

federated events calendar for climate justice events grant funding proposal
november 2023, catalyst fund

Project Details

1 Project Title* federated events calendar for climate justice & digital rights events

2 I am applying for: * Build

3 Spark (up to \$10,000) Seed (up to \$20,000) Build (up to \$40,000)

4 Amount Requested* (USD) \$39.333

5 Tell us about your proposed project. Tell us about your activities, approaches, and work you plan to do should you receive this grant. (1250 characters)*

Background story of this project is: at the DRxCJ workshop in Berlin in November 2022, "we" realised that a shared calendar of events would help us to facilitate cooperation between movements & organisations -- we could learn from each other, exchange experiences, and meet more often.

In March 2023, I organised a brainstorm session with 3 participants, that resulted in the first project plan & requirements documentation; in August a new group was created that planned to start work in October but we did not start yet.

Goal is to create a calendar for climate justice in tech events.

It is important for the software and content to be shared, non-centralised, based on free software, based on open data and open standards. This is why the "federated" protocols like Activity Pub are the most probable candidate for the underlying technical solution.

The approach is: to gather a team, come up with a proposal, circulate it to multiple organisations for feedback, adjust the proposal, then write the code; after that comes the promotion & sharing, in order to achieve the collective registration of events, moderation, collection of feedback and improvements. Another possible approach is to work on the code through a series of hackathons, open to contributions by various FLOSS teams & individuals.

People that we need are: developers, designers, community builders, moderators & content managers / events organisers.

There is already documentation about the preliminary stages of the project, and a lot of collected information about the current situation & existing solutions:

- this wiki page: https://wiki.techinc.nl/Open_Data_AI_Climate_Justice_Calendar
- this crypt pad <https://cryptpad.fr/code/#/2/code/edit/2ky-MS-kYiGm26dHUjm1derA/>
- possible domain name reserved : <https://OpenMeetup.org>
- Signal group for communication of initial team members
- an offer from a development team from one of the affiliative organisations

1 What issue related to the intersection of digital rights and technology and climate justice does your project attempt to address? (1250 characters)*

The issue we are trying to solve is lack of "authoritative" calendar ("one place") for looking up Climate Justice events calendar, AND the activities of curating and creating shared calendar of Climate Justice events, together.

There are many challenges: this is not an easy problem to solve, because...

- coordinating humans is a hard job
- "search" technology is a multibillion \$ business...
- there are already MANY calendars! (multiplication of standards -> <https://xkcd.com/927/>)
- Not-invented-here factor stops people from adopting the "other" product!

There is also many requirements that are not met by existing solutions: Meetup & EventBrite are proprietary, closed platforms; "radar" is open but centralised; there are mailing lists for sharing events info but they are of limited scope & hard to find existing Technical Internet Governance calendars do not want Climate Justice events in there, and/or are not "open" to sharing & contribution; <https://events.rebellion.global> is possible candidate but would need some more work to decide if it can exchange data with other platforms, or to write plug-ins for sharing on other Activity Pub implementations.

1 How would you describe success with this project, and how will you know it was successful at the close of the project? (1250 characters)*

Criteria for success of this project are:

- there is "running code" for updating the calendar (or at least the first prototype)
- the location / URL of this calendar is well known in multiple communities
- we have attracted more contributions & funding for continuation after the initial year.

1 What is your project start date?*

2 What is your project end date?*

3 Have you received or are you anticipating other funding for this project? If so, describe the previous funding and how you're going to use the Catalyst Fund for this project. (1250 characters)*

- Project management & fund raising* 12 months , part time * 1000 € per month =12k
- Programming * 3 months / 4000 € per month = 12k
- Maintenance: 1000 per month * 6 months = 6k
- Moderatio: 500 per month, part time * 6 months = 3k
- Hosting & other costs = 500 * 6m = 3k
- Total : 36k € = 39k\$