



## Samvera Partner Prospectus

Samvera Partners are individuals, institutions, corporations or other groups that have formally committed to contributing to the Samvera Community. Samvera Partners collectively advance the project and the Community for the benefit of all participants.

The Samvera Partners contribute to groups that coordinate activity from multiple institutions and development efforts. These include the Steering Group, the Roadmap Council, the Core Components Maintenance Group and Samvera's Interest and Working Groups, as well teams working on specific projects and solutions such as the Avalon Media System, Hyrax, and Hyku.

Partnership is earned by actively contributing to the Community. Partners:

- **Contribute.** In any one or more of: code, analysis, design, documentation, presentations and other forms of communication, marketing, support, funding, participation in working/interest groups, or other resources.
- **Meet.** Participate in Samvera Partner meetings and other conversations that shape our future.
- **Vote.** As a Partner, it is a duty and privilege to vote on elected positions and on other matters of importance.
- **Lead.** Help lead the way by participating in the governance of Samvera. Partners may provide input on the Community and technical direction up to the highest levels, and represent Samvera to the broader community.
- **Stay Informed.** Additionally, be among the first to be notified of any known security issues and fixes, ahead of the information being made public.

### **Benefits**

By investing financially in Samvera's future, Partners help ensure the longevity of the Community and its software. By contributing to Samvera's Working and Interest Groups, and by having staff participate in the further development of our code and solutions, Partners protect their own investment in our products and services.

In return for Partner contributions, the Community undertakes to provide a number of specific services. These include:

- The right to vote in formal Samvera decision making (one vote per Partner institution)
- The right to put up candidates for election to the Samvera Steering Group
- The right to attend Partner meetings and Partner calls
- The right to advance information about any security vulnerabilities discovered in Samvera software (via the Partners' closed mailing list)
- Centrally coordinated legal and financial services relating to
  - Rights management
  - Financial stewardship
  - Legal issues (including trademark)
- Marketing (including website and wiki)
- An annual Samvera Connect conference
- An annual Samvera Virtual Connect
- Access to the services of any Samvera appointed employees to help further local Samvera initiatives
- Public acknowledgement of Partnership in/on appropriate publicity materials (including the website and wiki)

In addition, there are less tangible, but potentially important, aspects to Samvera Partnership. For instance, many of our Partners have been successful in obtaining grants from philanthropic funds to assist and/or enhance the development of their local systems. An institution's involvement in a larger community, and a commitment to feeding back developments for the wider benefit, can be seen to support the case for grant funding. The track record of Samvera Partners in successfully delivering the outputs of their respective grants and contributing those back to community solutions may be seen as a further benefit.

## Responsibilities

All Samvera Partners are empowered with the responsibility to promote the well-being and development of the Community. Collectively, the Partners share responsibilities, including, but not limited to:

- Electing representatives to the Steering Group
- Community maintenance and growth
- Collaborative roadmapping (technical & community)
- Samvera application development
- Governance of, maintenance of and code contribution to the [core components](#)
- Design contribution: UI's, API's, data models, et al.
- Documentation and sharing of contributions, eg. through <http://samvera.github.io/>
- Community infrastructure provisioning & support (Bug trackers, Continuous Integration Servers, Web site, Wiki, etc.)
- Maintenance of the official Samvera website
- Resource coordination
- Recruitment

- Community advocacy (e.g., public speaking, writing articles)
- Participation and leadership in "Interest Groups" and "Working Groups" within the Samvera Community
- Meeting organization & planning
- Determining Community strategy

In January 2020, the Partners decided to adopt a financial Contribution Model to replace the system of voluntary donations that had previously been in place. The intention is that the increased revenue generated should be used both to fund the Community's annually recurrent expenditure and to hire a full time Community Manager. Ultimately it is hoped that it will also be possible to hire a Technical Manager. The minimum level of contribution is determined by the size of the Partner organization.

## How to become a Samvera Partner

The steps to become a Samvera Partner are:

1. Participation: Participate in the Samvera Community in one or more of the many ways described above.
2. Nomination. Be nominated by an existing Partner.
3. Invitation. Get invited to be a Partner by the Steering Group.
4. Application. Submit a brief letter of intent and the corporate Contributor License Agreement, and sign a Letter of Agreement (LoA) in support of the formal, legal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
5. Approval. Be voted in by the Steering Group, and
6. Announcement. Be welcomed formally to the Community as a Partner.

Partners sign a formal one page Letter of Agreement (LoA) in support of the formal and legal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Steering Group in April 2012. Additionally, each Partner is asked at the time of joining the group to write a brief letter of intent indicating why they want to become a Samvera Partner and what they intend to contribute to the Community. (Note that we [post these letters publicly in the wiki](#).) Partners are also required to have on file a [corporate Contributor License Agreement](#) (see [Samvera Community Intellectual Property Licensing and Ownership](#) page) to ensure that the Community can accept code and other intellectual contributions from the Partner institution. A composite document comprising the 2012 MoU, amendments made to it in 2018 to reflect the name change from Hydra to Samvera, changes made in 2019 to reflect governance changes in the Community, a version of the MoU showing the effect of these amendments, and a blank Letter of Agreement [can be found here](#).