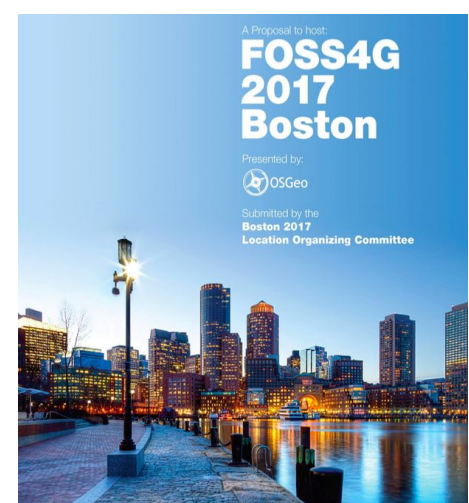# Welcome to Boston!

Board Briefing

On

OSGeo Board Briefing

Our vantage/philosophy

- This community deserves a world class event
  - If Esri can draw 15,000, FOSS4G should be able to continue to grow
    - To an expensive location in the Summer

- People will come, and pay for a great conference in a desirable location

- Revenues from successful Global conference can support strong regional confs
  - Particularly in the developing world

- It is important to grow the community and to more broadly expose the maturity of the ecosystem
  - Program with strong technical content, as well as **use case, business** & **lessons learned** content

OSGeo Board Briefing

Registration is strong

- >1,100 attendees

Finances are strong

- Will definitely pay back advance in full
- Anticipating a surplus of >$50,000
- Overall budget >$900,000
- Overall revenue >$1,000,000
- Sponsor revenue >25% of revenue

Affordability

- Aggressive early bird ($650 for 3 days, 6 meals)
- 60 volunteer passes
- "Earned" passes for workshop instructors
- Travel grant program
- Scarcity of large venues drives up cost for big confs

Leveraging Boston academic community

- MIT Academic Reception as an example

FOSS4G BOSTON 2017

OSGeo Board Briefing

Lessons learned and observations

- Strong professional conference organizer partner is crucial

- Full-time "operations coordinator" was crucial, and affordable working from Mar-Aug

- The requirement to video everything adds a great deal of **cost** and **complexity** for the LOC

- There is room for conference date to move between Aug - Oct
    - No time is perfect for everyone
    - People showed up in August
    - Costs can vary greatly between the months

This dialog says it all

Anthony Robinson
@A_C_Robinson

Follow

Replying to @sarasomewhere @foss4g @UUDreams

Indeed. @NACIS we try to make it cheaper but at the same time conf costs skyrocket & everyone expects nice food, wifi, and streaming videos.

7:57 AM - 17 May 2017

Anthony Robinson
@A_C_Robinson

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Replying to @A_C_Robinson @foss4g and 3 others

And it also has to be in a cool place, downtown, cheap airfares, hotel is 4 star but costs less than $150, and why is the wifi so slooow? :(

8:00 AM - 17 May 2017

Anthony Robinson
@A_C_Robinson

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Replying to @A_C_Robinson @foss4g and 2 others

And finally, have to accept that attendance is higher than ever, despite cost. So you have to ignore that to focus on low costs. Not easy.

8:02 AM - 17 May 2017

North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS)

FOSS4G BOSTON 2017