

English

Gæmz Guide

Welcome to the Gæmz guide, a guidebook where you can read about what we do, and how you can start your own Gæmz!

What is Gæmz?

Gæmz is a community for the people who are into art/experimental games, playful media, and d0peshit founded in 2019. Our mission is to be a safe and friendly community that can help us have a more exciting and interesting art-things world especially by supporting the artists and the like.

History of Gæmz

We started as an in-person event in Tokyo where alternative games creators and enthusiasts can meet up in 2019 by Nomi thanks to the generous offer by Pico Pico Cafe to use the space. We also existed as an online community on a Discord server from the beginning. When Covid-19 Global Pandemic was announced in 2020, we became an even more online-focused community where we'd sometimes host online events. We slowly returned to in-person events with restrictions and a hybrid feature where we'd also connect with people on Discord but it was only in the late 2023 when we were once again a regular in-person event. In 2023, we started to expand to other cities due to Nomi's personal circumstances and as of April 2025, we host regular in-person events in Tokyo and London thanks to the new regional hosts in both cities who joined us in 2024. It is not clear when our focus has shifted to building a community rather than just having in-person meet-ups but now we are a community that does monthly meet-ups and some other events such as game jams.

Why is it called Gæmz?

We're Gæmz and it's supposed to be pronounced 'games' although we're pretty chill about the pronunciation part but we're called Gæmz because Nomi wanted to say "I started this games meet-up called gæmz meetup" in in-person conversations.

Although it's still in the logo, we have kind of dropped 'meetup' from the name as we want to emphasise that we are a community and not just events.

The character Æ/æ is called ash or æsh in English and it represents the Latin diphthong ae. So, gaemz can be an alternative spelling of gæmz.

Wanna start Gæmz?

Would you like to start Gæmz in your area? Cool! It's relatively easy as long as you have time to attend it on a regular basis.

Easy steps:

1. Find a venue
 - Ask friends, existing communities, bars, etc.
 - We know that the difficulty of finding the right place varies depending on where you are. So it'd be helpful to ask anyone in your area about it.
2. Pick the date
 - So far, we have been doing mostly week day/after work events. Most of the Gæmz has started from somewhere around 19:00 until the last public transport as that works for most people. But if you think different time/day of the week would work better in your area, why not try that?
 - Talk to the venue to pick the best date too. If it's a bar, there might be a day in the week that's less busy, etc.
 - If the venue has a stable internet connection, consider doing a hybrid event where you'd stream the event on our Discord server. It's a fun thing to do :~)
3. Make an event description page
 - Since 2025, we've been using Luma for this. We have the [Gæmz Calendar](#) there and you can submit your Gæmz event there so that people can follow the future events from there.
 - If you'd like to use a different system, talk to Nomi. We can add that to the websites and also talk about the future plans.
4. Spread the word
 - Depending on how public you'd like to be, we can share your event on social media.
 - If it's a private event, send out the private invitations.
 - Usually, we announce the events on Discord (use Calendar and #announcements), Bluesky and Instagram, sometimes Facebook, Mastodon, and X too if we remember to do so.

Luma

- Create an event page
- Add gaemzmu@gmail.com as a co-host (optional)
- Submit the event to the [Gæmz Calendar](#)

Discord

Once you have the Luma page, please create an event on Discord. If you have the @admin role, you can post things in #announcements channel. Tag @gaemzmu and @/city to notify people

about the event. (If there's no city role for your city and you'd like to have regular Gæmz in that city, please talk to Nomi)

Socials

We are on the following social media platforms:

- Instagram
- Bluesky
- Mastodon
- Facebook
- X

Please talk to Nomi if you'd like to manage those channels. Otherwise, Nomi can post announcements.

Safer Space

Safer Space Policy & Code of Conduct

At Gæmz, we want to have a space where everyone can feel safe enough to relax, be themselves, and feel OK to be vulnerable. So, our Safer Space Policy & Code of Conduct is for everyone. Of course, we understand that some people feel the need for it more than some other people, but we think that it's necessary for everyone to understand why it matters and that it's relevant to all.

Here's the standard text we have been using. We made this based on the template on Geek Feminist Wiki (https://geekfeminism.fandom.com/wiki/Conference_anti-harassment/Policy):

Gæmz is dedicated to providing a harassment free social experience for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age, religion, faiths, backgrounds, or artistic/game preferences.

Additionally, Nomi added this text in 2024 for the first London Gæmz:

We want Gæmz to be like a dimly-lit film theatre where it's a bit easier to cry because nobody can see you and even if they see you, they'd usually understand why you're crying on a physiological level. That's the space we want. So let's keep this space nice & safe for everyone!

Photo/Video Documentation

You may also use [no photo/video without permission] policy:

Usually we don't take photos at Gæmz but someone may want to take some photographs. If you don't want to have photographs of your things taken, Please let us know. And if you want to take photos, it'll be nice if you ask everyone first.

While we respect the privacy of the participants, the [no photo/video without permission] policy is not mandatory. However, if you are to document the event or allow participants to freely document the event, please inform the attendees that. Additionally, we recommend asking if there is anyone who doesn't want to be in the pictures. You can do so by giving out stickers to mark themselves so that the photographers & videographers can recognise those who don't want to be in the pictures.

Drinks

It goes without saying, please drink responsibly. That's easy to say but it seems like it might be something that's worth mentioning from time to time especially since alcohol sometimes drinks you and by the time you realise that something went wrong, it might be too late to fix the problem. We understand how drinks can act as nice social lubricant and they are nice things. But just like medicines and poisons, anything that's effective can be poisonous when it's abused.

There are tips and tools that you can use to control your drinking habit if you want to do something about your drinking habit. For instance, [Drinkaware.co.uk](https://drinkaware.co.uk) has an app for tracking your alcohol intake and resources about how to drink responsively.

Here are some ideas:

- Know your limits
- Maybe don't drink if you're under the weather
- Ask your friend to help keep an eye on how much you're drinking and/or if you are behaving strangely.

Design Safer Spaces

If you can, pay attention to how you design the event space. Oftentimes, no amount of words can make people aware of things. A wall of text and lectures may not be the most effective way to lead a lot of people but with things like space design and peer pressure, you can convey messages more effectively. For example, you can put up a poster about [no photos/videos without permission], and another poster for [drink responsibly] somewhere visible and they'd become constant reminders for the people on a subconscious level.

Statement on AI

Gæmz welcomes everyone but we are against the unlicensed use of creative works for training generative AI. It's unethical and sucks.

If you agree with us, you can also sign this protest letter <https://www.aitrainingstatement.org/>

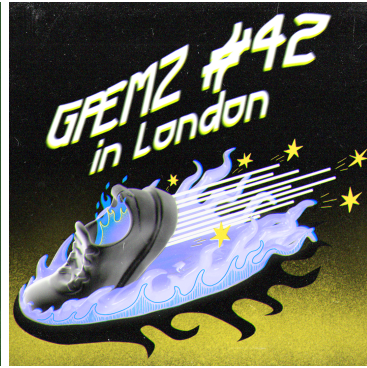
Gæmz specific things:

Cover art

Cover art is an important part of the event because it's a good way to tell people what kind of community/event we are. A thousand words would help but a single picture is extremely efficient. Up until now all the Gæmz cover art has been made by Nomi, and you can always ask Nomi if you want the cover art made by them or collaborate. But if you'd like to make it yourself, here are some tips:

1. Colour theory? Cool. If you learn about it, it's definitely useful. But you could also steal like an artist. Pick an image that you like the colours of and see if you can use the colours from that image. It could be a painting, a screenshot, or what you're looking at from your window.
2. Typography is fun. 1001 Fonts has search options that allows you to find commercial free fonts that has ash (æ)
<https://www.1001fonts.com/?text=g%C3%A6mz&commercial=true&subset=true&page=2>
3. Experiment with colours and effects.
4. Try distorting the image/text.
5. Recycle the art you've made before.
6. Scribbles can be cool.
7. Use Public Domain Assets & Creative Commons

Since we use Luma, Gæmz cover arts are now 1x1. Here are the square images we made so far.



We haven't played much with typography since we moved to Luma but here's one with distorted text:



Opening Slides

We have a template for the opening slides, [GÆMZ Template](#) . Feel free to adjust things but please consult with us regarding safer space policy. Nomi might update it from time to time. Please check the admin channel for updates.

Discord

We communicate through Discord. If you become a host, you'll be given a role to post announcements and join the chats among the hosts. We sometimes discuss some organisational things such as readjustment of safer space policy.

Report system

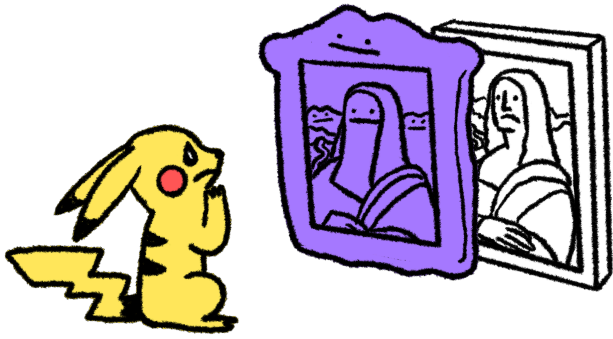
We have a reporting system for when things go wrong. Please inform the participants of this. It will help us stay mindful of keeping the space safe.

- Reporting form: <https://tally.so/r/w8YeJY>
- #safer-space on Discord: <https://discord.gg/W6MWQJXBy7>
- DM hosts

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Japanese

何これ？

GÆMZ MEETUPは下記のようなことが好きな人々用の集まりです：

- アート・実験的なゲームまたは他のゲーム的な何かを開発する事
- ゲームを芸術として考える事
- インタラクティブメディアの為にクールなアートを作る方法
- ゲーム外の世界をインタラクティブな世界に取り入れる事
- 見えるバーをただ叩くだけじゃない音ゲー
- SHAKE THAT BUTTON
- 規格外な敵
- この他にこのリストに何を加えたらいいか教えてあげる

何が起きているのだ？

今まではこんなことをやりました：

- 「オープンマイク」スタイルのプレゼンテーション。
- プロトタイプを試遊。
- パブリッシュされているゲームで遊ぶ
- オフラインゲームジャム（例：SpektrumGæmz Jam
<https://itch.io/jam/tokyo-gaemzu-jam>, Ludum Dare オフライン
<https://jp.ign.com/games/35420/feature/3>）
- 映画鑑賞！

近い将来やるかも知れないこと

- ゲームデヴ合宿
- 遠足
- Curated talks
- 勉強会？（例えば、ゲームを選んでそれを皆で研究するとか？）

何かしたい！どうしたらいい？

最高！

5分以上のプレゼンテーションしたい方はこのフォームを埋めてください:

<https://goo.gl/forms/YPCuO8hmmoYkA8ZA3>

返事いたします。

他に何かあったら直接ノミに御連絡下さい。

オフィシャルハッシュタグは #GAEMZMUです。

いつやるの？

TBA. 決まったら教えます。

[[Discord server]{#6B95FF}](https://discord.gg/JVHru3d)に参加したり

[[Facebook (@gaemzmu)]{#6B95FF}](https://www.facebook.com/gaemzmu) / [[Twitter (@gaemzmu)]{#6B95FF}](https://twitter.com/gaemzmu)を見てください。

次のイベントについてはそこでアナウンスする予定です。