

Phase I: Establishing Governance



## Activity 2: Governance Elements – Checklist and Planning Tool

#### Goals

- Understand the elements of various governance models and the types of strategic and tactical decisions for which governance is responsible
- Determine which elements your governance structure currently has and who has authority over key strategic or tactical decisions
- Identify and prioritize the elements you want to add in the future and which decision-making processes might be adjusted as a result

#### **Prerequisites**

None

#### **Who Should Participate?**

Current Governance participants; Community representatives

#### Length

30-60 minutes

#### **Pre-Work Instructions**

Each participant should review and complete the checklists below in advance.

#### **Activity Instructions**

- 1. As a group, discuss individual checklist results
- 2. Review agreement and then focus on differences in areas. This may surface differences about direction that need to be discussed and prioritized together
- 3. As a group, come to consensus on which gaps, if any, the program has, and prioritize what to address

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## **Activity 2: Governance Elements - Checklist and Planning Tool**

#### **Governance Elements Checklist and Planning Tool**

#### **Organization and Structure**

For each element below, note whether your program currently has the element, if it's in progress, if you don't have it now but would like to in the future, or if it's not applicable to your program.

	Have	In progress	Future	N/A
Governance Group  Board members, leadership, etc. There is some level of decision making by identified people. This can be formal or informal.				
Governance Leadership/Officers  Are there leaders within leadership? Examples include: Executive Committee, Chair/Vice Chair, Co-Chairs, Secretary, or Treasurer.				
"Sub" Groups Reporting to Overall Governance  Are there smaller, more focused subgroups that report to a higher governance board? Examples include: Technical Direction, Nominations, or Community Engagement.				
Ad Hoc Groups Are there conference committees, or short term, topical groups?				
Position Descriptions for Governance Members  Are there clear roles and responsibilities for governance members?				
Clear Terms for Governance Members Examples include 1, 2, or 3-year terms				
Term Limits for Elected Governance Members  Do members depart after specific periods or can they continue indefinitely?				
Transition Plans for Leadership Is there a documented process for how leadership transitions occur?				



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## **Activity 2: Governance Elements - Checklist and Planning Tool**

#### **Transparency and Inclusiveness**

For each element below, note whether your program currently has the element, if it's in progress, if you don't have it now but would like to in the future, or if it's not applicable to your program.

	Have	In progress	Future	N/A
Code of Conduct Is there a clear, publicly available, code of conduct?				
Transparency of Governance Process  Are elections, and other structures, clear and publicly available?				
Transparency in Meetings Are agendas, decisions, and/or meeting notes shared with the community?				
DEIA Efforts / Policies Are there DEIA strategies or efforts underway or planned?				
Technology Roadmap Are the technical direction and plans available?				

#### **Financial**

For each element below, note whether your program currently has the element, if it's in progress, if you don't have it now but would like to in the future, or if it's not applicable to your program.

	Have	In progress	Future	N/A
Fiscal Stability Is there a Fiscal Sponsor or Organizational Home relationship?				
Reserve Fund  Are there enough funds to enable the program to wind down if necessary – potentially three months of operating costs?				



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#### **Strategic and Tactical Responsibilities**

For each of the strategic and tactical responsibilities below, note if your program has a role or group responsible for the listed functions, if creating a role or convening a group is in progress, if no role or group exists now but you'd like to have one in the future, if you'd like to change which role or group is responsible, or if it's not applicable to your program.

	Have	In Progress	Future	Change	N/A
Ownership Is there a role or group responsible for:  IP ownership Branding and identity		, <u></u>			
Leadership / Chartering Is there a role or group responsible for:      Strategic planning     Mission and vision     Program initiatives					
Community Management  Does a role or group have decision-making authority for:  Community definitions  Membership policies  Path to leadership/governance					
Software Development  Does a role or group have decision-making authority for:  Technical road mapping Functional requirements UX / Design Quality assurance / Testing Release management					
Resource Management Is there a role or group responsible for:  Budgeting and resource allocation Fundraising Grant writing and management					



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# **Activity 2: Governance Elements - Checklist and Planning Tool**

	Have	In Progress	Future	Change	N/A
Use of Information and Tools Is there a role or group responsible for:  Infrastructure management (bug tracker, website, etc.) Community communications User docs management Developer docs management					