

A Proposal to host:

# FOSS4G 2017 Boston

Presented by:



Submitted by the

**Boston 2017**

**Location Organizing Committee**



# Table of Contents

I.	Introduction and Vision for FOSS4G 2017 .....	1
II.	The Location and Timing: Boston in August .....	4
II.1	Conference Timing .....	4
II.2	Conference Venue .....	5
III.	Boston’s Geo and Tech Communities and the Location Organizing Committee....	7
III.1	Boston’s Location Organizing Committee (BLOC).....	7
III.2	Boston’s Letters of Support .....	9
III.3	Professional Conference Organizer Support.....	10
III.4	Boston’s Open Source and Geo Communities .....	10
III.5	Working in Partnership with OSGeo .....	11
IV.	The Conference Program and Workshops .....	12
IV.1	Gathering .....	12
IV.2	Workshops – Monday, Tuesday.....	12
IV.3	Main Program – Wednesday, Thursday, Friday .....	15
IV.4	Extracurriculars .....	19
V.	Boston’s Budget .....	24
V.1	Drawing People to Boston .....	24
V.2	Sponsorship Revenue.....	26
V.3	The Expenses.....	28
V.4	Giving Back to OSGeo .....	28
VI.	Attachment 1: Letters of Support.....	1
VII.	Attachment 2: Avoiding Potential Conflicting Events.....	1



# *A Revolutionary City for a Revolutionary FOSS4G*

## I. INTRODUCTION AND VISION FOR FOSS4G 2017

---

The Boston Location Organizing Committee (BLOC) is pleased to submit to OSGeo this proposal to host FOSS4G 2017 in Boston, Massachusetts. This proposal is the culmination of three months of intensive planning and diligent work from the BLOC.

We believe Boston is the best venue for the 2017 FOSS4G event. Boston is a **world-class city** with immediate international name recognition based on its many waterfront and cultural attractions, historical importance in America's founding, and its impact as home to many of today's leading universities and technology firms. Boston's reputation and its large and thriving geospatial and technology communities provide a strong foundation upon which to build a successful conference that attracts participants from across the United States and the world.

Boston's **location and transportation systems** make this choice even stronger. Logan airport has direct flights to over 20 European and Asian destinations as well as US airports, and Boston has a public transportation system that can affordably get visitors to all corners of the city.

In addition to the core attraction of the City, a **strong conference program** will be key to our success in Boston. The conference program and layout will be driven by the diverse Boston geo community, draw on the success of past conferences, and introduce new program elements. We will work closely with OSGeo to ensure that the conference builds on the successful formulas of past conferences, such as strong developer content and 2 days of educational workshops preceding the conference.

We also propose several new ideas for a successful conference:

- Expanding educational themes
- Encouraging startup participation

- Growing emphasis on users and business to complement technical development
- Inclusiveness by gender, race, age, capabilities (user/dev)


Driving this event forward and providing a sustained, **local base of support** and effort is the goal of our LOC. Our BLOC has shown energy and enthusiasm over the past three months for planning an outstanding program and is fully committed to its success. We have forged a BLOC that has maximum potential for delivering a successful conference. It is made up of key members within the Boston geo community representing the academic, business, government, and technology sectors. Our BLOC's local and international contacts and standing in the broader OSGeo community will help drive attendance at FOSS4G 2017.

Our BLOC also embodies **strong ties to the FOSS4G community** and **experience with prior FOSS4G conferences**, including a former conference chair, David Bitner; Chair of the OSGeo Education and Curriculum Committee, Charles Schweik; and a charter OSGeo board member and core developer of the PostGIS project, Regina Obe. And Michael Turner, who chairs the BLOC, has served on the Program Committees for both the 2012 Washington, DC and 2013 Minneapolis, MN FOSS4G North America shows.

We are confident that *this BLOC* has what it takes to plan and run an amazing, compelling, smooth and profitable conference. Supporting and extending the capabilities of our BLOC will be a professional event management firm, Delaney Meeting and Event Management.

The BLOC has developed the following **Vision Statement** that expresses our outlook:

The Boston-based FOSS4G 2017 conference will be one of the **top global geo and location events of 2017**. The conference program and layout will be driven by the diverse Boston geo community that forms the core of our BLOC. Our BLOC will work closely with OSGeo to ensure that the conference builds on the successful formulas of past conferences — such as two days of strong workshops preceding the conference — but also introduces new ideas. Our BLOC is focused on broadening the audience and sponsors to include a greater swath of geo open source *users* alongside the geo open source *creators* who have built this conference. Our BLOC will partner with a strong



professional conference organizing consultant to deliver a professionally managed conference that reflects the combined vision of the BLOC and OSGeo.

Boston is a fantastic city based on its core characteristics:

- It is one of the **premiere academic centers** of the country
- It has distinguished itself as one of the two original **centers of the USA's technology and innovation economy**
- It has a brilliant **seaside and many waterfront attractions**
- It is home to many **historical sites** that catalog the founding of the nation
- It has a dense and centralized downtown that makes it a **fabulous walking city**
- **It has world-class transportation** including Logan airport with direct flights to over 20 European and Asian destinations, US airport hubs, as well as a public transportation system that can affordably get visitors to all corners of the city

**Boston is ready to host the FOSS4G 2017 Conference.** Our history, community, and resources will make for a memorable FOSS4G experience. Our BLOC is ready to leverage the power of Boston to build a premiere global event.

For a peek at where Boston came from and what we have to offer, we invite you to view the 1 min 45 second video created by the Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council (MassTLC) entitled "Be Boston" at: <http://bit.ly/BOSTECHCITY>

## II. THE LOCATION AND TIMING: BOSTON IN AUGUST

---

### II.1 CONFERENCE TIMING

Boston proposes to follow the precedent set by Bonn, Germany for the FOSS4G 2016 conference and will present the conference in **mid-August, 2017**. Specifically, Boston is proposing the following dates for the core activities:

#### **Workshops**

Monday – Tuesday, August 14–15, 2017

#### **Main Conference**

Wednesday – Friday, August 16–18, 2017

August is the ideal time to visit Boston and New England, offering long summer days, ideal weather and access to the waterfront and the city amenities. Boston comes alive in the summer months as a walkable city and tourist destination, with open air restaurants, outdoor concerts, boating, and sightseeing. An August date is perfect timing for attendees and their families to extend their stay in Boston or the surrounding New England region.

Holding the FOSS4G conference in August also eliminates competition from several known geospatial conferences that typically occur in July, September, October, and November, thus potentially increasing our attendance. Conferences that have recently been held in the August time frame have moved earlier in the summer. See Attachment 2 for details on Summer/Fall geospatial conferences.

Finally, and importantly, August is also the best time of year to take advantage of premiere conference facilities and also local academic facilities that will host our workshops, thereby reducing costs for meeting space.

## II.2 CONFERENCE VENUE

The conference will be held at the [Seaport Hotel & World Trade Center](#) Conference facility located a five-minute walk from downtown Boston, Massachusetts and in the heart of Boston's Innovation District.



*Image courtesy of Seaport Hotel.*

The Seaport Hotel & World Trade Center conference facility has the ability to house the entire conference (workshops will be held at academic institutions). FOSS4G Boston 2017 conference will be the sole event at the venue during the time period proposed. The conference spaces offered can easily handle the BLOC's target audience of 1,000 people, with room to grow to 1,200 people. The conference facilities include:

- 17,000 square-foot ballroom for plenary sessions
- Dedicated banquet room for meals of 27,000 square feet
- Meeting rooms to support 10 concurrent tracks, ranging in size from 1,500 – 3,500 square feet and seating between 135 – 350 people
- Variety of smaller rooms for business meetings and gatherings
- Trade floor of 38,000 – 76,000 square feet for sponsor exhibits

Freely available WiFi will be provided throughout the hotel and conference space.

### II.2.1 Food & Beverage

All conference facilities at the Seaport Hotel & World Trade Center will be provided gratis if the conference meets a “food minimum” that must

be spent with the Seaport Hotel & World Trade Conference facility food services organization. To take advantage of this opportunity and to encourage networking among conference participants, the following meals will be provided as part of the conference registration:

- **Continental breakfast:** Wednesday, Thursday
- **Lunch:** Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
- **Refreshment breaks:** Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
- **Conference reception:** Wednesday evening

## II.2.2 Accommodations

As with the “food minimum”, in order to obtain the conference facilities at no charge, it is required that the conference fill a room block at the Seaport Hotel. The Seaport Hotel will provide maximum convenience to conference goers as it is across the street and physically connected by skywalk to the World Trade Center conference facility. The minimum room block at the Seaport Hotel is 810 “room nights” across 5 days/nights:

- Sunday, Aug. 13:** 70 rooms
- Monday, Aug. 14:** 110 rooms
- Tuesday, Aug. 15:** 225 rooms
- Wednesday, Aug 16:** 225 rooms
- Thursday, Aug 17:** 180 rooms

The room block group rate, for double occupancy is: \$259 /night, plus taxes. The BLOC recognizes that as with all popular and attractive cities the hotel room rates for Boston may pose challenges to some attendees. As such, the BLOC anticipates several strategies to provide a diversity of lodging options besides the Seaport Hotel. These include:

1. Strongly encouraging people to buddy/double up to split the Seaport hotel costs via dual occupancy
2. Pursuing a smaller hotel block of 200–300 rooms at a lower cost hotel, rooms <\$200/night, that is farther away from the conference center, but is on public transportation to the main venue
3. Providing proactive guidance to participants on other, lower cost options for lodgings available in the Boston region ranging from AirBnB/VRBO to links to local hostels to recommendations of lower cost areas to pursue non-block reservations individually.



### III. BOSTON'S GEO AND TECH COMMUNITIES AND THE LOCATION ORGANIZING COMMITTEE


The root of the Boston initiative to host FOSS4G was the promise of further building Boston's open source and geo communities. Based on the experience of BLOC members, we have seen that hosting an event such as FOSS4G can serve to galvanize a community and thereby grow and strengthen that community over time. Boston is proud of our existing geo communities and we see the opportunity to both share our experience and love of Boston while taking our community to the next level of maturity and engagement. OSGeo will have the immediate benefit of holding a world class conference with a strong local host and future benefits from a stronger and more cohesive geo community in the Boston region.

#### III.1 BOSTON'S LOCATION ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (BLOC)

As illustrated in the table below, the BLOC is a strong and diverse group of people, each of whom has participated actively in creating this proposal. Our team is firmly rooted in the Boston area with some extensions into the rest of Massachusetts and New England. Our committee contains healthy sectoral diversity with the following sectors represented:

- Private Sector:** 6 members
- Community:** 2 members
- Academic:** 5 members
- Government:** 2 members

Name	Organization	Sector	Title	Location
Andy Anderson	Amherst College	Academic	Academic Technology Specialist	Massachusetts
Charlie Schweik	UMass Amherst	Academic	Professor	Massachusetts
Giovanni Zambotti	Harvard University	Academic	GIS Specialist	Greater Boston
Patrick Florance	Tufts University	Academic	Associate Director of Geospatial Technology	Greater Boston
Sarah Williams	MIT	Academic	Assistant Professor & Director Civic Data Design Projec	Greater Boston
Guido Stein	AvidGeo	Community	Founder & Lead Community Organizer	Greater Boston
Mike Foster	Maptime Boston & MIT	Community	Community Organizer & GIS Specialist	Greater Boston
Aleda Freeman	MassGIS	Government	Web Mapping Services Manager	Greater Boston
Carolyn Bennett	Boston Redevelopment Authority	Government	GIS Manager	Greater Boston
Alex Kubicek	Understory	Private	Chief Executive Officer	Greater Boston
David Bitner	dbSpatial	Private	Owner	Minnesota
Laurel Ruma	O'Reilly Media	Private	Director of Acquisitions	Greater Boston
<b>Michael Turner, Chair</b>	Applied Geographics, Inc.	Private	Executive Vice President	Greater Boston
Regina Obe	Paragon Corporation	Private	President and Co-Founder	Greater Boston
Will Mitchell	NBT Solutions	Private	Principal	Maine



As an indicator of the **teamwork** shown by this group, the following people served as subcommittee chairs and were responsible for generating the following content included in this proposal:

- Guido Stein: **Location/venue** subcommittee
- Mike Foster: **Workshops** subcommittee
- Andy Anderson: **Program** subcommittee
- Aleda Freeman: **Extracurriculars** subcommittee
- Will Mitchell: **Sponsorship** subcommittee

We have also sought out **David Bitner** who served as Conference Chair for the Minneapolis, MN-based 2013 North American event and fully understands the OSGeo community landscape and the details of running an event of this nature.

In addition to Dave Bitner we have two other members who have strong associations with OSGeo that significantly add value to our committee. **Regina Obe** is a charter member of OSGeo, a core contributor on the PostGIS project and brings with her the experience of hosting the 2013 Boston Code Sprint. **Charlie Schweik** serves as the Chair of the OSGeo Education and Curriculum Committee and is one of the co founders of the GeoForAll.org effort. He has been involved in proposal development around making strong connections to that growing part of OSGeo, and will continue to help design a very strong educational track in our Boston FOSS4G conference.

Our proposed **Conference Chair is Michael Turner**, a founder and Executive Vice President at AppGeo, and former Director of the MassGIS Program within Massachusetts state government. Mr. Turner has led AppGeo's move to open source technologies which began in 2008 and he has attended and spoken at each of the FOSS4G events held in North America since 2011. Mr. Turner and the entire AppGeo team believe that "giving back" is an integral aspect of working in the open source arena and towards that end AppGeo has sponsored every FOSS4G event in North America since 2011 as well as the 2013 Boston Code Sprint. Mr. Turner served on the Program Committees for both the 2012 Washington, DC and 2013 Minneapolis, MN FOSS4G North America shows. Mr. Turner is an experienced project manager who routinely manages large consulting engagements and has the skillset and organizational capacity to manage both the team and finances of a FOSS4G conference. Full Disclosure, AppGeo is a formal business partner with CartoDB, Google and Safe Software, we hope to leverage these relationships to bolster the sponsorship roster.

### III.2 BOSTON’S LETTERS OF SUPPORT

In addition to the direct recruitment of the volunteers who sit on the Location Organizing Committee, the BLOC has reached out to numerous organizations, across numerous sectors, to seek their support and validate their interest in having FOSS4G come to Boston. Toward that end, Attachment 1 of this proposal contains a catalog of **25 letters of support** that endorse Boston’s 2017 bid. These letters serve as evidence of the interest and enthusiasm that exists in Boston and beyond for hosting this event, and the effectiveness of our BLOC in activating that support. The following organizations have expressed their support.

Organization	Sector	Location
Amherst College	Academic	Massachusetts
Green Mountain College	Academic	Vermont
Harvard University	Academic	Greater Boston
MIT	Academic	Greater Boston
University of Connecticut Extension	Academic	Connecticut
University of Massachusetts Amherst	Academic	Massachusetts
University of Massachusetts Boston	Academic	Massachusetts
University of Rhode Island	Academic	Rhode Island
Westfield State university	Academic	Massachusetts
AvidGeo	Community	Greater Boston
Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau	Community	Massachusetts
MapTime Boston	Community	Greater Boston
OSM Boston	Community	Greater Boston
Private Citizens	Community	
Public Lab	Community	Greater Boston
Central Transportation Planning Staff	Government	Massachusetts
Executive Office Of Housing & Economic Developme	Government	Massachusetts
MassGIS	Government	Massachusetts
Town of Orchard Park	Government	New York
Facebook	Private	
Haley Aldrich	Private	Oregon
NBT Solutions	Private	Oregon
Paragon Corporation	Private	Greater Boston
PeopleGIS	Private	Greater Boston
Red Hat	Private	

### III.3 PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZER SUPPORT

As per our letter of intent (LOI), FOSS4G Boston will definitely acquire the services of a **professional conference organizer** (PCO) and this partnership is integral to our approach. We will be working with New England-based [Delaney Meeting & Event Management](#) (Delaney) as our PCO. Delaney has been in business since 1997 and has experience with both international events of this size as well as geo events. They have a full service staff of 12 conference planning professionals and manage over 60 events each year, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Many of the BLOC have enjoyed and appreciated Delaney's work with regional geo events.

Most importantly, Delaney shares the BLOC's vision of this conference being community driven, and supports the BLOC's goal of having a professional partner to carry out the vision and ideas that emanate from BLOC team. The anticipated costs for Delaney are included within the budget.

### III.4 BOSTON'S OPEN SOURCE AND GEO COMMUNITIES

Boston is home to three active geo meetup groups that have a strong emphasis on open source tools. **AvidGeo** is a local group that has hosted hands on training, ignite spatial events, WhereCamp Boston, and a monthly gathering to discuss geospatial tools and community. The **OpenStreetMap Boston** group has been spreading the word about OSM and the virtues of open data through its gatherings and mapping parties for years. **MapTime Boston** is a new and powerful group that does a fantastic job of bringing new people into the geo and open source worlds as well as teaching fundamentals.

There is a large community of engaged people in Boston who are interested in open source. The Free software Foundation is located here and there are many strong meetup groups around Linux, Python, and web design. Boston is also home to open source development communities and companies like Public Lab and Bocoup. Bocoup annually runs the well-attended OpenViz Conference, which focuses on data visualization.

The Boston Academic sector is one of the largest groups in our community that work on open source and geo projects. Tufts University was rated the number one open-source university in the United States from "[PortalProgram, Open Source Universities](#)". Both MIT and Harvard

have a long history with the open source and geo communities. All of the schools mentioned are participating as members of the BLOC.

### III.5 WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OSGEO

The entire Boston team respects and appreciates what OSGeo has achieved in conceiving and sustaining a conference of this magnitude. We are excited at the prospect of working alongside and in collaboration with OSGeo. And, in that vein, we have thought closely about how to make that happen. The following presents some of our key ideas and proposals for managing and organizing the working relationship:

1. We are **holding a seat on our BLOC** for an appropriate OSGeo Board Member
2. We propose to **create an “Executive Committee”** that will be comprised of the Conference Chair, Boston’s Fiscal Agent, and an OSGeo Board member. In this manner, all parties involved in risk or the passing through of funding will be able to meet and make decisions as working body. For any decisions with a “significant fiscal impact”, the Executive Committee will need to have unanimous support to make the decision. This is particularly important because the BLOC anticipates taking advantage of OSGeo’s ability to underwrite and provide advances for parts of the conference.
3. We strongly endorse the notion of **OSGeo being a prominent, named sponsor** of the event and providing OSGeo both the physical space and the resources and personnel to staff that space during the conference. Our plan is to provide OSGeo with a “free” sponsorship for one of the highest level of sponsorship (platinum, or gold), including all privileges from advertising to booth space to free registrations. In all cases, OSGeo’s sponsorship would be tagged as “presenting sponsor” (e.g., “Platinum Presenting Sponsors”).
4. The BLOC has benefited greatly from the shared wisdom that is found on the OSGeo Wiki, the Conference\_dev listserv, and through one-on-one communication with multiple people who have been involved in delivering both global and North American FOSS4G conferences. As such, we are firmly committed to **keeping notes and updating the FOSS4G Cookbook** as the conference takes shape.

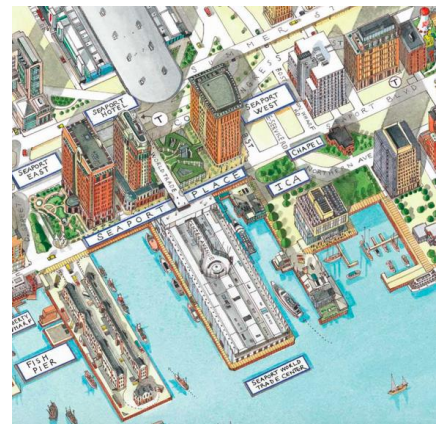
## IV. THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM AND WORKSHOPS

---

### IV.1 GATHERING


The most important ingredient to a successful conference is the right group of attendees and program content — both keynotes and concurrent sessions — that will draw those attendees. As described above, we believe Boston offers all of the intangibles of location and vibrancy and community that will attract people's interest and we believe we will generate the program that will convert that interest into attendance.

Once people gather in Boston, the conference will afford a balance between programmed content and the appropriate downtime with places to gather for the more informal networking and discussion of a conference of this nature. FOSS4G will be the only event staged at the World Trade Center that week and there will be ample space to gather and connect between the vendor exhibit area, the break areas and the waterfront immediately outside the conference venue.



### IV.2 WORKSHOPS – MONDAY, TUESDAY

Workshops are an integral component of a well-rounded and informative conference, allowing for a greater and deeper exchange of resources and information, and allowing attendees to dig into new technologies and learn new tools and methods. They will help fulfill OSGeo's mission of helping people learn about geo open source and they will support the networking of like minded people. Open source and Geospatial have a strong and storied past in the Boston community and in the many academic institutions around the City. Some of the first



practitioners in GIS were in the Lab for Computer Graphics and Spatial Analysis at Harvard, and MIT has pioneered many influential projects with its open source culture.


For the workshops, we aim to leverage the strong university culture of Boston, using **Tufts University (Boston Campus)** and the **Harvard Center for Geographic Analysis** as our venues. These established venues will provide a unique setting for our workshops and an unparalleled opportunity for training opportunities. The venues are a short transit ride away from the conference site and are easily accessible to visitors and attendees. The settings for the workshops will be intimate, providing prime opportunities for attendees to network and learn.

#### IV.2.1 Workshop Tracks

The workshop program will be the Monday and Tuesday prior to the conference, and consist of multiple half-day and full-day sessions. The program will offer ten half-day morning sessions, ten half-day afternoon sessions, and two full day sessions on each day, for a total of 44 sessions. Eleven sessions a day will be at Harvard, and the other eleven will be at Tufts' Downtown Boston campus. These are both located directly on public transit, making transitioning between the sites easy. Each workshop will be designed optimally for 20–30 attendees, with larger rooms available at the venues for more popular workshops and/or co-located meetings.

The workshops will be split into tracks that will focus on various components of FOSS technology, information, and education. These tracks include:

- 1. Hands-on Technical Sessions** - This will be the largest track and will involve a variety hands-on workshops, with various levels of difficulty. The goal of each session is that each attendee can walk away with hard skills. A class of beginner, intermediate, and advanced will be applied to each track.
- 2. Sponsor** - This track will be dedicated to the technologies and educational efforts of OSGeo and FOSS4G sponsors (e.g., Boundless, CartoDB, MapBox, etc.).
- 3. Maptime** - Focus of track will be on geographic fundamentals, introductory sessions, and expanding entry-level access to the FOSS4G community.
- 4. First time FOSS4G for students** - A unique new track that will tailor sessions towards high school and undergraduate



university students interested in geography, technology, and programming.

Most workshops will be Bring Your Own Device (**BYOD**). Workshop attendees will be provided a customized OSGEO-Live USB thumb drive or DVD containing the software, materials, and tools for their machines, and we will create an online repository on Github for instructors to upload materials if needed.

Workshop cost for the half-day sessions will be \$100 per participant, and instructors will be compensated based on sessions taught.

#### IV.2.2 Co-located Events

By being amenable to co-locating events, the conference should be able to attract a wider audience and will help attendees get the most out of their travel funds.

Professor Charlie Schweik of UMass Amherst (BLOC member) along with many others associated with the [GeoForAll urban thematic group](#) have submitted a grant proposal to the US National Science Foundation (currently under review) to build a research coordination network that supports GeoForAll/OSGeo. One of the proposed activities is to initiate a doctoral consortia that would be co-located at FOSS4G and take place during the workshop days. Assuming the grant comes in, we will have funding to bring doctoral students to FOSS4G Boston for the workshop and the conference. Associated with the grant, we will offer a “Train the Trainer” workshop on FOSS4G related technologies.

In addition to the potential GeoForAll doctoral consortia, the BLOC will entertain other proposals to have associated, co-located events during the Monday–Tuesday workshop days. Options for these events include, but are not limited to:

- Code sprints
- Small related conferences, such as the JS.geo which was co-located in Portland along with FOSS4G 2014

We are excited to present the workshop component of this conference. It will provide an excellent opportunity for the sharing of knowledge, learning of technologies, and networking of leaders and learners in the FOSS4G arena.



## IV.3 MAIN PROGRAM – WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

### IV.3.1 Program Structure

We anticipate following a program structure very similar to the highly successful Portland FOSS4G 2014. This includes:

- **Plenary keynote** presentations on each of the three days including at least one moderated, **plenary panel discussion** on significant issues of general interest to this community (e.g., the state of open source licensing or data). These plenary sessions will last one hour and will include the opening and closing sessions on the first and last day, respectively.
- Three 1.5-hour sessions each day with ten concurrent tracks in each session for a total of 90 1.5-hour presentation blocks
- One block in each session will be set aside for invited talks by important figures in the open source community;
- The other blocks will have a clearly stated common theme and will usually have three 20-minute talks with 5 minutes of questions each, and followed by a 5-minute break to allow setup and room hopping. There is also the possibility of some 55-minute presentations where appropriate, e.g. for a panel of four or more people.

This general structure will allow for 9 invited talks and as many as 240 other presentations.

With the projected 1,000 attendees this will average 100 people per track; for the final program early registration can be used to gauge attendee interest in particular presentations to determine choice of rooms as well as facilitate reduction of overlapping preferences.

We also propose to host a poster session (both paper- and web-based) during the conference reception on the first evening with as many as 100 posters, with prizes for the best posters in a number of categories such as content, presentation, design, etc. as well as “The People’s Choice”.

With a packed program, it is critical to ensure there is quality networking and break time. Toward that end there will be a **full 90-**

**minute lunch** period and **full 30-minute breaks** between other sessions with refreshments served in the vendor/poster exhibit area.

The BLOC will build on and adjust an Initial conference grid for Wednesday through Friday that looks like the following.

WEDNESDAY												
Timing	Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5	Track 6	Track 7	Track 8	Track 9	Track 10	Plenary Sessions	Exhibit Hall
8:30-10:00											Opening Plenary	
10:00-10:30	Break											Exhibits and Posters
10:30-12:00										Invited Talks		
12:00-1:30	Lunch											
1:30-3:00										Invited Talks		
3:00-3:30	Break											
3:30-5:00										Invited Talks		
Evening	Welcome Gathering at Harpoon Brewery											

THURSDAY												
Timing	Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5	Track 6	Track 7	Track 8	Track 9	Track 10	Plenary Sessions	Exhibit Hall
8:30-10:00											Moderated Plenary	
10:00-10:30	Break											Exhibits and Posters
10:30-12:00										Invited Talks		
12:00-1:30	Lunch											
1:30-3:00										Invited Talks		
3:00-3:30	Break											
3:30-5:00										Invited Talks		
Evening	Gala at New England Aquarium											

FRIDAY												
Timing	Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5	Track 6	Track 7	Track 8	Track 9	Track 10	Plenary Sessions	Exhibit Hall
8:30-10:00										Invited Talks		<b>Exhibits and Posters</b>
10:00-10:30	<b>Break</b>											
10:30-12:00										Invited Talks		
12:00-1:30	<b>Lunch</b>											
1:30-3:00										Invited Talks		
3:00-3:30	<b>Break</b>											
3:30-4:30											<b>Final Plenary</b>	
Evening	<b>Additional Cost Event Option TBD</b>											

### IV.3.2 Diverse Program Content


We are staunchly committed to building a program and conference that will draw from as broad and wide a group of people with geospatial interests as possible. The program committee will therefore come from a diverse background and review all presentation submissions and select those offerings that provide the most topical and innovative content covering the multiplicity of free and open source geospatial activities. We also hope to utilize the community voting model that has been a part of previous conferences.

We will reach out to organizations in all sectors to promote the opportunity for them to present, share their free and open source projects and attend the conference.

- Business
- Government
- Education
- Nonprofits

FOSS4G has a bedrock of development activity, and we will respect and nourish these deep roots that have produced a wealth of technical advances and expect tracks/presentations on:

- Desktop software
- Web/cloud applications and platforms

- 
- Plugins, libraries, and APIs
  - Cloud platforms
  - Robotics, UAVs, and sensors
  - New and emerging Open Source projects
  - Updates on significant existing projects (MapServer, GDAL, etc.)
  - The state of the OpenGeo stack
  - Open source and open data
  - The new mappers: CartoDB and MapBox technology and case studies

But we will complement that technical core with a program that also highlights case studies of applications and data produced with FOSS4G tools in a variety of disciplines, from commercial innovation to academic research to social welfare:

- The emerging business ecosystem of open source
- Business and commerce case studies
- Environmental case studies
  - Landscape architecture and planning
  - Agriculture and natural resources
  - Biological, environmental, and physical science
- Local government case studies
  - Civil engineering and transportation
  - Public works and utilities
- Federal and state government case studies
  - Geodata portals
- Social science and digital humanities
- Humanitarian aid and community development
- FOSS4G and ‘open geographical science and education’
  - Including coordinated panel sessions on FOSS4G related research topics such as: geocrowdsourcing, volunteer geographic information, open source geosensor networks, data analytics, modeling and visualization.

To further our educational agenda we will encourage presentations and posters from secondary, college, and graduate students, and will promote GeoForAll (as described earlier in the Workshops section). We will also engage with non-governmental organizations (NGO) in the Boston metropolitan area and beyond to encourage their participation in workshops and attendance in the conference where they can learn about the great promise of FOSS4G technologies. We are also considering need-based scholarships to students and NGO’s.

The ability to attract attendees from these many different sectors and disciplines and levels of experience to meet each and share interests, and particularly for users to talk directly with developers, is an important feature of FOSS4G that will be facilitated at every opportunity.

#### IV.4 EXTRACURRICULARS

As a part of the conference we plan to host several social events. These events will be an opportunity for attendees to get to know one another in a fun and social setting while enjoying unique Boston experiences. These will include a Welcome Party, an evening Gala on the second night, and optional outings.

##### IV.4.1 Welcome Party

On Tuesday night, prior to the start of conference, a welcome party for up to 350–400 people will be held at a brewery within walking distance of the Seaport Hotel. The [Harpoon Brewery](#) is within a 5–10 minute walk from the Seaport Hotel is suggested. It has an energetic beer hall with great views of downtown Boston. The beer served is made at the facility and is well known throughout the United States. Short tours of the brewery will also be available. An event at Harpoon should fulfill their founders' vision of the brewery: "They decided to build a brewery so that they could brew the beers that they wanted to drink, and invite their friends to the brewery to drink it with them."



#### IV.4.2 Second Night Gala

On Thursday night, a gala for up to 800 people will be held at the New England Aquarium. The Aquarium has been one of the premier visitor attractions in Boston for the past 46 years and completed a major renovation in 2013. Guests can enjoy private viewing of all 4 floors of the Main Exhibit Gallery including the four-story 200,000-gallon Giant Ocean Tank. The tank features a coral reef with 1,000 Caribbean reef animals including sea turtles, stingrays, eels and fish. The star is 80 year old, 500 pound Myrtle, a green sea turtle who has lived at the Aquarium since 1970. A strolling dinner between the Main Exhibit Gallery and an on-site Tent will allow for guests to mingle and enjoy the animals. The aquarium features ocean-friendly seafood choices recommended by the New England Aquarium's Sustainable Seafood Programs and hosting the gala at the Aquarium supports them in their mission of ocean conservation and education. The Aquarium is a 15–20 minute walk from the Seaport Hotel and is also available by public transportation. To the extent possible, the Gala will be funded/subsidized by the conference registration fee. Potentially, early-bird registrations will include the Gala at no charge, while full registrations will require the purchase of a ticket.



Photo credit: B. Skerry

### IV.4.3 Other Diversions

In addition to the formal events we plan to organize and facilitate additional optional outings during and after the conference. As the largest city in New England Boston has a rich history, a beautiful harbor location, a diverse population and many educational institutions. Boston's resources include museums, fine restaurants, food markets, historic homes, performing arts, sporting events and recreational opportunities either on the waterfront, in our Frederick Law Olmsted parks or at nearby woods, farms or coastlines. As a result there are many potentially interesting extracurricular activities for attendees.

Walking tour of the **Freedom Trail**, a chance to dive into Boston's history



Photo via Wikimedia Commons

**Boston Harbor boat tour** with possible visit to the Boston Harbor Islands (a national and state park)



Photo by Doc Searls via Wikimedia Commons

Visit to the **Boston Public Library Norman B. Leventhal map center** (a local treasure)

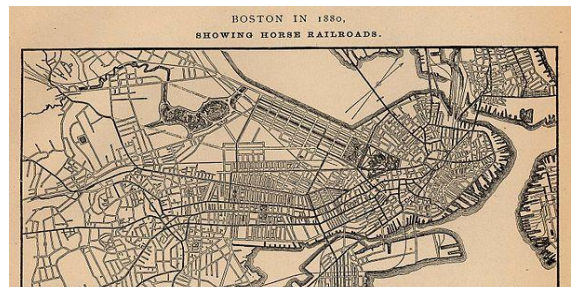


Image by George E. Waring, Jr. via Wikimedia Commons

Visit to the **Mary Baker Eddy Mapparium** (a 3 story stained glass globe open to the public)



Photo from Mary Baker Eddy website

**Whale watching** (whales almost always seen!)



Visit to the new **Boston Public Market and local restaurants** featuring fresh, locally sourced food



Photo by NewtonCourt via Wikimedia Commons

Visit to the recently expanded **Museum of Fine Arts**



Winslow Homer, via Wikimedia Commons



Field trip to explore **Cape Cod's beautiful natural scenery** (beaches, lighthouses, wildlife)



Photo by Jubileejourney via Wikimedia Commons

Trips to other nearby historic locations: Lexington and Concord, Salem, Rockport and Gloucester on Cape Ann



Take in a **sports** event.



Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau

These “optional outing” activities will be organized with no additional cost to the conference, though some — such as a whale watch, museum visit, or a sporting event — may require an additional fees from the participants. Others, such as the Freedom Trail, Boston Public Library map center, and the Mapparium, are freely available.

## V. BOSTON'S BUDGET

---

Budgeting an event of this nature is a complex exercise. Both revenue and expenses need to be modeled and some costs are fixed, e.g., the venue commitment, while others such as food service are variable and based on the number of attendees. That said, in association with our PCO we have done extensive due diligence and are confident that the budget information presented below is realistic and practical.

### V.1 DRAWING PEOPLE TO BOSTON

The revenue side of the budget is largely a function of the expected attendance. As described in our Introduction, we believe that Boston is well situated to be able to draw an attendance of 1,000, or more people, and our team is focused on reaching that goal.

This focus will take the form of sustained efforts to recruit and convert potential attendees into registrations. We see the following opportunities:

#### V.1.1 Strong Attendance from the United States

- Build on the North American event's ability to consistently draw ~500 by itself. Bill this show as having an international flavor and being the biggest and best open source geo and location event in the world.
- Focus on the large population and government sectors within the "Northeast Corridor" (i.e., from Washington, DC → Philadelphia → New York City → Boston). These people will have the lowest barriers to come to Boston and we will work to educate them and lure them to take advantage of such a significant even in their "backyard".
- Build an extremely strong New England/Massachusetts baseline. We have already received great local enthusiasm and believe we will successfully draw many first time attendees who have not been able to travel to a FOSS4G show. Further, we will work hard to tap into the incredibly dense cluster of New England colleges and universities to attract academic participation.

#### V.1.2 Making this an International Event that's not to be Missed

- Strong recruitment from Europe.

- Minimized international travel with 6 hour flights and 20+ direct flight destinations to Boston
- Strong recruitment from North/Central America (i.e., particularly, neighboring Canada and Mexico)
- Commitment to a global event and explicit efforts towards: Asia, South America, Africa and Australia.

The BLOC is committed to keeping the 2017 conference as affordable as possible and this is critical to broadening the base of possible attendance, particularly for small companies and the academic community. At the same time, the practical reality of covering conference costs in a thriving, technology oriented and cosmopolitan city such as Boston needs to be covered. The traditional, non-early bird cost over the past conferences has averaged around \$630<sup>1</sup>. The BLOC is committed to trying to maintain this price point. In addition, we have been carefully tracking the list serve discussion on the traditionally “late” registration habits of this community, and several members of the BLOC have witnessed this firsthand via their own involvement with FOSS4G events.

Toward this end the BLOC is anticipating having a **full-value conference price of \$800**. However, to foster affordability and to spur early registration **we will offer an extremely aggressive \$200 early-bird discount to \$600**. Thus, those who sign up early-bird will actually have a *lower cost* than the average registration price for recent FOSS4G conferences. In addition, we anticipate offering a gala ticket to early-bird registrations to provide further savings and incentives to sign up early and create conference cash flow. The BLOC also believes that the full price of \$800 will be a reasonable cost for a 3-day, food included event of this nature in 2017. Workshops will be \$100 per participant.

Even allowing for generous complimentary registrations to sponsors, OSGeo, student volunteers as well as providing a 50% student discount for up to the first 100 college or high school attendees and allowing for the aggressive early bird discount (with a 50% use of that discount), a conference with 1,000 people should be able to generate approximately \$630,000 of registration revenue.

---

<sup>1</sup> With reasonable assumptions about exchange rates for Barcelona and Nottingham.

### V.1.3 Drawing on Strong Local Tech and Startup Scene

Our BLOC is committed to drawing in people from multiple horizontal industries in the Boston area that would benefit from attending this conference. We believe that that as big data and business analytics grows that there are more analysts and web designers who would want to learn about the tools for both performing geoanalytics and displaying mapping and visual data on their reports.

## V.2 SPONSORSHIP REVENUE

We believe that a strength of our proposal is an ability to generate record setting sponsor support. Our confidence around sponsorship development is based on the following:

- The BLOC represents several companies that have committed to sponsor and thus we have built-in start-up support
- Several BLOC members are partners, or have active business relationships with large geo and open source companies including Google, CartoDB, MapBox, Boundless, IBM, RedHat, Amazon and ESRI. The BLOC will work hard to extend and grow their support of this event
- Open Source Geospatial use, activity, and community is strong in Boston and New England. The commercial successes now growing atop a FOSS4G foundation - for example, CartoDB and MapBox - will continue to drive broader corporate exposure to and adoption of FOSS4G-based technologies. This in turn will expand the target market of potential sponsors for the 2017 conference.
- Our goal will be to capture renewals from all that exhibited at FOSS4G Portland, as well as at the North American FOSS4G in San Francisco and also the recently completed FOSS4G Seoul and the forthcoming FOSS4G Bonn conferences. In addition, we want to significantly grow that base with both global/national additions and particularly via local and regional support throughout the Northeast Corridor.
- We will invest efforts in outreach work aimed at non-geo-focused, but geo-affiliated/geo-curious, Boston-area (and national) technology firms and startups

- The density of higher education institutions in Boston will be a unique source of sponsor support, as will be the Boston region's density of Technology companies

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) [Limited to 1] 6 free registrations; Named meal; Logo on tee shirt; Largest booth

**Platinum Sponsorship** (\$20,000) 4 free registrations; Named meal; Large booth

**Gold Sponsorship** (\$15,000) 3 free registrations; Large booth

**Silver Sponsorship** (\$8,000) 2 free registrations; Standard booth

**Bronze Sponsorship** (\$3,000) 1 free registration; Table top display

**Supporting Sponsorship** (\$1,500) 1 free registration; No booth

In addition to formal, corporate sponsors we anticipate recruiting and publicizing **Media Partners**.

The BLOC also intends to provide additional sponsorship and/or tier benefits by having "named meal" events including:

**Breaks** (5)

**Breakfasts** (3)

**Lunches** (3)

**Welcome Party (Tuesday)**

**Opening night reception (Wednesday)** (1)

**Gala (Thursday)** (1)

Vendor Exhibits will also be available allowing for smaller companies to participate and gain exposure at the event.

The BLOC sponsorship committee will develop an action-oriented tactical sales plan to achieve sponsorship goals, and will begin soliciting commitments as far in advance as possible (i.e., as soon as the Bonn conference concludes).

As a starting point, we will contact all previous FOSS4G event sponsors to seek continued support through FOSS4G 2017 sponsorships. We will consider offering a loyalty discount for returning Sponsors and an early bird discount as an incentive for new sponsors.

Additionally, we have identified an extensive list of companies and organizations that may be willing to provide sponsorships based on their past sponsorship of other geospatial and/or open source conferences (e.g., Red Hat, Amazon Web Services, Autodesk, etc.) and/or their stated interest in and support of the BLOC’s early efforts (e.g., AIR Worldwide, PeopleGIS, Skyhook Wireless, etc.).

### V.3 THE EXPENSES

We have modeled the expenses and expected revenues at three different levels ranging from our target 1,000 attendee size to what we believe is a minimum viable size of 700. The table below shows the major expected cost outlays and corresponding revenue at three levels of attendance:

- **The goal:** 1,000 people
- **The midpoint:** 850 people
- **The “minimum viable” attendance:** 700 people

	GOAL 1,000 Attendees	MID-POINT 850 Attendees	MINIMUM VIABLE 700 Attendees
<b>Revenue</b>			
Registration (incl. discounts & complimentary)	\$630,900	\$536,265	\$441,630
Sponsorships	\$230,500	\$195,925	\$161,350
Other revenue (workshops & hotel incentive)	\$60,000	\$51,000	\$42,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$921,400</b>	<b>\$783,190</b>	<b>\$644,980</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Marketing	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Conference production (incl. PCO)	\$ 149,393	\$ 149,393	\$ 149,393
Conference space and food & beverage (incl. gala)	\$ 538,451	\$ 456,833	\$ 375,270
Workshops	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000
Contingency	\$35,642	\$31,561	\$27,483
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 776,485</b>	<b>\$ 690,787</b>	<b>\$ 605,146</b>
<b>NET PROCEEDS:</b>	<b>\$144,915</b>	<b>\$92,403</b>	<b>\$39,834</b>

### V.4 GIVING BACK TO OSGEO

The goal is to return 80% of any profits back to OSGeo. The remaining 20%, up to a maximum of \$20,000, would be used to provide seed funding for a new Boston Chapter of OSGeo. Based on the current

budget models the following is the estimated profit for three potential levels of attendance:

- The goal: 1,000 people **\$144,915 profit**
- The mid-point: 850 people **\$92,403 profit**
- The “minimum viable” attendance: 700 people **\$39,834 profit**

## VI. ATTACHMENT 1: LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of support from the following organizations are presented in this section.

Organization	Sector	Location
Amherst College	Academic	Massachusetts
Green Mountain College	Academic	Vermont
Harvard University	Academic	Greater Boston
MIT	Academic	Greater Boston
University of Connecticut Extension	Academic	Connecticut
University of Massachusetts Amherst	Academic	Massachusetts
University of Massachusetts Boston	Academic	Massachusetts
University of Rhode Island	Academic	Rhode Island
Westfield State university	Academic	Massachusetts
AvidGeo	Community	Greater Boston
Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau	Community	Massachusetts
MapTime Boston	Community	Greater Boston
OSM Boston	Community	Greater Boston
Private Citizens	Community	
Public Lab	Community	Greater Boston
Central Transportation Planning Staff	Government	Massachusetts
Executive Office Of Housing & Economic Developme	Government	Massachusetts
MassGIS	Government	Massachusetts
Town of Orchard Park	Government	New York
Facebook	Private	
Haley Aldrich	Private	Oregon
NBT Solutions	Private	Oregon
Paragon Corporation	Private	Greater Boston
PeopleGIS	Private	Greater Boston
Red Hat	Private	





ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY SERVICES  
Amherst College  
P.O. Box 5000  
Amherst, MA 01002-5000

October 12, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo Conference Committee  
PO Box 1217  
Newport, OR 97365

Dear Mr. Adam:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo Conference Committee by the Boston Local Organizing Committee.

Amherst College is a liberal arts college in Western Massachusetts, only a short drive from Boston where we often attend conferences such as FOSS4G. Our department, Academic Technology Services, supports the use of information technology in faculty and student education and research. In particular, we teach geographic information systems in workshops, as a component of semester courses, for use in research projects and theses, and as part of community engagement efforts.

We have been working with free and open-source geospatial technologies since 2007, and see them becoming increasingly important for our projects and educational activities. The more examples of their use that we can show our colleagues, the more open they are to applying them in their work. Hence a nearby conference such as FOSS4G will be extremely beneficial to its promulgation within our community, especially with the academic and applications tracks we expect will be included and promoted.

As an educational destination for the US and the world, and with a large open-source community already in place, Boston stands out as a fantastic conference location that will draw attendees from near and far. We are therefore very excited to be helping to prepare the Boston bid and will help organize the event should it be awarded to Boston.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bridget Dahill".

Bridget Dahill  
Interim Associate Director of Academic Technology Services

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Anderson, PhD".

Andy Anderson, PhD  
Academic Technology Specialist for  
Mathematical and Spatial Data Analysis



GREEN MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Eli Adam  
OSGeo Conference Committee  
PO Box 1217  
Newport, OR 97365

Dear Mr. Adam:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo Conference Committee by the Boston Local Organizing Committee. I teach at Green Mountain College in east-central Vermont and serve as the Director of GMC's Community Mapping Lab. GMC is a small liberal arts college with an emphasis on sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Our mission holds similar values as the OSGEO goals and therefore the lab is also a member of the ICA-OSGeo Labs Geo For All initiative. I teach both undergraduate and graduate courses that incorporate a variety of OSGEO software and use these technologies in research and consulting endeavors. As both an instructor and user I am software agnostic and think the most important consideration should be what is the best tool for developing a strong foundational understanding of GIS theory or which tool is best-suited to explore or evaluate a geographic question. We often send students to state and regional GIS conference like NEARC in Northampton, MA or Burlington, VT, NYGeocon at various locations throughout New York state and would most certainly send students to this conference.

Bringing FOSSF4G to Boston will provide regional access to an international conference focusing solely on OSGEO values and provide a bridge between industry and academia. Boston is home to ~35 universities and colleges with an additional ~100 schools within driving distance. I am very excited to offer my support for the Boston bid and hope the existing infrastructure for conference support, a burgeoning open-source community, proximity to numerous higher educational institutions, and regional demand for OSGEO tools will ensure that Boston is chosen for this event.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Van Hoesen

Associate Professor of Geology  
Community Mapping Lab Director  
Green Mountain College  
One College Circle  
Poultney, VT 05764

September 25, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo conference committee  
PO Box 1217 Newport, OR 97365 (USA)

Dear Mr. Adam:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo conference committee by the Boston LOC, the subcommittee research for the workshop program and venue, as well as the local AvidGeo Conference.

I am a GIS Specialist with the Center for Geographic Analysis (CGA) at Harvard University (<http://gis.harvard.edu/>), as well as a member of the Boston LOC.

The CGA supports geospatial research and teaching at Harvard University. The CGA works closely with faculty, students, and departments, to enable a diverse range of research projects involving geospatial analysis. The Center provides geographic information systems (GIS) solutions ranging from general cartography and mapping, to spatial visualizations, webmaps, and web services. The CGA is also actively involved in the open source movement by developing an open source software, WorldMap (<http://worldmap.harvard.edu/>), to allow anyone to build a mapping portal and publish it to the world or to just few collaborators.

The CGA believes that bringing the FOSS4G to Boston will highlight our interest in and commitment to the open source movement, as well as disseminate the FOSS4G technology among the academic geospatial community.

The CGA fully supports the efforts of the Boston LOC as they seek to be selected for the 2017 event. We believe that Boston has great potential as a conference location and that the LOC will do a wonderful work highlighting the local community.

Sincerely,

Giovanni Zambotti  
GIS Specialist, CGA

---

October 1, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo conference committee  
PO Box 1217 Newport, OR 97365 (USA)

Dear Mr. Adam:

On behalf of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) at MIT, we are pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo conference committee by the Boston LOC. In particular, our Civic Data Design Lab and the Urban Information Systems Group look forward to being involved in the planning and content of FOSS4G 2017.

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning is a department within the School of Architecture and Planning at MIT. As a school of planners, designers, landscape architects, and policy makers, our students, staff, and faculty are heavy practitioners in geospatial theory, design, and method. Working in an urban context, the department seeks to foster a positive approach to technological innovation as a force for social change. We believe in the strong and growing FOSS community and continuing integration of technology into planning practice and education.

Our organization believes that bringing the FOSS4G gathering to Boston will continue to strengthen the established and expanding Boston open source community and build bridges allowing the interface of urban planning and geospatial technology.

The department is proud to support the efforts of the Boston LOC as they seek to be selected for the 2017 event. Boston is a wonderful, vibrant city that will allow for an educational and memorable conference.

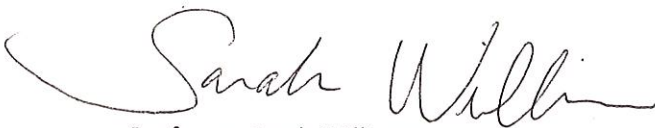
Sincerely,



Professor Eran Ben-Joseph  
Department Head, MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning



Professor Joseph Ferreira  
Head of Urban Information Systems Group, MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning



Professor Sarah Williams  
Director of the Civic Data Design Lab, MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning

---

October 14, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo Conference Committee  
PO Box 1217  
Newport, OR 97365

Dear Mr. Adam,

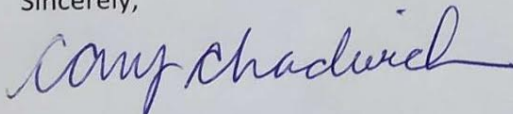
I am pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo conference committee by the Boston Local Organizing Committee.

My name is Cary Chadwick. I am the program coordinator for the Center for Land use Education and Research (CLEAR) Geospatial Training Program, part of the Cooperative Extension System in the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut. I spend my days teaching geospatial science to a wide range of end-users including academics, students, municipal officers, non-profit organizations and volunteers. I am also involved in a number of collaborative mapping projects at the state level aimed at making geospatial technology and information more accessible to the public.

UConn Extension is the outreach arm of the University. The Geospatial Training Program has been teaching GIS, GPS and related technologies to the public for over 15 years and relies heavily on free and open-source technology to provide mapping tools and resources to professionals as well as non-profit organizations, students and volunteers. I have seen first-hand how important low cost mapping solutions are to these organizations.

I believe that bringing the FOSS4G to Boston in 2017 will provide a unique opportunity for those in our region and well beyond to learn from each other and encourage new membership in the open-source mapping community. We get excited about technology here in the Northeast and the city of Boston, with its large open-source community already in place, is a wonderful location for such an event.

Sincerely,



Cary Chadwick  
Program Coordinator, Geospatial Training Program  
Center for Land use Education and Research  
University of Connecticut Extension  
College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources



**UNIVERSITY of MASSACHUSETTS**  
Dept Environmental Conservation  
Holdsworth Hall  
324 Holdsworth Way  
Amherst MA 01003

**Dr. Charles Schweik**  
Professor  
Ph 413.545.1824  
Fax 413.545.4358  
cschweik@pubpol.umass.edu

October 13, 2015

Dear OSGeo FOSS4G North America Conference Selection Committee:

Via this letter I am urging you to strongly consider Boston for the hosting site of the 2017 FOSS4G North American Conference.

I think the proposal put together by our LOC speaks for itself in terms of the positive and professional collective action that is needed to put on an event of this stature. Via this letter I am also making an active commitment to work with the other Boston committee organizers to make the Boston event the best FOSS4G NA conference yet.

I am an OSGeo Charter Member, the OSGeo Educational and Curriculum chair, and one of the founders of the GeoForAll.org network [1]. I announced in a plenary session at the FOSS4G Europe conference in Como Italy, that the GeoForAll network and the OSGeo educational group are one and the same. You may also know that growth in the GeoForAll network is growing on its own now, with little marketing on our end, and as of this letter we have 104 nodes in the network in all corners of the world [2].

Recently, I led the first GeoForAll collaborative grant writing effort for the 'OpenCitySmart' GeoForAll thematic group [3]. This grant proposal seeks to bring GeoForAll members together to develop a research and education agenda and collaboration around the topic of FOSS4G to assist cities in policy and management around two major threats: climate change adaptation and population growth. In that grant proposal, currently under review at the US National Science Foundation, the GeoForAll thematic team proposed to hold meetings co-located at the FOSS4G 2017 conference and three more in the future. Should funding be granted, I will help to organize several new items in Boston that I hope will become regular events in future FOSS4G NA and Global conferences:

- 1) Hold the first ever FOSS4G Doctoral Consortium on a day prior to the full conference;
- 2) Hold a Research Methods or Train the Trainer workshop prior to the conference on FOSS4G-related technologies;
- 3) Hold Academic Track panel sessions on research areas related to FOSS4G-based geocrowdsourcing, volunteer geographic information, and geo-sensor networks, as well as on data analytics, modeling and visualization; and,

- 4) Initiate a new “Collaboration Sprint”, borrowing from the idea of post-conference code sprints, where researchers and educators involved with this thematic will work on grant proposals, or collaborative writing in research projects or FOSS4G educational material.

The GeoForAll ‘Open City Smart’ thematic group is the first thematic collaborative group that has evolved out of the formation of GeoForAll. Through a really strong showing at this Boston FOSS4G conference of this effort, it is my hope that we will inspire other new or emerging GeoForAll thematic groups to follow our collaborative model.

Given that I am the leader of this effort under the GeoForAll/OSGeo banner -- and I am based out of the University of Amherst in Massachusetts -- having the FOSS4G conference in Boston will make the logistics of the above much easier for me, should the grant be funded.

Finally, even if the NSF grant does not come in, I intend to work on organizing many of the above activities anyway in an effort to move GeoForAll from a situation where network nodes know about each other, to one where there is true collaboration and collective action around FOSS4G to support open source geographical science and education. I think the ideas I propose will help to make the Boston FOSS4G NA conference unusual compared to others and will help to move FOSS4G into mainstream use in geospatial science and education.

I urge you to support the Boston bid for FOSS4G NA 2017.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Charlie Schweik



Professor, OSGeo charter member, and education and curriculum chair  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

[1] [http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Charlie\\_Schweik](http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Charlie_Schweik)

[2] <http://www.geoforall.org/>

[2] <http://wiki.osgeo.org/wiki/Openacitysmart>



**Campus Planning**  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Physical Plant Building  
360 Campus Way  
Amherst, MA 01003-9248  
TEL: 413.545.1383  
FAX: 413.545.3684

October 16, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo Conference Committee  
PO Box 1217  
Newport, OR 97365

Dear Mr. Adam,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo Conference Committee by the Boston Local Organizing Committee.

I am a Senior Physical Planner within Campus Planning at the University of Massachusetts. One of my primary responsibilities is the integration of GIS technology into our Facilities and Campus Services Division. This includes applications for our Master Plan and general planning efforts, space and asset management, as well as to improve general operations. The development of our Enterprise GIS for such a large and complex organization has necessitated the integration of many different information technologies with GIS tools. This work has given me a deep appreciation for the benefits of integrating different technologies as well as reinforced my long held belief in the value of GIS.

I have been involved in the NEARC (Northeast Arc/Info Users Group) for over 25 years and am a past President and Board Member. The primary reason the organization was created was to put on an annual conference and provide other opportunities for users to help users. I am a big believer in the value of the educational opportunities offered through conferences and the opportunities to see how other people apply technologies in their circumstances. I am excited by the possibility that FOSS4G could be held in Boston and hope that we could provide value to the conference by sharing our experiences with integrating so many different information technologies within the geospatial environment in a large and complex organization.

Boston is a great place to hold a conference not only because it is such a wonderful and pedestrian friendly city with so many attractions, it is also within a state that has a long history with Geospatial Technology. I was a longtime member of the MassGIS Advisory Council and can tell you that there is a large and sophisticated geospatial community within the northeast that would be attracted to Boston for such a conference. This includes a high density of institutions of higher education located both in Massachusetts as well as the rest of New England. Therefore I am very happy to submit this letter of support of the Boston Local Organizing Committee.

Sincerely,

Niels la Cour  
Senior Physical Planner





UNIVERSITY of  
MASSACHUSETTS  
BOSTON  
100 Morrissey Blvd  
Boston, MA 02125-3393

School for the Environment  
Tel: 617.287.7440  
Fax: 617.287.7474

18 October 2015

To: Eli Adam  
OSGeo Conference Committee  
PO Box 1217  
Newport, OR 97365

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo conference committee by the Boston Local Organizing Committee.

As director of the Geospatial Analysis and Modeling of the Environment (GAME) program at the University of Massachusetts Boston, I feel the ability to participate in a FOSS4G conference in the Boston will offer a wonderful opportunity for our undergraduate and graduate students. As the "*only public research university in Boston*", UMass Boston is dedicated to introducing our students to the cutting edge resources offered by open source geospatial technologies.

Furthermore as a member of the NASA's MODIS and VIIRS Science Teams and a member of the USGS Landsat Science Team, I am also very interested in the enhanced use of satellite derived products and again see a great number of innovative opportunities offered by the use of free and open source geospatial tools and applications.

The large number of academic institutions in the Boston offer the appropriate facilities for a conference as well as a large pool of interested participants. I also feel this event will afford an opportunity to foster a great deal of collaborative work in the local area. Therefore I am delighted to support Boston's bid for FOSS4G and hope to be able to contribute to a conference in Boston in 2017

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Crystal L. B. Schaaf'.

CRYSTAL L. B. SCHAAF  
Professor, School for the Environment  
Director, Geospatial Analysis  
and Modeling of the Environment (GAME)  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
100 Morrissey Blvd, Boston, MA 02125-3393 USA  
crystal.schaaf@umb.edu

October 16, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo Conference Committee  
PO Box 1217  
Newport, OR 97365 (USA)

Dear Mr. Adam,

On behalf Shane White, the Rhode Island Geographic Information System (RIGIS) Coordinator, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo Conference Committee by the Boston Local Organizing Committee (LOC).

I am the data manager for RIGIS, Rhode Island's geospatial data consortium. RIGIS provides a wide variety of GIS users throughout Rhode Island with access to a varied collection of geospatial data relating to our state. These data are contributed to RIGIS by a variety of government agencies and private organizations with the goal of enhancing access to geospatial data users statewide. Through these partnerships we are able to provide our GIS community with access to one of the most comprehensive collections of geospatial data in the country. For the past 25 years we have held a variety of events ranging from small user group meetings, to social mixers, to large IGNITE Spatial events.

We believe that bringing the FOSS4G conference to Boston will continue to strengthen the local geospatial community by giving users access to a wide range of new ideas and technologies that will work to expand local expertise. RIGIS fully supports the efforts of the Boston LOC as they seek to be selected for the 2017 event. Here at RIGIS, we believe that the Boston area has great potential as a conference location and that the LOC will do a great job highlighting the local community and running a memorable event.

Sincerely,

Erica Tefft

RIGIS Data Manager  
Environmental Data Center, University of Rhode Island

Department of Geography & Regional Planning

October 15, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo Conference Committee  
PO Box 1217  
Newport, OR 97365

Dear Mr. Adam


I am writing in support of the FOSS4G 2017 bid being submitted by the Boston Local Organizing Committee to the OSGeo Conference Committee.

As the GIS coordinator for Westfield State University, I work on a daily basis to spread the gospel of geospatial technology across departments and programs. Moreover, as an assistant professor in the Geography and Regional Planning department, I teach several GIS and remote sensing classes and supervise many student research projects related to geospatial technology.

While I have always worked to incorporate free and open-source geospatial technologies into my classroom as well as across campus, I strongly believe that there is a growing need to expose more and more students and faculty to open-source principles and technologies. Bringing the FOSS4G conference to Boston would be extremely beneficial to strengthening such efforts occurring on my campus as well as across many institutions in Massachusetts. In addition, holding the conference in Boston would allow my colleagues and I to bring students to the conference so that they could witness and experience first-hand how open-source principles and technologies are being implemented in the real world.

As one of the largest educational hubs in the world with a sizable and active open-source community, Boston stands out as an ideal conference location that will draw attendees from all across the globe. My colleagues and I are excited and prepared to help make the Boston Local Organizing Committee a reality.

Sincerely yours,



Timothy LeDoux  
Assistant Professor/GIS Coordinator

Wilson Hall 203 (413) 572-8315  
577 Western Avenue (413) 572-8147 (f)  
P.O. Box 1630  
Westfield, MA 01086-1630

Eli Adam  
OSGeo Conference Committee  
PO Box 1217  
Newport, OR 97365 (USA)

Dear Mr. Adam:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo conference committee by the Boston Local Organizing Committee.

I am an associate professor teaching GIS and geospatial analysis at Westfield State University, a public liberal arts university located in Western Massachusetts, about 1:45 hours west of Boston. For me and my students the 2017 International Free and Open Source for Geospatial (FOSS4G) Conference in Boston would be a fantastic intellectual opportunity.


It is critical in higher education that we expose our students to all flavors of GIS and geospatial technology and here open-source software is particularly important. That's in-part a practical matter for our students = learning using the tools that are relevant in the community. But there is also a bigger dimension here – realizing that not everything has to be commercial and for-profit and experiencing the rich and creative world of the free and open-source community.

Having this conference locally in our backyard would enable me and my colleagues to create a matching curriculum for that particular semester or academic year that prepares our students to participate in FOSS4G 2017 and subsequently offers opportunities for reflection and sharing. I'm not familiar with the specific format of this conferences, but our students could easily present some of their research projects, perhaps as a poster session.

In summary, I give my strongest possible support to the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid and I hope to meet you all in Massachusetts in a couple of years.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carsten Braun  
Associated Professor  
Geography and Regional Planning / Environmental Science  
Westfield State University



Wilson Hall 203  
577 Western Avenue  
P.O. Box 1630  
Westfield, MA 01086-1630

(413) 572-8315  
(413) 572-8147 (f)

September 22, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo conference committee  
PO Box 1217 Newport, OR 97365 (USA)

Dear Mr. Adam:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo conference committee by the Boston LOC.

I am the founder and current lead organizer of the AvidGeo Meetup Group as well as a member of the Boston LOC. AvidGeo is a local group that gets people together who are interested in geospatial technologies from many backgrounds and disciplines. Over the past decade we have held events ranging from small gatherings and social mixers to large Spatial Ignite events and Conferences. The program at our events have included visitors and lecturers from Mapbox, CartoDB, Harvard Center for Geographics Analysis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Esri, and more.

Our organization believes that bringing the FOSS4G to Boston will continue to strengthen the local geospatial community. With the larger, international event we believe that we can engage more of the local tech startup community and other local organizations that would benefit from FOSS4G. There are many geospatial users in the Boston area and a FOSS4G Boston will help further introduce them to the great potential of FOSS4G technology.

AvidGeo fully supports the efforts of the Boston LOCas they seek to be selected for the 2017 event. Having worked with others on the committee I feel that the team is a powerful mix of dedicated members of the academic, business, and government community. I believe that Boston has great potential as a conference location and that the LOC will do a great job highlighting the local community and running a memorable event.

Sincerely,

Guido Stein

Founder/Lead Organizer, AvidGeo  
Committee member, Boston LOC  
GIS Analyst, Applied Geographics



**GREATER BOSTON  
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**

October 16, 2015

Mr. Eli Adam  
OSGeo Conference Committee  
PO Box 1217  
Newport, OR 97365

Dear Mr. Adam,

On behalf of the hospitality community of Greater Boston, we would like to extend an invitation to the OSGeo Conference Committee to bring the FOSS4G to Boston in 2017. We would be honored to serve as the site for your Conference and would provide you with a truly exciting experience in our city.

What visitors will find when they come to Boston is a mix of old world charm and contemporary flair. While we continue to embrace our history, we continually strive remain on the cutting edge. From our quaint neighborhoods, to our hip and fashionable shopping; High-tech venues to opulent buildings; Boston Brahmins to our young and vibrant collegiate population, the region's diversity creates a comfortable and charming atmosphere for visitors of all ages.

Should you choose Boston as your destination, the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau (GBCVB) would be happy to offer the following support to the Conference:

- The GBCVB will work with the Massachusetts Port Authority to arrange for welcome signage at Boston's Logan International Airport welcoming the FOSS4G to Boston.
- The GBCVB will work with city and state officials to arrange for Welcome Letters to attendees from the Mayor of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- The GBCVB will provide promotional materials (visitors guides and maps) to attendees of the 2017 Conference.
- The GBCVB will provide a complimentary visitor information and restaurant reservation desk over the official meeting dates of the Conference in Boston.
- The GBCVB will create a dedicated micro-site for your Conference powered off of our website [www.bostonusa.com](http://www.bostonusa.com).

Mr. Adam, we are delighted to be under consideration as the site for the FOSS4G in 2017 and we will do everything we can to ensure that it is the most enjoyable and productive FOSS4G ever! I invite you to share in the excitement of our area and look forward to welcoming you and your attendees to a region whose hospitality and warmth will charm you.

Sincerely,

Patrick B. Moscaritolo  
President and CEO

October 1, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo conference committee  
PO Box 1217 Newport, OR 97365 (USA)

Dear Mr. Adam:

On behalf of Maptime Boston, we are pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo conference committee by the Boston LOC.

Maptime Boston is the local chapter of an international collection of meetup groups that join to share geospatial knowledge and methods, to learn new and current technologies, to build a community of data enthusiasts and mappers, and aims to promote the integration of geospatial into all fields. At our meetings, we have a diverse group of participants that includes academics, journalists, developers, business students, cartographers, geospatial professionals, and data scientists all seeking to further their knowledge in geospatial methods and technologies. We believe in the strong and growing FOSS community.

Our organization believes that bringing the FOSS4G gathering to Boston will continue to strengthen the established and expanding Boston geospatial community. A primary mission of the Maptime meetup is to support the engagement in free and open source software as a way to build and expand the geospatial knowledge and methods. We believe that bringing this conference to Boston would be an excellent way to expose the vibrant geospatial community in the city, and allows a great opportunity for further engaging this community with FOSS technologies.

Maptime Boston is proud to fully support the efforts of the Boston LOC as they seek to be selected for the 2017 event. Having worked with many on the committee, the team is well positioned to host an educational, informative, community-building, and ultimately, memorable conference.

Sincerely,



Mike Foster  
Co-Founder/Organizer, Maptime Boston



Jake Wasserman  
Co-Founder/Organizer, Maptime Boston



Andy Woodruff  
Co-Founder/Organizer, Maptime Boston

Boston,  
September 30, 2015

Eli Adam,  
OSGeo Conference Committee  
P.O. Box 1217  
Newport, OR 97365

Dear Mr. Adam,

I'm pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo conference committee by the Boston LOC.

I am the co-founder and main organizer of the Boston OpenStreetMap Meetup group. We organize regular events to encourage the use of and contribution to the OpenStreetMap project and other open source/open data projects. In addition to regular meetings - where members get together and discuss everything OSM - we have organized mapping parties, field trips, presentations, tutorials, disaster mapping events and participated in US-wide Mapathons/Editathons and many other events.

With OpenStreetMap, and the vast majority of the software ecosystem around it, being open data / open source, we strongly endorse and promote the use of free and open source software for geospatial applications.

Our organization would see a FOSS4G in Boston an incredibly fitting and valuable event. With an enthusiastic geospatial community and great infrastructure for events, I believe Boston would be an ideal choice for the conference and fully support such a bid.

Sincerely,

Lars Ahlzen

Co-founder / Main organizer,  
OpenStreetMap-Boston Meetup Group



-----  
Greg Troxel  
Private Citizen  
October 15, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo conference committee  
PO Box 1217 Newport, OR 97365 (USA)

Dear Mr. Adam:

I am writing in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted by the Boston LOC.

Please note that I am writing as an individual. I am a developer at NetBSD (an open-source operating system) and pkgsrc (a multi-platform multi-cpu packaging system). Within pkgsrc, I look after the geos, postgis, proj and viking packages, and coordinate with others who are seeking to package the OSM rendering stack. As part of this packaging effort, I participate in multiple projects, in particular postgis, running them on non-Linux Free operating systems and suggesting portability fixes. I also am one of the leaders of an informal group of Openstreetmap mappers in Massachusetts.

Boston is an excellent location for FOSS4G. It has conference facilities, and many local universities, increasing the odds of obtaining free space. In addition, it has an active open-source community, including a significant number of mappers for openstreetmap. It is an excellent recruiting ground for drawing geo-inclined Free Software nerds further into participation in the open source geo community.

I will be happy to help the organizers during the 2017 conference.

Sincerely,  
Greg Troxel  
<[gdt@lexort.com](mailto:gdt@lexort.com)>  
<[gdt@NetBSD.org](mailto:gdt@NetBSD.org)>  
osgeo user gdt  
osm user gdt

September 30, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo conference committee  
PO Box 1217 Newport, OR 97365 (USA)



Dear Mr. Adam:

I wish to indicate my support of the Boston LOC's bid for 2017's FOSS4G conference to the OSGeo conference committee. I write today on behalf of the staff of the Public Laboratory for Open Technology and Science, a community and non-profit dedicated to democratizing science in order to address environmental issues that affect people.

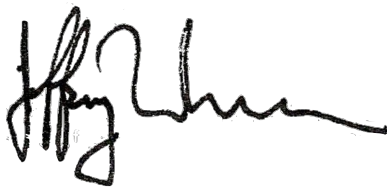
Public Lab is an active member of the FOSS community, as the creators and maintainers of MapKnitter, MapMill, and most recently the Leaflet.DistortableImage plugin for rubbersheeting, as well as the Infragram.org project for DIY multispectral imaging. We also created and host the open hardware designs and documentation for the DIY Balloon Mapping Kit for low-cost aerial photomapping, and our community includes over 6,000 community science contributors producing research, accessible technology, and advocacy work addressing environmental problems. We are recently also involved in planning discussions related to OpenAerialMap and emerging open standards for the sharing of community-collected aerial photographic data.

Public Lab staff and community have presented at many past FOSS4G conferences, and look forward to supporting a Boston event, as well as promoting the event to

our hundreds of community members across the Northeast US. We have often used FOSS4G as a venue to announce new open source projects, services, and initiatives in support of greater openness and accessibility, especially those outside the traditional GIS and software development circle, and look forward to a strong contingent of Public Lab developers and community members attending 2017's event.

We'd like to pledge our support for the Boston LOC's bid and voice our strong interest in a Boston conference, which would be an ideal location not only for one of our largest chapters, but for the strong local FOSS community at large.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Warren', written in a cursive style.

*Jeffrey Warren*

*Director of Research / Co-founder, Public Lab*



## BOSTON REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary and CEO and MPO Chairman  
Karl H. Quackenbush, Executive Director, MPO Staff

September 30, 2015

Mr. Eli Adam  
Conference Committee  
Open Source Geospatial Foundation  
P.O. Box 1217  
Newport, Oregon 97365

Dear Mr. Adam:

As executive director of Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS)—staff to the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)—I am pleased to submit this letter in full support of the proposal to host the FOSS4G 2017 conference in Boston, which bid is being submitted to the Open Source Geospatial Foundation by the Boston Local Organizing Committee (LOC).

CTPS provides transportation planning expertise and related technical support to the Boston Region MPO and Massachusetts state agencies including the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), and Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport).

Our agency believes that bringing FOSS4G to Boston will further strengthen the already-vibrant geospatial community in the Boston area. Holding this conference here would engage the local academic and technology communities, attract conference presenters and attendees from around the world, and help introduce free and open source geospatial technology to many new users in both the public and private sectors.

CTPS believes that Boston would provide an excellent venue for this international conference, as the city and its environs are home to many world-class academic institutions, and the region has a long history of technological innovation. Many first-class conference facilities are located in and around Boston, and Boston's Logan International Airport offers non-stop flights to more than 40 international destinations. Finally, Boston boasts an extraordinarily diverse community, and as such, it would provide a welcoming environment for conference participants from around the world.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karl Quackenbush", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Karl Quackenbush, Executive Director  
Central Transportation Planning Staff

KQ/BK/bk

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF  
HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, ROOM 2101  
BOSTON, MA 02108  
[www.mass.gov/eohed](http://www.mass.gov/eohed)

CHARLES D. BAKER  
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JAY ASH  
SECRETARY

TELEPHONE  
(617) 788-3610

FACSIMILE  
(617) 788-3605

Eli Adam  
OSGeo conference committee  
PO Box 1217 Newport, OR 97365 (USA)

Dear Mr. Adam:

My name is Helena Fruscio, I am the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Technology for the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We are pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo conference committee by the Boston LOC.

Innovation is central to the Massachusetts economy. To back up that statement, I want to share a few stats with you:

**#1 overall state in the ‘State New Economy’ Index**

*State New Economy Index (2010, 2012, 2014)*, [Information Technology & Innovation Foundation](#)

**#1 overall state in the ‘State Tech and Science Index’**

Sub-rankings: #1 in ‘Risk Capital & Entrepreneurial Infrastructure’ and #4 in ‘Technology Concentration and Dynamism’, *State Tech and Science Index 2014*, [Milken Institute](#)

**#3 ‘Most Innovative U.S. State’ Ranking, [Bloomberg](#)**

**#5 - ‘Innovation and Entrepreneurship’ sub-ranking**

*Enterprising States Study (2013)*, [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#)


**#5 state for Entrepreneurship & Innovation**

*“10 Top States for Entrepreneurship and Innovation” (2013)*, [Inc.com](#)

Massachusetts is a major player in the innovation economy, which makes our state is the perfect home for the FOSS4G 2017. Not only will the conference attendees find themselves in and inspired by a dynamic innovation ecosystem, the organizers of the conference have also planned to make this event special specifically for the GIS community.

Thank you for considering Boston LOC’s application. We look forward to hosting you.

Sincerely,



Helena Fruscio  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Technology, Commonwealth of Massachusetts



**MassIT, Office of Geographic Information**  
*One Ashburton Place, Room 819*  
*Boston, MA 02108*

---

October 5, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo conference committee  
PO Box 1217 Newport, OR 97365 (USA)

Dear Mr. Adam:

MassGIS is pleased to write this letter supporting the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo conference committee by the Boston LOC. MassGIS is the Commonwealth's Office of Geographic Information, within the Massachusetts Office of Information Technology (MassIT) of the Administration and Finance Secretariat.

Through MassGIS, the Commonwealth has created a comprehensive, statewide database of geospatial information for mapping and analysis supporting emergency response, environmental planning and management, transportation planning, economic development, and transparency in state government operations. MassGIS is legislatively mandated as the official state agency assigned to collecting, storing, and disseminating the Commonwealth's geographic data. The legislative mandate further includes coordinating GIS activity within the Commonwealth and setting standards for geographic data to ensure universal compatibility.

MassGIS has benefited from many OSGeo projects. Our flagship data viewer is built with OpenLayers and displays data for viewing, query and download from GeoServer. MassGIS has used GeoServer for various important projects since 2006. We have also funded enhancements to GeoServer. Our organization has also used MapBuilder and QGIS and we are about to start working with PostGIS. Besides using OSGeo projects in MassGIS we assist other state agencies, non-profits and municipalities with their geospatial initiatives which often use OSGeo projects.

MassGIS is very enthusiastic about the prospect of FOSS4G 2017 occurring in Boston, both because of the OSGeo technology learning and networking opportunities it would offer for our staff and for staff at our partners, but also so we can share what our organization is doing with OSGeo projects. FOSS4G would also enable us to showcase, and contribute to workshop or other conference events, the Commonwealth's tremendous data resources. MassGIS is confident that the Boston-area specifically and the New England geospatial community generally would welcome this conference and participate enthusiastically.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil MacGaffey".

Neil MacGaffey  
Acting Director



# TOWN OF ORCHARD PARK

S 4295 South Buffalo Street Orchard Park, New York 14127-2609

SUPERVISOR  
PATRICK J. KEEM

COUNCILMEMBERS  
EUGENE MAJCHRZAK  
MICHAEL J. SHERRY

TOWN CLERK  
REMY C. ORFFEO

TOWN ATTORNEY  
JOHN C. BAILEY

TOWN JUSTICES  
EDWARD A. PACE  
LYNN W. KEANE

SUPT. OF HIGHWAYS  
FREDERICK J. PIASECKI, JR.

CHIEF OF POLICE  
MARK F. PACHOLEC

BUILDING INSPECTOR  
ANDREW GEIST

TOWN ASSESSOR  
MILTON BRADSHAW  
SCAA

TOWN ENGINEER  
WAYNE L. BIELER, P.E.

RECREATION DIRECTOR  
EDWARD J. LEAK, CPRP

PLANNING COORDINATOR  
JOHN P. BERNARD

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER  
DENNIS BUCZKOWSKI

SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR  
ANNA WILLEMS

October 8, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo conference committee  
PO Box 1217 Newport, OR 97365 (USA)

Dear Mr. Adam:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo conference committee by the Boston LOC.

I am the information technology manager for the Town of Orchard Park, providing support for all technology endeavors of a 16 department organization of approximately 150 regular employees.

The Town of Orchard Park is a local community of approximately 30,000 residents, located 15 minutes southeast of Buffalo, New York.

The Town is governed by a 3 person Town Board, and provides highway, engineering, recreational, as well as diverse array of cultural options for the citizens of the community.

As an avid champion of the OSGeo Foundation, and the work they do. We understand the value, stability, and viability of all geospatial technologies is, without question, significantly enhanced by the existence of the OSGeo Foundation. Having personally contributed financially to the QGIS project, professionally contracting FOSS derivative companies, and being an attendee at the FOSS4G 2006, FOSS4G 2007, and FOSS4G NA 2012 meetings, I believe demonstrates an appreciation and commitment to the work the 1000s of volunteers that contribute to the projects.

The Town of Orchard Park fully supports the Boston LOCs efforts to seek selection for the FOSS4G 2017 event. With the location being within a day's travel for a very large population of the country, I believe Boston would be an excellent choice for the conference.

Sincerely,  
R. Paul Warriner  
Network Coordinator,  
Town of Orchard Park

Visit the Town's website at [www.orchardparkny.org](http://www.orchardparkny.org)

*Oct 9, 2015*

Eli Adam

OSGeo conference committee

PO Box 1217

Newport, OR 97365 (USA)

Dear Mr. Adam:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo conference committee by the Boston LOC.

I'm the site lead for Facebook Boston and support the team building our mapping, geocoding, and geolocation solutions. Many of these rely on open source geospatial software. It would be great to see the conference take place in Boston and I'm sure many of the engineers on my team would be enthusiastic attendees.

Thank you,

Ryan Mack

Facebook Boston Site Lead

r@fb.com





Haley & Aldrich, Inc.  
465 Medford Street Suite 2200  
Boston, MA 02129-1400  
617.886.7400

12 October 2015  
File No. 34496-999

OSGeo Conference Committee  
PO Box 1217  
Newport, OR 97365  
USA

Attention: Eli Adam  
FOSS4G 2017

Subject: Letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston Bid

Dear Mr. Adam:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo conference committee by the Boston LOC.

Haley & Aldrich, Inc. is a 50-year old Boston-based engineering consulting firm that supports the burgeoning FOSS movement for geospatial applications. We have had the good fortune to work and partner with local FOSS database and geospatial firms in the Boston area on some of our client project engagements.

We believe that there are a number of other firms like ours in the Northeast U.S. who could benefit from exposure to, and use of FOSS4G technology and expertise in the civil and environmental engineering practice. Bringing FOSS4G to Boston in 2017 would be a great opportunity to showcase your organization and the practical applications of FOSS4G to numerous firms like ours, who often subcontract with local FOSS4G practitioners to pursue real-world business opportunities as they arise.

Haley & Aldrich supports the efforts of the Boston LOC as they seek to be selected for the 2017 event. Having personally worked with members on the committee I feel that the Boston LOC will do a great job and that Boston has great potential as a conference location.

Sincerely yours,  
HALEY & ALDRICH, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas P. Danaher".

Thomas P. Danaher  
Vice President



October 10th, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo conference committee  
PO Box 1217  
Newport, OR 97365

Dear Mr. Adam,

NBT Solutions is excited and proud to submit this letter of support for the FOSS4G 2017 conference bid submitted by Boston.

We are an 8 year old web mapping application design-build firm delivering solutions on an open source geospatial stack. We understand the value of open source geospatial for our company, our clients, and the geo-technology market landscape.

Our backgrounds in past lives are in closed source proprietary geospatial technologies. This background plus our near decade of deep work in full stack FOSS4G informs our perspective that open source geospatial has become the place where geo-innovation truly happens. It is a unique and exciting technology space that we have seen grow organically, and that we have helped introduce and prove as a solutions provider to our own private, government, and non-profit clients. The NBT Solutions team is all in.

NBT has been a sponsor of the past four FOSS4G events in the U.S. , and we will sponsor and exhibit at FOSS4G 2017 Boston. In addition we would participate with members of our team as both attendees and presenters if selected.

As a member of the Boston bid LOC, I will work to promote the event and solicit sponsorship and attendee interest from our national and regional clientele. NBT will help expand regional reach with our presence in Portland, Maine and Buffalo, NY.

The Boston LOC team is strong, experienced, well-organized, and committed; all of the properties needed to run a successful project or event. Our vision is to go big and make this THE geo-technology event of 2017. I believe that we can do this and that Boston in August is a winning setting for this world class event. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Will Mitchell'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'W'.

Will Mitchell, Principal



<http://www.paragoncorporation.com>

October 1st, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo conference committee  
PO Box 1217 Newport, OR 97365 (USA)

Dear Mr. Adam:

We are pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo conference committee by the Boston LOC.

I am an OSGEO Charter Member, PostGIS and GEOS project steering committee and development team member. My company, Paragon Corporation, hosted the OSGEO Boston code sprint in 2013. I have also been on the FOSS4G NA committees 2014 and upcoming 2016.

I am on the FOSS4G 2017 Boston planning committee. Members of Paragon Corporation plan to submit workshops and presentations for the event, and will also try to get many of our clientele to sponsor the event.

My company, Paragon Corporation is a database and web application consulting company. We are also windows PostGIS application stackbuilder maintainer and PostGIS bot maintainers. Many of our clientele are small to mid-size companies, labor unions, and start ups just beginning to discover how GIS fits into their business processes. Our clientele are most attracted to things like PostGIS, GeoServer, general FOSS web mapping frameworks, and QGIS because of both the low-cost as well as the ease with which they can integrate it into their existing offerings. As such I think they represent a yet untapped source of new OSGEO user blood. Many and many like them are local to the Boston area.

We believe that bringing the FOSS4G to Boston will continue to strengthen the local geospatial community as well as enrich the overall OSGEO community. We have many companies either hubs or centrally-located in Boston that would be very interested in attending and sponsoring. Boston enjoys one of the richest number of colleges and universities, with 2 internationally known top research universities (MIT, Harvard) just a couple of blocks away. In addition our airport Logan has many connecting flights to airports all over the world and easy transportation into the city, making it a convenient travel option for people abroad.

In addition to having one of the largest technical audiences in the country we are also a Mecca for open source. It was in Boston that the FSF movement was started. You need look no further than many of the GNU copyright notices that read "51 Franklin Street, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA", almost like a spiritual calling – come to Boston.

Sincerely,  
Regina Obe  
PSC member on PostGIS and GEOS OSGEO Projects  
pgRouting Development team member  
Committee member, Boston LOC  
Co-Founder and President, Paragon Corporation

# PEOPLEGIS

October 2nd, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo Conference Committee  
PO Box 1217  
Newport OR 97365

Dear Mr. Adam,

PeopleGIS is excited to submit a letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo conference committee by the Boston LOC.

PeopleGIS provides data management and web mapping solutions to over 100 municipalities, utilities and state agencies throughout the northeast United States. We interface with all departments throughout our client communities, providing Online Mapping, Building Permits, Work Order Management, Mobile Apps, and Snow Operations Management and many other applications, all based on an a combination of MapServer, PostGIS, OpenLayers and other OpenSource Geospatial software. As a long time user and supporter of free and open source geospatial software, we at PeopleGIS have enjoyed the growth of these products and the community that gives them life.

Bringing FOSS4G to Boston will strengthen the local geospatial community, providing resources and making connections to those companies, universities and other organizations already heavily supporting OpenSource Geospatial software. A local FOSS4G will also introduce these technologies and resources to many organizations and companies in the vibrant technology and startup scene that is Boston.

PeopleGIS is more than excited about FOSS4G coming to Boston! Members of our team would certainly participate in the process and the actual event. Having traveled to FOSS4G myself, I know how others will enjoy the setting that the Boston area has to offer and look forward to the opportunity of showing off the City we call home.

We look forward to the success of the Boston FOSS4G 2017 bid!



Kevin Flanders  
President, PeopleGIS

Oct. 8th, 2015

Eli Adam  
OSGeo conference committee  
PO Box 1217 Newport, OR 97365 (USA)

Dear Mr. Adam:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the FOSS4G 2017 Boston bid being submitted to the OSGeo conference committee by the Boston LOC.

I am a developer evangelist at Red Hat and have been active in the geo community, since 2000 when I started working at Yale. Since then I have worked at ESRI, deCarta, and at several consulting agencies. I have worked hard to bring Red Hat to more Geo events, such as the FOSS4G NA in Raleigh this coming year. I have also had my team sponsor several different geo events including FOSS4G NA, FOSS4GE, and FOSS4G in Portland. I am also one of the founding organizers of JS.geo.

I believe that bringing the FOSS4G to Boston will give the international community the opportunity to experience the vibrant Boston Geo community in a fun and interesting setting. With all the historical landmarks and being a former Code For America city, there are many interesting use cases and geo activities that could be done in the area. Boston also has great universities, a amazing startup community, and a local government that is engaged with the FOSS community. Having the event in Boston could help engage the local startups (including some from NYC) as well as provide great use cases to share with local government officials who will attend from the great New England and New York area.

Red Hat's second largest engineering and business office is right outside of Boston and I would love to try to get more involvement from my company to the event. I think there is a lot of experience from the larger FOSS community that Red Hat could bring to the event. For example I might try to get one of our legal counsel come and talk about some of their experience dealing with FOSS licensing. Working at Red Hat it has been really eye opening seeing the discussions with the legal group around issues I thought were simple. We could also help introduce some FOSS technologies (not products) that are not as widely known in the geo community like storage from gluster and ceph, software defined networking, and container technology.

I fully support the efforts of the Boston LOC as they seek to be selected for the 2017 event. Having worked with others on the committee I feel that the team is a powerful mix of dedicated members of the academic, business, and government community. I also think the Boston GIS community is internationally recognized for all the excellent outreach and expertise they have added to the entire FOSS4G community. I believe that Boston has great potential as a conference location and that the LOC will do a great job highlighting/bringing the local community and running a memorable event.

Sincerely,  
Steven Pousty  
Lead OpenShift Evangelist, Red Hat

## VII. ATTACHMENT 2: AVOIDING POTENTIAL CONFLICTING EVENTS

---

To maximize attendance it is important to try and avoid other geo, or open source events that might be competing for attendees. The information below summarizes our due diligence on why August, 2017 should be a very good time to hold the conference from a conflict avoidance perspective.

Compared to the months of July, September, October, and November, there are no known conflicting events in August 2017. Conferences that have recently been held in that time frame have now moved earlier in the summer:

### **National Conference on Geography Education**

<http://www.ncge.org/conference>

Washington, DC 2015-08-06

Tampa, FL 2016-07-28

Albuquerque, NM 2017-07-27

### **International Cartographic Conference**

<http://icaci.org/calendar/>

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 2015-08-23

Washington, DC 2017-07-02

In addition and August timeframe avoids potential conflicts with FOSS4G's traditional timing in September, right before the busy October conference season. Key geo conference in the October timeframe historically include:

### **National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) -**

Annual Conference Oct. 6–8, 2015

**URISA GIS Pro** - Oct. 18–22, 2015

**JSgeo** conference - Oct. 8, 2015

**Minnesota GIS-LIS Consortium** - Oct. 8–9, 2015. Also, a variety of other state shows including Nevada, Arizona & New York State take place in the Fall.

### **Conference on Spatial Information Theory XII (COSIT 2015)**

Oct . 12–16, 2015

**Advances in Geospatial Technologies for Health** - Oct 13–15, 2015

**Geo for Good User Summit** - Oct 12 – 16, 2015

**Esri European User Conference** - Oct 14 - 16, 2015