

OA Project Champs Sync - running notes

Mar 8, 2026

- Participants
 - Darrell Malone , Kevin Ouyang, Martin Liu, Liani Lye
- Agenda
 - Announcements: Inaugural quarterly at ACC (Tuesday, April 21)
 - Q's from project champs?
 - Q's from Liani:
 - What can be better? What does my team need?
 - Are all open roles still open? Do we know anyone that can fill the [open roles](#)?
 - Standout contributors?
- Notes
 - **Announcement: Inaugural quarterly at ACC (Tuesday, April 21)**
 - Context ([link to screenshot](#))
 - This is recurring! [Eventbrite](#). Forecast for next events: July/Aug, November
 - **Q's from project champs?**
 - How will the Town Hall be structured?
 - Like the City Council's HOME community engagement meetings, sponsoring council members and notable department reps gave spiels and held court.
 - Will CoPs still happen during the month of April?
 - No, to maximize Open Austinite attendance
 - Can we invite other orgs to the town hall?
 - Yes, please!
 - Will we (project champs) be expected to have presentations ready?
 - Liani will print project briefs for hand out to attendees. We are using this first convening to learn what "props" we'll need in the future
 - Are we planning on consolidating devops/infra resources under the Open Austin umbrella?
 - Yes.
 - Right now we (OneBus) are storing data on Google Drive, but going forward it would be nice to have an Open Austin data warehouse.
 - **Standout contributors?**
 - Darrell - Paige has rocking the FE dev; built out half of the views; easy to communicate with
 - Martin - Glenn has been there since the beginning; truly believes in the vision of the project (so critical to early stages)
 - Kevin - Salih has done a lot of BE setup for Tingting and the project. Tingting would be next since she's still working on FE.
 - **What can be better? What does my team need?**
 - Kevin - all good
 - Darrel - publicity and audience-getting for May 12 Data/Dev CoP
 - **Are all open roles still open? Do we know anyone that can fill the [open roles](#)?**
 - n/a
- Actions

- Darrell - f/up to confirm with Kevin Welch from EFF-Austin (he is on the Open Austin Slack) May 12
- Liani - explore if able to get AWS credits thru TechSoup ([link](#))

May 18, 2025

- Agenda

- Heads up
 - Board elections - [proposal](#)
 - Fellowship coming up
 - Summer social
- Are all open roles still open? Do we know anyone that can fill the [open roles](#)?
- Update, What can be better, What does my team need?
- (Modify together) Update GitHub product teams wiki - [page](#)
- (Discuss) Recurring project work session

- Notes

- **Quick temp check on the champs' sync**
 - Kevin & Julie - overall good
 - Kevin - wonder about explicit mechanisms for people to start talking to each other (not just champs). Interaction tends to be segregated by project.
 - Martin - is there anything to prepare for these things
- **Heads up**
 - **Board elections - [proposal](#)**
 - Open Austin incorporated as a 501c3 in 2018. Liani is the first paid staff person of the org. A big learning curve
 - We have not had a board election before, which we're trying to change. As a democratic org, we'd like to open positions up to be more competitive.
 - Some previous board members were negligent in duties
 - Want to support people who show up to things (do-ocracy)
 - Noting that we can nomination period is open, can nominate ourselves.
 - No date for elections set yet, tbd. Aslan wants it done asap after getting board election proposal past board vote.
 - Currently only Liani, Paul, and Aslan are current board members, others lapsed.
 - **Fellowship coming up**
 - New fellowship cohort to be recruited soon. We had two last year, mentored by Peter, who did capstone projects with the open data portal
 - **Summer social**
 - We've previously run the summer social as a way for people to interact more.
 - Annie is organizing it this time around
 - Will function as a fundraiser as well.
 - Also a way for project champs to promote their projects and make connections!
- **Are all open roles still open? Do we know anyone that can fill the [open roles](#)?**
 - Darrell to fill in open role template
 - Martin to move Web Designer position to "filled"
- **Update, What can be better, What does my team need?**
 - APL room reservations
 - We got a FE dev!
 - No other blockers
 - Landlord Mapper

- Onboarding FE Queens
- Maybe building an R Shiny app as a template for people to build off of
- NPDC
 - Finishing BE tasks and building V2 with additional endpoints
 - UI work has Figma ready to go
 - One FE dev is building scaffolding to transition from UI from V1 to V2.
 - Chunks of UI work
 - Login (WIP)
 - Search flow
 - Data entry flow
 - Menu screen for user profile
- One Bus
 - Still have to brief Brooke, planning on mid-June
 - Prototype up and running, still somewhat buggy
 - (nice to have) BE or transit nerd to consult with
- Research Hub
 - Project manager needed to help scale this work
- **NOT DISCUSSED - (Modify together) Update GitHub product teams wiki - [page](#)**
- **(Discuss) Recurring project work session**
 - What is the recurring work session?
 - Something to augment the project champs sync and build up the civic tech community in Austin. Want to get financial backers for physical space.
 - Ideal launch - fall, then spring
 - codeforboston.org and <https://www.instagram.com/codeforboston/?hl=en>
 - Venue - APL?
 - Central Library Special Events Center
 - \$175 per hour for non-profits
- **ACTIONS**
 - Darrell - fill in open role template (FE)
 - Martin - move Web Designer position to “filled”
 - Kevin - create the assessment survey to onboard FE Queens and review Liani’s draft letter
 - Liani - connect Martin with Eric
 - Kevin - connect Martin with urban planning acquaintance (Don)
 - Liani - fill in open role ticket for project manager
 - Darrell - connect Liani with CFB’s social media person (Cecelia Nguyen)

Apr 19, 2025

- **Agenda**
 - Checking in:
 - What can be better? What does my team need?
 - Update github stack info
 - Are all open roles still open?
 - Do we know anyone that can fill the [open roles](#)?
 - Brainstorm:
 - We’re trying to build the org as a whole together (not disparate pieces). How might the practices and product teams collaborate more?
- **Notes**
 - **Checking in:**

- **What can be better? What does my team need?**
 - Darrell - really want a weekly meetup for project(s)
 - specifically an org-wide meeting that's work-focused, not social interaction
 - Julie - noting it's hard since Austin is so far spread out North and South
 - Julie - I need a more experienced dev
 - Ex: PR has not addressed my comments. Seeing committed stuff with fundamental errors
 - Kevin
 - Nidhi and Corey having a hard time with time commitment
 - Next steps - Visualizing everything
- **Update github stack info**
- **Are all open roles still open? Do we know anyone that can fill the [open roles](#)?**
- **Brainstorm:**
 - **We're trying to build the org as a whole together (not disparate pieces). How might the practices and product teams collaborate more?**
 - I think it's good that we're meeting more often
 - Can we consolidate to a general Open Austin meetup on some cadence? Might that facilitate more cross-pollination? Liani has been hearing requests for some kind of 'Summer Social' from the data community of practice.
 - More in-person socials
 - Are people aware of where to find things? Do people have the LinkTree link?
 - Darrell - Austin has a lot of social events happening every night, our events should differentiate from that (be more technical?)
 - Julie - have we done hackathons?
 - Aslan - yes, though last one was in 2018/2019 in collab with st edwards, would likely need another partner to do another one
 - Darrell - hackathons require money and a lot of logistics, need to do a lot of planning
 - Product team sends people to practices to share their work
 - Practice hosts deliberately show the open roles board at the beginning of each session
- **Actions**
 - Liani - double-check the physical locations (Bonterra, ACC, Rec Center)
 - Other option: [Trick Hat Workway](#)
 - Julie - fill in an open role ticket for a dev that's experienced with React, [ticket template](#)
 - Liani - text Mark
 - Liani - introduce Guari, Ashwin to Kevin, Julie; explore
 - [Ashwin's contributor profile](#)
 - Julie, Kevin, Martin, Darrell - Repo link, public demo, onboarding docs

Mar 16, 2025

- **Agenda**
 - Hi!
 - Context - rebuilding org; P open austin introduction (living deck).pptx
 - Goals of this "project champions sync" experiment
 - Individual POV - learn and share best practices from each other
 - Org POV -
 - Minimum viable product team

- Represent work appropriately to public
 - NOT an “update meeting” and dialing in tone, hence short agenda
 - Synonyms - product vs. project vs. pro bono consulting engagement
 - Introductions
 - Checking in
 - Matchmaking: [Open roles](#) complement contributor profiles ([Dev contributor template](#), [Designer contributor template](#), [Data nerd contributor template](#))
 - Product documentation: [GitHub wiki](#), Google Drive
 - What can be better? What does my team need?
- **Notes**
 - **Goals of this “project champions sync” experiment**
 - **Synonyms - product vs. project vs. pro bono consulting engagement**
 - **Introductions**
 - Darrell Malone - National Police Data Coalition - how the police interact with the public dev.nationalpolicedata.org
 - Kevin Ouyang - Greater Austin Tenant Organization - bring clarity to landlord ownership obscurity
 - Martin Liu - #onebus - personal project trying build user base
 - Website: <https://onebus-app-kjy7k.ondigitalocean.app>
 - Julie Laurson - Austin Public Library - revamping room reservation system
 - **Checking in**
 - **Matchmaking**
 - Open roles <> contributor profiles
 - **Product documentation**
 - Google Drive and GH Wiki <https://github.com/open-austin/org/wiki/Product-Teams>
 - Feedback:
 - Kevin: SGTM
 - Darrell: How does having the contact info and documentation help with the bus factor?
 - Aslan:
 - Making the project point-of-contact more clear. From individual teams’ perspective - would like teams to document their work but also want to give the teams autonomy
 - Minimally on the product team page on GH - who’s on the team, and how to contact the champ
 - Darrell: Also suggest “the basics” and public instantiation of project
 - The basics = languages/frameworks, setup, some onboarding
 - **What can be better? What does my team need?**
 - Julie - Teams need direction from me. Now that we’ve met with APL staff, we have a direction, so we need to winnow down. I need to re-groom the backlog. Re: additional UX person - Jerri doesn’t seem to have a conflict so far
 - Darrell - Lot of architectural q’s; looking for senior python people or DS people.
 - Kevin - Nothing from me. I’m good on organizing platforms and facilitation. Would welcome thoughts on how to automate scraping.
 - Martin -

- Not quite open role, but need to sanity check with a data scientist.
- Site deployment - investigate vercel

- **Actions**

- Liani (and Aslan optional) - f/up with GitHub about Enterprise and workflow automations
- Kevin - assess Corey R's capacity to contribute to Landlord Mapper; if available, get him to make a contributor profile
- Darrell - fill in an open role for senior data science or python person
- Julie <> Kevin - sync up on Selenium scraping
- Martin -
 - post question to #practice-datanerds
 - Modify the open roles ticket