Creative Career Paths
Visual Effects (VFX) Resources

LA COUNTY LIBRARY

Library Resources

Use these LA County Library resources and services to help you explore skills and resources for a career in visual effects.

Online Learning
LACountyLibrary.org/learn

LinkedIn LEARNING

Free access to online courses with topics, such as:

- How a Visual Effects Company Works
- Creating a Short Film: VFX Effects
- Creating a Short Film: VFX Environments
- VFX Techniques: Creating Particle Effects
- SynthEyes Essential Training
- Master Maya Learning Path
- Houdini Essential Training
- Unreal Engine Essential Training

- The Art of Rotoscoping
- VFX Keying Master Course
- Essentials of Storyboarding
- Storytelling for Designers
- Build a Successful Career in Project Management
- Excel 2021 Essential Training

LA COUNTY LIBRARY

Books
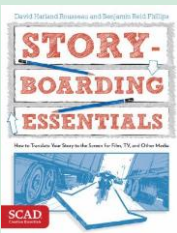
Storyboarding Essentials: How to Translate Your Story to the Screen for Film, TV, and other Media by David H. Rousseau
Presents a guide to visual storytelling that covers everything students and working professionals need to master the art of writing and formatting scripts, creating frames, and following visual logic to create a cohesive narrative.
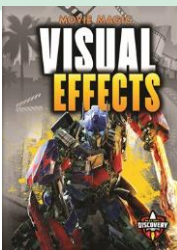
Visual Effects by Sara Green
Exploring the history of visual effects, starting with the very first uses of CGI in the 1970s to the present day. This title includes engaging text and vibrant photos that are sure to grip young readers. Additional special features highlight early visual effects, introduce pioneers in the field, and show off some of the best uses in modern movies!
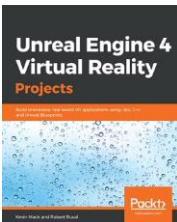
Unreal Engine 4 Virtual Reality Projects by Kevin Mack and Robert Ruud
This book will guide you step-by-step through a series of projects that cover essential concepts and techniques for VR development in UE4.

PressReader

Enjoy free, unlimited access to thousands of newspapers and magazines! With your library card, get access to searchable content, print out articles, export to an eReader, change the language, build a collection, and receive notifications when the next issue becomes available.
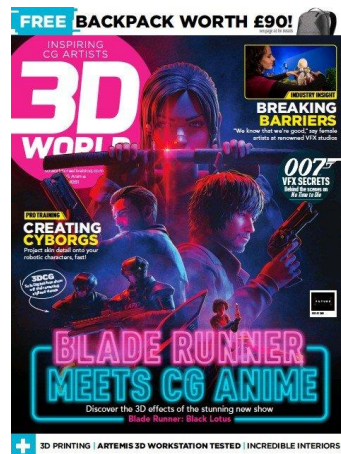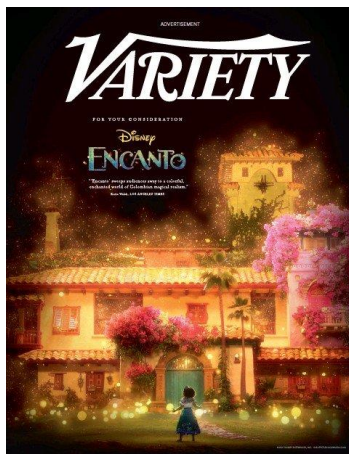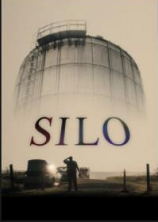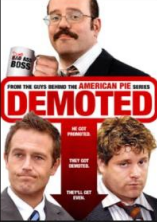
Films on Kanopy

LACounty.kanopy.com

On-demand streaming film service with over 30,000 films from independent filmmakers, documentaries, Great Courses, art films, and more. Play up to 10 films per month for free with your library card.

Library Services

- Work Ready
  LACountyLibrary.org/work-ready
  Borrow a laptop and wireless hotspot kit for 6 weeks from participating libraries, receive special support items to aid in the job search process, and attend weekly virtual events covering topics ranging from writing cover letters and interviewing to identifying high-growth careers and working from home.

- Virtual Programming
  LACountyLibrary.org/virtual-programming
  Check out more virtual programs that explore different careers, skills, and hobbies.

- Laptop & Hotspot Loan Kits
  LACountyLibrary.org/express-service
  Check out a kit with a Chromebook and wireless hotspot to access the internet, from select locations. Borrow for 3 weeks, with the option to renew, if available.

- Digital Library Card
  Catalog.LACountyLibrary.org/custom/web/registration/index.html
  Receive immediate free access to the Library's online resources, including eBooks and audiobooks, movie and TV streaming, and music downloads. Gives the ability to place holds and check out 3 physical items at a time.

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LA County Office of Small Business
East LA Entrepreneur Center

The Entrepreneur Center is a LA County service that assists prospective business owners to successfully open and grow their small businesses in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Email: concierge@dcba.lacounty.gov
Phone: 844.432.4900

- ## Small Business Webinars

  Bit.ly/dcbaBizEvents

  Webinars cover topics such as social media marketing, business entities, local and state certifications, how to start your small business, and doing business with the VA.

- ## Concierge Service (Virtual or In-Person Appointments)

  Bit.ly/BizCounseling

  The Small Business Concierge is a free consulting service offered by Los Angeles County that helps prospective business owners who are interested in opening small businesses in the unincorporated areas of the County. The Concierge acts as a single point of contact during the complex process of opening a business and provides counseling services to you. Also provides business development opportunities.

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Visual Effects (VFX)
Online & Industry Resources

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Industry Resources
Education

- **Visual Effects Society Education Initiative Resources**
  List of resources such as internship and mentorship programs, employment job boards, and advocacy organizations for equity, diversity and inclusion.

- **Gnomon: School of Visual Effects, Games & Animation**
  For-profit college in Hollywood that focuses on artistic and technical training for careers in the visual effects and games industries, with both degree and vocational certificate programs, specialized courses for high school students, and individual courses for professional enrichment.

- **Studio Arts: Education for Entertainment Creatives**
  Provides high end instruction in graphics, animation, VFX and production design to animators, illustrators, designers and other artists in the entertainment community.

- **Unreal Engine Online Learning Courses**
  A free learning platform that offers hands-on video courses and guided learning paths.

- **Writing in Unreal: Tribeca and Epic Games Virtual Production Program**
  Schedule of feature presentations, industry conversations, and case studies with leading experts exploring virtual production from multiple angles.

- **Master Class**
  Online classes created for students of all skill levels taught by well-known celebrities and industry leaders.

Industry Resources
Job Training, Listings, & Internships

- **VFX Job Descriptions and Workflow Map from ScreenSkills.com**
  A workflow map illustrating the broad range of skills in the VFX industry from programming to art and a combination of the two. Click on the icons in each department to learn about particular roles and how to get into them.

- **DNEG Careers**
  DNEG is one of the world's leading visual effects and animation studios for feature film and television. See their open positions and hiring programs on their website, or email careers@dneg.com. LA or Vancouver positions can also contact the Talent Acquisition team at recruit-van@dneg.com.

- **Streetlights**
  As a job training, job placement, and career advancement organization, their mission is to assist talented and motivated young adult minorities, many economically and socially disadvantaged, to achieve long-term economic stability and career success.

- **ProductionHub.com**
  Global network of local crew and vendors that serves the film and video production industry.

- **Mandy.com**
  Jobs platform for actors, performers, filmmakers and production crew.

Industry Resources
Reference

- **Stash Media**
  Showcases exceptional motion design, visual effects, and animation projects and the people who create them with a news site that stays up to date on the projects, people, and events powering the motion design, visual effects, and animation industry.

- **Omeleto**
  Omeleto is the home of the next generation of great filmmakers. Showcases Sundance winners, Oscar noms and critically-acclaimed filmmakers from every genre.

- **IMDB**
  An online database of information related to films, television programs, home videos, video games, and streaming content online–including cast, production crew and personal biographies, plot summaries, trivia, ratings, and fan and critical reviews.

- **Film Freeway**
  A website for filmmakers to submit their films to hundreds of film festivals globally, making it easy to discover, submit, and get tickets to thousands of events.

Industry Resources
Software

- <u>Maya</u>
  3D visual effects software with powerful character creation, rigging, animation, and simulation tools.

- <u>Houdini FX</u>
  3D procedural software for modeling, rigging, animation, VFX, look development, lighting and rendering in film, TV, advertising and video games. In addition to the full Houdini FX software, there are two other versions:
  - ➢ <u>Houdini Apprentice</u> a free version giving access to virtually all the features of the full version but for personal non-commercial projects, letting you save to disk and render out with a word mark.
  - ➢ <u>Houdini Indie</u> a more affordable version of the software intended for commercial use for indie filmmakers or game developers.

- <u>SynthEyes</u>
  A standalone application optimized for camera, object, geometry, and planar tracking, stabilization, and motion capture. Uses for critter insertion, fixing shaky shots, virtual sets, object removal, stereoscopic production, 360°VR, architectural previews, accident reconstruction, product placement, face and body capture, and more.

Industry Resources
Software (cont.)

- [3D Equalizer](#)
  The dominating 3D tracking solution in today's vfx world - merging live action footage with digital visual effects at highest quality possible. It is a cornerstone of modern post-production business and used by virtually all of the major players around the globe working in this field.

- [Unreal Engine](#)
  A popular and widely-used game engine, that you can download for free, with a complete suite of creation tools for game development, architectural and automotive visualization, linear film and television content creation, broadcast and live event production, training and simulation, and other real-time applications.

- [ShotGrid](#) (formerly Shotgun Software)
  Project management software primarily used for visual effects and animation project management in television shows and movie production and video game development.

Industry Resources
Guilds, Unions, and Professional Organizations

- **Visual Effects Society**
  Global professional honorary society and the entertainment industry's only organization representing the full breadth of visual effects practitioners. VES' more than 4,000 members in over 40 countries worldwide contribute to all areas of entertainment – film, television, commercials, animation, special venue, games and new media.

- **The Art Directors Guild**
  The Art Directors Guild (ADG), IATSE Local 800, is a labor union representing approximately 3,000 members who work throughout the world as Production Designers, Art Directors, Scenic, Title and Graphic Artists; Set Designers and Model Makers; Illustrators, Matte Artists, and Previs Artists.

- **The Animation Guild**
  The Animation Guild is Local 839 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE). They are a labor organization that represents animation and visual effects artists.

- **Access VFX**
  A global, industry-led, non-profit comprised of 40 leading companies, industry bodies and educational establishments in the VFX, animation and games industries around the common goal of addressing the lack of diversity in the VFX industry. They host events and a podcast, list resources and mentorship opportunities.

- **Hollywood Shorts**
  An Industry screening series & microcinema based in Hollywood which launched in 1998, featuring the best short film and animation from filmmakers and artists from all over the world. Twitter and Instagram @HollywoodShorts