



Code for Science & Society

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CSCCE Community Profile

CREATED IN COLLABORATION WITH: Wilson Center

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Code for Science & Society (CS&S) is a US-based non-profit supporting open collaboration in public interest technology through fiscal sponsorship and other programming. Incorporated in 2016 as a 501(c)(3), they envision a future where community-centered open public interest technology initiatives are strong and sustainable. The community is made up of CS&S staff, the board of directors, project leaders, grantees, and participants in CS&S programs. The CS&S Collaborative Communities Program improves access to the open data and public interest technology ecosystem by building funding mechanisms, governance structures, and educational resources that center community needs and transparent processes. Activities include the Event Fund and Digital Infrastructure Incubator.

► Website: codeforscience.org

KEYWORDS

Paradigms

- OPEN INNOVATION
- OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE
- OPEN DATA
- OPEN ACCESS
- OPEN SCHOLARSHIP

Disciplines / skills

- INTERDISCIPLINARY
- DATA SCIENCE
- SOFTWARE AND CODE
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Programming and goals

- INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
- KNOWLEDGE GENERATION
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
- DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

COMMUNITY BASICS



approximately 90 people are members of the CS&S Slack workspace, with a broader reach of about 200 via a mailing list



Mostly online with some in-person events*

*all activities were online during the COVID-19 pandemic



International*

*while the community is international, CS&S is a US-based 501(c)(3)



Mostly closed - programming focuses on project leaders, grantees, and other participants, with occasional public facing events

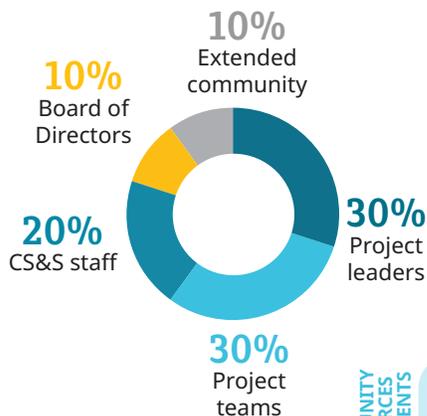
COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

Community Management

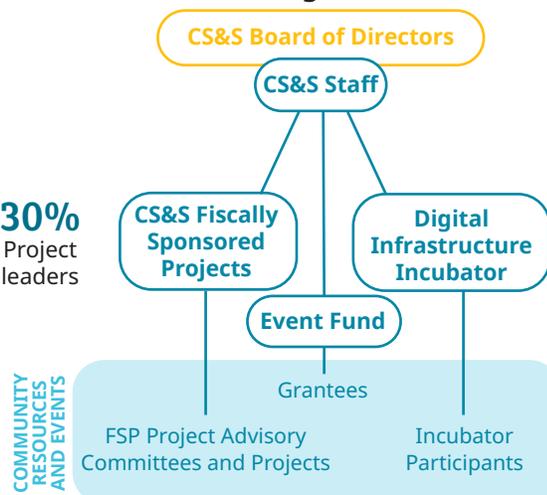
Community management is provided by the **Executive Director** who spends .25 FTE on community management along with the **Fiscally Sponsored Projects Program Manager** (.25 FTE), **Event Fund Program Manager** (.7 FTE), and **Digital Infrastructure Incubator Program Manager** (.5 FTE) whose positions are also hybrid.



Members

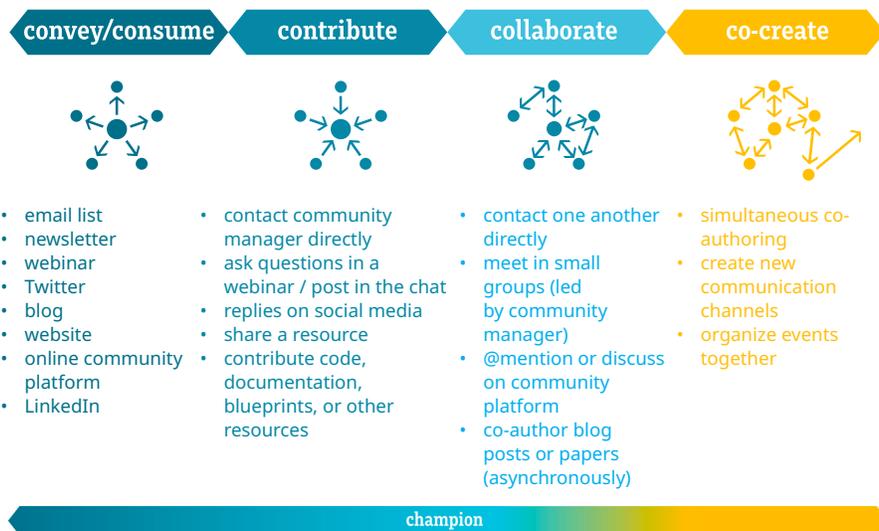


Community Configuration



PROGRAMMING

In this community, programming includes meetings dedicated to practical financial, strategic, and administrative support through our Fiscally Sponsored Projects Program (meeting frequency depends on the needs of the program ranging from quarterly to weekly). Group virtual events, including seminars and social activities, happen monthly. There is a quarterly newsletter and an active Slack channel. Programs within this community have their own strategic programming including webinars, conference presentations, virtual events, and other virtual gatherings.



COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

This community does not currently have a formal champions program. Informal champions act in the following ways:

i CHAMPIONS take on additional activities to support or advance the community. They are sometimes described as emergent leaders.



MAINTAIN

- serve on selection committees
- apply for and participate in programming



GROW

- recruit participants
- represent the community at external events



EVOLVE

- serve on a steering committee or other advisory role

i THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION MODEL

The CSCCE Community Participation Model describes four modes of member engagement that can occur within a community – CONVEY/CONSUME, CONTRIBUTE, COLLABORATE, and CO-CREATE – and one that can occur both inside and outside of it: CHAMPION. All modes may be present at once, with some members interacting in multiple modes – or a community may have member engagement that falls into only some of the modes described. The model enables the mapping of community member behaviors to programming and other infrastructural support that the community manager, convening organization, or funder may provide to the community.

► For more information, see the [CSCCE community participation model](#).



COMMUNITY TOOLBOX

Communications

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| Email | Slack |
| Blog | GitHub |
| Twitter | LinkedIn |
| Zoom | Ghost |

Productivity

- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| Google Drive | Airtable |
| Google Analytics | Asana |
| GitHub | Notion |
| Jotform | |

Community platform

- Slack

OUTPUTS & EVALUATION

Success looks like 1) stability and maturity in our fiscally sponsored projects (including launch out of CS&S), 2) grantee success, 3) a robust community of researchers and technologists engaging with our programs and activities.

✓ Successes over the last year

A few CS&S projects have recently received larger multi-year grants, which will give those teams space to focus on the work. CS&S joined a cohort of research and implementation projects with their Digital Infrastructure Incubator. 24 projects funded via the Event Fund, reaching data science training communities around the world.

- **Growth** - launched new program or project
- **Growth** - added new members
- **Engagement** - increased activity of members
- **Funding** - added a new revenue stream
- **Funding** - solidified existing funding stream

📈 Evaluation and Reporting

- Community member interviews
- Community member surveys
- Reports for community team
- Reports for leadership

💡 Opportunities

Their priority is building strength at their core; the programs, services, culture, and approach that set us apart. CS&S will be building capacity and infrastructure (adding staff, bringing on new partners, seeking funding) for their programs (Fiscally Sponsored Projects, Event Fund, and Digital Infrastructure Incubator).

- **Growth** - launch new program or project
- **Growth** - add new members
- **Engagement** - increase member activity
- **Engagement** - more members acting as champions
- **Activities** - create community outputs together
- **Funding** - secure new funding stream
- **Funding** - solidify existing funding stream

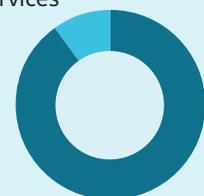
⚠️ Challenges

A lack of resources that support long term planning and thinking. When working grant-to-grant, it is difficult to engage in the kind of long term thinking that is needed to make the changes in society that this community aims to. Many of CS&S' programs and projects are able to bring in grants, but need to always be hustling to keep the funding flowing.

- Financial sustainability
- Evaluation
- Staff or volunteer burnout
- Instability in industry

FUNDING

10%
Revenue from
services



90%
Grants

Funding Streams

- 90% grants and donations
- 10% revenue from services

Code for Science & Society offers funding through the CS&S Event Fund.

ABOUT THIS PROFILE

This profile is part of a research project conducted by the Center for Scientific Collaboration and Community Engagement (CSCCE) in collaboration with the [Science and Technology Innovation Program at the Wilson Center](#). You can find out more about the project, and view more community profiles, [on the CSCCE website](#).

Information for this profile was submitted by Danielle Robinson, Executive Director.

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