Mentoring designers in Open Source Software.

Access slides here:

https://noti.st/eriolfox

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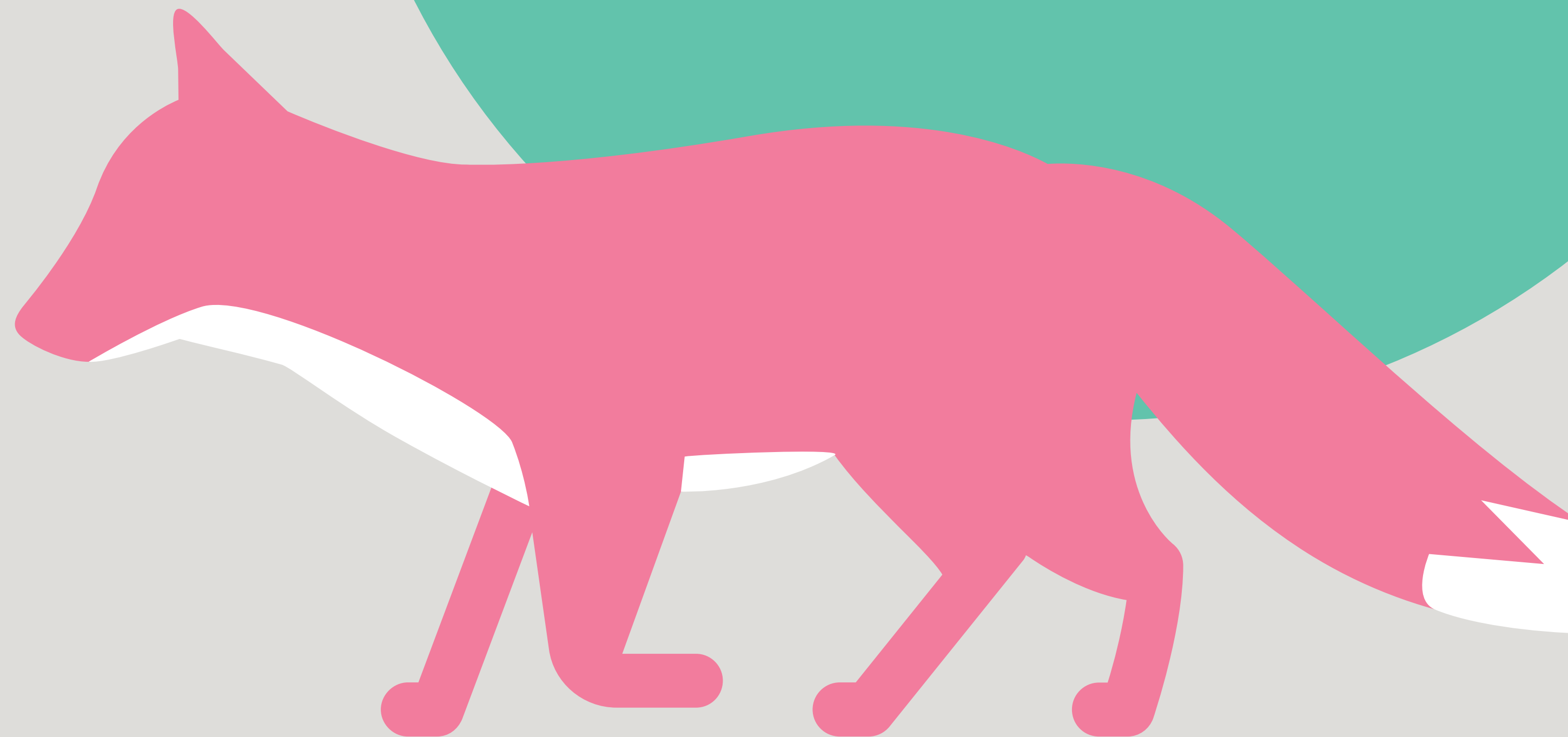
Hi, I'm Eriol. (Ehh-roll).

They/Them pronouns.
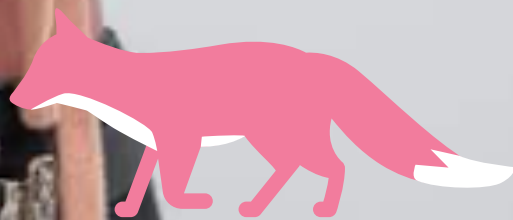
10 years in digital product design and UX.

7 years in humanitarian / third sector.

3 years in (FL)OSS.

PhD student researching Humanitarian OSS and Design.

Currently working at Open Food Network and helping out at Mutual aid World, Linux Public Health SIG Design, Open Source Design and probably more…

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I say this so much but I'll say it again...

Designers want to participate in OSS. Lots of OSS in many different ways!

Why do designers care about open source?

They see how they can learn, grow, collaborate and communicate.

Learn more: https://opensourcedesign.net/

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"They'll have the opportunity to learn and collaborate with other designers"

Franklin Ohaegbulam

Why do designers care about open source?

They see a space where they can openly centre human needs with tech.

"OSS is part of our everyday lives. It deserves the same treatment that non-OSS gets which is a proper, user centred design process."

Florian Bölter

https://mutualaid.world/

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Mentoring Designers in OSS

Observations

I wondered if you might be up for meeting for a drink/chat anytime soon. I'm struggling a bit in my UX role in my company and looking at OSS projects for my portfolio.

Can you speak with my community on OSS and Design?

Can you review my article about design and OSS?

Can you look over my talk proposal about design?

I saw a job post for a design on open source design.net, I'd like to know more about being a contributor.

There's a project I'd like to contribute to - but I'm not quite sure how to start.

Will you help me with my application to this internship around design + OSS

Can we meet up and you tell me about design + OSS? Generally?

We need more OSS design mentors!

———

We need more OSS design mentors!

But this is a math problem!

Prepare yourself for a bad venn diagram...

Designers with OSS exp.

Designers that want to mentor

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Designers with OSS exp.

Designers that want to mentor.

Designers with time to mentor

Designers who can mentor as part of their paid role

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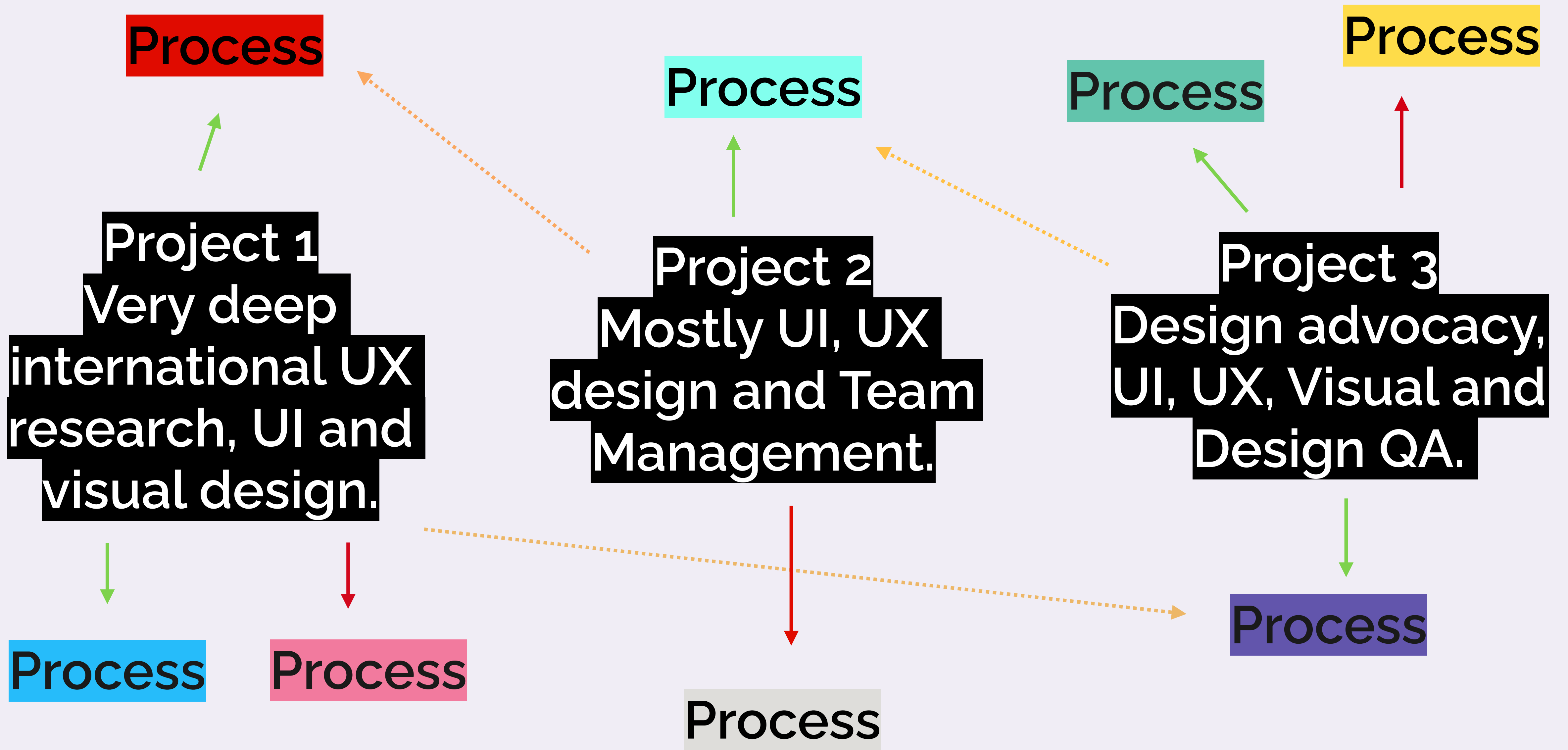
We need more OSS design mentors!

But it's not just math...OSS is very diverse so there can't be 'cookie cutter' mentoring schemes.

Project 1
Very deep international UX research, UI and visual design.

Project 2
Mostly UI, UX design and OSS volunteer Management.

Project 3
Design advocacy, UI, UX, Visual and Design QA.

Process

Process

Process

Process

Project 1
Very deep international UX research, UI and visual design.

Project 2
Mostly UI, UX design and Team Management.

Project 3
Design advocacy, UI, UX, Visual and Design QA.

Process

Process

Process

Process

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We need more OSS design mentors!

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Burnout. Always and forever, burnout!

Burnout:
On design

Burnout:
On OSS

Burnout:
On repeating info

Burnout:
On planning

Burnout:
On sharing

Burnout:
On speaking

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The ways I've mentored designers.

Kicked off discussion, done workshops, reviewed designs, chatted about OSS history, contributed with them, suggested structures and processes, suggested issues, helped submit PR's, edited files, formulate research docs...

What are the ways we can address this need?

## How might we improve mentoring in OSS for designers?

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Eriol's ideas*

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*These will be flawed ideas

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Photo by Karolina Grabowska from Pexels

Investment in the existing OSS designers mentoring so they can do it as part of a role!

Flaw: Who funds this? How? for what time? For what kinds of activities?

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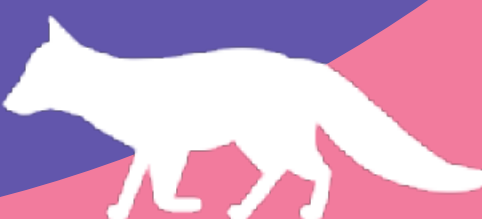
Programmes like GSoC, Outreachy and new fellowships that focus on mentoring in OSS Design!

Flaw: Again, who funds this? What kind of structure is needed for designers and OSS?

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Photo by Ketut Subiyanto from Pexels

Mentees mentor a mentee - pay it forward mentoring.

Flaw: When does a mentee feel ready to mentor? What if they don't want to?
Is this inclusive?

Resources! documentation! Recording!

Flaw: Doing the mentoring is time consuming and hard...when will we get time to document?!

Let's collaborate!

This link will take you to an open collaborative etherpad document with some questions and space for collaboration.

http://bit.ly/OSD-mentoring

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The question format will be:
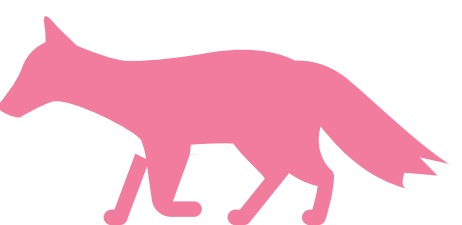
Question text

Your Initials or pseudonym: Your typed answer or reponse.

As a person being mentored (also known as a 'mentee') what do you need and value in this relationship?

EF:

As a FL/OSS project, what kind of support do you need when you have designers in your project that want guidance and/or mentoring?

EF:

As a FL/OSS project, what kind of support do you need when you have designers in your project that want guidance and/or mentoring?
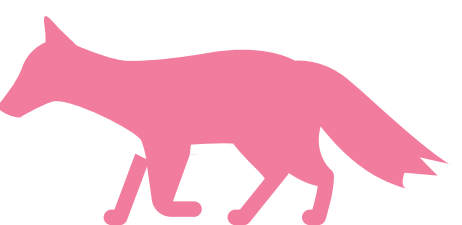
EF:

How long should a mentorship last? or how long do you want to be mentored for or mentoring another?

EF:

What unique challenges do FL/OSS projects have when mentoring is invovled? How many of these also apply to design?

EF:

Thanks for listening.

@erioldoesdesign

github.com/Erioldoesdesign

medium.com/@EriolDoesDesign