# Intersect's Role and Identity

## What is Intersect?

The following answer is taken from the Intersect Knowledgebase at https://docs.intersectmbo.org/.

> "Intersect is a member-based organization tasked with ensuring the Cardano ecosystem's continuity and future development. Bringing members together behind a shared vision, Intersect enables a more resilient, secure, transparent, and innovative ecosystem that puts members in the driving seat of Cardano's future."

While Intersect may have been the first MBO established for this purpose, very few members believe that the objective described above should be something that is exclusive to Intersect.

## How will this be achieved?

While the above description is unlikely to be too contentious and probably aligns with why most people joined Intersect, the question of "how" has recently been an area of concern for many.

### Committees and Working Groups

Intersect was established with a structure of elected committees and committee approved working groups, in order to allow members to contribute to specific areas of concern for "the Cardano ecosystem's continuity and future development".  This allows subject matter experts and members with special areas of interest to strategise about potential activities and changes that could be carried out to drive forward their mission.

The challenge to this came when going from idea to implementation and the need to access treasury funds to act upon those strategies.

### The Pivot

Access to treasury funds was originally planned to be aligned with committee defined strategic proposals, with multiple budget Info governance actions, to give DReps the ability to select areas of focus they aligned with.  In early 2025, the Intersect leadership (Executives and Board) pivoted away from this approach, following pressure from one high profile Intersect member.

The new approach led to a single budget being prepared, with its contents defined through submissions by anyone from the broader Cardano ecosystem (whether they were an Intersect member or not), and regardless of whether they were aligned with an Intersect committee's strategic plan.  Further, the decision about which submissions to include in the budget were not made by Intersect members, but instead by a subset of DReps that were invited to review and select submissions they aligned with.

By allowing vendors to submit their proposals directly for inclusion in Intersect's budget, it resulted in Intersect volunteering to be the Administrator for the treasury funds to be used by those vendors.  This has significantly shifted the role that Intersect plays, whereby it is offering to provide services to anyone in the Cardano ecosystem.

### The Future

The change in role that was taken by Intersect for the budget and treasury withdrawals in 2025, has led to questions within the membership about how we are perceived in the Cardano ecosystem and whether it aligns with **how** members want to contribute as part of an MBO.

If Intersect chooses to continue being a **budget facilitator and funds administrator** for anyone in the Cardano ecosystem, then it is entirely possible that we will need to support vendors whose proposals are in conflict with strategies being developed by Intersect committees. An example of this occurred in the recent budget process, whereby the Intersect Board rejected the Technical Steering Committee's proposal in favour of a vendor's submission.

It is worth acknowledging that differences in ideas and approaches within the Cardano ecosystem are to be encouraged, as this allows the DReps to select the approach that aligns with their (and that of their delegator's) values and vision for Cardano, resulting in collective decisions supported by the ada holder majority stake.

Alternatively, Intersect could choose to return to its original approach, where committees develop strategic plans (a.k.a. blueprints, roadmaps, etc.), which may or may not be circulated with the broader Cardano community via Info governance actions (similar to this year's Product Committee roadmap) for feedback. From there committees may or may not choose to request treasury funds via a budget and subsequent treasury withdrawals, to finance the implementation of initiatives to realise their strategy.

If a committee does propose a strategic program of work, there may be different ways to engage with vendors to implement any work required. While an open tender process may not always be appropriate (such as for specialised technical work), committees may wish to take this approach with guidance from subject matter experts, who are either already committee members or who are brought in specifically to assist in the selection process. Doing so will give opportunities to vendors who have established a reputation in the ecosystem, while still ensuring work is aligned with the committee's strategic plan.

Ultimately, any work initiated by Intersect committees is subject to approval by the broader Cardano community, via the DReps. The program of work may be rejected at the budget Info governance action, or a specific vendor selection may be rejected as part of a treasury withdrawal for that specific contract.

# Decision

To assist the Intersect leadership in deciding how to proceed, we are requesting input from the membership in the form of a short survey.

1. Should Intersect continue to be a budget facilitator and funds administrator for anyone (including non Intersect members) in the Cardano ecosystem? (Yes, No, Unsure)

2. Given DReps will always be empowered to reject them, should Intersect committees be permitted to decide what strategic programs of work they will initiate and how the work will be executed (i.e. the vendor selection process)? (Yes, No, Unsure)

3. Intersect currently has the following functional committees - Product Committee, Open Source Committee, Technical Steering Committee, Cardano Civics Committee, Budget Committee, Growth & Marketing Committee, Membership and Community Committee.

   Should changes be made to the number or function of these committees? (Increase Committees, Decrease Committees, Change Committee Functions, No Change)

4. Please provide any comments or general feedback you would like to be considered in relation to this matter.