

2024 Origins Awards Entry Document and Submission Guidelines



Mission Statement

The Origins Awards' mission is to annually recognize achievement within the game industry. The awards will be conducted with integrity, impartiality, and with clearly defined categories. The awards' juries will be composed of knowledgeable professionals, cultivating a celebration of excellence within our industry.

These principles guide all aspects of the awards and are integrated into all of the concepts laid out in this document.

Eligibility

Release Window

Products available to consumers between Jan 1, 2023 and Dec 31, 2023 are eligible for these awards.

Submission Window

Products may be submitted to for consideration between June 21, 2023 and December 31, 2023.

Sample Provision

To be eligible for an award, 7 copies of a product must be delivered to the coordinator, 258 E. Campus View Blvd., Columbus, OH 43235 on or before December 31, 2023. Digital submissions for the Creative category must also be submitted by this date to originsawards@gama.org.

Multiple Submissions

Any individual product may only be submitted for entry in a single category. Elements of a product submitted for another award (eg art, writing) may also be submitted in the Creative category.

New Release Product

For a product to be eligible for nomination, it must be a new release for the year of submission. Reprints of existing games should have significant changes from previous editions to be eligible.

Expansions

Submissions for expansions must be accompanied by an equal number of copies of the base game they belong to. This ensures that all Jurors can evaluate the full play experience.

Entry Fee

Each submission to the Awards attracts a \$35 processing fee. GAMA members receive one free entry per category

All submissions are subject to review by the committee of the Origins Awards.

CATEGORIES

All submissions are subject to review by the committee of the Origins Awards.

Board Games

Best Cooperative Game
Best Cooperative Game Expansion
Best Gateway Game
Best Heavy Strategy Game
Best Heavy Strategy Game Expansion
Best Light Strategy Game
Best Light Strategy Game Expansion
Best Party/Social Game
Best Party/Social Game Expansion
Best Solo Game
Best Solo Game Expansion
Best Thematic Game
Best Thematic Game Expansion

Children's Games

Best Children's Game for Age 5 and under
Best Children's Game for Ages 6 to 9
Best Children's Game for Ages 10 to 12

Constructable Games

Best Fixed Constructable Game Product
Best Randomized Constructable Game Product
Best Starter Constructable Game Product

Creative Awards

Best 2D Published Game Art
Best 3D Published Game Component
Best Media Production
Best Published Creative Writing
Best Published Technical Writing

Game Accessories

Best Board Game-Related Product
Best Card-Related Product
Best Dice
Best Dice-Related Product
Best Miniatures-Related Product
Best Game-Related Paint Product
Best Roleplaying Game-Related Product
Best Roleplaying Game Miniature

Miniatures

Best Historical Miniatures Product
Best Skirmish-Based Miniatures Product
Best Unit-Based Miniatures Product
Best Boxed Miniatures Game

Puzzles

Best Jigsaw Puzzle
Best Escape Room Puzzle or Game
Best Brain Teaser Puzzle

Roleplaying Games

Best Roleplaying Game Core Product
Best Roleplaying Game Supplement
Best Roleplaying Game Adventure
Best Roleplaying Game Starter Product

NOTE: Special recognition awards may be given out on a case by case basis based on recommendations of the juries and implementation by the Origins Awards

CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

BOARD GAMES

Best Cooperative Game

The "Cooperative Game" award category honors board games that emphasize collaboration and teamwork among players. These games require participants to work together towards a common goal, often facing challenges or opponents controlled by the game itself. The Cooperative Game category recognizes titles that promote communication, strategic planning, and mutual support, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared experience among players.

Best Cooperative Game Expansion

An expansion of a game from the related category.

Best Gateway Game

A gateway board game is an introductory tabletop game designed to be easily understood and enjoyed by new players. It has simple rules and mechanics that provide a smooth transition into the world of board gaming. These games typically have shorter playtimes, strike a balance between luck and strategy, and offer engaging themes to encourage further exploration of the hobby.

Best Gateway Game Expansion

An expansion of a game from the related category.

Best Heavy Strategy Game

The "Heavy Strategy Board Game" award category recognizes games that offer deep and complex strategic gameplay, appealing to experienced and seasoned players. These games often involve intricate decision-making, long-term planning, and strategic thinking. They typically feature deep rule sets, multiple paths to victory, and a high level of player engagement, providing a challenging and intellectually stimulating gaming experience.

Best Heavy Strategy Game Expansion

An expansion of a game from the related category.

Best Light Strategy Game

The "Light Strategy Board Game" award category acknowledges games that offer strategic gameplay with accessible rules and mechanics, making them approachable for players of varying skill levels. These games strike a balance between simplicity and engaging decision-making, often allowing for strategic choices without overwhelming complexity. Light strategy board games typically have shorter playtimes and provide a more casual and relaxed gaming experience.

Best Light Strategy Game Expansion

An expansion of a game from the related category.

Best Party/Social Game

The "Party Game/Social Game" award category recognizes board games that excel at creating a lively and entertaining atmosphere for a group of players. These games are designed to foster social interaction, laughter, and friendly competition among participants. They often feature engaging gameplay mechanics, easy-to-understand rules, and encourage player interaction, making them ideal choices for parties and social gatherings.

Best Party/Social Game Expansion

An expansion of a game from the related category.

CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

Best Solo Game

The "Solo Board Game" award category recognizes games designed specifically for solo play, offering a fulfilling and enjoyable gaming experience for a single player. These games often feature mechanics and systems that simulate the challenge of playing against an opponent, creating engaging and strategic gameplay. Solo board games provide an opportunity for players to immerse themselves in the game's world and mechanics, allowing for personal exploration and strategic decision-making.

Best Solo Game Expansion

An expansion of a game from the related category.

Best Thematic Game

The "Thematic Board Game" category refers to games that prioritize immersing players in a rich themed and/or story-driven experience. These games often feature strong narratives, compelling settings, and detailed artwork that transport players into a fictional world. Thematic board games may incorporate elements such as adventure, exploration, role-playing, or strategic decision-making, all in service of enhancing the immersive and thematic experience for players.

Best Thematic Game Expansion

An expansion of a game from the related category.

CHILDREN'S GAMES

Children's games refer to a broad category of activities designed specifically for children to play and enjoy. These games cater to the interests, abilities, and developmental needs of children, providing entertainment, learning opportunities, and social interaction. Children's games can encompass a wide range of formats, including board games, card games, outdoor games, all tailored to engage and stimulate children's cognitive, physical, and social skills.

Best Children's Game for Age 5 and under

Games for children under 5 years old are specifically designed to engage and entertain young children while promoting their cognitive, social, and motor skills development. These games typically feature simple rules, colorful and interactive components, and age-appropriate themes that capture the interest and attention of young children.

Best Children's Game for Ages 6 to 9

Games for children aged 6-9 years old are designed to cater to their developmental abilities and interests. These games typically offer more complex rules and gameplay compared to games for younger children, encouraging strategic thinking, decision-making, and social interaction. They often feature age-appropriate themes, engaging components, and educational elements that promote skills such as math, reading, problem-solving, and teamwork, providing an enjoyable and enriching gaming experience for this age group.

Best Children's Game for Ages 10 to 12

Children's games for 10-12 year olds are designed to provide engaging and challenging experiences that cater to their growing cognitive abilities and interests. These games often involve more advanced gameplay mechanics, strategic decision-making, and problem-solving elements. They may feature themes that appeal to older children and incorporate more complex rules, encouraging critical thinking, social interaction, and fostering skills such as strategic planning, logical reasoning, and collaboration.

CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

CONSTRUCTABLE GAMES

Constructible games are games where players build their customized deck/team using individual elements, often cards but not limited to cards. These games often involve strategic gameplay, where players select and arrange their cards/elements to create powerful combinations and tactics. The unique aspect of constructible games is the ability to modify your deck/team, allowing for endless possibilities and personalization.

Best Fixed Constructable Game Product

Fixed Products within the constructible category are items fitting the constructible category but comprised of fixed or predetermined game elements sold prepacked and ready to play.

Best Randomized Constructable Game Product

Randomized Products are items fitting the Constructable Category which are comprised of a random selection of game pieces from a wider set.

Best Starter Constructable Game Product

Starter Products are those within the Constructable Category which are intended for introductory exposure to the game.

CREATIVE AWARDS

Best 2D Published Game Art

2D tabletop game art refers to the visual elements created for tabletop games that are rendered in a two-dimensional style, often using traditional or digital illustration techniques. It encompasses illustrations of characters, environments, objects, and other visual components that are used to enhance the aesthetics and storytelling of the game. In this category the owner of the art will submit the art and the artist is the winner.

Best 3D Published Game Component

3D tabletop game art refers to the visual elements created for tabletop games that are rendered in a three-dimensional format, often utilizing computer graphics and modeling techniques. It involves the creation of three-dimensional characters, objects, and environments that add depth and realism to the game, enhancing the overall visual experience for the players. In this category the owner of the art submits physical samples, and the artist wins the award.

Best Media Production

Media content for tabletop gaming refers to various forms of audio, visual, and digital materials created to complement or enhance the tabletop gaming experience. This can include podcasts, video series, live streams, articles, reviews, and other media formats that provide entertainment, information, or community engagement related to tabletop games.

Best Published Creative Writing

Creative writing for tabletop gaming involves the development and crafting of narrative content for tabletop games, including storytelling, world-building, and character development. It focuses on creating engaging and immersive narratives that drive the gameplay experience, providing players with compelling storylines and memorable interactions within the game's fictional universe.

Best Published Technical Writing

Technical writing for tabletop gaming involves the creation of clear and concise instructional and reference materials for game rules, mechanics, and components. It focuses on providing precise explanations, step-by-step instructions, and comprehensive documentation to ensure players can understand and effectively engage with the game's systems and mechanics.

CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

GAME ACCESSORIES

Tabletop accessories refer to a wide range of supplemental items that enhance the experience of playing tabletop games but is not required to play. Tabletop accessories are designed to enhance the immersion, organization, and convenience of tabletop gaming sessions.

Best Board Game-Related Product

Accessories that enhance boardgame experiences.

Best Card-Related Product

Accessories that enhance card games experiences.

Best Dice

Dice.

Best Dice-Related Product

Accessories that enhance dice products.

Best Miniatures-Related Product

Accessories that enhance miniature game experiences.

Best Game-Related Paint Product

Accessories that are used for decorating miniatures products.

Best Roleplaying Game-Related Product

Accessories that enhance roleplaying game experiences.

Best Roleplaying Game Miniature

Miniature Product intended to enhance roleplaying game experiences.

MINIATURES

Miniature games are strategic games that utilize detailed, miniature figurines or models to represent characters, units, or vehicles on a game board. Players engage in tactical combat or scenario-based gameplay, maneuvering their miniatures across the tabletop terrain and using various rules and mechanics to simulate battles, adventures, or simulations in a miniature scale.

Best Historical Miniatures Product

A historical miniature game focuses on recreating historical battles or events using miniature figurines and terrain. Players engage in strategic gameplay, commanding historically accurate armies or factions, and simulate the tactics and dynamics of historical conflicts in a miniature scale.

Best Skirmish-Based Miniatures Product

Skirmish miniature games are tabletop games that emphasize small-scale battles or encounters between small groups of individual characters or units. These games typically involve tactical positioning, individualized abilities, and focused combat, allowing players to experience intense and dynamic engagements with a smaller number of miniatures compared to larger-scale wargames.

Best Unit-Based Miniatures Product

Unit-based miniature games revolve around larger-scale battles or conflicts, where players control and maneuver entire units or squads of miniatures. These games focus on strategic positioning, coordinated movement, and combined arms tactics as players command and coordinate the actions of multiple miniatures to achieve victory on the battlefield.

CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

Best Boxed Miniatures Game

Boxed miniature games refer to tabletop games that come in a complete package, including miniatures, rules, game components, and sometimes a game board or terrain. These games are designed to provide a comprehensive gaming experience within a single box, offering players everything they need to start playing right away.

PUZZLES

Puzzles, as a game, involve the deliberate arrangement or manipulation of pieces, objects, or elements to form a specific solution or outcome. Puzzles often provide a structured set of rules or constraints, offering players a rewarding and intellectually stimulating experience as they work towards finding the solution within the given parameters.

Best Jigsaw Puzzle

A jigsaw puzzle is a game consisting of numerous small, interlocking pieces that, when correctly assembled, form a complete picture or design. The challenge lies in sorting and fitting the puzzle pieces together, requiring visual recognition, spatial reasoning, and patience to complete the image.

Best Escape Room Puzzle or Game

An Escape Room Style board game is a tabletop game that simulates the immersive experience of solving puzzles, uncovering clues, and escaping from a confined space, similar to a physical escape room. Players work together to decipher codes, solve riddles, and unravel mysteries within the game's narrative, all within the confines of a board or components provided in the game.

Best Brain Teaser Puzzle

Brain teaser puzzles are challenging mental exercises that require problem-solving skills and creative thinking to find a solution. These puzzles often present unique and unconventional problems, encouraging individuals to think outside the box and explore different perspectives to arrive at the correct answer.

ROLEPLAYING GAMES

An RPG tabletop game is a collaborative storytelling game where players assume the roles of characters within a shared fictional world. Guided by a game master, they navigate through the narrative, make decisions, and engage in role-playing interactions, often using dice rolls or cards to determine outcomes.

Best Roleplaying Game Core Product

The core set for an RPG game refers to the essential components needed to begin playing the game. It typically includes the rulebook or rule system, character creation guidelines, and any necessary dice or tokens required to resolve actions and outcomes within the game.

Best Roleplaying Game Supplement

An RPG supplement is a supplementary material or expansion designed to enhance a role-playing game, providing additional content such as new rules, settings, or character options. It is intended to be used in conjunction with the core rulebook of the RPG, offering players and GMs new possibilities & avenues for gameplay.

Best Roleplaying Game Adventure

An RPG Adventure supplement is a supplementary material or expansion designed to enhance a role-playing game, providing additional content and adventures sometimes combined with character options. It is intended to be used in conjunction with the core rulebook of the RPG, offering players and game masters new possibilities and avenues for gameplay.

Best Roleplaying Game Starter Product

A starter RPG is a simplified role-playing game designed for beginners or those new to the genre, offering streamlined rules and mechanics to ease players into the world of role-playing. It typically includes pre-generated characters, a concise rulebook, and introductory scenarios to help players grasp the fundamentals of the game.

ORIGINS AWARDS SUBMISSION FORM

Company Name _____

Contact Name _____

Contact Phone _____ Preferred

Contact Email _____ Preferred

Name of Submission _____

Submission Category _____

Product Release Date _____

Product Designer(s) _____

Product received upon submission? Yes No

Are you a GAMA Member? Yes No

By Submitting this form, you acknowledge all terms, conditions, and guidelines stated in this document.

By submitting this document, the listed parties acknowledge GAMA will invoice the organization for each entry (or each entry beyond the first in each category for GAMA members) per the terms listed in the submission guidelines above.

