Proposal for Denver, CO

2011 Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial (FOSS4G) Conference Presented by the Open Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo)

Sept/Oct 2011

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Appendix A: Detailed Budget (sensitive material will be submitted separately)

Jeff McKenna
OSGeo Conference Committee Chair
Ottawa, ON, Canada
613.693.1807

Dear Mr. McKenna and the OSGeo Conference Committee:

The Denver Local Organizing Committee (LOC) is pleased to present our proposal to host the FOSS4G 2011 Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Denver is the capital of the State of Colorado. The Colorado Front Range, comprised of the Denver-Aurora metropolitan area, Colorado Springs, Boulder, Longmont, Fort Collins and others, is a recognized hub of geospatial research, development and application. The Denver Federal Center is home of one of the largest U.S. Geological Survey mapping facilities as well as cartographic offices of the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management. Major research centers are based in the Front Range including the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, National Snow and Ice Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and National Center for Atmospheric Research (major contributors to the IPCC Report, co-winner of the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize). This research focus even extends beyond the terrestrial with the University of Colorado's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Science creating FOSS tools used in studying the atmospheres of Mars and Venus. On the commercial front, the Front Range is home to major development offices of both Google Earth and Microsoft Virtual Earth, as well as dozens of other companies, both large and small.

Denver has a history of being a venue of choice for large gatherings such as the 2008 Democratic National Convention. In the geospatial realm, Denver has hosted the 2005 Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, GITA's Annual Conference in 2005, and the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) Pecora 17 Symposium honoring 40 years of LANDSAT earth observation. The annual GIS in the Rockies conference, which draws a primarily local audience, regularly attracts 500-600 people.

In the proposal, we mention two possible venues in downtown Denver: the Colorado Convention Center and the Sheraton Denver Hotel. The Colorado Convention Center was the primary venue for the 2008 Democratic National Convention and boasts 600,000 square feet (55,000 square meters), 63 meeting rooms, a 50,000 square foot (4,600 square meters) Korbel Ballroom divisible into 18 breakouts, a 35,000 square foot (3,200 square meters) Four Seasons Ballroom divisible into three breakouts, and a 5,000 seat Wells Fargo Theater. The Sheraton Denver Hotel (formerly known as the Adams Mark Hotel), is a more intimate venue and recently hosted the Pecora 17 conference. In addition to 1,225 guest rooms and 92 suites, the Sheraton provides 133,000 square feet (12,000 square meters) of meeting space, two ballrooms and 48 meeting rooms. The Sheraton recently completed a $70 million renovation. Both venues are directly serviced by the Denver Regional Transportation District with both bus and light rail service. Within walking distance of both venues are over 8,000 rooms, including three international hostels and dozens of hotels in all price ranges. The greater metropolitan area provides another 34,000 rooms to meet every budgetary need (a search on Orbitz for hotel rooms for June 14-18, 2010 gives the following ranges: ** from $53, *** from $62, **** from $159, and ***** from $329). Several hostels are also in the downtown area with rates less than $20 per night.

In addition to excellent lodging facilities, Denver is serviced by the Denver International Airport (DEN) boasting the Jeppeson Terminal named for aerospace cartographic pioneer, Elrey B.

Jeppesen. Denver International Airport is home to Frontier Airlines and a major hub for United Airlines and Southwest Airlines. Most major cities in North America have direct flights into Denver, and its central location makes it easily accessible from all parts of the continent. Denver International Airport is also serviced with direct international flights by Air Canada, Lufthansa, British Airways and Mexicana Airways.

The Denver LOC is actively exploring dates in September and October for FOSS4G 2011. In our proposal for hosting FOSS4G 2010, we settled on early December dates because of the reduced venue costs and the opportunity to provide an organized ski trip for participants. The budget in this proposal reflects the increased costs of an early Fall conference.

About half of the Denver LOC members are based in the Denver area, and we have other members located throughout North America—still local in a global context! Denver LOC members represent a diverse range of geospatial professionals, including founders of GeoWeb startups, major FOSS community contributors, government cartographers, and academic researchers. We believe that we have a very strong team that will be able to deliver an excellent conference.

- Eric Wolf, Research Geographer, US Geological Survey
- Peter Batty, Founder and President of Spatial Networking
- Steve Coast, Founder of OpenStreetMap
- James Fee, Chief Evangelist, WeoGeo, Inc.
- Sean Gorman, Founder and CEO of FortiusOne
- Mikel Maron, GeoHacker at Large
- Bruce Raup, Associate Scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center
- Charlie Savage, Founder and CEO of MapBuzz
- Brian Timoney, Principal of The Timoney Group, founder of FRUGOS
- Andrew Turner, CTO of FortiusOne and founder of Mapufacture
- Ben Tuttle, GIS & Remote Sensing Scientist at the National Geophysical Data Center
- Rafael Moreno-Sanchez, Assistant Professor of Geography, University of Colorado at Denver
- Tyler Erickson, Research Scientist and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Michigan Technological University

The LOC has partnered with the Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA). Based locally in Aurora, Colorado, GITA has organized successful geospatial-oriented conferences since 1982, including its own Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Conference (formerly an annual conference), which attracts several thousand people, as well as conferences on behalf of other groups, including the GeoWeb conference in Vancouver for the past five years. Ron Lake, Chairman and CEO of Galdos and organizer of the GeoWeb conference, says in his letter of support "I am confident that the addition of GITA to the FOSS4G conference will pay dividends and result in an efficient and smoothly run event." GITA's excellence in managing conference logistics will allow the LOC to focus entirely on the conference program and help ensure the financial success of FOSS4G 2011. We also wanted to be clear that GITA will not be involved in program content decisions. All program decisions will be the responsibility of the LOC. This will ensure that there are no potential conflicts or dilution of focus on open source content, due to the fact that GITA also has involvement with closed source geospatial software companies. Further, GITA will openly share all conference related materials in source format. The only restriction being that if we choose to leverage GITA's mailing list to help market the conference, information about only the respondents to such marketing will be shared with OSgeo.

Two preliminary budgets are provided based on different levels of attendance. Both budgets propose an early registration cost of $595 and regular registration of $695. These figure assumes that the same sponsorship levels of the previous FOSS4G Conference can be maintained.

Attendee fees could be lowered if OSgeo or another party could guarantee a portion of the budget for sponsorships. We believe that we have a good opportunity to exceed this target attendance figure.

We plan two significant focus areas for the conference. One is that we will ensure that the conference includes a significant amount of content on the subject of open data, a critical topic that has been under-represented at previous conferences. The second is that we will make strong efforts to attract geospatial users of non-open source systems, both through our marketing and provision of suitable content. Both of these focus areas are discussed in more detail in the proposal.

Denver LOC and the Colorado Front Range is ready to show the world how great Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial can be with a world-class conference in 2011.

We look forward to the opportunity.

Yours truly,

Eric B. Wolf for the Denver Organizing Committee

CHOOSE DENVER FOR MILE HIGH SUCCESS IN 2011

Denver is the recognized hotbed for geospatial technology, and there's no better city to re-introduce FOSS4G to the United States. The Local Organizing Committee and Conference Planners are invested in open source and geospatial technology. We will employ innovative programming, proven conference management, and streamlined budgeting, to break records and move open space forward at FOSS4G 2011.

FINANCIAL SUCCESS: EVENT PLANNING TO MAXIMIZE THE BOTTOM LINE
The 2011 FOSS4G Conference will achieve financial success by focusing on several proven approaches to conference management. A detailed revenue and expense budget has been prepared to provide realistic financial guidelines and expectations. All budgeted costs have been carefully researched and documented and expenses incurred prior to and during the event will be closely monitored. Controlling expenses—especially unbudgeted expenses—is key to a successful conference bottom line.

Professional meeting planning and logistics management is not only key to financial success, it also assures that an event is viewed as a highly professional, top quality experience by attendees. The Denver Host Conference Committee proposes to partner with the Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) to provide these services. A non-profit educational association headquartered in Aurora, CO, GITA is an acknowledged leader in the field of geospatial education. Since 1982, the association's subject matter expertise has been enhanced by a core competence in meeting planning, logistics and customer service. GITA's excellent international reputation for managing complex educational events and providing highly professional services to attendees and corporate sponsors, will ensure a very positive experience for all involved. Learn more about GITA at *gita.org*.

In addition, the experience gained by organizing committees from prior FOSS4G Conferences has been thoroughly reviewed, digested, and incorporated into all aspects of this proposal.

The preliminary conference budget is based upon a per attendee cost of US$ 595 for the conference and $100 for the workshops. This figure assumes that the sa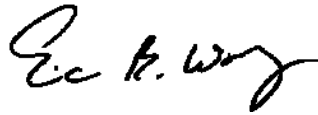me sponsorship levels of the previous FOSS4G Conference can be maintained. Attendee fees could be lowered if OSGEO or another party could guarantee a portion of the budget for sponsorships.

In summary, the projected net revenue from the 2011 FOSS4G Conference can be expected to exceed US $25,000 once all expenses have been paid.

SOCIAL NETWORKING: A SUCCESSFUL EVENT FOR THE OPEN SOURCE GEOSPATIAL COMMUNITY
The organizers of the 2011 FOSS4G Conference recognize that networking is an important part of a conference experience. Moreover, attendees simply want to enjoy themselves! The wide variety of venues for social networking available in the City of Denver will leave an unforgettable impression on FOSS4G attendees, whether they come from across town or overseas. Denver is a vibrant, enthusiastic, and energetic city, offering visitors and locals a wide variety of options in art, entertainment, culture, and adventure. These inherent attractions of Denver and the surrounding area will be combined to flavor the conference with the Spirit of the New West, providing a friendly and welcoming background against which attendees can renew old acquaintances and meet new friends.

OPEN SOURCE GEOSPATIAL EDUCATION
A primary aim of the conference is, of course, open source geospatial education. As at previous conferences, this will be delivered in a number of different formats, including in-depth

workshops, presentations, panels, and demonstrations in various formats. To make the most of the conference and deliver the most benefit to the community, these educational sessions need to cater to a number of different audiences. A core audience is the established open source technical community. This conference is the primary opportunity for members of the community to meet face to face, share information about interesting projects and developments, and exchange ideas. For this audience it is important to provide strong technical content, and for the conference to retain an informal, friendly, and fun atmosphere.

In order to meet the broader aims of OSGeo, including the wider promotion of open source geospatial software, it is also important to appeal to additional audiences. Two additional groups we intend to focus on attracting include existing (technical) geospatial technology users who are not currently using open source, and a group we might loosely call "management"—who have less of a technical focus, but who would benefit from learning about how the use of FOSS can benefit their organization. We recognize that there is a careful balance to be struck here, to make sure that the needs and expectations of the existing core open source community are met, in terms of content and "atmosphere", while expanding the types of attendee at the conference. We believe that our LOC is sensitive to the needs of all these groups and can develop a conference which provides an outstanding experience for the core community, while significantly expanding attendance from these additional groups (which we will call "newcomers" and "managers" for the sake of brevity within this proposal). Providing education targeted at these two groups is also an important element of a second major aim of the conference, promotion of open source geospatial software, which is discussed more in the next section.

We will have pre-conference workshops aimed at both newcomers and managers, which can be attended as standalone sessions, or as a means to receive a good introduction and gain even more out of the main conference. We will also ensure that we have good categorization of sessions in the main conference, so it is easy for different groups of attendees to determine suitable sessions to attend. Categories might include "newcomers," "managers," "ESRI users," etc.

All sessions will be required to have open source geospatial content. Although, we would plan to continue the approach used at previous conferences, which allows for presentations that cover a hybrid approach—combining open and closed source solutions. Indeed we would encourage this type of presentation to help with broadening the appeal of the conference to new users, who may have a strong interest in hearing about, for example, experiences of using PostGIS together with ArcGIS, or MapServer together with Oracle Spatial.

In terms of educational content, one area which we plan to have a major focus on is open geospatial data. As eloquently noted by Schuyler Erle in his lightning presentation at the 2008 conference (http://www.vimeo.com/1841244), (paraphrasing) free geospatial software is great but it's no use without data, so we as a community need more of a focus on free and open source data. We will ensure that the conference includes significant content on open data, by encouraging abstract submissions in this area, and soliciting participation as necessary. We will have at least one plenary session devoted to open data, which may be a panel session and/or a number of short presentations on data related topics. We will also consider either a data track running through the conference, or some sessions featuring multiple parallel presentations about data. Our LOC includes several members with extensive involvement in open data efforts, including Steve Coast of OpenStreetMap/Cloudmade, Sean Gorman of FortiusOne/GeoCommons, Eric Wolf of USGS, Bruce Raup of National Snow and Ice Data Center, and Ben Tuttle of the National Geophysical Data Center.

OPEN SOURCE GEOSPATIAL PROMOTION
The Denver LOC believes there is substantial opportunity to leverage the FOSS4G conference as a powerful communication mechanism for OSGeo and the open source geospatial community. The background and experience of members of the LOC, together with the capabilities of GITA, will enable the Denver team to maximize this opportunity.

Some elements of this overlap with the educational mission of the conference—we plan to run a number of sessions specifically focused on geospatial technology users who are new to FOSS ("newcomers", as mentioned above). These would include half-day and/or one-day workshops at the beginning of the conference, which people could attend either as a standalone introduction to FOSS4G, independent of the main conference, or as a means to get more out of the main conference, by getting a fast track introduction to FOSS4G at the start. We would also aim to have some content targeted at "managers." The local group FRUGOS (Front Range Users of Geospatial Open Source) has a program of local events on the theme of "Open Source Geospatial for Managers", which will be a good testbed for helping us develop strong content in this area for FOSS4G 2011.

We also plan to video record sessions as much as practical. Our aim would be to record and make available all sessions online, but this will be subject to the ability to work out the logistics in a practical and cost-effective way. There are some good mechanisms for doing this today, and there will be many more options by Fall 2011. We will also consider live online broadcasts of some or all sessions as a mechanism for enabling broader participation in the conference (combined with Twitter or other similar technologies to enable active remote participation).

We will also look at ways of using conference presenters or presentation materials to produce more written materials, including success stories, which can be published on a conference (or other OSGeo) Web site, and used as a resource to help in sales and marketing of FOSS4G systems.

EXCITING CONFERENCE LOCATION

WELCOME TO DENVER
From its picturesque mountain range backdrop to its exciting nightlife and entertainment, Denver is fast becoming one of America's premier convention cities.

The Geospatial Capital
Denver is the perfect city to bring FOSS4G back to the United States because of its ties to the geospatial industry. Geospatial technology has strong roots in Colorado. The utility industry in Colorado has been using geospatial technology since 1960, when a group from Public Service Company of Colorado was among the first to develop an automated mapping/facilities management system. Today, the city is the recognized hotbed for geospatial technology. Not only does Denver house a large number of vendor company headquarters, but the City and County of Denver and Colorado utilities have adopted the technology in some of the most diverse and innovative ways—including Denver's 3-1-1 call system that uses a GIS.

Going the Extra Mile
- In 2008 the Denver Metro Convention and Visitor's Bureau (DMCVB) launched an educational program called Go The Extra Mile—designed to train and inspire front line staff throughout the city.

- By the end of 2008 we will have hosted more than 150 trainings and seminars. This program is designed to educate and get our hospitality employees across the city excited about Denver and focused on convention business.

The Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau (DMCVB) has 60 full-time professionals to help you find the perfect hotels, meeting facilities, restaurants and convention service firms—and all our services are free.

- DMCVB ranks 3rd Most Helpful Convention Bureau in the 2007 Metropoll study of meeting planners.

- DMCVB can provide brochures, maps, videos, photos, b-rolls, e-mail newsletters and more to help boost attendance.

Below is a listing of some very high profile events Denver has hosted over the years:

2008	Democratic National Convention
2007	MLS All-Star Game
2006	Lacrosse All-Star Game
2005	NBA All-Star Game
2003	U.S. Conference of Mayors
2002	International Chamber of Commerce–World Congress
2001	NHL All-Star Game
1998	NBA All-Star Game
1997	Summit of the Eight World Leaders
1993	Pope's World Youth Day

Corporate Travel Index
- Overall, Denver ranks 25th for Corporate Travel Costs.
- Less expensive than Seattle, San Francisco, Washington D.C., Boston, Chicago, and New Orleans.
- For hotel costs, Denver ranks 22nd—less expensive than Chicago, San Francisco, Washington D.C., and Boston.
- For food costs, Denver ranks 69th—less expensive than Seattle, San Francisco, Washington D.C., Boston, Chicago, and New Orleans.
- For car rental costs, Denver ranks 16th—less expensive than Seattle, San Francisco, Washington D.C., Boston, Chicago, and New Orleans.

International Travel and Visa Assistance
The Denver International Airport is the 5th busiest in the United States, with direct flights around the world. Conference Planners GITA have extensive experience with international travelers and are happy to provide international conference invitation letters to assist conference attendees with visa applications.

Denver International Airport
- 5th busiest in the nation.
- 10th busiest in the world.
- Non-stops to 150 worldwide destinations.
- 1,600 daily flights.
- 342 miles west of the exact center of the continental U.S.
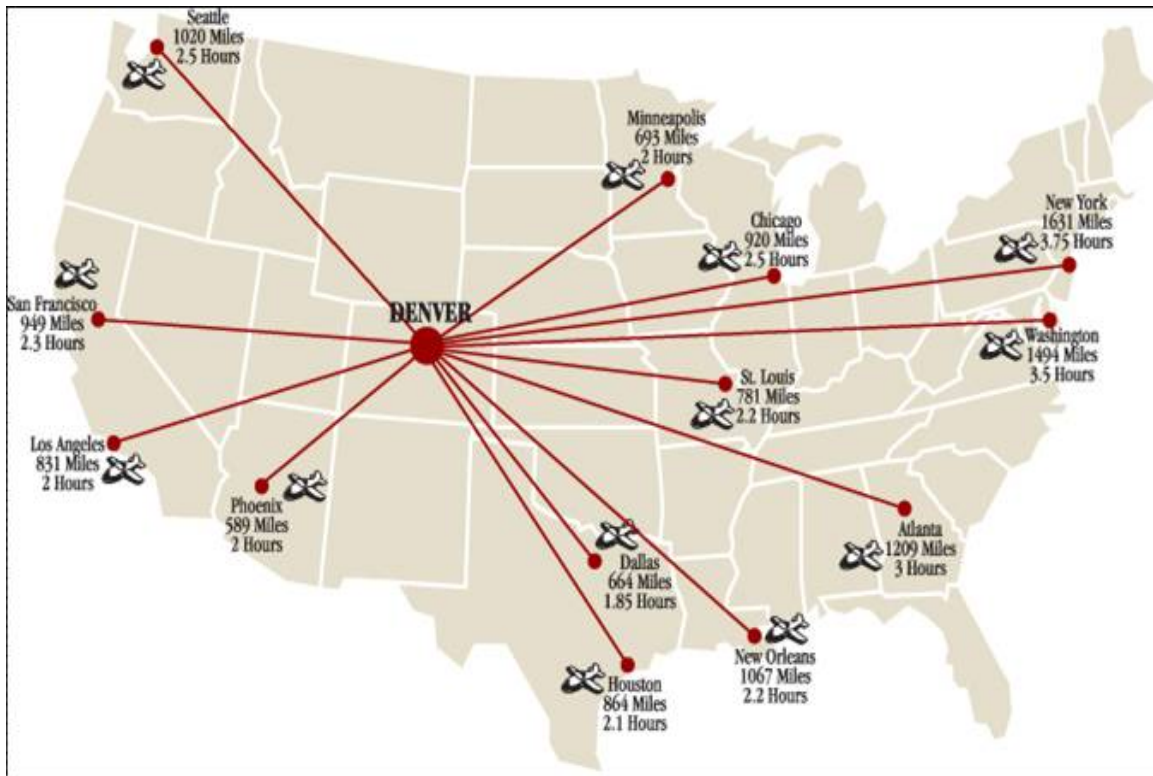
Airlines Serving DIA
Air Canada, Alaska Airlines, America West, American Airlines, Big Sky Airlines, British Airways, Champion Air, Continental Airlines, Delta, Frontier, Great Lakes, Horizon Air, JetBlue Airways, Lufthansa, Mesa Airlines, Mexicana, Midwest Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Sun Country, United Airlines, and US Airways.

Transportation Options:
- Denver International Airport offers several transportation options from the airport to Downtown Denver.

- Commercial Shuttle Service
  - SuperShuttle - operating daily from 4:30 a.m. until midnight and serving all Downtown Denver as well as the Denver Tech Center hotels. Cost is $19 each way or $34 round-trip. Group rates as well as the ability to book online are available for conventions.
  - Big Sky Shuttle - Operating daily from 3:30 a.m. until midnight and serving all Downtown Denver hotels for $18 each way or $28 round-trip.

- Taxi Service - All four major taxi companies (Freedom Cab, Metro Taxi, Yellow Cab, and Taxi Latino) all offer flat rates from Denver International Airport to Downtown Denver. The flat rate is $43.00 + $3.50 gate fee.

- Public Transportation - Denver's Regional Transportation District (RTD) can take your attendees from Denver International Airport to three different locations in Downtown Denver. The route takes approximately 50 minutes and is $8 each way or $14 round-trip.

Weather

Denver gets over 300 days of sunshine per year. September or October it is likely that we may get sunny weather for the conference. The average highs for September and October are 86F (26C) and 79F (20C) respectively. Denver receives less than an inch and a half (35mm) of rain both months. With the low humidity, even those temperatures feel comfortable.

For more information on Denver Weather, visit these resources:

- http://www.weatherreports.com/United_States/CO/Denver/averages.html
- http://www.denvermetroguides.com/denver.php?p=weatherhistory

VENUES

Based on the local committee's experience with events in Denver, we've narrowed the perfect facilities for FOSS4G down to two premier venues.

Colorado Convention Center
- 600,000 s/f of contiguous exhibit space
- Korbel Ballroom – 50,000 s/f and divisible into 18 breakouts
- Four Seasons Ballroom – 35,000 s/f and divisible into 3 breakouts
- Wells Fargo Theater – 5,000 fixed seats
- 63 meeting rooms

Sheraton Denver Hotel
- 133,000 s/f of meeting space
- 1,225 guest rooms; 92 suites
- Two ballrooms
- 48 Meeting Rooms
- Completed a $70 million renovation in 2010

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR EVERY BUDGET
Denver offers more than 8,000 hotel rooms within walking distance of our Colorado Convention Center—from boutique hotels to affordable accommodations, including motels and hostels. The Denver LOC will also arrange extremely affordable rates because of the proposed conference dates in early December. In the Metro area there are more than 42,000 hotel rooms to meet every meeting need.

THE DENVER SCENE

Dining
Denver's dining scene has reached an all new high with renowned chefs like Kevin Taylor, Jennifer Jasinski and Richard Sandoval; owning and operating some of Denver's hottest restaurants—all located in Downtown. Denver has over 300 restaurants—to fit every price point. From 4-star dining to food court options, Denver has it all and all within walking distance of the Colorado Convention Center.

Shopping
Shop in trendy Larimer Square or catch a cab to the Cherry Creek Shopping District—the largest and most varied shopping between St. Louis and San Francisco!

"Denver is emerging as a style-conscious city with great shopping" -*New York Times*

16th Street Mall - Pedestrian Mall:

- Remember, Denver is a WALKABLE city so once you are in Downtown Denver you won't need a cab or a rental car.

- The 16th Street Mall is a tree-lined, pedestrian promenade of red and gray granite that runs through the center of downtown. Lined with outdoor cafes, renovated historic office buildings, sparkling glass-walled skyscrapers, shops and restaurants. Numerous fountains and plazas offer a variety of daily special events and entertainers.

- FREE shuttle buses cruise the mile-long Mall

Arts and Culture
- The Denver Performing Arts Complex is the second largest arts center in the nation under one roof.
- Catch a Broadway play, watch the symphony, or take in the Opera at our beautiful Ellie Caulkins Opera House.
- Experience the amazing Denver Art Museum that was designed by internationally renowned architect Daniel Libeskind.

- Visit our new Museum of Contemporary Art, designed by famous London architect David Adjay.
- At the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, explore fantastic fossils, stimulating space science activities, view amazing gems and minerals, Egyptian mummies, and much more.

Additional Partner Tours
Below are some examples of partner tours that the City could offer attendees. Customized tours are also available.

Mile High – Lights (Red Rocks & LoDo Walking Tour)
- It took 300 million years to create Denver's most scenic attraction – Red Rocks Amphitheatre. You will understand why Mother Nature took her time when you see the two 300-foot red sandstone formations flanking the stage and a 200-mile panorama of the Rocky Mountain foothills.
- Next, we'll take you to "LoDo", Denver's Lower Downtown District. You'll discover how Denver was born in an informative and entertaining walking tour. Your guide gives historically correct fun facts on how the city thrived on the Pike's Peak Gold Rush of 1858.

Delightful Denver
- Experience a vision of Denver's future—the modern wing of the Denver Art Museum. Founded in 1893, The Denver Art Museum has the largest and most comprehensive collection of world art between Kansas City and the West Coast, with over 600,000 works of art.
- A short drive takes you to "the Brown." The Brown Palace Hotel has welcomed guests since opening in 1892. There will be a behind the scenes tour followed by afternoon tea; a tradition at the Brown Palace. During tea Julie Peach, The Chocolate Therapist, will teach you how chocolate can help keep you healthy.

A World of Tea
- Celestial Seasonings (in Boulder) invites you to see, taste and smell the world of teas. You'll be treated to an informative tour. Following a visit of the tea factory, you will have lunch at Dushanbe Teahouse in Boulder.
- Unique to Colorado, the Dushanbe Teahouse is a gift from Boulder's sister city, Dushanbe Tajikistan. Tajik artists handcrafted the building in a traditional style that includes ceramic Islamic art and a carved painted ceiling.

Behind the Velvet Curtain—Tour of the Denver Performing Arts Complex
- The Denver Performing Arts Complex is the largest theatre complex of this kind in the world. The complex is comprised of ten individual performance spaces.

- Guests will have the unique opportunity to tour a selection of these facilities. They will see trap doors, catwalks, and dressing rooms as well as DPCA's 88,000 square foot production facility, which houses sets, props, and costumes from past productions.

"Unsinkable" Molly Brown and the Byers-Evans House
- Tour the "Unsinkable" Molly Brown House, the entirely restored home of Colorado's most colorful Victorian Heroines. Located in the Capital Hill area, the house was originally built in the late 1800s.
- You will then tour another of Denver's great historical homes, the Byers-Evans House, which was constructed in 1883 by Rocky Mountain News publisher Williams Byers and sold in 1881 to the family of William Gray Evans. The elegant home is filled with original Evan's family furnishings.

Civic Center Walking Tour

- Our walking tour of some of Denver's premier attractions starts at the spectacular Colorado State Capital Building. A short walk from the Capital is the United States Mint, a fantastic experience for people from all over the world. A 35-minute tour covers both the present state of coin manufacturing as well as the history of the Mint.
- Our highlights of our walking tour include Denver City and County Building, the Denver Public Library, and Civic Center Plaza. If desired, the Colorado History Museum can be included on this tour as well.

Safety

- Denver ranks on the FBI Top 10 Safest City List!

- There are over 10,000 people that live in Downtown Denver making it truly a 24-hour city. Also with three sports stadiums located in Downtown Denver there is always a "buzz" in downtown!

HOSTING COMMITTEE AND LOCAL COMMUNITY

SUPPORTING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS
The Denver LOC has the support of a wide range of local organizations. This is reflected in the number and variety of letters of support we have received from organizations, including: Commercial geospatial companies utilizing and contributing to FOSS like AutoDesk, WeoGeo, and Galdos; User organizations like FRUGOS and Rocky Mountain URISA; Government organizations like the USGS; and major research centers like NSIDC and NOAA NGDC.

United States Government Participation
The United States Government has traditionally been a major supporter of FOSS4G, as well as a significant source of free (*gratis* and *libre*) geospatial data. In fact, it was the U.S. Army Construction Engineering Laboratories (CERL) that first developed the open source GRASS GIS. This tradition is carried well into the 21st century with projects like the National Aeronautical and Space Administration's (NASA) WorldWind open source virtual globe. The US Geological Survey (USGS) provides free data access to it's geospatial holdings, adding to the significant US Census TIGER/line free data. Recently, the USGS and NASA announced a return to 100% free data from Landsat starting with the first scene captured in 1972 to today.

The current U.S. Administration, lead by President Barack Obama,   has issued an Open Government Initiative and established Data.gov, a website for sharing spatial and non-spatial datasets. This follow up on their campaign platform:

"*Making government data available online in universally accessible formats to allow citizens to make use of that data to comment, derive value, and take action in their own communities.*"

This represents an unprecedented call to action from the highest levels of the US Government to release (free, as in libre) data by implementing open geospatial standards. This effort is dependent on the future of FOSS4G. As such, the Denver LOC anticipates significant participation in a Denver-hosted FOSS4G 2011 by civil servants throughout the US Government.

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
The proposed Organizing Committee for a Denver-hosted FOSS4G 2011 would slightly redefine "local." Having seen FOSS4G grow to an international scale, we wish to expand "local" to include not just a city, region, or even a state but the entire continent. Our initial organizing committee is mostly local to the Colorado Front Range but will be expanded to include contributors from throughout North America. We will actively seek out input and direction from FOSS4G contributors in Canada and Latin America as well as Indigenous Nations.

Peter Batty
Peter Batty has worked on geospatial software since pre-open source times. He is currently Founder and President of Spatial Networking, a heavy PostGIS user, and a contributor to OpenStreetMap. Previously, he has been CTO at Intergraph, Ubisense, and Smallworld. He was a member of the OGC technical committee in its formative years. He has been heavily involved in the organization of multiple conferences, including three years on the GITA Annual Conference committee and many user conferences for Ubisense and Smallworld. He has spoken at roughly 100 geospatial conferences spread across 16 countries and 5 continents. He has served on the board of GITA since 2004 and on the editorial advisory board of GeoWorld magazine since 1996.

Steve Coast
Steve Coast is the founder of OpenStreetMap, a collaborative map of the world made by people like you. Steve has worked in many heavy lifting computing applications before co-founding a

Web consultancy firm with Nick Black in 2006. In 2008, this became CloudMade after investment by Sunstone Capital. Steve lives on planes and in airports and is most easily contacted by e-mail.

Tyler Erickson
Tyler Erickson is a research scientist for the Michigan Tech Research Institute and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Michigan Technological University. Dr. Erickson's research interests include algorithm development for geostatistical analysis and designing internet-based geospatial information systems. An example of Dr. Erickson's work on communicating science research using open-source geospatial and virtual globe technologies was selected as a winning entry for Google's KML in Research competition. Dr. Erickson serves as the director of MichiganView (http://michiganview.org) and the technology chair of AmericaView (http://americaview.org), which are non-profit consortia of academic, non-profit, and governmental organizations that promote the use of remote sensing technologies by supporting research, education, workforce development, and technology transfer.

James Fee
James Fee is the Chief Evangelist for WeoGeo helping people organize, share and monetize their geo-content. As WeoGeo's Chief Evangelist, James helps people organize, share and monetize their geo-content. James' years of experience working with geospatial technology helps users make smart choices about implementing GIS more effectively. He blogs about geospatial technology at his blog (www.spatiallyadjusted.com) where he writes extensively about the implications of geospatial technology on workflows. He has also helped develop an online community culminating in Planet Geospatial (www.planetgs.com). James has been a frequent presenter at geospatial conferences around the world and a frequent columnist at Geoinformatics Magazine.

Sean Gorman
Sean Gorman founded FortiusOne in 2005 to bring advanced geospatial technologies to market. Dr. Gorman is a recognized expert in geospatial analysis and visualization. He has been featured around the world in media such as, Wired, Der Spiegel, ABC, Washington Post, Business 2.0, and CNN, and his expertise is sought after by organizations such as the Critical Infrastructure Task Force and the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Mikel Maron
Mikel Maron is founder of Mapufacture (now part of FortiusOne), and web developer for hire, specializing in Open Geospatial and Wiki tech. He's been active in the standardization of GeoRSS and in the OpenStreetMap collaborative mapping project, and several open source projects. He's developed two of the first Wikis in use at the UN. Previously, Mikel worked as senior developer of My Yahoo! and researched evolutionary models of ecosystems for an MSc at the University of Sussex.

Bruce Raup
Bruce Raup is an Associate Scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) in Boulder, Colorado, USA, and Technical Lead on the GLIMS project there (glims.org). To support his work in glaciology, Bruce has used nothing but free and open source software for ten years. He has developed and implemented a geospatial database of glacier outlines and other glacier information using PostGIS and MapServer, and almost daily uses software such as GMT, GDAL/OGR, GRASS, and increasingly OpenLayers. He started a group at NSIDC to exchange ideas about open source geospatial software and protocols. He strongly supports the use of open standards and open source software, and is continually amazed at the endless possibilities of Web-based geospatial applications through the use of those open standards.

Charlie Savage

Charlie Savage is the founder and CEO of MapBuzz. Before founding MapBuzz, he helped launch Ubisense, a world-wide startup that provides indoor location tracking technology. Prior to that, he was Chief Architect for GE Energy's Substation and Automation & Network Reliability division. Charlie has contributed to a number of open source geospatial projects, including GEOS, Gdal, PostGis, and Proj4. He has a blog at http://cfis.savagexi.com.

Brian Timoney

As Principal of The Timoney Group, Brian has practiced GIS and Web mapping in fields such as the energy exploration, environmental remediation, and defense contracting. As a heavy user of open source tools such as PostGIS, MapServer, and the GDAL/OGR libraries, Brian contributes to the community by heading up FRUGOS (Front Range Users of Geospatial Open Source), a group that maintains a mailing list and conducts periodic workshops and meetings in the area. Brian participated in FOSS4G-2007 (both conducting a workshop and presenting), and has presented at conferences such as GeoWeb, Where 2.0, and Location Intelligence.

Andrew Turner

Andrew Turner is the co-founder of Mapufacture, a personalized geospatial search and aggregation platform. Mapufacture was acquired by FortiusOne in August 2008. With Mapufacture, he consulted with companies such as MapQuest, the BBC, and the UN in developing their geospatial and community components. Andrew regularly speaks at conferences on the benefits of open-source software and geospatial standards and publishes books and reports through O'Reilly Media. Previously, Andrew was an aerospace engineer building airships, spacecraft and realtime immersive simulators. He received his B.S in Aerospace Engineering and Computer Science from the University of Virginia and his Masters from Virginia Tech.

Ben Tuttle

Ben Tuttle is a GIS & Remote Sensing Scientist at the National Geophysical Data Center in Boulder, CO, as well as a Geography PhD Student at the University of Denver. He is a firm believer in the use and power of Open Standards and Open Source software. He is a regular user of GDAL/OGR, Mapserver, PostgreSQL /PostGIS, OpenLayers, and World Wind. Recently, he has been working on publishing much of the data he works with via WMS/WCS/WFS, building GeoWeb applications, and teaching a class on using Mapserver and PostgreSQL/PostGIS.

Eric Wolf

Eric Wolf is a Research Geographer in U.S. Geological Survey's Center of Excellence for GIScience. He is a board member of GeekLabs, Inc., a leader in applying FOSS technology to "smart-grid" energy systems used in developing nations. In 1994, Eric co-founded the Chattanooga Unix, Gnu, And Linux User Group (CHUGALUG), to provide a network for professionals using FOSS in the Chattanooga Area. He is a Geography PhD Student at the University of Colorado at Boulder under the advisement of Dr. Barbara Buttenfield.

Rafael Moreno-Sanchez

Dr. Rafael Moreno-Sanchez received his Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Chapingo University, Mexico in 1982 and his Master of Science and PhD in Natural Resources Management from Colorado State University in 1992. He has worked as a researcher for the National Institute for Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock and served as the Director of the National Center for Forest Ecosystems Conservation and Management in Mexico. He was the Director of the Master of Science in GIScience program at the University of Denver for two years, and is currently an Assistant professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Colorado-Denver. He teaches courses in GIS science, environmental science, and sustainability in natural resources management. His recent research publications include book chapters on Decision Support System

for Forest Management in Mexico, the Geospatial Semantic Web, and the use of Open Source Software in creating web-based cross-border health spatial information systems.

THE GEOSPATIAL OPEN SOURCE COMMUNITY IN COLORADO
As a hub of technical innovation, the Front Range features a variety of companies and individuals deeply interested in the application of open source geospatial software. In the Summer of 2006, Sean Gillies and Brian Timoney organized a mailing list to loosely tie users together and christened it "FRUGOS"—Front Range Users of Geospatial Open Source. What has characterized FRUGOS since its inception has been the participation of folks from a broad swath of backgrounds who don't necessarily consider themselves "GIS" people. Indeed, Colorado has a number of organizations catering to traditional GIS constituencies, so in many ways it has been quite edifying to bring out in the open the latent interest in alternative approaches with geospatial open source.

Among the events FRUGOS has organized has been an UnConference hosted by Tom Churchill (of Earthscape renown) in Boulder that drew about 25 enthusiasts, including folks such as Scott Davis, Peter Batty, Charlie Savage, et al. In addition, we had an after-hours MapServer/PostGIS workshop hosted by Bruce Rindahl in Denver that drew an overflow crowd of at 35 people, remarkable for the fact that they were more "mainstream" GIS users than "hackers". Last winter saw FRUGOS-apalooza: four events, four nights, four bars in Denver, Ft. Collins, Boulder, and Colorado Springs. Just as important as the 20-25 attendees for each stop was the fact that by getting the word out via the primary GIS mailing lists (maintained by GIS Colorado) as well as other non-GIS open source mailing lists, the "tour" created an awareness of FRUGOS that far exceeded those who attended.

The exposure of open source solutions at the GITA-sponsored GIS In the Rockies conference in recent years. From showing the role of MapServer in the City of Denver's GIS Department to Tim Beerman of CH2M-Hill demonstrating live feature editing in Google Earth using Feature Server and PostGIS, this too has been a venue for the traditional "base" of the GIS Community to exposed to real-people-doing-real-things with open source.

In short, through the work of FRUGOS, we not only are effectively providing a forum for current users of geospatial software in the area, but are providing opportunities for long-time users of proprietary GIS packages to learn more and see its everyday uses up close. The implications for hosting the FOSS4G 2011 conference are clear: a large community of GIS users who are aware of the role of open source software in their field as well as a track record of well-attended FRUGOS events geared to both the hacker specialist and the manager/generalist.

Use of Free and Open Source Software in Denver/Boulder Research Centers

Open Source software is used extensively in regional research institutions such as the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC), NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC), Unidata, and university departments. As an example, NSIDC stores ever-increasing amounts of data and metadata in PostGIS databases, which in-turn drive interfaces based on MapServer, GeoServer, and OpenLayers. Datasets are subsetted on-the-fly using GDAL. NSIDC's drive to use Free and Open Source software is a combination of low cost, high performance, flexibility, and the ability to share solutions and IT infrastructure with collaborating outside institutions. They have found that FOSS geospatial software has good functionality and high performance that easily meet their system requirements. Support is plentiful via online documentation and mailing lists, and there have been cases where reported bugs have been fixed in a matter of hours. NGDC uses both open-source and commercial software to accomplish their mission and depends on Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards. While in some case this involves using only open-source software, NGDC has also been very successful in integrating open-source and commercial

software to develop powerful solutions. Unidata, part of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), is dedicated to providing tools and infrastructure to support earth and atmospheric sciences. They are the developers of the netCDF data access libraries, the IDV visualization tool, and heavily involved in the development of the OGC WCS standards. In short, the research centers in the Denver/Boulder region benefit greatly from many Free and Open Source geospatial software applications, and are giving back to these communities through sharing expertise and bug reporting.

DENVER AND OSGEO

A transparent working relationship and open collaboration with OSGeo are integral to a successful FOSS4G 2011. The Denver LOC will work with the OSGeo Board of Directors and Conference Committees concerning all key FOSS4G developments and decisions. Communication will include formal quarterly reports on all committee activities, as well as a final report at the conclusion of the event. All conference materials will be provided in original form and without license.

If Denver is chosen to host FOSS4G 2011, the LOC requests that a member of the OSGeo Board of Directors joins the LOC as a liaison to help ensure OSGeo's vision and strategy remain at the forefront of all planning activities.

As FOSS4G continues to evolve and grow, the Denver LOC also understands that learning from and building upon past events is extremely important to broadening the scope of this event. The committee will continue to consult Lessons Learned from previous FOSS4G and other resources on the OSGeo wiki. All conference information and additional resources will also be added to the wiki if Denver is chosen to host the 2011 event.

BUDGET

OVERALL BUDGET (Please see Appendix C for the full budget.)

DRAFT BUDGET SUMMARY (950 paid attendees)		
Registration Revenue		$ 629,750.00
Sponsorship & Exhibition Revenue		$ 160,000.00
Total Revenue		$ 789,750.00
Total Expenses		$ 762,000.00
Surplus/Loss		$ 27,750.00
Surplus/Loss Per Attendee		$ 29.21
	Attending	1025
	Paying	950

Note: This budget includes venue costs based on December dates.

EXPECTED ATTENDANCE

The Denver LOC has used the suggestion of 1,000 attendees from the RFP. However, we have reason to believe that a Denver-hosted FOSS4G 2011 conference could see significantly higher attendance due to several factors:

1. The size of the geospatial community in the immediate area.
2. The increased use and application of geospatial technology everywhere.
3. The reduced cost of travel for interested parties in the U.S.
4. Widespread U.S. Government participation.

Specific efforts will be made on the part of members of the Denver LOC to advocate for participation from traditionally non-FOSS geospatial professionals and US Government organizations. Additional efforts will be taken to encourage international participation through the recruitment of LOC Members from Canada and Latin America. It is the hope of the Denver LOC

that OSGeo and our planning partner, GITA, will be able to actively advocate for participation throughout the rest of the world.

Both venues we are considering are capable of scaling up to a larger FOSS4G conference. Further, our logistics and planning partner, GITA, has a proven history of handling significantly larger geospatial conferences. Ultimately, a larger conference would mean greater adoption of FOSS4G and better support for FOSS4G development.

EXPECTED SPONSORSHIP
The figure budgeted for sponsorships assumes a 10% increase above the proposed sponsorship budgeted for the FOSS4G 2009 Conference. The $575 early bird registration fee could be lowered if these sponsorship levels are secured early in the registration process or if OSGeo or another party could guarantee a portion of the budget for sponsorships.

Local Commercial Geospatial Companies and Potential Sponsors
Denver and the surrounding Colorado Front Range area are known as a worldwide center for geospatial technology companies. We list a selection of geospatial companies with a presence here, using both open and closed source software. These range from small startups to multi-million dollar global companies headquartered here. Given the growing interest in open source geospatial software, we believe that people from all these companies are candidates for attending and/or contributing to FOSS4G.

Aero-Metric: Major provider of professional geospatial services with an office in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Autodesk: Autodesk has a regional sales and support office in Denver.

AWhere: Company focused on Location Intelligence software, based in Golden, just outside Denver.

Brightkite: A leader in mobile location based social networking, based in Denver.

Cartasite: Provide solutions for asset and vehicle location, based in Denver.

Digital Globe: A leading provider of satellite imagery, headquartered in Longmont, Colorado, just north of Denver.

Enspiria Solutions: A leader in geospatial consulting services to the utility industry, based in Denver.

ESRI: Has a large local office in Broomfield, just outside Denver, with over 100 people.

GE (Smallworld): The Smallworld product is the global market leading GIS product for utilities and telecoms. Smallworld's North American headquarters is in Denver, with over 100 staff.

GeoEye: GeoEye is a leading provider of satellite and aerial imagery and other geospatial data, and has one of its primary operations centers in Thornton, part of the metro Denver area.

Geospatial Experts: Develop software for cameras and GPS, based in Thornton, part of the metro Denver area.

Google: Google has a significant development team in Boulder, at the former headquarters of @Last software, who developed SketchUp and were acquired by Google.

har*GIS: Provides mobile geospatial solutions to utilities, based in Denver.

Idea Integration: Consulting services company with geospatial practice based in Denver.

iFactor Consulting: Develops geospatial software products for the electric industry, with offices in Denver.

Intergraph: Intergraph has a local office in Denver, which houses the support team for its aerial photography cameras, and the development team for its electric outage management product, Inservice.

Intermap: Leading provider of high quality national elevation datasets, headquartered in Denver.

Local Matters: Local Search company based in Denver.

Lockheed Martin: Large system integrator with large offices in Denver, and a significant user of geospatial technology.

Mapbuzz/Zerista: Startup, focused on geospatial applications for conferences, which makes significant use of open source. Based in Denver.

MapQuest: The original web mapping company, now part of AOL, is headquartered in Denver.

Microsoft Virtual Earth: Much of Microsoft's Virtual Earth development team is located in Boulder, at the headquarters of Vexcel, who developed the technology which is used to create the 3D building models in Virtual Earth.

NavSys: Developer of innovative GPS and navigation technologies, based in Colorado Springs.

NorthSouth GIS: GIS implementation company based in Denver

Public Earth: Company focused on collecting and disseminating geospatial data for consumer use, based in Boulder.

QC Data: Engineering and data services provider focused on telecommunications, utilities, property management and infrastructure, based in Denver.

Red Planet Consulting: Provides geospatial implementation and consulting services to the utility industry, based in Boulder.

Sanborn: Photogrammetry and geospatial data conversion company based in Colorado Springs

Spatial Business Systems: Provider of spatial services and products based in Denver.

Spatial Networking: Startup, focused on future location and social networking, which makes significant use of open source. Based in Denver.

Spectrum Mapping: Mapping, remote sensing and software development company headquartered in Denver.

Tier 3: Geospatial consulting services company with an office in Denver.

The Timoney Group: Geospatial services group which makes extensive use of open source. Based in Denver.

Ubisense: Provides solutions in the area of precision location tracking, as well as location relation consulting and implementation services. North American headquarters in Denver.

uMapper: Online mapping company based in Denver.

Useful Networks: Developer of mobile location based applications, headquartered in Denver.

Previous FOSS4G Sponsors
The local committee will also reach out to appropriate previous FOSS4G sponsors:

2008
Autodesk
Google
US Army ERDC (Engineer Research and Development Center)
WhereGroup (specialized in providing premium support for Open Source technologies and how to professionally integrate Free Software seamlessly with proprietary systems.)
lat/lon (offers innovative products and services in the sector of spatial and internet-based information systems)
GTI (provides services that are focused around earth observation satellite data and aerial photography)
MapGears (offers consulting, technical support, training and software development services in the open source geospatial software field)
DM Solutions Group
Mintek
CloudMade
OPTRON
PlanetGIS
OGC

2007
Autodesk
Google
Refractions Research
DM Solutions Group
Safe Software
Leica Geosystems
ESRI
OGC
Sierra Systems
Orkney
Directions Magazine
GIS Development
GeoConnections (Canadian Federal Government Organization)

2006
Autodesk
DM Solutions Group
US Army ERDC (Engineer Research and Development Center)
Orkney
Intevation (consulting company consequently based on Free Software)
iict (Institute for Information and Communication)
KK CC GEO
MicroGIS (providing mapping/cartographic solutions for over eight years)
CCGIS (Consulting Center for Geographic Information Systems)
lat/lon (offers innovative products and services in the sector of spatial and internet-based information systems)
MapGears (offers consulting, technical support, training and software development services in the open source geospatial software field)
GeoConcept
NAVTEQ
O'Reilly
Sylvan Ascent, Inc.
GeoInformatics

PROGRAM

HIGH-LEVEL PROGRAM

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:00:00	Preconference Workshops	Registration	Presentations	Panel Discussions	Code Sprints Mapping Party	Code Sprints
9:00:00		Plenary				
10:00:00						
11:00:00						
12:00:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Closing Plenary		
13:00:00	Workshops	Presentations & Labs	Short Plenary	Lunch		
14:00:00			Presentations	Field Trips USGS, NREL, NCAR, etc.		
15:00:00						
16:00:00		BOF Sessions	BOF Sessions			
17:00:00	Free as in Beer Social					
18:00:00		Exhibitor Reception	DAM Reception		Social event for code sprinters and mappers at separate venue	
19:00:00						
20:00:00						
21:00:00						

ACADEMIC TRACK
The Denver LOC includes many members of the academic community who are excited about bringing the premier international conference on Free and Open Source Software for Geospatial studies to North America. Academic interest in FOSS4G has grown significantly in recent years with the Association of American Geographers Cyberinfrastructure Specialty Group establishing a chair position for FOSS4G and the International Cartographic Association creating a Working

Group on Open Source Geospatial Technologies. Like prior FOSS4G confererences, we will feature a peer-reviewed paper presentation track. We will strive towards having selected papers published either as a special journal issue or have the proceedings in the Springer *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*. The LOC is also considering poster presentations as an avenue for students and early academics to present their efforts and findings to the community.

WORKSHOPS

Hands-on, instructive workshops are a significant part of the FOSS4G conference. The Denver LOC hopes to create a Workshop program of great value to all conference attendees—providing the chance for participants to experience the capabilities of FOSS and presenters to share new techniques of successfully utilizing FOSS.

Workshops will be scheduled for the day before the official start of the conference (Monday). Workshop registration will be an extra fee item. Our initial budget is for a morning and afternoon three-hour workshops across seven tracks. In following with the themes of the conference, workshop proposals for successful business applications of FOSS4G and data sharing through FOSS4G will be given preference.

Based on readings of the Lessons Learned of the prior FOSS4G conferences, the Denver LOC realizes the importance of clear leadership and direction for successful workshops. One of the first tasks for the LOC will be to breakout responsibility for workshops into a separate workshop Committee. One LOC member will be selected as the Workshop Coordinator and rescued from other LOC responsibilities. The Workshop Coordinator will select members of the Workshop Committee. The Committee will be clearly organized into leads for proposal/selection, system preparation, and workshop day facilitation. The proposal and selection process for Workshops will be handled separately from presentations. While a community ranking scheme may be used for the presentations, workshops will be selected by the Committee because of the lead time necessary for preparation.

Also based on Lessons Learned, scheduling the workshops for the front-end of the conference allows for the day before (Sunday) to be used for workshop preparation. By scheduling the workshops early, it also allows the Workshop Coordinator to work with a fresh set of volunteers. Workshop presenters and volunteers will not be expected to work again during the conference and will be compensated with gratis registration. The separate Workshop fee will be used to cover additional venue costs, equipment costs and gratis conference registrations.

A major part of the Workshop Coordinators job will be to help prepare a Workshop LiveSystem distributable (LiveCD or LiveDVD or LiveUSBstick). Although our preliminary budgets include workstation costs for the workshops, we anticipate by Fall 2011 that all attendees will be able to use their own laptops capable of running the LiveSystem. If this is the case, the workshop fee will be appropriately discounted. Producing a LiveSystem distributable would entail more pre-conference effort on behalf of the Workshop Committee, again evidencing the need to rescue the Workshop Coordinator from other time demands.

CODE SPRINTS

The Denver LOC recognizes that a significant aspect of FOSS4G is to provide an opportunity for FOSS contributors to directly collaborate on software projects. The teams of developers who contribute to FOSS projects tend to be geographically dispersed. We view much of our conference program as providing infrastructure for quality development time. That infrastructure involves low-level technical presentations, productive Birds of a Feather activities and some serious heads-down-coding time. Most significantly, we see the aspects of our program to attract business leaders and non-FOSS users as a way to help underwrite the Code Sprint through expanded conference registration.

Our preliminary schedule provides for two days for the Code Sprint, Friday and Saturday, including a special social event Friday night. We will explore expanding the Code Sprint to three days based on the experiences of the Sydney FOSS4G. The LOC will appoint a Code Sprint Coordinator with past experience in FOSS4G Code Sprints. The Code Sprint Coordinator will be responsible to structuring the Code Sprints and for providing input into the BoF and Presentation program. This programmatic input is designed to ensure presentation tracks that advance developer knowledge entering the Code Sprint.

SOCIAL EVENTS
The Denver LOC is excited to propose a suite of social events that complements FOSS4G 2011 in character and nature.

Monday night we will host an evening "Free as in Beer" social at one of the many great brewpubs within walking distance of the conference venue. This social will be open to workshop attendees, presenters and volunteers. A reasonably priced conference add-on will be evaluated to permit non-workshop attendees to attend.

On Tuesday evening, an exhibitor-sponsored social event is planned for the exhibition hall. This social event will be open to all conference attendees and their families.

A Gala Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday evening. The LOC will explore interesting site options for this primary social event near the conference venue, such as the Denver Art Museum. Based on the proposed budget, the Gala Dinner is included in the conference registration fee to encourage maximum participation. Reasonably priced tickets for the dinner will be sold separately to enable registered attendees to include their guests.
Thursday afternoon will feature an array of field trips to sites of significant interest in the region, including the Denver Federal Center, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and more. Modest additional fees will be assessed for those interested in these field trips in order to keep the general conference registration to a minimum.

A special Winter Getaway Package will be arranged for Friday at one of the world-class ski resorts near the conference venue. Transportation, lift tickets and equipment rental will be included in the price. This package will be designed to provide visitors to Denver a hassle-free opportunity to experience the champagne powder of the Colorado Rocky Mountains before the seasonal rush begins.

On Friday evening, the Denver LOC intends to provide a special Code Sprinter Social to allow the hard-working contributors to blow off some steam. The scope of this social will depend highly on the overall budget and conference attendance. The LOC will also explore underwriting this social event through sales of the Winter Getaway Package.

In addition to these planned social events, there will be ample opportunities for socialization over gratis coffee, soft drinks and snacks. Further, both proposed venues are in the heart of Downtown Denver and are surrounded by great number and variety coffee shops, pubs, and restaurants.

DATES
The Denver LOC is exploring a few different dates. In our proposal for FOSS4G 2010, we were interested in early December dates for a few good reasons. First, December is a low period for conferences resulting in significant savings over high-season dates. Second, the ski resorts would be open providing a chance for conference attendees to enjoy post-conference getaway packages. The specific week we chose for 2010 fit nicely between the Autodesk University and

American Geophysical Union's fall meeting. Unfortunately, those two events are back-to-back in 2011 following the US Thanksgiving holiday. 11-16 December 2011 dates are available and would result in similar benefits described in the 2010 proposal.

After consideration of conflicting events, the only other feasible dates are the weeks of 11-17 September 2011 and 18 – 24 September 2011. These dates are more similar to past FOSS4G conference dates and would allow attendees to enjoy fantastic weather as well as the fantastic Fall colors of the famous Colorado aspen trees. Biggest drawback is increased costs. It is estimated that venue expenses and hotel room rates will be 10%-15% higher in September than December. An advantage of September date is that it is at the end of the fiscal year for the US Federal Government. Surplus government funds need to be spent during the fiscal year. The choice of dates may increase participation.

If selected to host FOSS4G 2011, the first order of business would be to finalize the conference dates. This would be a collaborative effort among the OSgeo board members, the Denver LOC and GITA.

COMPETITIVE CONFERENCES

Following is a list of Geospatial and FOSS related conferences both international and regional. By selecting our dates early, other conference organizers will be able to schedule around FOSS4G 2011. Further, we concluded that FOSS4G 2011 would be better served by using other regional conferences as marketing opportunities, rather than by attempting to combine with one or more of them.

Professional Geospatial Conferences:

Where 2.0 - May
GeoWeb – July, Vancouver, BC
InterGEO – 27-29 September 2011
Web 2.0 Summit – November
GITA GIS for Oil & Gas Conference 24 – 27 October 2011, Houston, TX
Autodesk University: 29 November – 1 December 2011, Las Vegas

Significant Academic Conferences:

AAG – 12 – 16 April 2011, Seattle, WA
ASPRS – 13 - 15 April 2011, Milwaukee, WI
ICC 2011 – 3 – 8 July 2011, Paris, France
GeoComputation – 16 – 19 July 2011, London, UK
AGU (American Geophysical Union) – 5 – 9 December 2011, San Francisco, CA
IGU/UGI – 14 – 18 November 2011, Santiago, Chile

Regional Conferences:

GIS in the Rockies 2011 – 14-15 September 2011
AAG Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Division – September/October
ESRI SWUG (Southwest Users Group) - September/October

Open Source Conferences:

OSCon - July
OpenSource World (formerly LinuxWorld) - August

CONFERENCE PLANNERS: GITA

GITA KNOWS GEOSPATIAL CONFERENCES
In 1982, a not-for-profit professional association, known as AM/FM International, was formed to serve the burgeoning automated mapping/facilities management industry with an educational forum to exchange ideas and keep up with rapidly changing technologies. That organization has evolved over the years to become the Geospatial Information and Technology Association (GITA). Today, it is widely recognized as the leading professional association and advocate for anyone using geospatial technology to help operate, maintain, and protect North America's key infrastructure assets. GITA's membership includes electric, gas, and water/wastewater utilities, oil and gas pipeline organizations, telecommunication companies, public agencies and private sector companies.

GITA understands the importance of events that impact the direction and success of the geospatial industry, and has been planning conferences to advance geospatial information and technology for more than three decades. From 50 to 3,000 attendees, GITA's experience runs the gamut of conference planning and related professional services.

GEOSPATIAL INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS CONFERENCE
GITA's annual conference has been one of the geospatial industry's leading events for over 30 years. The association's flagship event, now known as the *Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Conference*, focuses on the application of geospatial technology to helping solve our serious infrastructure-related problems. This annual conference also features an exhibition exceeding 100,000 square feet, featuring the latest in geospatial products and services. The conference also includes an innovative program of over 100 technical sessions, half-day seminars, and panel discussions. The conference is the geospatial highlight of the year for more than 1,500 professionals who come to exchange information and expertise, learn better ways to plan, design, manage, and maintain geospatial systems and operations, and network with their peers.

GIS FOR OIL & GAS CONFERENCE
Created as a specialty conference to advance and promote the use of geospatial technology in the oil and gas pipeline industry, this annual event brings nearly 1,000 oil and gas professionals to Houston, Texas every fall for in-depth seminars, technical paper presentations, discussion forums, panel discussions and several networking events. A major product and service exhibition showcases companies with offerings that target the unique needs of the energy industry. The growth of this conference resulted in the creation in 2008 of an annual conference in Calgary to address the unique requirements of the Canadian oil and gas pipeline industry.

GEOWEB
The GeoWeb Conference (previously known as GML Days) reflects the breadth, evolution and growing maturity of the GeoWeb. Conducted in close cooperation with Galdos Systems, Inc., the entity responsible for its creation, GeoWeb is one of the only conferences focusing exclusively on the convergence of GIS and the Internet and the economic potential associated with the convergence of XML, Web services and GIS. GITA first joined Galdos Systems Inc. to present this event in 2006; the event has since experienced a 300% growth in attendance.

HOSTING SERVICES
GITA's conference planning experience goes well beyond the association's events. Oracle, the Open Geospatial Consortium, Galdos Systems Inc., and McGraw-Hill are just a few of the organizations that have trusted GITA's expertise to run anything from a one-day event to week-

long conference. These organizations are extremely confident that GITA has every detail handled and is dedicated to making every event a major success.

EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONAL, COURTEOUS, AND PROACTIVE CONFERENCE STAFF
GITA's knowledgeable and friendly professional staff members have a reputation for using their extensive experience, creativity, integrity, and resourcefulness to conduct seamless events that advance the geospatial industry and foster new ideas. We understand the importance of starting conference planning with the end in mind, and being ready for anything. Our staff uses proven, result driven planning and scheduling processes, and is highly detail oriented.

We propose the following staff members to support the FOSS4G Conference:

- **Henry Rosales** joined GITA in 1994. Now the Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Rosales has over 20 years of meeting planning and logistics experience. He is a member of Meeting Planners International, Professional Conference and Meetings Association, International Association of Exhibition and Events and American Society of Association Executives.

- **James Sakamoto** has been GITA's Senior Education Coordinator since 2007. As such, he is responsible for all registration and event logistics. Mr. Sakamoto has over 10 years of experience in conference logistics. Before joining GITA, he worked for the event management division of the institute of Electrical Electronics Engineers (IEEE). James is a member of the International Association of Exhibition and Events

- **Julie Eckhart** also came to GITA in 2007. As Senior Education/Exhibits Coordinator she is responsible for exhibit sales and exhibitor services, as well as conference speaker coordination. Julie is a member of the International Association of Exhibition and Events.