

# Where did the names of the fonts Marlett and Verdana come from?

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Commenter BAA says that the -lett part of Marlett comes from the designer Virginia Howlett. BAA adds, “I forget the ‘Mar’ but I believe it was a co-creator.”

If so, then that co-creator was Suzan Marashi, if Vincent Connare is to be trusted. On page 17 of the PDF document *From The Dark Side...*, Connare identifies the authors of the font as Virginia Howlett, Rom Impas, Suzan Marashi, and Alison Grauman-Barnes. He also identifies Eliyezer Kohen as the person whose idea it was to use a special-purpose font.

According to Virginia Howlett, the original name for the font Verdana was Ventana, which means *window* in Spanish. Lawyers apparently objected to the name, and the font team explored variations on *verde* (which means *green* in Spanish) and *verdigris* (a green pigment), thereby invoking the color associated both with Washington (*The Evergreen State*) and Seattle (*The Emerald City*). The second part of the font name comes from Howlett’s granddaughter Ana, following in the tradition of font designers naming fonts after their daughters.

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