

Open Cleveland Code of Conduct

The Open Cleveland community expects that our events:

- Are a safe and respectful environment for all participants.
- Are a place where people are free to fully express their identities.
- Presume the value of others. Everyone's ideas, skills, and contributions have value.
- Don't assume everyone has the same context, and encourage questions.
- Find a way for people to be productive with their skills (technical and not) and energy. Use language such as "yes/and", not "no/but."
- Encourage members and participants to listen as much as they speak.
- Strive to build tools that are open and free technology for public use. Activities that aim to foster public use, not private gain, are prioritized.
- Prioritize access for and input from those who are traditionally excluded from the civic process.
- Work to ensure that the community is well-represented in the planning, design, and implementation of civic tech. This includes encouraging participation from women, minorities, and traditionally marginalized groups.
- Actively involve community groups and those with subject matter expertise in the decision-making process.
- Ensure that the relationships and conversations between community members, the local government staff and community partners remain respectful, participatory, and productive.
- Provide an environment where people are free from discrimination or harassment.

Open Cleveland Anti-Harassment Policy

Open Cleveland is dedicated to providing a harassment-free experience for everyone regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age, or religion. We do not tolerate harassment of staff, presenters, and participants in any form. Sexual language and imagery is not appropriate for any Open Cleveland event or network activity, including talks.

We take the code of conduct and our anti-harassment policy seriously and reserve the right to ask anyone in violation of these policies not to participate in Open Cleveland activities, events, and digital forums.

If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact one of the Open Cleveland organizers:

- Will Skora: skorasaurus@gmail.com

(February 2025: We are currently in the process of affiliating ourselves with ACT (Alliance of Civic Technologists) (<https://www.civictechologists.org/>)

You can contact them using the template below but acknowledge that they may not respond. However, we are hopeful that by providing these guidelines we are establishing a community that jointly adheres to these values and can provide an environment that is welcoming to all.

Email Template for Anti-Harassment Reporting

SUBJECT: Safe Space alert at [EVENT NAME]

I am writing because of harassment at an Open Cleveland event, (NAME, PLACE, DATE OF EVENT).

You can reach me at (CONTACT INFO). Thank you.

Created by the Open Cleveland community, adapted from the [Code for America Code of Conduct](#).

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