others to enjoy.

This is a “forward looking role,” which partners with other discipline leads to understand emerging trends and technologies that may benefit/impact how we design games.

Responsibilities:

- Serves as the creative vision holder of a game’s core pillars.
- Drive gameplay, systems, and content design through all development phases, from concept to live operations.
- Once live, design and oversee evolution of the live product based on analysis of key performance indicators and player feedback.
- Oversee and provide critical feedback on the design of complex game features, gameplay, level design, UI Design and other game systems.
- Maintain up-to-date, clear, concise game documentation that keeps pace with the project’s progress and evolution.
- Work in collaboration with other disciplines to find ground-breaking solutions to the constraints or requirements of each game.
- Review game system(s) within area of responsibility and ensures optimal balancing across the game for player experience and creative goals.
- Provide both high-level game design direction and hands-on design implementation within a somewhat technical toolset.
- Collaborate with Producers to help drive the project schedule, including the roadmap and backlog.
- Conduct peer reviews, troubleshoot, problem solve, and provide constructive feedback.
- Act as a leader, mentor, and role model.



Job Requirements:

- 5+ years of professional video game industry experience as a lead/senior designer.
- Possesses expert knowledge of game design principles such as design theory and methodologies, environment, directing player experience, player behavior, choice and motivation, game progression and pacing, etc.
- Proven experience giving rise to creative ideas that surprise and delight; pushing the boundaries of creativity.
- Ability to champion ideas through focused and inspiring leadership with the ability to keep the team motivated and engaged through hardships.
- Exceptional ability to communicate design concepts effectively, verbally, in written format, or visually to other disciplines.
- Ability to pinpoint the key characteristics necessary for a game's success and relentlessly prioritize to make them shine.
- Degree or equivalent experience in Human Computer Interaction, Computer Science, User Experience, Digital Media Design, Game Design, Fine Arts, or related field is desired.

Big plusses:

- Experience and/or passion for Mixed Reality, Augmented Reality, and Virtual Reality gaming
- Game programming or scripting experience
- 2+ years of experience in a leadership position
- Experience designing for and/or leading a live-service game
- UX design capability
- Experience running prototyping team
- Excited about exploring new forms of play and taking risks on innovations to make them fun

To apply for this position, please send your resume and cover letter to jobs@velanstudios.com. Be sure to reference the position you're applying for in the subject line.

About Velan Studios:

Velan Studios is an independent studio comprised of a passionate and diverse team of seasoned developers. We are the creators behind Mario Kart Live: Home Circuit and Knockout City. Velan Studios' mission is to create ground-breaking game experiences centered on new forms of play across both existing and emerging platforms. Velan Studios maintains a team of both remote and on-site employees. On-site employees work from our office in Troy, NY.