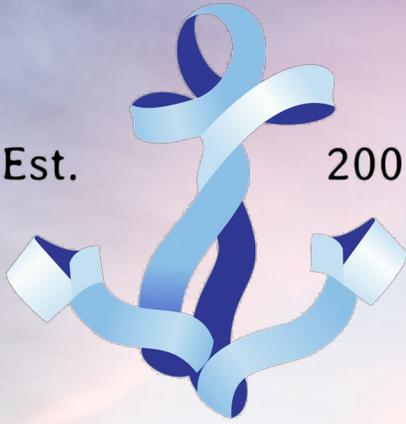# FOSS4G Halifax
2020

Est. 2004

hosted by

OSGeo

A proposal to host the FOSS4G Global Conference presented by the
FOSS4G Halifax 2020 Local Organizing Committee

foss4g.ca

Table of Contents

1. Bringing the FOSS4G Spirit to Halifax

Our vision

For us, a FOSS4G is first and foremost an event driven by and for the geospatial open source community. In addition to meeting with long-time acquaintances, business partners, friends or finding one's next project opportunity, this is an opportunity to learn more about technologies at the foundation of the geospatial industry, as well as the latest trends. By joining the forces of three local chapters, those of Ottawa, Québec and the Atlantic, we hope to show that the geospatial community in Eastern Canada is strong and united. We are more than excited to collaborate all together to welcome the greatest, most vibrant and wonderful geospatial community in the world for FOSS4G Halifax 2020.

Projections for financial success

A few months before submitting the Letter of Intent, the HLOC approached Destination Halifax team and the Nova Convention Center to validate with them the possibility of holding our event in the city of Halifax. For several months, we have worked to collect the most competitive bids for accommodation, conference rooms, audiovisual and other social activities. We are now confident that we have very realistic bids in our hands.

Even though we are confident the budget presented is as realistic as possible, we still included a contingency of 5% to ensure a financial margin in case something unexpected would happen. The committee was realistic about the number of discounted participants, as well as the number of financial partners that could be attracted to FOSS4G Halifax.

Be sure that the HLOC has many years of experience in budgeting and seeking financial partners, so we are confident that the event in Halifax will be a success at all levels!

Interested in our budget? Consult the Budget section.

Bringing the community together in a great social atmosphere

In Nova Scotia, we say "sociable!" - which the dictionary defines as "engaging with other people." Yes - that's what Halifax is about! We are friendly people and we are so excited to welcome new visitors in town.

In the same vein as the Nova Scotia motto, the HLOC chose the Nova Convention Centre to hold FOSS4G Halifax 2020 because of its strategic location downtown. In the heart of Argyle Street, one of Halifax's busiest streets, we made sure to have all the social activities on the program within walking distance, thus promoting exchanges between participants in non-formal activities.

In addition to social events, we want to offer rooms that are conducive to exchanges with sofas, chairs, beanbags and other furniture to be more casual. We will also organize rooms for B2B meetings between participants. Finally, we also considered renting additional rooms with white boards and flip-charts for spontaneous Birds-of-a-Feather sessions throughout the conference.

Providing great learning opportunities

We are fortunate to have on the LOC, Vicky Vergara who, by her ideas and her enthusiasm, proposed to hold laboratory activities with the local high schools during FOSS4G Halifax. In addition to these workshops, we will be offering poster sessions for students from different educational institutions.

In order to encourage acquiring new knowledge, two whole days will be devoted to workshops, for a total of up to 40 in total. We hope to create exchanges between governments, educational institutions, private companies, students and the community in general in those workshops.

Additionally, sessions will be dedicated to attendees new to GIS or new to open source. Other sessions will focus on welcoming new and/or potential contributors to OSGeo projects and get them up to speed so that they can maximize their time and skills help to improve free and open source geospatial software, for everyone's benefit.

Extending the horizons of the geospatial open-source community

We believe that the strength of a community lies in the diversity of its stakeholders and its ability to attract new people to the community. Since the last FOSS4G held in Canada goes back several years, we believe that many local community participants will be at their first FOSS4G.

We will have a particular focus on students (universities and colleges), First Nations as well as young professionals and business start-ups. In this way, we must succeed in attracting new faces to this event and to the subsequent ones, but more importantly introduce them to the wonders of the geospatial and Free and Open Source Software worlds.

In addition, to spread other types of software, we are working with governments and humanitarian organizations such as HOT, TeachOSM, OSM and World Bank, to name just a few.

Promoting inclusiveness and diversity

The FOSS4G is well known for welcoming people from all around the world from different cultures, religions, languages and sexual identity/orientation. The HLOC advocates exactly the same values. The organizing committee demonstrates this very well by its diversity, starting with the 2 co-organizers (female / male, French / English speaker).

In order to offer an event that represents the community, we thought to work in collaboration with GeoChicas to give them some visibility in the programming. We would also like to work closely with First Nations people. Beyond these 2 specific groups, we will make sure to have a diversity of speakers in the program as much at the plenary level, as for workshops and sessions.

Inclusiveness also means accessibility to infrastructures adapted to everyone. The HLOC has asked the Nova Convention Center to offer non-gendered toilets to respect a certain part of the community. We also thought of offering prayer rooms for people who would like to pray during the event. Quiet places will also be developed during the conference to meet the needs of the community.

The HLOC also thought about the families of the participants who will participate in the event as it offers a program for young children as well as spousal activities.

Beyond the physical infrastructures, the HLOC will implement a Code of Conduct for all participants thus facilitating the cohesion of the group. Discounts will also be offered to students, volunteers and a Travel Grant Program has been set up for people who could not otherwise afford to travel to Canada to attend this global FOSS4G event.

2. Welcome to Halifax

Experience the charm and vibe of the Canadian Atlantic coast
Discover Halifax, Nova Scotia through video! ([click here](#) ***)***

We're on the edge of North America, and in the centre of it all. It's easy to make the most of every moment in Nova Scotia. Discover our famous Maritime hospitality as you explore Halifax's vibrant and historic city streets. Find outdoor adventure, scenic beaches, wineries, golf and much more all less than an hour away. Halifax is the ultimate walkable city. We're just minutes away from hotels, shops, restaurants, and more. Our pedway system, the Downtown Link, connects you to everything quickly and simply. The natural world is never far from your door. Walk the waterfront, take in a farmers' market or explore a seaside trail in your unplanned moments.

Halifax offers a unique combination of historic venues, dynamic nightlife and restaurants, international culture, and access to nature. We are easy to reach by land, sea or air. And our seasoned team has a long legacy of service excellence, including outstanding customer service and award-winning culinary expertise that will help ensure that your event is seamless and memorable. You will be greeted with our famous Maritime friendliness and a warmth that has nothing to do with the weather. Come and discover what visitors have known for centuries – Halifax is a city you will not soon forget.

In Halifax, you're never more than an hour away from an outdoor adventure or cultural experience.

Whether you choose to explore pre or post convention, you'll have many options to choose from, including our incredible coastline, numerous golf courses, and unique locations like the fishing town of Lunenburg – a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Outdoor sports enthusiasts can experience shipwreck diving, sea kayaking and even surfing, and those interested in arts and culture have over 800 festivals and events to choose from. "Foodies" can tour scenic vineyards and feast on fresh local seafood and produce.

Have a bit more time to invest? Visit Cape Breton and the scenic Cabot Trail or unwind at one of our many world-class resorts and spas throughout the province.

7

Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
Over 1.5 million immigrants, war brides, evacuee children, and Canadian Military personnel passed through this famous building between 1928 and 1971.
The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 is a monument of the stories of people who helped build our nation.
www.pier21.ca

Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic is the oldest and largest Maritime Museum in Canada.
The collection at the Halifax Museum includes artifacts, images, charts and plans relating to the marine history of Nova Scotia, including the Halifax Explosion and the Halifax connection to the Titanic.
www.museum.gov.ns.ca

Alexander Keith's Nova Scotia Brewery
Take an unforgettable theatrical tour of Alexander Keith's original Brewery hosted by the citizens of 1863 Halifax! Experience real Nova Scotia Good Times with songs, stories, and of course – a fine variety of Keith's ales.
www.keiths.ca

Halifax Citadel National Historic Site
Centrally located in the heart of downtown, the Halifax Citadel offers a first class heritage experience. Hear the skirl of the bagpipes and the boom of the noon cannon. Chat with a soldier and enjoy one of Parks Canada's most visited national historic sites.
www.pc.gc.ca/halifaxcitadel

Peggy's Cove Tour
From downtown Halifax, travel along the Lighthouse Route, to take in the picture-perfect scenery of the South Shore, and arrive at Peggy's Cove , which has been artists' and explorers' paradise for well over 150 years. This village is located right on the rugged Atlantic Shoreline, standing on solid rock above the crashing surf.
www.grayline.com

Annapolis Valley Wine Experience
This tour features a leisurely day sampling some of the acclaimed wines of Nova Scotia as you get a glimpse of the scenic beauty of the lush Annapolis Valley. Your outing includes tours and tastings at three of the province's premiere wineries as you travel past rolling hills and pleasant pastoral settings in the heart of Nova Scotia's farmland. Begin the day a Nova Scotia wine enthusiast and end the day a Nova Scotia wine lover!
www.atlantictours.com

Dig into the Halifax Food Scene

Every taste, budget and group (big or small) can be accommodated with more than 70 restaurants and bars within an 11-block radius of downtown. If that's not enough, there are over 500 throughout the city to choose from. Local specialties include cedar planked salmon, the freshest lobster in the world, Digby scallops and seafood chowder and much more. No visit to Halifax is complete without at least one seafood feast!

For those with a more exotic palate, our local restaurants feature menus from around the world, including Japanese, Chinese, Indian and Thai food.

You haven't truly experienced Nova Scotia until you've enjoyed our locally brewed beers and award-winning wines. Within the downtown core there are four local breweries that offer seasonable flavours and local favourites. Prefer wine? *Nova Scotia* has 8 award-winning *vineyard wineries* around the province, many just an hour outside the city. Wine lovers will find the experience they're looking for, and a chance to take home a taste of Nova Scotia – including Canada's finest ice wine

A Taste of Arts and Culture

Halifax's is known for its vibrant nightlife and entertainment district. At the heart of the East Coast music scene you will find everything from fiddles and traditional Celtic music to alternative, rock, classical, jazz, blues and many variations in between. Spend any night of the week in downtown Halifax and you're guaranteed to have a great time.

If you're looking for something a little different, visit one of Halifax's dinner theatres or catch the latest offering from Neptune Theatre or Symphony of Nova Scotia. Local theatre options – Shakespeare by the Sea or the Eastern Front theatre – are also unique alternatives.

Those looking for a taste of the Maritime heritage will enjoy Citadel Hill or explore the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, home to the province's art collection. Halifax offers many cultural attractions, too. Notable among these are the historic Halifax Citadel, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, the Canadian Museum of Immigration (Pier 21), the Museum of Natural History, and the Halifax Seaport farmers' market.

Discovery Centre – Learn, Experience, Imagine

In 2016, Halifax opened the doors to a brand new, state-of-the-art discovery centre that has changed the face of science in Nova Scotia. World-class architecture, breath-taking exhibits and hands-on learning experiences make the Discovery Centre a great place to escape for a few hours during a busy conference schedule and experience something new. The centre is home to three unique spaces that will be the first of their kind in Atlantic Canada — an Immersive Dome Theatre, an Aquarium, and an Innovation Lab.

Traveling to Atlantic Canada – culture, safety and regulations

Customs and immigration

Canada is an open country that will allow many nationalities to come to FOSS4G in Halifax in 2020. The majority of European countries do not require a visa to come to Canada, as do a large number of other countries around the world. However, foreigners who want to visit Canada must apply for their electronic travel authorization online (eTA Visa) before coming to Canada. This authorization is relatively simple to request and will be valid for a period of 5 years.

We are aware that many countries require a visa to visit Canada and that is why the HLOC is committed to provide letters of invitation to those who will need one to attend the event. Canada is one of the most open countries in the world and is very welcoming to foreigners.

Safety and inclusiveness

More specifically, Halifax is a pleasant place to live, safe for both, foreigners and women who would want to walk alone at night. The area is also very welcoming to LGBTQi + communities since Halifax has its gay village within walking distance of the event. Several pubs / bars are located in this area. Since 1987/88, Halifax has hosted its own gay parade each year, encouraging diversity. In addition, to accommodate the largest number of people, Halifax is now encouraging the introduction of gender-neutral toilets in new buildings.

Climate

Nova Scotia weather can be summed up into one word – moderate. It rarely gets extremely hot or extremely cold. The daily temperature does fluctuate both by time of day and by your proximity to the ocean.

Average daytime temperatures from Mid June to mid September: are 20 to 25 degrees Celsius (70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit).

Time zone

Nova Scotia is in the Atlantic Standard time zone, which is four hours behind London and one hour ahead of New York.

Sales Tax & Rebates

The Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) is applied at a rate of 15% to base goods and services. Nonresident (non-Canadian) sponsors, organizers and exhibitors MAY be eligible for a rebate of this tax. Accommodations in the Halifax region charge a hotel marketing levy of 2.0% on room rates. For more information on tax rebates, visit the Canada Revenue Agency website.

The Nova Centre in Halifax – A brand new venue

A fresh way to connect in the heart of the city

Located just blocks from the bustling waterfront and within easy walking distance of the city's best restaurants, bars, and arts and entertainment, this facility features 120,000* sq. ft. of rentable space, including 50,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space and a spectacular 30,000 sq. ft. ballroom overlooking the city.

In addition, the building is part of the Nova Centre – a sustainable, LEED gold standard, 1 million square foot mixed use development that will completely transform two full blocks of the city's entertainment district.

You'll be right in the centre of our safe, walkable downtown, and less than an hour away from outdoor adventure, scenic beaches, wineries, golf and much more. This isn't just a convention centre – it's your portal to the best Nova Scotia has to offer. Be among the first to experience this new landmark! Let us show you the new face of Halifax.

We are planning to rent 15 rooms on 2 levels of the centre (Ballroom and Summit).

Ballroom Level
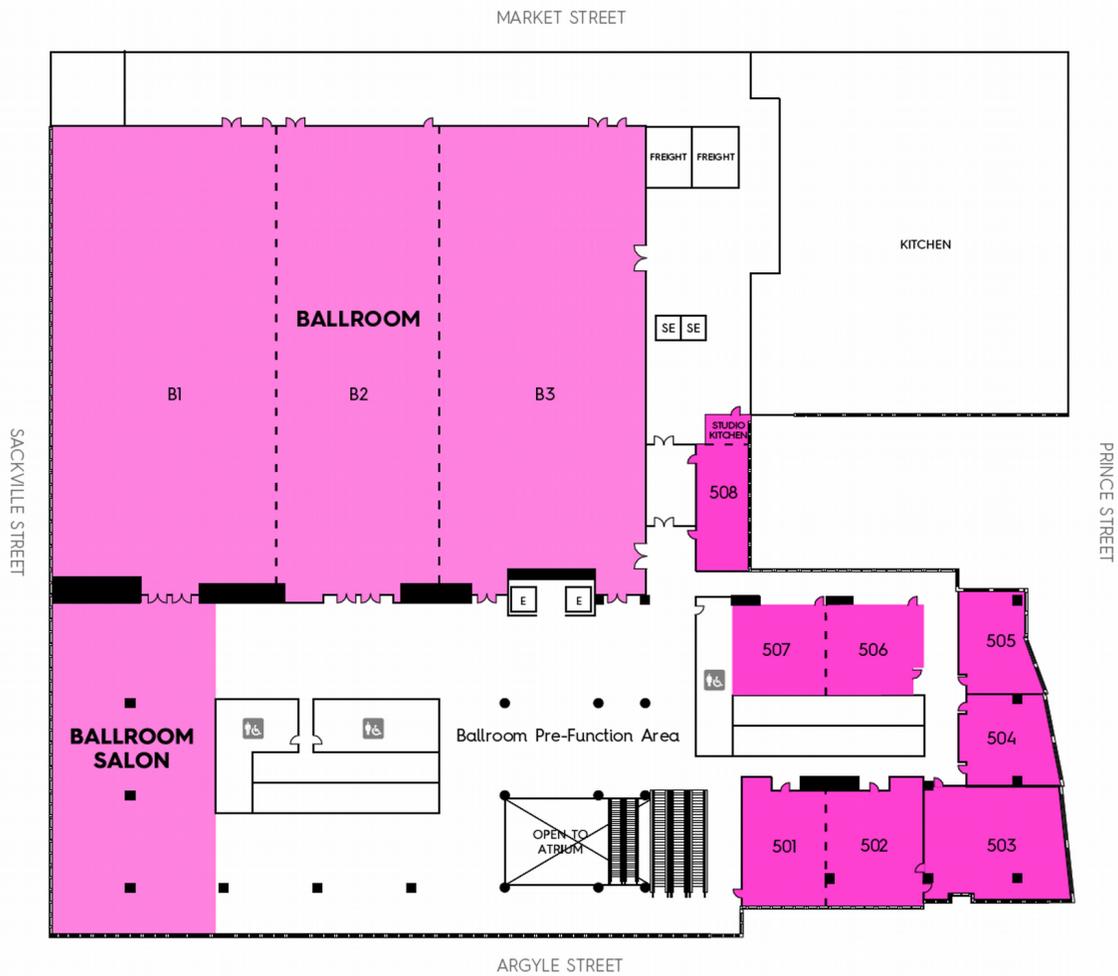
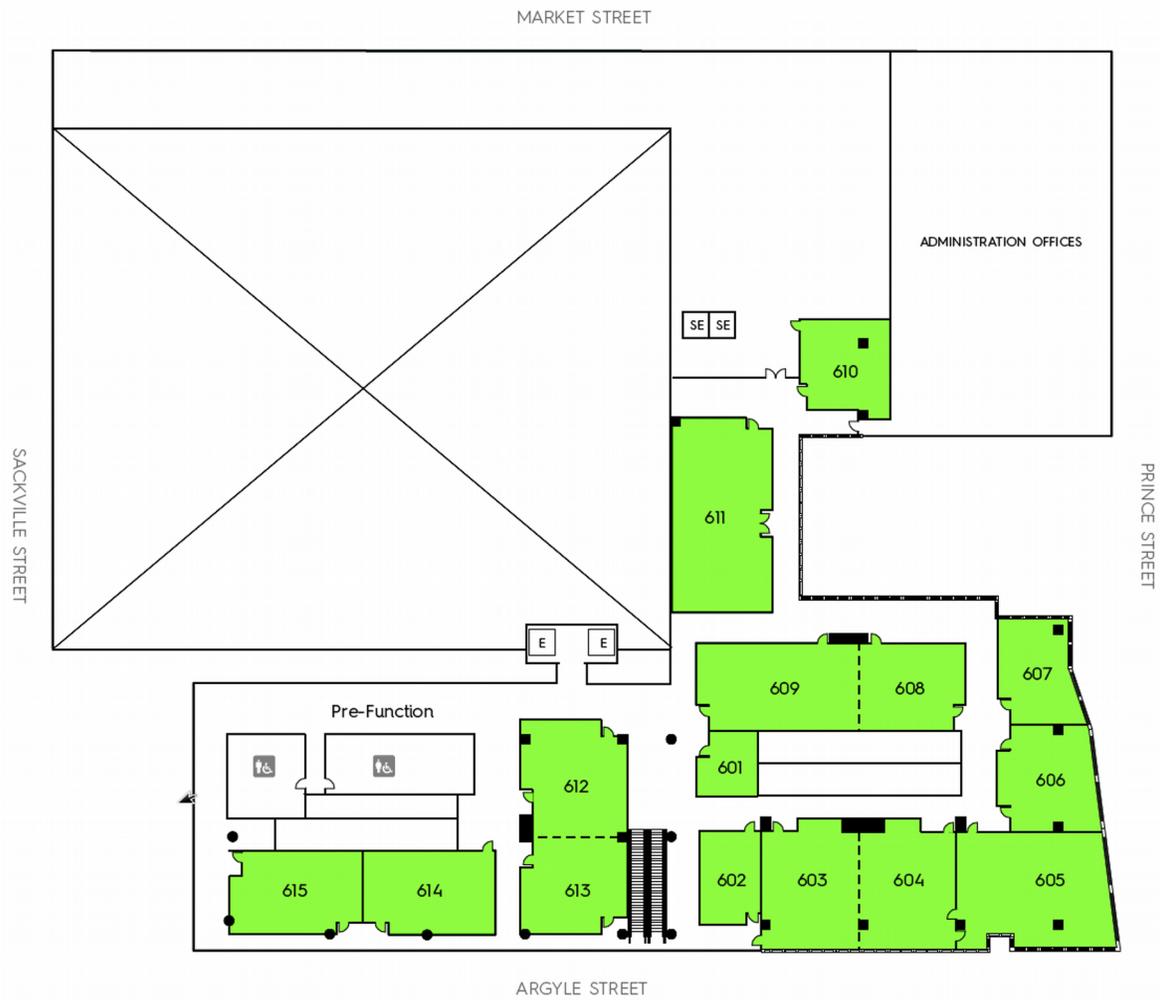|	L	W	SQ. FT.	Theatre AV/Stage	Classroom AV/Stage	Ovals of 10 AV/Stage	Reception	10x10 Booth	U Shape	Hollow Square	Board Room
Ballroom Pre-function			9,500	•	•	•	1200	28	•	•	•
Ballroom Salon	108	56	6000	•	•	360	800	14	•	•	•
Ballroom	156	192	30000	2900	1600	2000	3000	170	•	•	•
Section B1	156	74	11544	975	570	660	975	67	•	•	•
Section B2	156	53	8268	725	380	440	950	41	•	•	•
Section B3	156	65	10140	950	500	550	1137	56	•	•	•
Sections B1-B2	156	127	19812	1825	1000	1300	2275	107	•	•	•
Sections B2-B3	156	118	18408	1725	950	1200	2275	106	•	•	•
Room 501	36	27	972	100	48	50	120	•	33	42	26
Room 502	36	30	1080	100	48	50	130	•	33	42	26
Room 501-502	36	57	2052	165	70	100	250	•	51	60	44
Room 503	36	48	1728	110	60	60	225	•	39	48	36
Room 504	32	31	992	50	24	30	120	•	21	30	20
Room 505	23	31	713	40	24	30	60	•	18	24	20
Room 506	27	31	837	55	24	30	100	•	18	24	20
Room 507	27	32	864	55	27	40	100	•	18	24	20
Room 506-507	27	63	1701	120	60	90	200	•	39	48	44
Room 508 (with Studio Kitchen)	30	25	750	40	27	30	60	•	18	24	20
TOTAL LEVEL SQ. FT.			43936								

Summit Level

	L	W	SQ. FT.	Theatre AV/Stage	Classroom AV/Stage	Ovals of 10 AV/Stage	Reception	10x10 Booth	U Shape	Hollow Square	Board Room
Room 601	18	19	342	20	12	20	25	•	15	18	12
Room 602	29	20	580	40	18	30	50	•	24	30	20
Room 603	37	28	1036	100	48	50	120	•	33	42	26
Room 604	37	30	1110	100	48	50	130	•	33	42	26
Room 603-604	37	58	2146	180	77	120	250	•	51	60	44
Room 605	48	37	1776	110	60	60	225	•	39	48	36
Room 606	31	32	992	50	24	30	125	•	21	30	20
Room 607	31	23	713	40	24	30	60	•	18	24	20
Room 608	32	27	864	55	24	30	100	•	18	24	20
Room 609	49	27	1323	120	54	60	150	•	42	48	38
Room 608-609	81	27	2187	175	80	100	250	•	60	66	56
Room 610	28	26	728	30	18	20	40	•	21	24	20
Room 611	58	31	1798	155	72	100	225	•	45	54	44
Room 612	34	32	1088	85	40	50	120	•	27	36	26
Room 613	29	32	928	70	40	50	100	•	27	36	26
Room 612-613	63	32	2016	165	80	100	200	•	51	60	44
Room 614	40	24	960	90	45	50	100	•	30	36	32
Room 615 (Exec. Boardroom)	40	24	960	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	25
TOTAL LEVEL SQ. FT.			**15198**								

Workshops at Dalhousie University (or alternatively at the main venue)

The workshops will take place the Dalhousie University (provided to us free of charge), located roughly 2 kilometers from the venue, which would have fully equipped labs, or at the venue itself (already budgeted in venue pricing). At the conference center, attendees would need to bring and use their own device. Hosting the workshop at the University would also bring the extra advantage of having students and teachers nearby as potential participants. We plan to propose ten concurrent workshops with a capacity to accommodate between 25 and 50 participants per workshop, possibly more.

A perfect opportunity for businesses to connect

A B2B event will be running in parallel with workshop sessions, the day before the main conference starts. Business participants will be able to opt for participation during registration, and select topics of interest and/or companies they are interested in connecting with. The Salon at the Nova Centre is reserved for these sessions, with floor to ceiling windows, and should provide businesses with ample time to network and discover opportunities around open-source geospatial technologies. The discussions can then be continued in the evening at the Ice Breaker event.

Staying in Halifax

The Halifax Convention Centre is at the doorstep of our vibrant downtown business and entertainment district, complete with up to 3,000 hotel rooms. From premium 4.5 star global brands to bed and breakfasts and university residences, guest accommodations are all within a brief walk of the venue and to hundreds of amenities downtown. The average hotel room rates in the downtown core range based on season from $120 to $190 US dollars. Hotels within walking distance to the venue include:

Property Name	Star Rating	Rooms
Westin Nova Scotian Hotel	4.5	310
The Prince George Hotel	4.5	200
The Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel	4.5	352
Delta Hotels	4.5	497
Homewood Suites	4	135
The Hollis by Hilton	4	104
The Lord Nelson Hotel & Suites	4	262
Four Points by Sheraton	4	177
Courtyard by Marriott, Halifax Downtown	4	125
Cambridge Suites Hotel Halifax	4	200
Hilton Garden Inn	3.5	181
Residence Inn by Marriott	3.5	92

Ready to welcome the FOSS4G community

We have planned for a capacity of up to 1,200, but the venue could comfortably accommodate more, up to 1,500 if necessary. The minimum number of attendees for the conference to be financially successful has been budgeted at 800, but even at 700 we predict to still turn in a profit.

Accessibility

The Halifax Convention Centre makes sure everyone can be welcomed into their spaces. Here's how:

- The building interior and exterior is wheelchair accessible, including automatic doors, wide curb cuts, washrooms and water fountains.
- Every floor and common area is accessible via elevators, and include two-way communication in case of emergency.
- Particular event spaces include permanent hearing assist systems, like Infrared Audio Assistive Listening Systems, and these can be temporarily included in every space as needed.
- Tactile Braille signage is at the entrances of all meeting rooms and restrooms, as well as inside and outside all passenger elevators.
- Certified guide, service and companion animals are always welcome (and we can help them enjoy their time with us too, like providing water and snacks if needed).
- Our restrooms are fully accessible and have stalls, sinks and mirrors that are wheelchair accessible. Each level is also equipped with a private universal washroom.

Childcare and families

The LOC is considering partnering with a local daycare organization if there is enough demand for childcare. Additionally, a number of side activities for families can be enjoyed nearby. The new library is within walking distance to the venue. A quiet room will be provided on every floor. The venue is also close to several museums and parks. The Dalhousie University campus is also within walking distance.

French / English translation

In a spirit of inclusiveness, the plenaries / keynotes will be simultaneously translated from/to, French or English, either of Canada's two official languages.

DISCOVER HALIFAX

Map labels and locations:

TO DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY & ARTS CENTRE

ROBIE STREET

IWK HEALTH CENTRE

CARLETON STREET

CAMP HILL CEMETERY

QEII NEW INFIRMARY CAMP HILL ABBIE J LANE HOSPITALS

HALIFAX COMMONS

EMERA OVAL

SUMMER STREET

CENTRAL COMMON

QEII VICTORIA GENERAL HOSPITAL

TOWER ROAD

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

WANDERER'S GROUNDS

SPATZ THEATER (CITADEL HIGHSCHOOL)

AHERN AVENUE

NORTH PARK STREET

POINT PLEASANT PARK

TOWER ROAD

VICTORIA PARK

HALIFAX PUBLIC GARDEN

BELL ROAD

GARRISON GROUNDS

BAUER STREET

MAYNARD STREET

LUCKNOW STREET

SOUTH PARK STREET

BRENTON PLACE

BRENTON STREET

SPRING GARDEN ROAD

PARK LANE & CINEMAS

SPRING GARDEN PLACE

ANNANDALE ST

CREIGHTON STREET

CEMETERY

DRESDEN ROW

CITY CENTRE ATLANTIC

HALIFAX CITADEL

GOTTINGEN STREET

FENWICK STREET

BIRMINGHAM ST.

RANNIE DRIVE

POLICE STATION

QUEEN STREET

CHURCH STREET

MORRIS STREET

CLYDE STREET

DOYLE ST

BRUNSWICK STREET

COGSWELL STREET

BRUNSWICK STREET

GREEN STREET

KENT STREET

SOUTH STREET

HARVEY STREET

DAL TECH

COURT HOUSE

GRAFTON

MARKET STREET

HALIFAX CONVENTION CENTRE

ARGYLE STREET

SCOTIA SQUARE

ALBEMARLE STREET

TO ROUTES 7, 111 DARTMOUTH BEDFORD

ST. PAUL'S CEMETERY OLD BURYING GROUND

CARMICHAEL STREET

GRANDPARADE

BARRINGTON STREET

CORNWALLIS PARK

BISHOP STREET

HOLLIS STREET

GRANVILLE STREET

SALTER STREET

HOLLIS STREET

SACKVILLE STREET

PRINCE STREET

GEORGE STREET

DUKE STREET

BARRINGTON PLACE SHOPS

NS COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN

PURDY'S WHARF 1

PURDY'S WHARF 2

CASINO NOVA SCOTIA

BEDFORD ROW

LOWER WATER STREET

UPPER WATER STREET

FERRY BOAT LANE

CHEBUCTO LANDING

TERMINAL ROAD

MARGINAL ROAD

BISHOP'S LANDING

SANDS AT SALTER

SACKVILLE LANDING

QUEEN'S MARQUE FUTURE SITE

CABLE WHARF

FERRY TERMINAL

DISCOVERY CENTRE

Cunard Events Centre at the Seaport

Pavilion 22 at the Seaport

SEA BRIDGE

FERRY TO WOODSIDE

FERRY TO DOWNTOWN DARTMOUTH

ACCOMMODATIONS

1. Atlantica Hotel Halifax
2. Best Western Plus Chocolate Lake Hotel
3. Cambridge Suites Hotel
4. Hampton Inn by Hilton Halifax Downtown
5. Homewood Suites by Hilton Halifax Downtown
6. Courtyard by Marriott Halifax Downtown
7. Dalhousie University
8. Delta Barrington
9. Delta Halifax
10. Four Points by Sheraton Halifax
11. Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel
12. The Haliburton
13. Lord Nelson Hotel & Suites
14. The Prince George Hotel
15. The Hollis Halifax
16. Residence Inn Halifax Downtown
17. Saint Mary's University
18. The Westin Nova Scotian

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS & VENUES

A. Alexander Keith's Nova Scotia Brewery
B. Art Gallery of Nova Scotia
C. Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21
D. Casino Nova Scotia
E. City Hall
F. Cunard Centre
G. Discovery Centre
H. Government House
I. Halifax Central Library
J. Halifax Citadel National Historic Site
K. Halifax Convention Centre
L. Halifax Public Gardens
M. Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market

N. Historic Properties
O. Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
P. Murphy's the Cable Wharf
Q. Museum of Natural History
R. NovaScotian Crystal
S. Neptune Theatre
T. Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame
U. Old Town Clock
V. Province House
W. Scotiabank Centre
X. Visitor Information Centre (Seasonal)

Getting there

Not only is Halifax affordable and easy to reach by land, sea and air, it's also close to the things that make our city unique – our seacoast, our lush countryside and our historic setting.

Air

Halifax Stanfield International Airport (HSIA) is Atlantic Canada's centre for regional, domestic, and international flight service. Recognized by the Airports Council International's Service Quality program as one of "the best airports in its class" (under five million passengers), HSIA is the very first airport in Canada and the tenth in the world to have earned the Airports Council International's "Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Assured" industry benchmark of service excellence.

HSIA is the only airport in the region to offer Canada Customs services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and US pre-clearance services. A gateway city to North America, Halifax is geographically closer to Boston and New York than any other major Canadian city and is over one hour closer to Europe than any other major North American city.

The US Customs and Immigration pre-clearance facility at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport makes it easy to do business and travel between the United States and Nova Scotia, as travelers are able to go through customs before they leave Halifax. This convenience results in a much easier arrival process in the US and much quicker connecting times to US hubs.

Air carriers serving Halifax include: Air Canada, Air St. Pierre, Air Transat, Condor, Delta Air Lines, Icelandair, Porter Airlines, Sunwing Airlines, United Airlines, ASL Airlines France, NewLeaf and WestJet. With over 650 flights arriving each week, you can travel to Halifax on direct flights from most Canadian cities, from the major network hub cities of New York, Boston and Newark in the United States, as well as London (Gatwick and Heathrow), Reykjavik and Frankfurt in Europe.

Once at the airport, you will find easy access to car rental companies along with limousine, taxi and shuttle bus services to transport you to your accommodations. The new Airport bus MetroX costs only USD $2.65 to the venue. To learn more about our airport, including the best flight options to Halifax from your location, visit its website at: halifaxstanfield.ca.

Train

There is a VIA-Rail train station in Halifax.

Ferry

There is a ferry service between Halifax and Dartmouth, useful for attendees planning to rent accommodations there.

The CAT: Portland, Maine to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia (https://youtu.be/grBRbYvruV0)
The fastest way to get from Maine to Nova Scotia is The CAT. The new high-speed ferry service runs from Portland, Maine to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. You'll experience the Maritimes the way they're meant to be seen — by sea! The CAT is fast, with a crossing time of just 5.5 hours. Wouldn't you rather spend less time driving and more time… discovering? With onboard amenities and knowledgeable staff and crew, The CAT offers passengers an enjoyable ride to their destination.

Reykjavík

Edmonton
Calgary
Vancouver
Winnipeg

Ottawa
Montréal
Toronto
Hamilton
Chicago
Detroit
Boston
Newark
New York
Philadelphia
Washington DC

Atlanta

St. John's

Glasgow
London
Frankfurt

Halifax

HALIFAX STANFIELD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIR ACCESS

DESTINATION	WKLY FREQ.	AIRLINE	DESTINATION	WKLY FREQ.	AIRLINE	DESTINATION	WKLY FREQ.	AIRLINE
Toronto	111	Air Canada Porter Airlines West Jet	Boston	20	Air Canada West Jet	Charlottetown	27	Air Canada
Hamilton*	7	West Jet	Orlando	1	Westjet	Moncton	26	Air Canada
Montreal	82	Air Canada Porter Airlines	New York (JFK)	14	Delta Airlines	Fredericton	26	Air Canada
Ottawa	88	Air Canada Porter Airlines West Jet	Newark	21	United Airlines	Saint John	27	Air Canada
Calgary	21	West Jet Air Canada Rouge	Philadelphia	14	American	St. John's	81	Air Canada Porter Airlines West Jet
			Munich*	1	Condor			
			St. Pierre*	4	Air St. Pierre	Goose Bay	7	Air Canada
Edmonton	7	West Jet	Frankfurt*	3	Condor	Deer Lake	33	Air Canada West Jet
Iqualuit	2	Sarvaq	Glasgow*	7	West Jet			
Winnipeg*	4	West Jet	Dublin/Paris*	1	Europe Airpost	Gander	14	Air Canada
Vancouver*	4	Air Canada West Jet	London	7	Air Canada	Stephenville*	2	Porter Airlines
						Sydney	41	Air Canada West Jet
			Reykjavik*	3	Icelandair			

*Indicates seasonal service. Destinations and airlines subject to change. Flights to Sun destinations also available in winter season.

3. An event by the Community, for the Community

Organized by three local OSGeo chapters & supported by local organizations

Organized by OSGeo Atlantic Canada, OSGeo Québec and OSGeo Ottawa
Three OSGeo local chapters from Eastern Canada are coming together to put together this bid and bring the FOSS4G spirit back to Canada. Leaders from the three communities the Local Organizing Committee, and will engage the members for the conference to reflect the international and Canadian FOSS4G community at large.

Letters of support
In addition to the volunteers who sit on the Location Organizing Committee, the HLOC received support from numerous organizations, across different sectors, to show their support and validate their interest in having FOSS4G come to East Canada in 2020. In Annex of this proposal, you will find a catalog of more than 30 letters of support that endorse Halifax's 2020 bid. These letters are the proof that organizations have an interest to host the FOSS4G 2020 in Eastern Canada and especially in Halifax. We are so glad to present to you the organizations that have expressed their support to us on the following page:

Letters of support

Organization	Sector
COGS	Academic
Carleton University	Academic
CRG – Laval University	Academic
Dalhousie University	Academic
uOttawa	Academic
GeoAcademy	Community
GeoLabs	Community
OBIS	Community
TeachOSM	Community
GoGeomatics	Community
OSGeo-Ottawa Chapter	Community
OSGeo-QC Chapter	Community
CNC CODATA	Non-profit
Digital Nova Scotia	Non-profit
Geomatics Association of Nova Scotia	Non-profit
Gulf of Main Research Institute (GMRI)	Non-profit
Centre de Géomatique du Québec	Non-profit
Géomont	Non-profit
Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)	Non-profit
ASG Mapping	Private
Cardinalus	Private
CartoVista	Private
Ecere Corporation	Private
Esri Canada	Private
GeoCat	Private
Mapgears	Private
MapSherpa	Private
PACGeo	Private
PCI Geomatics	Private
Teledyne CARIS	Private
Discover Halifax	Public
Halifax Regional Municipality	Public
Premier of Nova Scotia	Public

The FOSS4G 2020 Halifax Local Organizing Community

We are really proud of the diversity that we can find within our LOC. At the base, Karine Jean, a francophone Québecer who represents the young geospatial community and Jeff McKenna, an anglophone who adds years of experience and who knows the geospatial community so well internationally, already represent an interesting diversity.

It was important for us to have representatives from several sectors, represented by both men and women, combining several years of experience in the geospatial field. For us, it was also very important to include active members of the OSGeo community on our committee. It is therefore with pleasure that we present our HLOC.

Conference Co-chairs

Karine Jean, GIS Consultant – geomatiQC

Karine Jean has been working with the Québec Geospatial and Open Source community for almost 10 years. Since then, she has been actively involved in the organization of GIS conferences in Québec. She has led 4 major Québec geospatial conferences during which she worked with OSGeo-QC and OSGeo-Ottawa. In addition to working mainly in Québec, in 2015, she was involved on conference committee during the FOSS4G-Europe at Como Lake.

For the past year, she has been actively involved with OSGeo's Québec Chapter on the Management Committee. Since her arrival, she has been involved in the organization of a GeoHack in Morocco, the promotion of the 10 years of OSGeo as well as other promotional activities. She is now a Charter Member of OSGeo since 2018.

Jeff McKenna, *CEO – Gateway Geomatics*

Jeff McKenna initially helped create the original FOSS4G event, and also was involved in all of the FOSS4G local committees up to & including FOSS4G-Denver in 2011. Jeff was also a member of most of the workshop committees for many of the past FOSS4G events, and remotely planned the FOSS4G Denver code sprint for over 120 attendees. More recently Jeff has focused on assisting smaller regional FOSS4G events.

Chair of Program Committee

Jérôme Jacovella-St-Louis, *Founder & CTO – Ecere Corporation*

Jérôme Jacovella-St-Louis founded the open source Ecere Cross-Platform SDK project in 1997. He designed the eC programming language in 2004. Jérôme founded Ecere Corporation in 2005, and is currently leading the R&D of the company as CTO. Ecere's latest focus is developing the GNOSIS geospatial visualization tools. Jérôme is also involved with OSGeo as a Charter Member as well as a co-chair of the Ottawa Local Chapter, and contributes to shaping the future of web mapping services collaborating with the Open Geospatial Consortium through its Innovation Program.

Chair of Academic Committee

*Prof. **Thierry Badard**, Director – Centre for Research in Geomatics, Université Laval*

Dr. Thierry Badard is professor in geoinformatics at the Department of geomatics sciences of Université Laval in Québec City (Canada). He is the director of the Centre for Research in Geomatics (CRG) and is also on the steering committee of the Big Data Research Centre (BDRC) at Université Laval. He has more than 20 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 Big data, location analytics, data integration and fusion for better decision support, geospatial Business Intelligence, IoT and smart cities. 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 several open source projects : GeoKettle, GeoMondrian, SOLAPLayers and GeOxygene. He is an OSGeo charter member and has acted as a member of the OSGeo conference committee and a reviewer for the OSGeo Journal for several years. He is one of the founding co-chairs the OSGeo Québec local chapter and a founding co-chair of the ICA (International Cartographic Association) commission on open source geospatial technologies. He has also recently founded Ekumen, a company specialised in Location analytics & geomarketing where he acts as CTO. For further details, please visit http://www.ekumen.biz & http://www.crg.ulaval.ca.

Name	Organization	Sector
Dave MacLean	Centre of Geographic Sciences	Academic
Paul Boudreau	Dalhousie University	Academic
Thierry Badard	CRG – Laval University	Academic
Dmitry Kiselev	OSM Member	Community
Jonathan Murphy	GoGeomatics	Community
Tom Kralidis	GeoPython Community	Community
Bob Branton	COINAtlantic	Non-profit
Andrew Sherin	COINAtlantic	Non-profit
Alexi Westcott	COINAtlantic	Non-profit
Mary Kennedy	OBIS Canada	Non-profit
Jérôme Jacovella-St-Louis	Ecere Corporation	Private
Marian Tudorache	NavCanada	Private
Matthew Hanson	Development Seed	Private
Vicky Vergara	GeoRepublic	Private
Assefa Yewondwossen	World Bank	Public
Debbra Wilkinson	GeoNova	Public
Laura Beazley	GeoNova	Public
Jon Pye	Ocean Tracking Network	Public
Lenore Bajona	Ocean Tracking Network	Public
Mark Sunohara	Agriculture Canada	Public

With such qualified people on our committee, we will introduce the people who will oversee the other various subcommittees that will make this event a success.

Workshop Committee:	Vicky Vergara
Code Sprint Committee:	Dimitry Kiselev
Sponsors Committee:	Jon Murphy
Volunteer Committee:	Laura Beazly
Social Activities Committee:	Debbra Wilkinson

The local open source movement

There is already a strong interest in open source geospatial software locally, yet hosting a global FOSS4G event would greatly boost the local community interest (at the municipal level, throughout the Atlantic provinces as well as across Canada).

We have in our local community a variety of members very involved in the open source, open data and open standards geospatial community for many years. Some of their these initiatives include:

- Active community for Tech Meetups in Halifax
- Regular social activities organized by the Québec and Ottawa OSGeo Local Chapters
- Teledyne CARIS has made a lot contributions to FOSS development over the last years
- Mapgears has made many contributions towards MapServer and others FOSS
- The City of Charlottetown and P.E.I. are very involved in QGIS/PostGIS communities
- Halifax Regional Municipality has implemented an Open Data Policy since 2016
- GeoNOVA had MapServer-driven WMS services back in 2005
- Jeff McKenna's has contributed significantly to the MapServer efforts
- GANS will organize a OSGeo Day in 2019
- Jérôme and Ecere have developed the FOSS Ecere Cross-Platform SDK for 22 years
- Several LOC members have contributed to OGC Standards and/or Innovation programs

Working with the OSGeo board and conference committees

In order to benefit from the support and expertise of the OSGeo Steering Committee representatives, we will include a person from the Board or Conference Committee to sit on the HLOC. In addition, each month, Jeff McKenna or Karine Jean will report on the progress of the organization during the Board Meeting. We will also be present on the mailing lists to inform the community of the different stages of preparation.

Finally, Destination Halifax will be pleased to invite a representative of the OSGeo Board to Halifax for visiting the facilities of the Nova Convention Center as well as the various infrastructures. All these actions will be put in place because we want to be as transparent as possible with the members of the OSGeo Board and the Conference Committee.

4. Budget

Expenses

We have tried to be as realistic as possible in the budget that is presented. In order to have the best estimates, we worked closely with local tourism development organisms to be as competitive as possible in the costs of the event. Of course, quality service providers have been offered without increasing event registration costs. The budget is based on the desired amount of participants

Food and beverage

It is very important to offer quality products during the conference. Thus, participants will have access to coffee breaks from the beginning of the conference, pastries during the break, lunch and other refreshments in the afternoon. The Committee will care about any food restrictions a participant could have (gluten intolerance, vegetarian/vegan, religious beliefs, etc.).

Registrations fees will include :
- Coffee breaks for each day
- Lunch break in the morning and the afternoon
- A lunch for each day of the event
- A drink and a light meal at the Icebreaker party
- A drink and a meal at the Welcome reception
- Some drinks and a full dinner at the Gala dinner

Audiovisual

A majority of our budget will be dedicated to the audiovisual. Our budget includes recording of plenaries and live-streaming. We also think that it's very important to offer a dedicated and improved Internet connection for all participants which have be included in our budget. We will also provide microphones, laptops, projectors and screens in every room.

Canada is a bilingual country, we are considering the possibility of having a French-English translation service during the plenaries sessions in the main hall. Let's not forget that several European and African countries also have French as main language so this service could accommodate them also.

Marketing and communication

The budget also includes promotion of the event through communications, branding, website, promotional tools, printing, mobile application and various gifts for speakers. In addition, a t-shirt with the branding of the event will be offered for each Early Bird registration.

Gratuities

The Committee will offer a free pass to the LOC, sponsors, keynote speakers and workshops trainers. We will also provide transportation, lodging and meals to our keynote speakers.

Rental fees

The conference rooms and the various workshop rooms as well as the various networking activities are part of the budget.

Conference Organization

Although we won't hire any Professional Conference Organizer, an amount will be allocated to the co-chairs who will organize the event. Travel expenses related to the organization of the FOSS4G-HFX are included in the budget.

Other expenses

Finally, we also thought about adding online payment fees and to modify the system currently in place (website, registration forms, etc.). In order not to increase the budget, we also added a contingency of 5% on the budget to avoid unpleasant surprises and be ready for any eventuality.

The organizing committee will stay transparent during the organization of the event as for the expenses and the generated incomes.

Attendance

Provenance of participants

The committee believes that the majority of its participants will come from North America. The largest proportion of which will come from the local community known to be Eastern Canada (Ontario, Québec and the Atlantic regions). We estimate the participation of the local community to comprise approximately 60% of the attendees. Proximity to the United States will encourage a large affluence of the US East Coast and on a larger scale, from the rest of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

We believe that a strong representation of participants will come from European countries due to the proximity and ease of travel to Halifax and Eastern Canada.

The committee is confident that many participants will come from Asian, African and South American countries due to the strong network of contacts in the OSGeo and FOSS4G geospatial communities from members on the LOC.

Finally, the committee wishes to welcome participants from developing countries by providing a Travel Grant Program. This amount has been included in our budget to the amount of $ 20,000 USD.

Sponsorship

It was important for our committee to offer sponsorship options that were accessible to many levels of businesses and organizations. We believe in the diversity of players and for us, it was important to diversify our partnership plan.

We have already targeted major partners in Eastern Canada to become a partner of FOSS4G Halifax. Companies and organizations such as ESRI Canada, CARIS, GeoCat and GeoNOVA have already shown interest in financing our event.

Although important players have already expressed interest in being a major partner of the event, we would like to enable smaller companies/startups/organizations to afford visibility options. We have diversified our partnership plan by including options to fund a coffee break, breakfast, lunch or social event, for example. These activities will provide significant visibility sporadically at lower cost.

Although most companies and organizations who will be approached to fund the event will come from the geospatial sector, we believe it to be important to provide the opportunity for other organizations outside the geospatial sector to fund our FOSS4G.

Based upon a review of Sponsor packages and Rates from multiple prior FOSS4G events, we propose the following sponsorship fees and general benefit structure:

Diamond Sponsorship	**($30,000)**
Platinum Sponsorship	**($20,000)**
Gold Sponsorship	**($15,000)**
Silver Sponsorship	**($7,500)**
Bronze Sponsorship	**($3,000)**
Gala Dinner Partner	**($2,000)**
Ice-breaker Partner	**($2,000)**
Welcome Party Partner	**($2,000)**
Supporting Sponsorship	**($1,000)**
Breakfast/Lunch	**($500)**
Coffee Break	**($500)**

In addition to formal, corporate sponsors we anticipate recruiting and publicizing **Media Partners**. We also plan to recruit a **Beer Sponsor** for our FOSS4G-HFX Beer.

Conference and workshop fees

Conference fees

The organizing committee wishes to offer a realistic registration event to give the greatest number of participants the opportunity to attend the event. Here is a preview of the fees as imagined by the LOC for the FOSS4G Halifax 2020. Discounts have been applied for students as well as volunteers.

Full price (3 days of talks)   **$ 750.00**
Discounted - Early Bird   *$ 500.00*
Discounted – Volunteer   *$ 400.00*
Discounted – Student   *$ 200.00*

Single Day only   **$ 300.00**

Workshops only   **$ 300.00**

Early Bird Special Package   **$ 700.00**
(including full 3 days of talks and workshops)

Social activities

Note that there will be no extra charges for social events such as Tuesday night's Icebreaker, Wednesday night's Welcome reception and Thursday night Gala dinner. Other activities will be at the participant's expenses.

Grants and subsidies

The organizing committee is committed to welcoming as many participants as possible from different parts of the world to diversify its participants. Unfortunately, travel costs are often a hindrance to the arrival of some participants. That's why the committee will put together a Travel Grant Program.

With the support of a local brewery, a FOSS4G-HFX beer will be brewed and sold in the various local Halifax pubs before and during the conference. For every beer sold, a fraction of the price will be paid into the TGP and will help participants who can not afford a trip to Canada to attend the event.

In addition to the creation of the FOSS4G-HFX beer, an amount of $ 20,000 USD has been included in the overall budget of the event.

In addition to these two funding programs, we will be offering to the participants a minimum contribution of $ 20 USD upon registration. These amounts will certainly help many participants from developing countries to attend the conference.

Seed funding

The committee will request an advance of $ 50,000 USD to help pay the fees that will be requested for the deposit to book the Nova Convention Centre, as well as the various places for social activities.

The committee will also use a portion of this amount to host and develop the event's website as well as to develop the branding and the various promotional tools that will be provided during FOSS4G Bucharest 2019, among others activities.

Rest assured that the preliminary budget plans to make a profit and OSGeo will reimburse this advance, in addition to giving to OSGeo 75% of the profit generated by the event.

Surplus distribution

We estimated participation between 800 and 1 200 participants. The more participants in the event, the greater the profit margin.

The organizing committee plans to make a profit at the event, which will be donated to OSGeo communities. In fact, 75% of the profits will be donated to the OSGeo community while the remaining 25% will be shared between the local chapters (Ottawa, Québec and Atlantic) equally.

It is very important for the LOC to redistribute the profits in the community in order to spread OSGeo's activities around the world and more specifically in Eastern Canada. The event would not exist without the participation of the OSGeo community and that is why we are keen to see more events that will encourage activities in this direction.

Expenses & Revenues spreadsheets

	GOAL 1200 attendees	MID-POINT 1000 attendees	MINIMUM 800 attendees
Revenues			
Registration (including workshops and discounts)	$693 000,00	$534 000,00	$422 500,00
Sponsorships	$346 500,00	$346 500,00	$346 500,00
Total	**$1 039 500,00**	**$880 500,00**	**$769 000,00**
Expenses			
Marketing and communication	$62 825,00	$55 664,00	$48 195,00
Conference Food (including social activities)	$403 095,00	$335 913,00	$268 730,00
Conference Fees (rooms and coordination)	$336 277,00	$329 327,00	$326 327,00
Travel Grant Program	$20 000,00	$20 000,00	$20 000,00
Contingency	$41 110,00	$37 120,00	$33 163,00
Total	**$863 307,00**	**$778 024,00**	**$696 415,00**
Net profit	**$176 193,00**	**$102 476,00**	**$72 585,00**

EXPENSES

EXPENSES	1 200 attendees	1 000 attendees	800 attendees
Halifax Convention Centre			
Rooms Rental	62 808,90 $	62 808,90 $	62 808,90 $
Food and beverage	268 191,00 $	223 492,50 $	178 794,00$
Internet	4 620,00 $	3 850,00 $	3 080,00$
Audiovisual	71 000,00 $	71 000,00 $	71 000,00 $
Live streaming	22 000,00 $	22 000,00 $	22 000,00 $
Simultaneous Translation Service	7 000,00 $	7 000,00 $	7 000,00 $
Workshops			
Venue (N/A – donated by Dalhousie U or at Nova Centre)	$	$	$
Workstation rental (N/A - existing labs or BYOD)	$	$	$
Miscellaneous (extra devices, etc)	13 000,00 $	11 500,00 $	10 000,00 $
Social Activities			
Food and beverage	134 904,00 $	112 420,00 $	89 936,00 $
Decoration	1 500,00 $	1 500,00 $	1 500,00 $
Security	1 000,00 $	1 000,00 $	1 000,00 $
Childcare	2 000,00 $	2 000,00 $	2 000,00 $
Event Promotion (Marketing and communications)			
Printing	6 545,00 $	6 314,00 $	5 775,00 $
Pub (magazines, website, etc...)	1 540,00 $	1 540,00 $	1 540,00 $
Designer (branding, logo, etc...)	6 160,00 $	6 160,00 $	6 160,00 $
Mobile App	2 000,00 $	2 000,00 $	2 000,00 $
Website	5 000,00 $	5 000,00 $	5 000,00 $
Gifts	1 200,00 $	1 200,00 $	1 200,00 $
Promotional stuff (bag, T-shirts, etc...)	41 580,00 $	34 650,00 $	27 720,00 $
Coordination			
Event planners	60 000,00 $	60 000,00 $	60 000,00 $
Transportation, hotels, food and others	10 000,00 $	10 000,00 $	10 000,00 $
Miscellaneous	2 000,00 $	2 000,00 $	2 000,00 $
Registration System			
Modification 2019 system	10 000,00 $	10 000,00 $	10 000,00 $
Credit Card system and fees	13 860,00 $	10 680,00 $	8 450,00 $
Keynotes speakers			
Transportation and accommodation	11 088,00 $	11 088,00 $	11 088,00 $
Others			
Travel Grant Program	20 000,00 $	20 000,00 $	20 000,00 $
Complimentary seats (volunteer, LOC...)	43 200,00 $	43 200,00 $	43 200,00 $
Contingency (5%)	41 109,85 $	37 120,17 $	33 162,60 $
TOTAL EXPENSES (USD)	**863 307,00 $**	**778 024,00 $**	**696 415,00 $**

REVENUES

	1 200 attendees	1 000 attendees	800 attendees
Registration			
Early Bird	360 000,00 $	300 000,00 $	250 000,00 $
Volunteer	28 000,00 $	24 000,00 $	20 000,00 $
Student	14 000,00 $	12 000,00 $	10 000,00 $
Workshops	21 000,00 $	18 000,00 $	15 000,00 $
Single Day	45 000,00 $	30 000,00 $	15 000,00 $
Full price (3 days of talks)	225 000,00 $	150 000,00 $	112 500,00 $
Sponsorship			
Diamond	30 000,00 $	30 000,00 $	30 000,00 $
Platinum	40 000,00 $	40 000,00 $	40 000,00 $
Gold	90 000,00 $	90 000,00 $	90 000,00 $
Silver	90 000,00 $	90 000,00 $	90 000,00 $
Bronze	45 000,00 $	45 000,00 $	45 000,00 $
Supporter	8 000,00 $	8 000,00 $	8 000,00 $
Icebreaker Partner	8 000,00 $	8 000,00 $	8 000,00 $
Welcome Party Partner	12 000,00 $	12 000,00 $	12 000,00 $
Gala Dinner Partner	16 000,00 $	16 000,00 $	16 000,00 $
Breakfast/Lunch	2 500,00 $	2 500,00 $	2 500,00 $
Coffee Break	5 000,00 $	5 000,00 $	5 000,00 $
REVENUES TOTAL (USD)	**1 039 500,00 $**	**880 500,00 $**	**769 000,00 $**

5. Program

Contents

Keynotes
The program will feature 6 keynotes integrated during the plenary sessions, diverse in both topics and presenters.

Presentations
We are planning to accept 260 presentations, scheduled in 26 sessions running in 10 separate tracks organized by topic. Each track would support from 60 to 250 attendees, with the ballroom hosting the first track, plenaries and keynotes able to comfortably welcome all attendees. We plan on implementing a multi-dimensional approach to both scheduling and selecting presentations.

On one hand, tracks would be organized by related topics of interest, so as to minimize scheduling conflicts for attendees. On the other, the selection (and potentially also the scheduling) will consider the representation from diverse members of the community.

In addition to a topic (track), speakers will be able to select which of these communities they represent when submitting an abstract for a presentation, and this representation will be highlighted in the final program & schedule. The representation categories considered so far include:

1. Academia (whose presentations will be selected from an academic committee, and for which the proceedings will be published in a journal)
2. OSGeo Projects (with fair representation of individual projects)
3. Students (non-academic presentations) & young professionals
4. GeoChicas community
5. OpenStreetMap community
6. Businesses (established)
7. Start-ups
8. Government

We have drafted the following ten tracks to be ran concurrently. This list of topics will be re-evaluated based on the latest trends between now and the Call for Presentations, and its mapping to the schedule and available rooms will be based on the response.

1. Leveraging FOSS4G to make the world a better place (including related academic case studies)
2. Ocean Research; Data Science; other case studies (including academic research)
3. Data collection, open data, sensors, Internet of Things, Big Data, blockchains for geospatial
4. Laser-scanning, Structure from Motion, Unmanned Vehicles
5. Data analysis and manipulation, remote sensing, machine learning/artificial intelligence
6. 3D Environments
7. Publishing, Map Servers, interoperability & open standards
8. Visualization of geospatial data, styling, cartography
9. Developers-focused: developing FOSS4G and leveraging FOSS4G to build applications
10. Using FOSS4G

Workshops

We are considering accepting up to 40 workshops of 4 hours each, with a capacity to host between 25 to 50 participants per workshop, possibly more.

Posters

We are aiming to receive and display between 50 and 100 academic posters, and can accommodate more if demand is higher.

Voting and selection process

We will be using an on-line system, well integrated into the conference website, to accept, review and select proposed presentations, posters and workshops. We are considering leveraging the system developed by Volker Mische for FOSS4G 2016 in Bonn, and improving it to meet our specific needs. Community voting will be used and factored in, and final selection will be made by an impartial selection committee, without influence from sponsorship or otherwise. With few justified exceptions, a maximum of two presentations per speaker will be considered.

Academic presentations will be selected by a separate academic committee and be reserved a number of sessions, but will be integrated within the program in the relevant topics tracks, so as to facilitate exposure and exchanges with the community as a whole, and provide a more interesting mix of presentations for attendees of a given block of sessions in a track.

A similar approach will be used by the main program selection committee to ensure a diverse representation of the different groups within the community other than academia.

Servers Shoutout

We plan on bringing back the concept of a friendly map servers competition. An invitation will be sent out to map server open-source projects and commercial vendors affiliated with the community to rise to the challenge of putting up their servers performance against other participants. Prizes will be awarded in a number of categories, including: response time performance, performance under load, server-side rendering quality, interoperability & standards compliance. Challengers will be encouraged to devote efforts to improve their respective software starting 3 months prior to the conference, and the evaluation will take place within the two weeks prior to the conference. The results will be presented at a plenary session on the Friday morning (last day of the main conference).

Code Sprint

A code sprint will take place on the Saturday following the conference, to be held at the Volta Labs. Catering will be provided for lunch as well as tea/coffee breaks.

Social events

Ice Breaker
The Ice Breaker event will take place following the workshops, on the Tuesday evening (eve of the first main conference day). It will be held at the Citadel, a national historic site with fortifications on a hill.

Welcome Reception
A welcome reception will be held at the venue on the evening of the first day of the main conference. Food will be provided and there will be a cash bar. The fun will continue as a street party.

Oceanfront Open Air Gala Dinner
A gala will be held on the waterfront Thursday evening, following the second day of the main conference. A delicious dinner of fresh seafood (lobster included!) will be served, and a number of other dishes will be available (including vegan options).
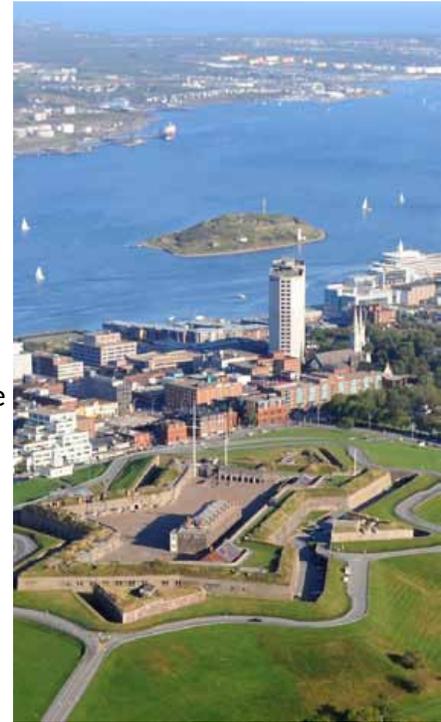
Informal dinner & evening gatherings
For the Monday evening (following the first day of workshops), a visit to the Gay Village or to the Gahan House Pub Harbourfront is suggested. For Friday (the last day of the main conference), Saturday (code sprint/side events) and Sunday (side events), other pubs and restaurants will be suggested for gathering as a community.

Side events and spousal program
Events will be organized parallel to the conference (including during the Code Sprint on Saturday) for spouses; and events for everyone will be planned for Sunday. Tickets for the gala only will be available separately.

Dates
Proposed dates: **September 14-19**, 2020
Alternative dates: *August 31-September 5*, 2020
(Monday-Friday for workshops and conference)

Other conferences around those dates
Due to the conference being almost two years ahead, not all dates for regular related conferences are known. An OGC Technical Committee meeting will happen in fall, but the dates have not yet been set. At this point, no other international, regional or local conferences that may compete or complement FOSS4G are known to occur around those dates.

Schedule at a glance

Time	Monday	Tuesday	B2B	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
07:00 AM – 07:30 AM	*OSGeo Projects Breakfast*	*Inclusion & Diversity Breakfast*		*OSGeo Sponsors & Partners Breakfast*	*UN OpenGIS Breakfast*	*Geo4All Breakfast*		
08:00 AM	*Registration kiosk opens*							
08:30 AM	Workshops A	Workshops C		*Registration kiosk opens*			Code Sprint *(Volta Labs)*	Side Events *(wineries tour, Alexander Keith's brewery visit, historical visit, whale watching, cruise…)*
09:00 AM			B2B A	**Opening plenary**	Special event	Servers Shoutout (results)		
09:30 AM			B2B B	**Keynote 1 (OSGeo)**	**Keynote 3**	**Keynote 5**		
10:00 AM				*Break*				
10:30 AM			B2B C	Sessions A	Sessions K	Sessions S		
11:00 AM			B2B D	Sessions B	Sessions L	Sessions T		
11:30 AM			B2B E	Sessions C	Sessions M	Sessions U		
12:00 PM			B2B F	*Lunch*	*Lunch*	*Lunch*		
12:30 PM	*Lunch*				**Annual General Meeting 2020**			
01:00 PM				Sessions D		Sessions V	Code Sprint *(Volta Labs)*	
01:30 PM	Workshops B	Workshops D	B2B G	Sessions E		Sessions W		
02:00 PM			B2B H	Sessions F	Sessions N	Sessions X		
02:30 PM			B2B I	Sessions G	Sessions O	Sessions Y		
03:00 PM				*Break*				
03:30 PM			B2B J	Sessions H	Sessions P	Sessions Z		
04:00 PM			B2B K	Sessions I	Sessions Q	**Keynote 6 (OSGeo)**		
04:30 PM			B2B L	Sessions J	Sessions R	**Sol Katz & student awards, closing plenary**		
05:00 PM			B2B M	**Keynote 2**	**Keynote 4**			
06:00 PM – 09:00 PM	**Welcome Party** *(Gay Village or Gahan House Pub Harbourfront)*	**Ice Breaker** *(Citadel Hill – national historic site)*		**Welcome Reception** *(at the venue)* **Street Party**	**Oceanfront Open Air Gala Dinner** *(Lobsters! Other fresh seafood, vegan options)*	**Pub crawl**		**Pub or restaurant gathering suggestions**

Speculative daily schedules

Wednesday (1st main conference day)

	1. Better World with FOSS4G	2. Ocean & Science	3. Data & Sensors	4. UAV & 3D Scanning	5. Analysis, RS, ML/AI	6. 3D Cities, BIM, AR, VR	7. Serving Data & Standards	8. Styling & Cartography	9. FOSS4G Developers	10. FOSS4G Users
07:00:00 AM										
07:30:00 AM										
08:00:00 AM					*OSGeo Sponsors & Partners Breakfast*					
08:30:00 AM										
09:00:00 AM					*Registration kiosk opens*					
09:30:00 AM					**Opening plenary**					
10:00:00 AM					**Keynote 1 (OSGeo)**					
A 10:30:00 AM					*Break*					
B 11:00:00 AM	Climate Change	FOSS4G in Agriculture	Data collection	LiDAR / Laser Scanning	Machine Learning / AI	3D Visualization	OGC WxS Standards	Visualizing data	Guiding contributors in OSGeo projects	GIS for Newcomers
C 11:30:00 AM										
12:00:00 PM										
12:30:00 PM					*Lunch*					
D 01:00:00 PM	Crisis / Disaster Response	Science	OpenStreetMap	Point Clouds Processing	Machine Learning / Artificial Intelligence	3D Visualization	OGC Open Standards	Visualizing data	Guiding new contributors in OSGeo projects	Using QGIS
E 01:30:00 PM										
F **02:00:00 PM**										
G 02:30:00 PM										
03:00:00 PM					*Break*					
H 03:30:00 PM	Arctic Science	Science	Volunteered Geographic Information	Storing and Visualizing Point Clouds	Machine Learning / AI	City Modeling	OGC Open Standards	Visualizing data	Guiding contributors in projects	Using Map Servers
I 04:00:00 PM										
J 04:30:00 PM										
05:00:00 PM					**Keynote 2**					
05:30:00 PM										
06:00:00 PM					**Welcome Reception** *(at the venue)* + **Street Party**					

Thursday (2ⁿᵈ main conference day)

Thursday (2nd main conference day)

Time	1. Better World with FOSS4G	2. Ocean & Science	3. Data & Sensors	4. UAV & 3D Scanning	5. Analysis, RS, ML/AI	6. 3D Cities, BIM, AR, VR	7. Serving Data & Standards	8. Styling & Cartography	9. FOSS4G Developers	10. FOSS4G Users
07:00:00 AM										
07:30:00 AM					*UN OpenGIS Breakfast*					
08:00:00 AM										
08:30:00 AM										
09:00:00 AM					*Registration kiosk opens*					
09:30:00 AM					Special event					
10:00:00 AM					**Keynote 3**					
K 10:30:00 AM					*Break*					
L 11:00:00 AM	UN OpenGIS Initiative	Open Geo Science	Sensors	Unmanned Vehicles	Remote Sensing	Indoor Mapping	Publishing data with map servers	Styling maps	Building mobile apps with FOSS4G	FOSS4G Benchmarks
M 11:30:00 AM										
12:00:00 PM					*Lunch*					
12:30:00 PM										
01:00:00 PM					**Annual General Meeting 2020**					
01:30:00 PM										
N 02:00:00 PM	Humanitarian OSM Team	Citizen Science	Internet of Things	UAVs	Remote Sensing	Indoor Mapping	Map servers	Styling maps	Building apps (web)	Adoption & Transition
O 02:30:00 PM										
03:00:00 PM					*Break*					
P 03:30:00 PM	FOSS4G for Humanitarian	Citizen Science	Internet of Things	AUVs	Remote Sensing	Building Information Model	Publishing data with map servers	Styling standards	Building apps with FOSS4G (mobile)	FOSS4G for Government and Business
Q 04:00:00 PM										
R 04:30:00 PM										
05:00:00 PM					**Keynote 4**					
05:30:00 PM										
06:00:00 PM					**Oceanfront Open Air Gala Dinner** *(Lobsters! Other fresh seafood, vegan options)*					

Friday (3rd main conference day)

Time	1. Better World with FOSS4G	2. Ocean & Science	3. Data & Sensors	4. UAV & 3D Scanning	5. Analysis, RS, ML/AI	6. 3D Cities, BIM, AR, VR	7. Serving Data & Standards	8. Styling & Cartography	9. FOSS4G Developers	10. FOSS4G Users
07:00:00 AM										
07:30:00 AM / 08:00:00 AM	*Geo4All Breakfast*									
08:30:00 AM	*Registration kiosk opens*									
09:00:00 AM	Servers Shoutout (results)									
09:30:00 AM	**Keynote 5**									
10:00:00 AM	*Break*									
S 10:30:00 AM / T 11:00:00 AM / U 11:30:00 AM	Land Management	Ocean Science	Big Data	Structure from Motion	Data Manipulation	Virtual Reality	Open Standards	Cartography using FOSS4G	Projects Developers Summit	Inclusion and Diversity
12:00:00 PM / 12:30:00 PM	*Lunch*									
V 01:00:00 PM / W 01:30:00 PM / X 02:00:00 PM / Y 02:30:00 PM	Smart Cities	Ocean Science	Block Chains for Geospatial Data	Structure from Motion	Data Analysis	Augmented Reality	TDWG / GBIF Open Standards	Cartography using FOSS4G	OSGeo Projects Developers Summit	Geo4All / Education
03:00:00 PM	*Break*									
Z 03:30:00 PM	Smart Cities	Ocean Science	Block Chains	SfM	Data Analysis	Mixed Reality	Standards	Cartography	Dev Summit	Education
04:00:00 PM	**Keynote 6 (OSGeo)**									
04:30:00 PM / 05:00:00 PM	**Sol Katz & student awards, closing plenary**									
05:30:00 PM / 06:00:00 PM	**Pub crawl**									

6. Other considerations

Professional Conference Organizer
We are not planning to hire any Professional Conference Organizer.
We are partnering with Destination Halifax who are donating their help organizing for free.

OSGeo Board Meeting
A face-to-face OSGeo Board meeting will be organized, with a space reserved and the logistics to be determined together with the OSGeo Board.

7. Summary

To summarize our proposal, we, the FOSS4G 2020 Halifax Local Organizing Community, spearheaded by the Atlantic Canada, Québec and Ottawa OSGeo Local Chapters, and supported by organizations all across Canada, invite you to Halifax in 2020 for the very best geospatial event of the year.

We hope you will agree, like many others (Halifax has been rated the 4th *Top destination on the rise* according to TripAdvisor in January 2018), that Halifax is a vibrant and interesting destination, with an engaged FOSS4G community, and it would be ideal to welcome the FOSS4G Spirit back to Canada.