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Introduction

Serious games - designed for purposes beyond entertainment - face unique challenges: they must balance engaging game-play with objectives like education, social change, or awareness.

Traditional frameworks often fail to clarify how and when to involve stakeholders, risking inauthentic or ineffective outcomes.

We propose an Integrative, iterative, multi-stakeholder design process for creating serious games structured into 3 phases:

Games developed using this process:



T Cell Titans
Helping children understand cancer treatment



Immersed in Conservation
Linking global purchasing
habits to deforestation



Built from Beneath
The city of Bath's history
from multiple perspectives

PHASE

WHAT

HOW

CO-DISCOVER

Purpose Nalues

Focus groups
Mini games
Modding
Conversations



INTERPRET

CO-DESIGN

Mechanics Tone Narrative Aesthetics

Brainstorming
Concept testing
Paper prototypes
Interviews



CO-EVALUATE

Game-play Authenticity Usability



Digital evaluation tools Interactive PDF Usability testing

Conclusion

Integrative design offers a replicable framework for serious games tackling "wicked problems" like climate change, healthcare, and social inequality:

- Promotes shared understanding among diverse stakeholders.
- Ensures authenticity in addressing complex societal issues.
- Supports iterative refinement for impactful, engaging experiences.













