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Welcome from the Chairs

Welcome to the 2025 ACM SIGPLAN International Symposium on New Ideas, New Paradigms, and Reflections on Programming and Software (Onward! 2025), the premier multidisciplinary conference focused on everything to do with programming and software, including processes, methods, languages, communities and applications. Onward! is more radical, more visionary and more open than other conferences to ideas that are well-argued but not yet proven. We welcome different ways of thinking about, approaching, and reporting on programming language and software engineering research. Onward! 2025 is co-located with SPLASH 2025, running from Sunday the 12th of October till Saturday the 18th of October, in Singapore.

Onward! distinguishes two kinds of texts: papers and essays. Papers are aiming for grand visions and new paradigms that could make a big difference in how we will one day build software. Essays are looking for clear and compelling pieces of writing about topics important to the software community. Both kinds are not research-as-usual texts while they do deliver on compelling arguments, exploratory implementations, or substantial examples and perspectives.

Onward! follows a two-phase review process. This enables us to welcome contributions that contain promising material and have the potential to meet the conference's standards, but which may fall short of this in their initial form. At the end of the first round, all submissions will be either accepted normally, subject to mandatory revisions, or rejected outright. The authors of submissions in the second category received one month to complete the requested revisions, at which point the original reviewers decided on final acceptance or rejection. We received 23 papers, out of which 12 were accepted; we received 13 essays, out of which 5 were accepted. We hope that the papers and essays here will stimulate and provoke your thinking about programming and software engineering, and we are expecting fruitful discussions at the conference.

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