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Dear FOSS4G Selection Committee,

We are offering this proposal to host the FOSS4G 2014 Conference in Washington D.C. in September 2014. We believe FOSS4G 2014 held in Washington D.C. will be one of the best FOSS4G conferences yet. FOSS4G 2014 will welcome developers, practitioners, academics, and entrepreneurs from around the world, and 2014's program will add exciting new areas exploring high performance geo processing and where GIS and Enterprise IT converge.

Diverse, experienced, and energetic, the local team in D.C. has proven they can run a great event. Our committee also includes a team representing a wide variety of interests including industry, academia, not-for-profits, and the community.

Our organizing committee members and supporters play multiple roles in the open source geospatial ecosystem including technology users, developers, businesses, researchers, teachers, and community. A FOSS4G that is open and welcoming to people like us is a natural part of our efforts. For this reason we are excited to bring FOSS4G 2014 to Washington D.C..

Why Washington D.C.

Washington D.C. is one of the best places in the world to host FOSS4G 2014. It features a vibrant local community, a strong base of innovative entrepreneurs, academics exploring the frontiers of the industry, unique access to many governmental agencies, and simplified travel for international participants.

Our chosen venue is large, with more than 825 rooms. Easily accessible accommodation options are diverse, ranging from \$20 USD/night for hostels on up with many other well known hotel brands available nearby. Washington is served by multiple major airports, affording exceptional access to international travelers.

Getting to Washington D.C.

Airports: Washington DC is served by three major airports, Washington Dulles International (IAD), Ronald Reagan National (DCA) and Boston-Washington International (BWI). The three airports

- IAD: 125 destinations; 1,800 - 2000 flights per day
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Dulles_International_Airport#Airlines_and_destinations
 - image of domestic locations: http://www.mwaa.com/image/Air_Service_IAD_Domestic.JPG
 - image of international locations: http://www.mwaa.com/file/Air_Service_IAD_International.pdf
- DCA: 94 destinations; 450 flights per day
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ronald_Reagan_Washington_National_Airport#Airlines_and_destinations
 - http://www.mwaa.com/image/DCA_Air_Service.JPG
- BWI: 76 destinations; 800 flights per day
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltimore%E2%80%93Washington_International_Airport#Airlines_and_destinations
 - image of destinations: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bwiairportmap.png>

[East coast road map](#)

Trains: Washington DC has a single central train station, Union Station, served by both Amtrak and commuter rails to and from Maryland and Virginia. Union Station is part of the Amtrak Northeast Corridor and includes service by high-speed Accela trains and hundreds of other daily trains.

Getting around in Washington D.C.

Washington D.C. has [fantastic public transportation](#). It is cheap, clean, safe, and fast.

There is a [very useful tourism](#) site that shows local attractions for any given stop along the red line Metro, which runs right to the Venue we have chosen.

Venue

Our Local Organizing Committee (LOC) created a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the FOSS4G 2014 venue and submitted it to many Washington D.C. conference venues. We received responses back from 12 venues. 2 of the venues were felt to be ideal in terms of size, layout, location, services, and price. We have been working closely with both of the following venues to base our budget on credible costs.

Marriott Wardman Park

The Marriott Wardman park is a historic landmark situated in 16 acres of gardens. It is a hotel and conference center centrally located in Washington D.C. Despite the scenic location, it is highly accessible and is steps from a Metro station connecting it to the rest of the city and beyond. It is also very close to the National Zoo which is the location of our off-site Gala event. The venue is large and its Thurgood Marshall Ballroom scales up to 1,100 with theatre seating. The Marriott Wardman Park has a slight advantage over our second venue option in that their food & beverage pricing is lower and they have simpler pricing for wifi and audio visual services.

It is a large hotel with 1314 rooms. The room rate is \$219 per night, or better

Omni Shoreham

The Omni Shoreham is a large and elegant hotel and conference center that was built in 1930. It shares nearly all of the attractive attributes of the Marriott Wardman Park as they are very close together. The Omni Shoreham overlooks beautiful Rock Creek National Park. The main ballroom scales up to 2,200 with theatre seating.

The Omni is also a large hotel with 832 rooms. The room rate is also \$219 per night, or better

Budget

We have included a proposed budget with two scenarios which demonstrate potential outcomes for various levels of attendance and registration. While we believe the numbers to be as credible as possible, this budget is subject to change based on final negotiations and contracting with the venue and services.

The full budget was provided to the selection committee as separate spreadsheet. A summary budget is included below. All prices are in \$USD.

Workshop prices

Proposed workshop prices are \$150 for each day of workshops.

Gala dinner price

Tickets to the Gala dinner will be sold at cost. We will cap ticket prices to ensure they remain at \$99 per person or less. Please see the details for the event under the "A Night at the Zoo" section.

Code sprint price

The Code Sprint will likely be free and open to all comers. We may charge a token amount such as \$5 or \$10 to allow us to get participants to commit that they are actually coming.

Registration prices

Proposed registration prices are \$499 early, \$725 regular.

Our committee recognizes that this registration price is modestly higher than some past FOSS4G conferences. We would like to lower the price registration even further. However we do not have access to complete actual (rather than planned/estimated) budget data from past FOSS4G conferences and costs are not fixed until contracts are fully negotiated and signed. For this reason, a degree of caution with estimates was appropriate. Thank you to those that provided partial data from past events.

The following table of past FOSS4G registration prices is provided for reference below. The list does not factor inflation over time but does strive for best efforts currency conversion.

Price	Nottingham	Denver	Barcelona	Sydney
Early	\$426	\$499	\$468	\$725
Regular	\$670	\$649	\$608	\$935

The following table presents information from a few other similar conferences, for the purposes of further comparison:

Price	OSCon (3 day pass)	Location Intelligence (Washington D.C.)	LinuxCon	DrupalCon	EclipseCon
Early	\$1195	\$645	\$475	\$400	\$800
Regular	\$1395	\$795	\$575	\$500	\$1000

Sponsorship prices

Our current budget plan holds sponsorship prices and offerings at the same level as that of the past two conferences. The following is a list of proposed sponsorship prices:

Sponsor level	Price
Platinum	\$30,000
Gold	\$15,000
Silver	\$7,500
Bronze	\$4,000
Supporting	\$1,500

Summary Budget

For 900 attendees:

Registration Income: \$460,363

Sponsorship Income: \$190,500

Total Income: \$650,863

Total Expenses: \$604,006

Profit Including 5% contingency: \$16,656 (after contributing \$50K to OSGeo)

Profit w/o contingency: \$46,857 (after contributing \$50K to OSGeo)

Program

The program will offer eight simultaneous rooms.

Regular presentations will be 35 minutes long. We anticipate approximately 170 presentations.

Workshops will run for either ½ day (4 hour) or a full day (8 hour). There will be between 36 and 108 hours of workshops, depending on demand.

Schedule

The following is a proposed schedule for the conference.

Monday, September 22 - day 0

Workshops - 6 rooms

Various meetings. The OSGeo AGM might be one or on day3. - 2 rooms

Plated lunch

Friendly welcome for newcomers - 1 room

Exhibitors set up

Icebreaker/Exhibitor reception

Tuesday, September 23 - day 1

Opening plenary in the morning

Sessions all day

Plated lunch

BoFs in the evening

Possible second exhibitor reception in the evening

Wednesday, September 24 - day 2

First keynote in the morning

Sessions all day

Plated lunch

Gala dinner - Zoo party

The Sol Katz award might be awarded at the Zoo party, or at the Closing plenary.

Thursday, September 25 - day 3

Keynote #2 in the morning

Sessions all day

Plated lunch

Closing plenary in the afternoon

Various meetings. The OSGeo AGM might be here also.

Exhibitors tear down in the afternoon

Possible closing party

Friday, September 26

Code sprint/hackathon day 1
Box lunch
Possible additional day of workshops

Saturday, September 27

Code sprint/hackathon day 2
Box lunch
Possible additional day of workshops

Program Committee

To determine the program, we will assemble a program committee consisting of esteemed community members. Their role will be to review submissions, rank, select the program, and provide feedback on rejected talks as requested. The program committee will likely continue the FOSS4G tradition of online voting and participation as input to their process. The program committee will take steps to ensure the program is of a high quality, relevant, interesting, and balanced.

Videos

Members of our team have developed unique open source technology and equipment that was used to record FOSS4G 2009, FOSS4G 2011, and many other large conferences. These were the only times FOSS4G has ever been recorded. This technology records the presentation including slides and full motion demos, and captures the speakers' voices in very high quality audio. The talks are then made available to the community via YouTube. They are a valuable reference for the community and help solve the major challenge of choosing between many good talks or interrupting a great conversation in the hall.

Workshops

We plan to offer between one and three days of workshops. The proposed price will be \$150 per day of workshops. Our current proposed budget includes one day of workshops hosted at the main conference venue. Given how popular workshops can be, we may add two more days of workshops off-site at the same venue as the code sprint. If this is particularly popular, it may be possible to reduce registration prices.

Academic Track

The FOSS4G 2014 in Washington will have an academic track for participants who wish to submit their presentation for academic evaluation and review. The academic track aims to bring together researchers, developers, users and practitioners carrying out research and development in the geospatial and free and open source fields and willing to share original and recent research developments and experiences.

The academic track will act as an inventory of current research topics, but its major goal is to promote cooperative research between OSGeo developers and academia. The academic track is the right forum to highlight the most important research challenges and trends in the domain, and let them become the basis for an informal OSGeo research agenda. It will foster interdisciplinary discussions in all aspects of the geospatial and free and open source domains. It will be organized in a way to promote networking between the participants, to initiate and favour discussions regarding cutting-edge technologies in the field, to exchange research ideas and to promote international collaboration.

The academic oral presentations and posters will be organized similar to other presentations in the conference, only the manner in which the submitted abstracts and papers are selected and reviewed differ. The academic track will be mentioned in all communications about the conference. The main organizer of the academic track will be Professor Thierry Badard from Laval University, who will organize an international scientific committee from academics associated with OSGeo. Such a committee has already been set up for the two last editions of the conference. We will invite the members of the past committees in order to serve as reviewers for the FOSS4G 2014 academic track.

The committee will review all submitted abstracts, provide feedback, and accept/not accept them as posters / oral presentations. For oral presentations a full paper will be required. The paper will be reviewed and final acceptance for publication will be based on the review (poster can be used as a fallback). The committee will work towards having the best papers published as a special issue of an international scientific journal and a special issue of the OSGeo journal. The experience capitalised during last editions and contacts will be used.

Code Sprint

FOSS4G 2014 will also include a 2 day code sprint. The code sprint will provide an opportunity for project contributors to work together face to face, and do outreach to newcomers. We will provide a virtual space for projects participating in the code sprint to plan the ideas they will work on and promote their projects as participants at the code sprint.

For sponsors: Project sponsors will also be given the opportunity to propose project incentives in hackathon style. This can help motivate participants to work on specific ideas.

Conference attendees will ultimately decide whether and how to participate. Specific goals for the code sprints will be selected and/or determined at the conference by interested individuals.

We expect to take full advantage of all the colleges and universities in greater Washington D.C..

Facilities will be made available during the conference in which groups can form, brainstorm ideas and, should they desire, start working together. The primary code-sprint activity, however, will take place after formal conference presentations end. We have reserved the two days following the conference for these more focused efforts by a participating conference attendees.

We will find space for the code sprints at one of the nearby colleges or universities. We already have a generous offer from George Mason University (see their letter of support), which is willing to provide space to work with Wifi access, plus computer facilities as well, should the need arise. We have also begun exploring options at Georgetown University, George Washington University (which hosted an activity with Ushahidi last fall) and American University. These schools are all a short metro ride (or walk) from the conference hotel.

There are many large universities and colleges in the greater DC area, including University of Maryland, Howard University, Catholic University of America, University of District of Columbia, Gallaudet University, Strayer University, and many more. Within a reasonable drive of DC, the list grows still larger still. We have already attracted the attention of faculty at Penn State.

A Night at the Zoo

Please see the included pdf flyer for this event.

The 2014 FOSS4G will feature an extraordinary gala event that is sure to appeal to the 'wild side' in all attendees. The LOC will be joining with the Smithsonian's National Zoo to co-host a gala event surrounded by magical wildlife who will turn the evening into an educational, memorable and downright *fun* experience. The National Zoo features more than 15 themed event locations, and is located in the heart of the Nation's Capital, only a few short blocks from the FOSS4G conference hotel.

Ideal locations for the FOSS4G gala event include:

Elephant Community Center - The spacious hall overlooks an elephant great room where the herd can mix and mingle, while guests do the same!

Lion-Tiger Hill - Visit the Lions and Tigers, interact with farm animals or enjoy the beautiful, grassy open space of Lion-Tiger Hill. The Hill is located mere steps away from the Great Cats exhibit which transports guests into a Sumatran Tiger and African Lions world.

Gala event guests will explore the wonders of habitats from around the world with each step they take towards the gala event location. Enjoy delicious food and beverages while experiencing the mystique of the zoo animals. Stroll around lions, tigers, and elephants (oops, bears!) while sipping a drink and becoming a part of these living creatures' world. Guests can delight their imaginations with interactive exhibits or indulge their inner child by hopping on replicas of their favorite zoo animal at the solar powered Conservation Carousel. The gala event will be family friendly and be made even more amazing by incorporating décor to match the exotic locale and by experiencing wildlife at its finest through planned features such as animal interpretations, animal demonstrations, and animal feedings.

Tourism

Washington D.C. boasts countless historical monuments, galleries, and museums including the prestigious Smithsonian Institution. There are many other governmental buildings including Capitol Hill, the White House, Library of Congress, and more. There are sights to see and activities for all tastes in addition to the conference. Additional details are provided in the included pdf flyer.

Conference Team

FOSS4G is a large and important annual event for the community. We are fortunate to have a very experienced chair and a team with much depth.

Our chair, Eddie Pickle, led the teams that organized the successful FOSS4G North America 2012 and FedGeo Day 2013 events, which were both held in Washington D.C..

The diversity of experience and energy of the organising committee will deliver a stimulating and enjoyable program. Many of us have worked on successful events previously, and have attended and/or presented at several previous FOSS4G conferences.

The committee is supported by full-time staff who specialize in event planning.

- Members of the team organized the successful FOSS4G North America 2012 and FedGeo Day 2013 (275 attendees) events in Washington D.C.
- The logistics for this conference will be organized by the Eclipse Foundation's expert conference organizing team who run two similar-sized EclipseCon conferences annually.

Eddie Pickle

Eddie Pickle is President and CEO of OpenGeo, a world leader in commercial open source geospatial software. Since joining OpenGeo in 2009, he has led the company to rapid revenue growth, and in early 2013 directed its successful spin-off into a private company from incubator parent, OpenPlans. Prior to joining OpenGeo, Eddie was a founder of OGC web services pioneer, IONIC Enterprise, and served as its Chief Operating Officer until its purchase by Hexagon in 2007. Eddie holds an M.A. in Geography from UCLA, specializing in demography, and has a broad range of solutions expertise in location technology software and analytics.

Andrew Ross

Andrew Ross is Director of Ecosystems at the [Eclipse Foundation](#). He is responsible for the [LocationTech](#) working group, Long Term Support working group, Common Build Infrastructure initiative, and Membership services for the Foundation. Andrew is an award winning software architect and technology leader. Prior to the Eclipse Foundation, Andrew was Director of Engineering at Ingres where his team developed OGC compliant spatial data types and functions for the Ingres database. Before that, his role was as a Software Architect at Nortel where he developed Telecom solutions based on open source technologies. Andrew has been a charter member of OSGeo since 2008.

Robert Cheetham

Robert Cheetham is the founder and CEO of [Azavea](#), a [B Corporation](#) that creates civic geospatial software for the web. He founded Azavea to apply geospatial technology to improving communities while advancing the state-of-the-art through research. Azavea's open source projects include [GeoTrellis](#) (high performance geoprocessing), [OpenTreeMap](#) (urban forestry), and [DistrictBuilder](#) (legislative redistricting). Prior to founding Azavea, he served as a software developer and GIS analyst for the University of Pennsylvania, the City of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Police Department and as a civil servant in Japan. He serves on the advisory board of the Penn State University Masters in GIS and GeoDesign programs and as an occasional lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Design. He has an MLA in Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania and a BA in Japanese Studies from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Fraser Taylor

Dr. [D. R. Fraser Taylor](#) is the Centre's Director. Dr. Taylor is Distinguished Research Professor of International Affairs and Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. He is also Director Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre. In 2008 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He is widely recognized as one of the world's leading cartographers. Dr. Taylor's main research interests in cartography lie in the application of geographic information processing to the analysis of socio-economic issues in both a national and international context and the presentation of the results in the form of cybercartographic atlases. Cybercartography is an innovative new concept which he first introduced in 1997. It was further developed and refined through a SSHRC-funded project entitled "Cybercartography and the New Economy". This project received 2.5 million dollars over a four-year period.

Dr. Taylor is a member of as the international [CODATA Task Group on Preservation and Access to Scientific and Technical Data](#) in Developing Countries, a member of the [Group on Earth Observations System of Systems \(GEOSS\)](#) Data Sharing Task Force and the CODATA Task Group on Data at Risk. In September 2009 he was appointed to the [United Nations Expert Group on Global Geographic Information Management](#). Dr. Taylor is also a Board member of the [OGC \(Open Geospatial Consortium\) Interoperability Institute](#) and the [OGC Global Advisory Council](#). The Cybercartographic Atlas of Antarctica was a [Case Study](#) for the large [InterPARES 2](#) archival project supported by SSHRC which dealt with the authentication and preservation of dynamic electronic records. Dr. Taylor was an active member of the InterPARES research team. His publications include 17 books such as *Cybercartography: Theory and Practice* (ed. and contributor), Amsterdam: Elsevier, 2005; *Policy Issues in Modern Cartography* (ed. and contributor), Pergamon, 1998, *Electronic National Economic Atlas of China (ENEAC)*, (Advisor and Editor for the English Language Version newly updated in CD-ROM form), China Higher Education Press, 1996; the *National Economic Atlas of China* (Advisor and editor for the English language version), Hong Kong: Oxford University Press, 1994; *Visualization in Modern Cartography* (ed. and contributor with Alan M. MacEachren), Elsevier Science Publishers, 1994. In addition he has published over three hundred articles in journals and conference proceedings and has acted as a keynote speaker to conferences and meetings all over the world.

Dr. Taylor is Chair of the [International Steering Committee for Global Mapping \(ISCGM\)](#). This is an international body involving the national mapping agencies of over 170 nations and regions including Antarctica that is producing an online digital map of the world at the scale of

1:1 million with eight data layers to aid in sustainable development and environmental decision making. Each nation is responsible for creating its own coverage. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences of the US's committee examining The Geographic Foundation for Agenda 21, which published a major study entitled *Down to Earth: Geographical Information for Sustainable Development* in Africa. This was presented to the Johannesburg Summit in August 2002. Dr. Taylor is a member of the [Mapping Africa for Africans Working Group](#) of the [International Cartographic Association \(ICA\)](#) and a member of the [Joint Board of the Geospatial Information Societies](#). He was also Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Association of African Studies (CAAS) from 1970 to 1985, and President of the [Canadian Cartographic Association \(CCA\)](#) in both 1978 and 1979. His contributions have been recognized by an Honorary Life Membership in CAAS and by two Awards of Distinction by CCA. He served as Vice-President of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) from 1984-1987, as President from 1987-1995 and as a member of the Executive Committee as Past President for the period 1995-99. Dr. Taylor received an Honorary Fellowship from ICA in 1999. He also held the position of President of the International Union for Surveys and Mapping from 1989 to 1993.

Dr. Taylor's current funded research involves working with aboriginal and Inuit communities to empower these communities to express their perceptions of their own environmental and socio-economic reality in new ways utilizing the Cybercartographic Atlas Framework. This includes the innovative open source software called [Nunaliit](#) which can be used by individuals with little knowledge of geographic information processing to create their own atlas content. Cybercartography is very much a Web 2.0 and Web 3.0 concept and provides a new framework for "crowd sourcing", encouraging communities and individuals to tell their own stories. He is also involved in research on the management of geospatial data, especially as this relates to indigenous knowledge. In April 2000 Dr. Taylor was appointed Chair of the International Advisory Group to the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure and also helped to organize, chair and moderate a United Nations Exchange Forum on geospatial data management issues between national mapping organizations and industry held in Korea in October 2011. He played a similar role in the Latin American Geospatial Forum held in Rio de Janeiro in August 2011.

Dr. Thierry Badard

Dr. Thierry Badard is professor in geoinformatics at the Department of geomatics sciences of Laval University in Quebec City (Canada). He heads the GeoSOA research group and is a full time researcher of the Centre for Research in Geomatics (CRG). Former member of the steering committee of the CRG, he is also a regular researcher of the GEOIDE Network of Centres of Excellence in geomatics. He has more than 15 years of experience and he has been involved and has led national and international R&D projects of importance. His research interest deals with geospatial (Web) Services Oriented Architectures (SOA), location-based and context-aware web services and apps, geospatial Business Intelligence (GeoBI) and geo-analytical tools and the design of intelligent mobile applications for better decision support. He acts as a chair, editor and reviewer for numerous international journals and scientific conferences and has already an important record of scientific contributions. Dr. Thierry Badard is also actively involved in the geospatial free and open source community. He is developer, administrator and project coordinator of the GeoKettle (<http://www.geokettle.org>), GeoMondrian (<http://www.geo-mondrian.org>), SOLAPLayers (<http://www.solaplayers.org>) and GeOxygene (<http://oxygene-project.sourceforge.net>), open source projects. He is an OSGeo charter member and acts as a member of the OSGeo conference committee and a reviewer for the OSGeo Journal. Till 2010, he was in charge of the free software commission in the OSGeo Francophone local chapter. He is a founding co-chairs the OSGeo Quebec local chapter and a founding co-chair of the ICA (International Cartographic Association) commission on open source geospatial technologies (<http://ica-opensource.scg.ulaval.ca>). He has also recently co-founded Spatialytics, a new company specialised in open source GeoBI where he acts as CTO. For further details, please visit <http://www.spatialytics.com>

Kate Chapman

Kate Chapman is the Acting Executive Director at the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team. Her most recent work has been in Indonesia working on a pilot program over the past year analyzing the feasibility utilizing OpenStreetMap for collection of exposure data. This project has hosted a OpenStreetMap mapping competition, a month long event to map critical infrastructure in Jakarta and assisting community facilitators in moving from hand-drawn maps to digital maps. Previous to working at HOT Kate was involved in development of multiple web-GIS applications including GeoCommons and iMapData

Dave McIlhagga

Dave McIlhagga has been a leader in identifying business opportunities to leverage mapping technologies for the creation of innovative print, mobile and web-based consumer mapping products. As the founder of MapSherpa, in business since 1998, he has built a reputation for being a trusted resource for delivering high quality and intuitive products based on modern web and mobile technologies. Dave was the chair of the Open Source GIS conference in 2004, which evolved into today's FOSS4G conference, and was a founding member of OSGeo where he acted as board member for 2 years. His recent focus has been on the creation of enabling technology products and services that bring together premium map publisher content, map retailers and the emerging digital channel to create new business opportunities and revenue sources for the mapping industry.

Mark Lucas

Mark Lucas has pioneered efforts in Open Source Software Development in remote sensing, image processing and geographical information systems. Mark established ossim.org and has led several government funded studies and development efforts since 1996. These efforts include the Open Source Software Image Map [OSSIM](#) projects for the [NRO](#), the Open Source Prototype Research and Open Source extraordinary Program projects for [NGA](#). He was one of the authors of the [Open Technology Roadmap](#) for the Department of Defense. Mark has a BS in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the University of Arizona and a MS in Computer Science from West Coast University, he was commissioned in the Air Force and assigned to the [Secretary of the Air Force Special Projects](#) organization. He has experience as both a government and contractor program manager through a number of classified programs. He is on the Board of Directors of the Open Source Geo-spatial Foundation, the [Open Source Software Institute](#), and the National Center for Open Source Policy and Research. Mark is currently a principal scientist at [RadiantBlue Technologies Inc.](#)

Xavier Lopez

Xavier Lopez is Director of Oracle's Spatial and Graph products group. Xavier leads Oracle's efforts to incorporate spatial and graph databases across Oracle's technologies. He is currently focusing on high performance spatial computing and linked open data. He holds advanced degrees in engineering and planning from University of Maine, MIT, and the University of California, Davis. He is currently a member of the US National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC). Xavier is past member of the Mapping Science Committee of the National Academy of Science that advises the nation on mapping activities.

Heather Leson

Heather Leson is Ushahidi's Director of Community Engagement, a role in which she exercises her passion for community-building, storytelling, and idea hacking.

Heather creates and manages programs for Ushahidi's diverse community, and mentors members of its open-source developer ecosystem. Her earlier leadership in open source communities such as Random Hacks of Kindness and CrisisCommons saw her successfully organize numerous participant-driven "unconferences" and hackathons.

In addition to her community development work, Heather has 15 years of experience in technical incident management, software life-cycle development, customer care, and Internet communications. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Combined Political Science and History from Carleton University in Canada's capital city of Ottawa, and a Library and Information Technician diploma from Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology in Toronto.

Denise McKenzie

For over 12 years Denise worked with all sectors of the geospatial industry on behalf of the State Government of Victoria (Australia) in areas of strategic policy, collaboration and innovation and led the formation of the OGC ANZ Forum in 2012. She has worked in a wide variety of domains including emergency, environment, asset and risk management, business intelligence, positioning and navigation. Her collaborative work has earned local, national and international industry awards.

Throughout her career Denise's focus has been to utilize public-private partnership and community building to move geospatial from being a niche to a core service within mainstream information technology and decision making process.

In her role as the OGC's Executive Director Marketing and Communications, she is responsible for the planning and execution of marketing, communications and education programs to raise awareness and increase application of OGC standards by technology providers and users worldwide.

Dr. Philip Bogden

Dr. Philip Bogden has long been an evangelist for open source GIS, open standards and open data initiatives. He had the honor of giving the keynote at the 2004 Open Source GIS conference, before FOSS4G and OSGeo were born. At that time, he was CEO of the non-profit Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS) -- providing real-time observations of the ocean as a public service, and working with Dave McIlhagga to bridge the data divide between academia and the federal government. Before that, he held faculty positions in oceanography at Yale and University of Connecticut. More recently, he spent two years as program officer at the National Science Foundation where, as Chair of the agency-wide Data Working Group, he helped implement a new requirement that *all* scientists proposing to the NSF describe how they will share their federally funded data with the community (the so-called NSF "Data Management Plan" requirement, launched in 2010). He has worked with Mark Lucas to modernize the federal government with open source technologies, and he is presently working on a data-analytics startup that will build on the amazing advances from OSGeo.

Operations team

This conference bid is backed by the Eclipse Foundation events team and other staff who organize two similar-sized events each year. They will handle the logistics and ensure smooth operations during the conference. The costs for staff time are built into the proposed budget. The team are experienced professionals with much experience running a quality conference efficiently.

Our relationship to OSGeo

We are fortunate to have Mark Lucas, a current board member of OSGeo as one of our LOC members. Additionally, two of our LOC members are current members of the OSGeo conference committee (who recused themselves from selection voting to participate on our team). Our bid does not require OSGeo financing or underwriting. Nevertheless, our proposal budget includes increasing contributions to OSGeo if the conference is more successful. Simply put, OSGeo will not take a loss; however if the conference is successful as expected, a significant contribution will still be made to support OSGeo & community activities.

Letters of support

We have [received letters of support](#) (click to view them) from a diverse set of organizations. These include companies; universities; government agencies; and not-for-profits. The list of organizations providing a letter of support as of the time this proposal was written include:

AGI, AppGeo, Azavea, Berico Technologies, BlueLabs, Carleton University's Geographic and Cartographic Research Centre, CartoDB, George Mason University, the Eclipse Foundation, LocationTech, MapSherpa, Mil-OSS, OpenGeo, Oracle, OSGeo Quebec Chapter, Radiant Blue, the Sunlight Foundation, SYNCADD, and Twitter. More letters are expected but were not received in time for the deadline to submit this proposal. Visit the URL above to view the letters of support.