



# BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

HOW GREAT MENTORS BECOME  
EVEN GREATER LEADERS

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**MAKING GAMES SINCE 2005**



\* NOT COVER ART





# WHY AM I GIVING THIS TALK?

- Supported **by mentors**
- Supported career development
- Inspiration to **give back** to the community & industry
- As a marginalized dev I want to **open opportunities**





# SUMMARY

PART 1

## MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

PART 2

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MENTOR?

PART 3

## HOW MENTORSHIP BUILDS STRONG LEADERS

PART 4

## WHO CAN BE A MENTOR





The background is a soft, painterly illustration of a pond scene. In the upper left, there's a large, dark green lily pad with several small, bright green spots. To its right, a cluster of long, thin, light green reeds or grasses rises from the water. Scattered throughout the scene are numerous light-colored, stylized leaves, some of which appear to be falling or floating. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of green and teal, with a slightly muted, artistic feel.

PART 1

# MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE



## AS A MENTEE, MY MENTORS...

- **Introduced** me to their friends and industry connections
- **Helped** me maneuver the industry
- Listened and **gave feedback**
- **Believed in me** when I wasn't able to
- Inspired me to **give back**





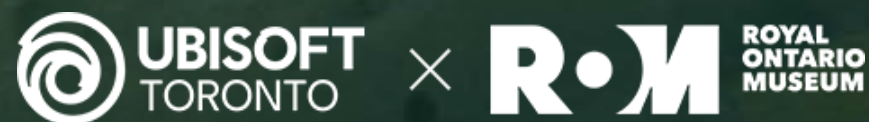
# AS A MENTOR...

## MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS AT UBISOFT

DEVELOP  
AT UBISOFT



MENTORSHIP  
PROGRAM



## MENTORSHIP OUTSIDE OF UBISOFT





PART 2

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MENTOR?





# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MENTOR?





**SUPPORT SKILL  
DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH**



**HELP MANEUVERING  
THE INDUSTRY**



## SUPPORT SKILL DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH

- Listening to **individual needs**
- **Offer direction**, resources, and best practices
- Support development of **core skills** and job-specific skills
- Discuss possible **career pathways**





## HELP MANEUVERING THE INDUSTRY

- Finding and developing a **support network**
- **Share experiences** & provide them with frameworks to handle different situations
- **Supporting marginalized people** and making the game industry **more accessible**





# WHAT IT DOESN'T MEAN

- A “**one-size-fits-all**” approach
- **Teaching** vs telling
- Mentorship is **not** for profit



PART 3

# HOW MENTORSHIP BUILDS STRONG LEADERS





# WHAT MAKES A GOOD LEADER?





**MEANINGFUL  
COMMUNICATION**

**ACTIVE LISTENING**

**BROADENING YOUR  
HORIZONS**

**IDENTIFY STRENGTHS  
& OBJECTIVES**

**CAREER  
DEVELOPMENT**

**GIVE OWNERSHIP**

**EMPATHY & RESPECT**

**TAKING RESPONSIBILITY**



# MEANINGFUL COMMUNICATION & ACTIVE LISTENING

- Learn to listen to individual **needs** and **support growth**
- Give **actionable feedback** not driven by Emotions (SBI)
- Learn to **tailor** feedback to your audience





# BROADENING YOUR HORIZONS

- Understanding that there are **other perspectives**
- **Learning** from other people's experiences
- It's okay to **have questions**





# GIVING OWNERSHIP

- Allowing them to **take responsibility** and ownership over their decisions
- **Offering support** to find solutions
- **It's okay** to fail





# CAREER DEVELOPMENT

- Teaching is **also learning**
- Allows mentors **to grow** in their craft
- Identifying **strengths** and areas of improvement





## CREATING A SAFE SPACE

- Taking responsibility for **the environment** you are creating
- Learning & showing **empathy** and **respect**
- Understanding languages and situations can change – **being adaptable**





PART 4

# WHO CAN BE A MENTOR





# WHO CAN BE A MENTOR?





**SENIOR  
DEVELOPERS**

**PEERS**

**COLLEAGUES**

**PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF  
WORK**





The background is a misty, teal-toned landscape. In the foreground, there's a body of water with reeds and grasses. In the mid-ground, a small, dark, multi-story building or tower is visible through the mist. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall mood is serene and atmospheric.

# PART 5 MAIN TAKEAWAYS





# MAIN TAKEAWAYS

- Mentorship **benefits** both mentee and mentors
- Opens up more **diverse perspectives**
- Creates opportunities for **marginalized** devs
- Skills learned as a mentor teach and improve your **leadership skills**



# MAIN TAKEAWAYS

- **Not all** mentors are managers, not all managers are mentors
- **Everyone** can be a mentor
- **See** if mentorship opportunities exist at your company
- If not, **create** your own opportunities





**QUESTIONS?**





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**THANK YOU**