

FOSS4G Global Philadelphia 2017

Organizing Committee

Robert Cheetham, CEO, Azavea (Chair)

Rob Emanuele, Development lead, Azavea (Program Chair)

Sarah Cordivano, Project Manager, Azavea

Eddie Pickle, Managing Director, Open Source Programs, RadiantBlue Technologies

Alyssa Wright, VP Partnerships, Mapzen

Patrick Cozzi, Principal Graphics Architect, AGI

Andrew Hill, Chief Science Officer, CartoDB

Jonathan Tehrani, Organizer, MaptimePHL

Dana Bauer, Developer, Rackspace

Experience of Committee: Our team is a very experienced one which includes past chairs and a program chair from FOSS4G North America. Our team has experience organizing dozens of open source geospatial events over a number of years. Members of our team have been to all past FOSS4G North America conferences, and nearly all past FOSS4G Global events. Members of this team also organized and participated in the 2015 OSGeo Code Sprint in February, and the November 2014 LocationTech code sprint.

The committee chair, Robert Cheetham, is the founder and CEO of Azavea, a B Corporation based in Philadelphia that creates civic geospatial software and data analytics. Azavea is located just two blocks from the proposed venue and has been a leader in the Philadelphia geospatial community for 15 years. Azavea developers have both made contributions to OSGeo projects, have attended OSGeo code sprints for the past five years, and have actively participated in several FOSS4G events,

Sarah Cordivano from our team founded GeoPhilly in 2013 and has grown it to over 700 people with regular meetings and events. Jonathan Tehrani co-founded MaptimePHL in 2014 which is growing and meeting regularly in order to create a beginner friendly environment for learning about topics related to open source geospatial technology. Many people from our team have been active in both past FOSS4G events and the LocationTech Tour. The Tour is a popular federated series of global events and is especially well established & attended in this region of North America (Ottawa, Montreal, Boston, NYC, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., etc).

Logistics Organizer: We intend to partner with LocationTech & the Eclipse Foundation as a logistics organizer (LO). They have considerable experience organizing many open source & FOSS4G events including FOSS4G NA 2015 and FOSS4G NA 2016 in addition to the 20+ annual EclipseCon conferences. They offer a comprehensive set of services, including both financial backing as well as the leadership of Andrew Ross and his Eclipse Foundation colleagues, which will help ensure the conference is a success.

Venue: The conference will take place at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in downtown Philadelphia. It has ample space and is located in a prime location in Center City Philadelphia. It is within easy walking distance to Philadelphia's subways and regional transit and is surrounded by a plethora of food and entertainment options.



Why Philadelphia?

Location: Philadelphia is a prime location with easy car, bus and rail access from major cities such as NYC, Baltimore, Boston, and D.C. ensures the conference will draw attendance from four (likely more) major spatial communities within the Northeast corridor. 45 million people live within 200 miles of Philadelphia. For travelling within Philadelphia, a robust public transit system and bike share network supplements what is inherently a very walkable city. And with more than 100 academic institutions in the metro region, the conference can be a meaningful, constructive learning experience for substantial academic audience.



International Friendly: As the birthplace of America, Philadelphia is a destination city for international travelers. It's not uncommon to hear several different languages during a short stroll through the City Hall courtyard or passing by the Constitution Center (home of the Liberty Bell) in Old City. Philadelphia International Airport, with more than 1,200 daily flights, is one of the largest in the United States, is a hub for American and Southwest Airlines, and has many direct flights to Europe, makes the city accessible from a wide range of locations worldwide.

Lodging & Accommodations: An experienced, established network of hotels (approximately \$150-250 nightly) provides almost 5,000 hotel rooms within a four minute walk of the Convention Center and more than 9,000 hotel rooms within a 15 minute walk. Philadelphia also has the differentiator of being an affordable city, providing comparable quality amenities (housing, transit, food and culture) at costs well below other major cities. AirBnB also features 1,000 housing (low cost) options within walking distance to the Convention Center to become significantly larger between now and FOSS4G 2017. There are also multiple hostels within easy walking distance.

Community: Philadelphia contains a mature, vibrant tech ecosystem which embraces open source and education. OpenDataPhilly, Philadelphia's open data portal (with over 300 datasets) is the only community led data portal for a city of its scale. Meetups such as GeoPhilly (700+ members), Code for Philly (the local Code for America brigade with 1500+ members), and Girl Develop It Philadelphia (3000+ members) provide ample opportunities to learn and work on projects which utilize open source tools, many including mapping. We even have teams in government using agile methods to redesign our city website out in the open! Technically Philly, Philadelphia's local tech media outlet is a fantastic resource for the distribution of tech news as well as a regular event host. LocationTech has a number of members with staff and projects in the area; many of these projects have committers and users in Philadelphia.

Food/Drink: There are more than 1,000 restaurants and more than 300 outdoor cafes in Philadelphia, and the area near the convention center offers some of the best food options in the City. The Reading Terminal Market, a food lover's haven, is attached to the Convention Center. With over 80 vendors, this is, without a doubt, the best place to eat lunch in Philadelphia. Philadelphia also has a lively entertainment scene with hundreds of venues for nightlife and sporting events. The Convention Center is also adjacent to Chinatown with dozens of additional restaurants. Surrounding the convention center and Chinatown are more than 100 additional eating and entertainment establishments.

Affordability: Philadelphia is one of the most affordable big cities in the United States for a meal or a night out. Numerous establishments offer dinners under \$15 and beers around \$6.

Timing: Bringing FOSS4G 2017 to Philadelphia means capitalizing on a strong & growing open source geo momentum, in a way that has the potential to catalyze an open source tipping point and cement the culture for the long haul.