# css code for Science & Society 2022 annual report

Photo by <u>Dale Nibbe</u> on <u>Unsplash</u>

# 2022: A year of new partnerships and pathways

At Code for Science & Society (CS&S), we envision a future where open research, data, and technology effectively work towards equitable distribution of resources, knowledge, and power. **To build this future, there is an urgent need for deeper investment in effective community-centered programs.** New, equitable models for research, governance, and community engagement are being developed across our fiscally sponsored projects and core programs.

2022 was marked by several important milestones for CS&S. In September we celebrated 6 years since our initial incorporation, pushing us squarely out of the startup years. I've been with the organization since 2017, and seen the organization through cycles of exploration, development, and reflection in our programmatic development. In 2022, we hit our stride. Across our robust <u>Fiscal Sponsorship Program</u>, grantmaking <u>Event Fund</u>, and capacity-building <u>Digital Infrastructure Incubator</u>, we saw the impact of our work over the last few years reflected back through data and stories.

In 2022, our <u>Fiscal Sponsorship Program</u> supported <u>13 projects</u> with comprehensive fiscal sponsorship, strategic, and fundraising support. We are proud to welcome projects <u>OA.Works</u> and <u>URSSI</u> to our community and to report exciting work across the projects including groundbreaking research, exciting software releases, and community centered collaborations. Our community-governed grant-making program, <u>Event Fund</u>, has now awarded over \$525,000 USD to 3 cohorts of grantees representing 37 organizing teams hailing from 27 countries across 6 continents. The fund released <u>an impact</u> <u>report</u> covering 2020-2022. The first cohort of the <u>Digital Infrastructure</u> <u>Incubator</u> program saw strong engagement and impact. Its tailored approach bridged research and practice to support open source teams. Its impact is seen in new resources, project progress, and testimonials of the participants. Another cohort focused on visions of shared power will launch in March 2023.

Internally, we invested in building up the core of the organization. We developed effective services and organizational culture to support the programs that are the foundation of CS&S. I am particularly proud of another clean audited financial report from the fiscal year ending in July 2022, which shows robust growth and rigorous operations. We launched a new website, where you can browse <u>all our public documents</u>, including audited financials, 990s, and annual reports.

I hope you'll join me in celebrating the 2022 accomplishments of our teams and communities. In 2023, we will release a strategic plan, celebrate with open community events, and continue to grow our programs. As we reflect and build on 2022, I invite you to dream with us in 2023.

With sincere appreciation,

Danielle Robinson, PhD — Executive Director & President



# 2022: Snapshot

### Programs

Our programs flourished in 2022, supporting research, projects, and communities of practice.

#### FISCAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Annual project budgets range from

# \$100,000 to over \$1 million

- **2** new projects in 2022
- **13** projects fiscally sponsored in 2022

#### **EVENT FUND**

\$525,000 awarded

27 countries across 6 continents

# **37** organizing teams

**3** cohorts of grantees

#### DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE INCUBATOR

In 2022:

6 teams spent 6 months

focused on governance, sustainability, and community health

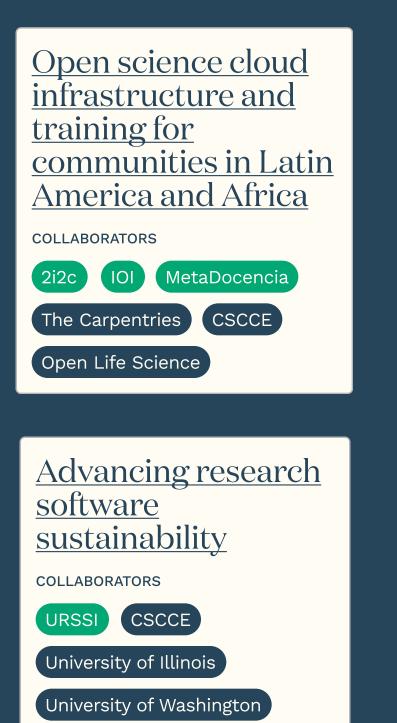
#### In 2023:

4 teams will spend 8 months

focused on open infrastructure projects prioritizing community stewardship, co-ownership, and co-design

### Collaborations

4 unique initiatives launched in 2022, showcasing how our community collaborates.



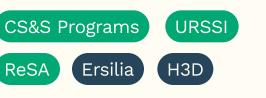
### Boosting community engagement in preprint review

COLLABORATORS

PREreview eLife

Building communities of practice working on climate-sensitive infectious disease

**COLLABORATORS** 



CS&S Fiscally Sponsored Projects and Programs External Collaborators

### Finances

CS&S ended its June 30. 2022 fiscal year with healthy increases in both total revenues (34%) and total assets (59%).

# **TOTAL REVENUES** \$7.57M

up 34% from 2021

TOTAL NET ASSETS

\$7.3M

up 59% from 2021

We are proud of the growth in existing programs and fiscally sponsored projects, as well as the addition of new programs and projects that are reflected in these numbers.

# Strategy & programs

**Our mission** is to advance the power of data to improve the social and economic lives of all people through public education, scientific research, and technology development and deployment.

We envision a future where open research, data, and technology effectively work towards equitable distribution of resources, knowledge, and power.

# Growing together in 2022

In 2022, programmatic initiatives across CS&S continued to explore community-centered practices in research, data, and technology. The past 12 months have seen us grow our portfolio of fiscally sponsored projects, engage collaborators in new research projects, and work in depth with communities of practice.

We welcomed 2 new projects to the Fiscal Sponsorship Program, growing this program to 13 projects. A third cohort of 13 grantees were supported by data science Event Fund, bringing the total dollar amount of grants made by the fund to \$525,000 USD. We worked in depth on governance, sustainability, and community health with the first Digital Infrastructure Incubator cohort.

Underlying all of this work is our vision. Research, data, and technology are key to humanity's future. We believe that community-led initiatives unlock new futures. We envision a world where communities leverage research and technology to improve lives on their own terms. Our programs and fiscally sponsored projects looked beyond tech-solutionism in 2022 to explore shared power, the nuts and bolts of effective open governance, and access to knowledge. Read on for more about our work in 2022. <u>Subscribe to our newsletter</u> to stay current on what we are dreaming and building in 2023.

Across all programs in 2022 we deepened our focus on the relationship between open innovation and the global distribution of resources, knowledge, and power. Our community, grantees, and partners are pursuing solutions to pressing problems related to climate change, racial bias, and equitable access to information. In support of this work, CS&S programmatic initiatives offer critical tools, camaraderie, resources, and intentionally facilitated space to deepen these explorations.

The most notable tideswell at CS&S in 2022 has been an increased engagement in collaboration across our organization. We see this as evidence of the purposeful power our community is building. This year saw growth in funded collaborative work among our programs, fiscally sponsored projects, and grantees, as well as with outside partners. We celebrated new fiscally sponsored projects receiving major funding for cross-organizational work (URSSI partnership, OA.Works's work with BMGFG). The CS&S programs team launched a collaboration between Event Fund grantees, fiscally sponsored projects, and new communities as a part of funded research and community building (climate sensitive infectious disease (CSID) community of practice).

Photo by Teemu Paananen on Unsplash

We are thrilled to support fiscally sponsored projects partnering together with peer orgs in developing new work for underserved markets (Open science cloud infrastructure and training for communities in Latin America and Africa). Across our fiscally sponsored portfolio, teams are hiring community engagement managers, researchers, and other roles to support critically-focused, healthy growth. In December 2022, our organization headcount numbered 35 full-time employees across programs and projects.

In the pandemic's third stubborn year, CS&S also turned a gaze inward to build out our organizational infrastructure. To support our growing programs, we rethought our staffing plan to increase redundancy, improve services, and better enable leadership development. We also invested our capacity to tell the story of CS&S's programs and projects. Our new new website, launched in October 2022, draws attention to the resources produced in programs and by our standard-setting operations team.

Looking ahead to 2023, the work of 2022 has set us up for a new chapter of innovative, collaborative work. Read on for more details on the accomplishments of CS&S programs in 2022.



# Fiscal Sponsorship Program

Established in 2017, CS&S's Fiscal Sponsorship Program supports mission-aligned projects in public interest research, education, and technology. The program is home to open source software practitioners, research teams, technical communities of practice, and advocates for community-centered futures in research and technology. In 2022, the fiscal sponsorship program grew to support 13 projects, with the addition of new projects <u>OA.Works</u> and <u>URSSI</u>. Fiscally sponsored projects range in budget size from \$100,000 USD to over \$1 million USD, and include established and new initiatives. Together with this community of leaders, we're building the future of research, education and technology.

# Comprehensive support for innovative teams

At CS&S we envision social and organizational structures that support community-led research, education, and technology. In service of this vision, the **CS&S Fiscal Sponsorship Program (FSP) supports an interdisciplinary portfolio of international, mission-aligned projects**, with an emphasis on projects seeking to explore community-led models or otherwise interrogate existing power hierarchies.

Our program offers a uniquely engaged, hands-on approach to fiscal sponsorship. Fiscally sponsored projects are a core part of our dynamic community. Projects are housed at CS&S and supported with full operations and financial management. Our executive and partnerships teams provide hands-on advising for governance, fundraising, and strategy. Beyond this practical support, projects are connected to a community of other project teams and our wider network of grantees and colleagues. We leverage our community networks and resources to provide targeted strategic support to our projects, all built on a foundation of non-profit financial and operational expertise.

We welcomed 2 new projects to the FSP program in 2022:

<u>OA.Works</u> builds tools to make open-access easy and equitable. Initially founded in 2013 as a response to the corporatized and locked-down scholarly publishing landscape, the OA.Works project has expanded to a suite of tools geared towards sharing technology that centers people and communities.

<u>URSSI</u> advocates for the recognition, development, and use of software for a more sustainable research enterprise. URSSI is building an inclusive community of research software engineers, maintainers, contributors, and users focused on making research software open and accessible.

#### FISCALLY SPONSORED PROJECTS ARE FLOURISHING

In 2022 the FSP program flourished under expanded partnerships and activities. We saw new partnerships in cross-project collaborations and in work scoped with external partners. Many of our projects made advancements in the sustainability of existing software development, with many announcing new releases and expanded capabilities. The FSP program also released impactful research in 2022, shedding light on critical issues in the open-source and social impact spaces.

#### NEW PARTNERSHIPS

• 2i2c, IOI, and MetaDocencia <u>announced</u> a partnership with The Carpentries, CSCCE, and Open Life Science to build open science cloud infrastructure and training for communities in Latin America and Africa. This project is supported by the Chan Zuckerberg Institute.

• DAIR <u>launched a partnership</u> with machine translation startup <u>Lesan AI</u> to study and develop open-source natural language processing tools for Ge'ez-based languages such as Tigrinya, Tigre, and Amharic, for use in social media settings.

• IOI hosted the <u>IOI Funders Summit</u>, gathering key stakeholders involved in financing and resourcing open infrastructure. As part of the event, IOI <u>announced</u> the launch of a fund to catalyze and deepen investment in open infrastructure in underresourced areas. Photo by Josh Calabrese on Unsplash

• M-Lab sponsored a cohort of <u>research fellows</u> investigating topics related to end-user internet performance. Research groups from EPFL, UCLA, and UC Santa Barbara participated in the work and <u>posted</u> <u>their findings online</u>.

• OA.Works integrated the <u>ShareYourPaper</u> tool with the <u>Open</u> <u>Climate Campaign</u> website, enabling researchers to easily make their work addressing global climate issues freely available. Their work was <u>presented</u> at a UN panel on climate justice.

• **PREreview** partnered with eLife to boost community engagement in preprint review. This work focused on improving technology, practices, and culture to support a more <u>open</u> <u>and participatory ecosystem for the</u> <u>public review of preprints</u>.

• **ReSA** <u>gathered research software</u> <u>funders</u> at The <u>Future of Research</u> <u>Software workshop</u> with the Netherlands eScience Center. Participation from 60 representatives and 45 organizations brought a unique, diverse frame to supporting sustainable research software on a global scale.

• URSSI and ReSA partnered with CS&S to understand the landscape of communities of practice working on climate-sensitive infectious disease. Together, this partnership will engage open source and research software groups to codesign and enable the foundations for a sustainable and robust <u>climate</u> <u>sensitive infectious diseases (CSID)</u> <u>community of practice</u>.

#### **DEVELOPMENTS IN SOFTWARE** PROJECTS

• 2i2c began a collaborative effort with GESIS Notebooks to develop a persistent BinderHub functionality, on an expanded set of cloud infrastructures. This developmentfocused work presents a new area of growth for the 2i2c team, expanding their expertise beyond cloud infrastructure operations.

• M-Lab announced expanding its platform infrastructure to the cloud, aiming to support more internet path measurements, more flexible deployments, and opening the way for alternate deployment models for measurement services.

• OA.Works received funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support development on OA.Report, which enables tracking of adherence to open-access policies of grantee publications. The work was profiled in Nature.

• OpenRefine was awarded a prestigious Essential Open Source Software for Science grant from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative to fund its development in 2023 and 2024, with planned work centered on improving the reproducibility of OpenRefine workflows.

• **OpenReview** expanded its base of high profile conferences supported to include International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) and Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Conference (CVPR), joining flagship scientific conferences in leveraging open peer review of conference papers.

• **PREreview** collaborated with open science consultancy group eScire and SciELO Preprints to develop a PREreview plugin that integrates with the Open Preprint Systems (OPS) software, part of a toolset provided by the Public Knowledge Project.

#### EXCITING RESEARCH

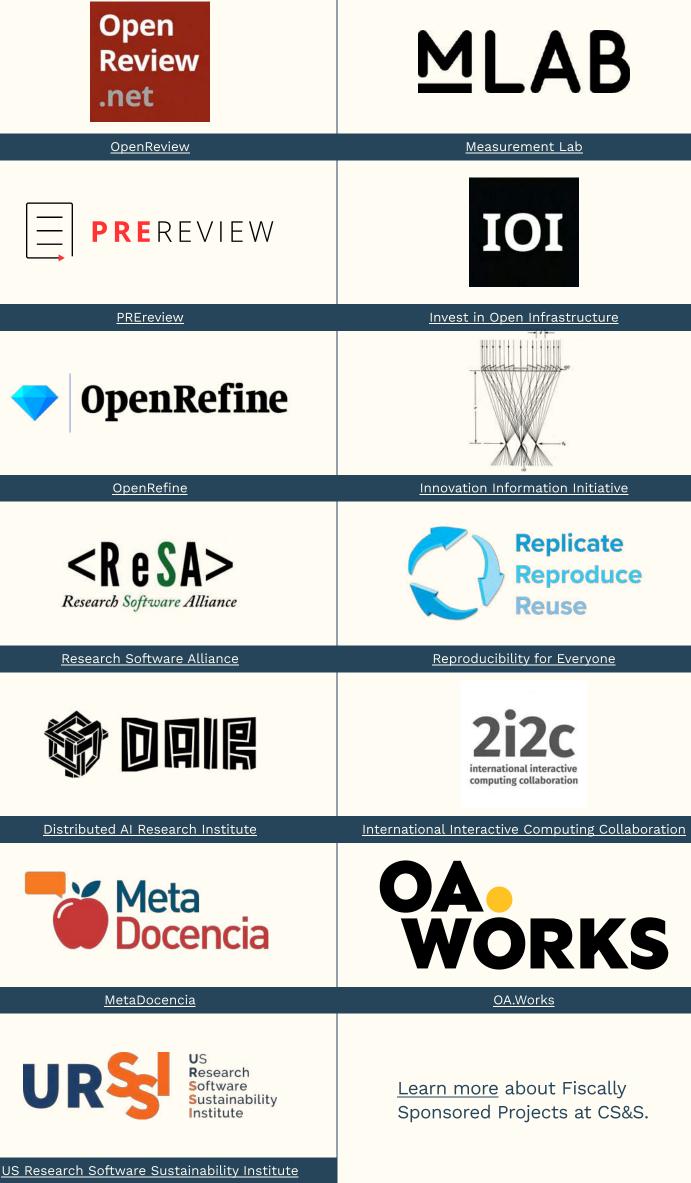
• **DAIR** Fellow Raesetje Sefala received the Deep Learning Indaba X's most rigorous researcher award at the 2022 edition of the Deep Learning Indaba, the largest machine learning conference in Africa. Raesetje presented her studies on Spatial Apartheid in South Africa, and improving traffic safety in Jakarta, Indonesia.

• **IOI** published a preliminary study investigating support for open infrastructure of preprints. IOI's work provides recommendations for improving sustainability in the preprints space, and highlights the increasing need to leverage open infrastructure in the development of preprint systems.

• M-Lab collaborated with OONI to publish a report analyzing Internet disruptions data in Iran as a result of the Internet shutdown events that emerged in Iran following the murder of Jhina (Mahsa) Amini in September 2022 and resulting protests.

• **ReSA** project leader Dr. Michelle Barker and colleagues published the article "Introducing the FAIR Principles for research software" (FAIR4RS) in the journal Scientific Data. This work shared key examples and findings of the FAIR4RS Working Group on the implementation and impact of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) practices in the research software community to encourage broader discussion and adoption.

Fiscally sponsored projects are supported by diverse revenues, including philanthropic grants, donations, and fee for service work. Learn more and consider supporting our our fiscally sponsored projects at codeforsociety.org/donate



# Event Fund

Launched in 2020, CS&S Event Fund has disbursed over \$525,000 USD in small grants to 3 cohorts of grantees representing 37 organizing teams hailing from 27 countries across 6 continents. Initial support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation grew with resources from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and Wellcome Trust. The 2022-2023 cohort of grantees includes 13 teams building communities across topics ranging from environmental science to infectious disease and public health. Read more about our <u>full list of grantees</u>.

### Catalyzing communities of practice for inclusive data science

Tackling the complex challenges of the 21st century will require robust, collaborative, transnational data science networks. Data and community organizing skills are both needed effectively mitigate climate change, resource inequities, and global health crises. In scientific and technical communities, formal and informal events play a crucial role in building technical skills and community networks. However, without training and support for organizers, events tend to be pitched towards existing communities. This limits participation, reinforces silos, and misses opportunities to build diverse data science communities. CS&S Event Fund invests directly in social infrastructure for data science by funding data science event organizing teams. Strongly organized virtual and in-person events cultivate the culture and connections that create the next generation of more equitable scientific practices, infrastructures, and technologies.

Event Fund looks to grow communities of practice, or groups of people who share a domain of interest and learn as they interact together. Despite the importance of fostering dialogue within and across scientific networks, the time and organizational labor required to catalyze and sustain communities of practice is often undervalued and under-resourced. Event Fund fills this gap in the current scientific landscape. We offer grant funding (up to 20K USD), a cohort-based networking experience, and training opportunities for event organizers to support a strong global network. We have taken a community-centered approach to funding by assembling advisory and selection committees of individuals actively engaged in data science. Read more about the governance of the fund and subscribe to our newsletter to keep up with how we are exploring participatory grant-making through this and other models.



Third cohort Event Fund Grantee Ersilia and H3D Foundation ran a <u>four-day workshop</u> in September 2022. This event supported early career researchers across African countries with tools and knowledge to apply data science approaches to infectious disease drug discovery. *Image source: Susan Winks and Gemma Turon (H3D Foundation and Ersilia;* Photographer: Tamara Krige).

# Broadening participation & building capacity

Over the last three years, we have observed the following impacts:

#### Capacity in grantee communities

Event Fund helped grantees establish operational capacities that position them to implement future programming. 9 of 12 grantee respondents who have completed their events agreed that they feel better prepared to run more inclusive events in the future. 6 grantees established new fiscal host relationships, enabling community management of funds. Critically, Event Fund capital has helped unlock additional funding, with 8 grantee teams noting that they had already received additional financial support for their work.



#### Lowered barriers to participation

By inviting and investing in people and organizations that have not yet had opportunities to prove themselves, the Fund has supported new voices and communities. Events run by grantees have drawn new people to the field. Resourcing these events directly invests in spaces for new connections and communities.

#### Normalizing inclusive practices

Event Fund sponsored events are shifting global data science practices to be more inclusive. Grantees are learning best practices around accessibility in order to sustain the engagement of diverse communities of participants. Our grantees are also sharing their learnings via publications and talks, helping to shift expectations and norms in the field.

Event Fund has been supported by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Wellcome Trust and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative.











Survey data from 2022 shows that participants across different contexts are inspired to continue working with data and applying skills learned at events to their work.

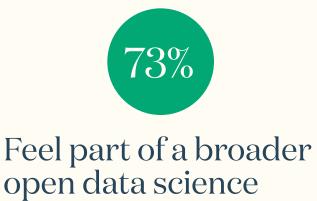
We have learned that supporting community leaders to run data science events has significant impacts for individual leadership and career trajectories, far-reaching impacts for global science communities, and positive benefits for the field at large.

Data was collected from 178 event participants via survey.



### Gained confidence working in open data science

77% agreed that they gained confidence working in open data science by attending the event.



# open data science community

73% feel part of a broader open data science community.

### Event Fund grant pushes university to restructure support for undocumented students

Flexible, grantee-driven budget-making can be transformative. For example, one grantee working within a large university noted that the openness of the Event Fund funds catalyzed an organizational conversation about how to remove barriers for those typically unable to access university funds (in this case, undocumented students).

"The flexibility of the Event Fund grant allowed us to open our event to students who are normally not allowed to participate. All of the other funds that have been available to us—federal (NIH/NSF) grants and institutional funding derived from state legislature-appropriated funds—do not allow us to pay stipends to undocumented students. [Since EF does not have such stipulations, it allowed us to pay people we normally cannot.] This forc[ed] our research administration to create mechanisms to pay stipends to students who the university says are **not "allowed" to receive them.** This paves the way for future programs to do the same." (2021 Event Fund grantee)



Inspired to make changes to their own work & practice

88% of event participant respondents were "inspired to make changes to my own practices/work as a result of attending this event."

Find further details in the Event Fund's full 2022 impact report.

Subscribe to our newsletter to follow this work in 2023.



# Digital Infrastructure Incubator

Supported in 2022 by The Digital Infrastructure RFP, the DII will continue in 2023 with support from Ford Foundation and Omidyar Network. The 2021-2022 program hosted a cohort of 6 teams for 6 months split into 3 focus groups (governance, community engagement, cultural infrastructure). The open call released in the fall of 2022 invited proposals from open infrastructure projects wishing to explore visions of mutual power: community stewardship, co-ownership, and co-design. The 2023 cohort will be supported by mentors to apply learnings and design interventions to support shared power in open digital infrastructure.

# Bridging research and practice in open source

The <u>Digital Infrastructure Incubator</u> bridges research about and the practice of building sustainable, open, digital infrastructure. Connecting researchers, practitioners, strategists, designers, and a wider public, the Incubator is an interdisciplinary, cohort-based, capacity-building program focused on emerging leaders across a global, open-source infrastructure landscape. In June 2022 we concluded work with 6 teams split into 3 focus groups on governance, community engagement, and cultural infrastructure. The accompanying public event series, Building Laterally, hosted 14 speakers and translators across 4 events, now <u>archived and accessible online</u>. As 2022 closed, we opened a call for a new cohort focused exclusively on community engagement, specifically prioritizing teams centering community stewardship, co-ownership and co-design. In March 2023, we will launch programming for the new cohort and look forward to deeply engaging in issues of community-centered technology.

#### NOT A THINK TANK, A PRACTICE TANK

Over the course of the 2022 Digital Infrastructure Incubator, 6 participant teams engaged a shared curriculum, collected resources and exercises, and worked with invited mentors and each other. Projects were drawn from across the open ecosystem (open hardware, open source, research software, civic tech). Central themes of sustainability and community health were addressed in strategic discussions of project governance, designs for community engagement, and plans for translation and localization. In the program's exit survey, all respondents reported that this mix synchronous and asynchronous work with an interdisciplinary cohort of emerging resulted in change at the project, team, or personal level. 70% of the participants reported that all three the project, team, and personal approach - were changed by the program.

This change was expressed in comfort with new ways of thinking, in the effect of having had the space to experiment with design, and ultimately in their individual and project approaches to growth, community, and sustainability.

#### COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO BUILDING LATERALLY

Incrementally growing audiences from October 2021 through May 2022 came from academia, nonprofit, and tech sectors. 97% of responding attendees found value in the session they attended.

Recordings of discussions with a cross-sector collection of speakers have been viewed hundreds of times, with testimonies like: "I'm still absorbing the panel. It didn't meet my expectations, it exceeded them. I'm extraordinarily grateful for how the discussion lifted my sights to a higher goal."

The Digital Infrastructure Incubator is supported by the Ford Foundation and Omidyar Network. <u>Subscribe to our</u> <u>newsletter</u> to follow this work.



### Quotes from 2022 Incubator participants

"We now have the necessary tools to talk about governance and mission/vision, whereas before we were just following our intuition."

"My approach to growing and scaling projects changed. I adopted a more sustainable approach to working for communities."

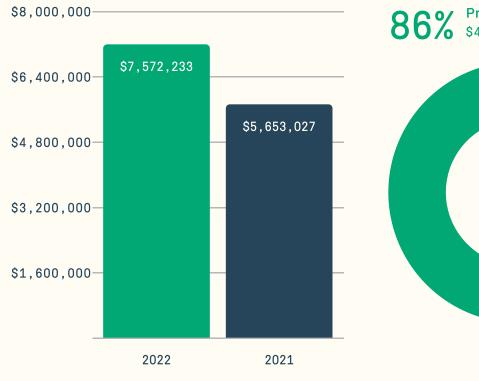
"The Incubator provided a safe and inspiring framework to develop the groundwork for a new governance model."

# 2021 and 2022 finances

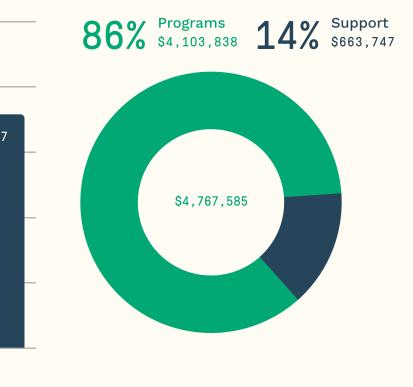
#### CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
Revenues and Support		
Grants and Contributions	\$6,887,823	\$5,503,850
Contract Revenue	684,410	145,648
Other	-	3,529
Total Revenues and Support	7,572,233	5,653,027
Expenses		
Program Services	4,103,838	2,992,452
Supporting Services	663,747	431,106
Total Expenses	4,767,585	3,423,558
Net Before PPP Loan Forgiveness	2,804,648	2,229,469
PPP Loan Forgiveness	-	162,122
Change in Net Assets	2,804,648	2,391,591
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	4,497,932	2,106,341
Net Assets, End of Year	\$7,302,580	\$4,497,932

#### TOTAL REVENUES & SUPPORT



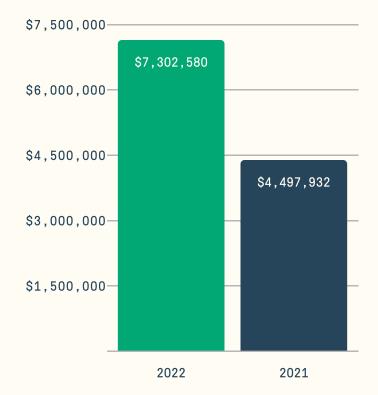
#### 2022 EXPENSES



#### CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2022	2021
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$6,035,438	\$4,204,329
All Other Assets	1,495,623	557,766
Total Assets	\$7,555,592	\$4,762,095
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable	\$168,911	\$173,163
Grants payable	84,101	91,000
Total Liabilities	253,012	264,163
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	493,319	445,396
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	6,809,261	4,052,536
Total Net Assets	7,302,580	4,497,932
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$7,555,592	\$4,762,095

#### TOTAL NET ASSETS



CS&S ended the 2022 fiscal year on June 30 2022, and we report healthy increases in both total revenues (34%) and total assets (59%). We are proud of the growth of our existing programs and fiscally sponsored projects, as well as the addition of new programs and projects that are reflected in these numbers. It is particularly gratifying to see the expanding support of our donors, as well as the continuing engagement of our staff, board, and vendors.

For full audited financial statements and other documents, please visit our <u>public documents</u> page.

# The year ahead

As we look ahead to 2023, we're keeping an eye on partnerships and collaborations across a global, interdisciplinary, open ecosystem. Where are the productive intersections between open source software, climate change, and open science? How can we understand the interplay between transnational data, information infrastructures, and local sovereignty? What will guide the continued development of best practices in diversity, equity, and inclusion as technologists and users continue to grapple with the lack of corporate accountability?

We're looking forward to digging into these questions and others with partners we've identified and with collaborators we've yet to meet. Join us!

# Support our work

CS&S works directly with community-centered research and public interest technologists. Your support enables our projects to explore emerging ideas that are advancing global access to information.

Donations to CS&S support Event Fund, the Digital Infrastructure Incubator, as well as general operations and public event costs. You may direct your donation to a specific project in the Fiscal Sponsorship Program using the drop-down menu in the form at <u>codeforsociety.org/donate</u>. Every dollar makes a difference to our community. Thank you.

Contact giving@codeforsociety.org for more information. Code for Science and Society is a registered US 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law in the US. Tax ID 81-3791683.

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Kaitlin Thaney Chair of Governance & Personnel Committee Term ended in Sept 2022

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Dorothy Dubrule Operations Manager, People

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