

ArchivesSpace TAC/UAC Leadership Meeting  
February 10, 2021

## **Breakout Theme 2: Building Teams**

This is a cumulative list of ideas from the breakout discussions related to this theme. Feel free to amplify or add to ideas from previous

Discussion questions:

Why did you decide to get involved in the UAC/TAC, and what have been the major rewards from the experience? In what ways can we better communicate the opportunities to the AS community to encourage more participation?

What makes a successful TAC/UAC team? If you've been on more than one team, compare and contrast those experiences. What worked particularly well? What didn't? Within the teams environment, how can we cross pollinate without duplicating work?

How can we ensure that each team has the right number and mix of skills, expertise, technical knowledge, etc.?

Time commitment can sometimes be a challenge, but not totally onerous. Monthly meetings have not become too burdensome and the discussion topics have been helpful.

More documentation on wiki would help with continuity.

Reasons for getting involved

Institutional priorities - people are motivated because their institutions give them responsibilities related to ASpace.

Scale-building perspective.

Learning about development prioritization and usability.

OSS citizenship.

Supporting software covering a specific and underserved need in Archives communities.

Helps to keep one abreast of ASpace development and other progress.

You get a lot of perspective on what people with similar responsibilities are doing.

Just answers for all

- Think about the success of the teams in terms of the health and well being of its members since so many leaders are taking on too much and this ain't great. This isn't sustainable.
- Can we integrate periods of non activity into things and be happy with doing nothing for a time. Be ok with being successful and finishing something.
- Making the meeting time to work together rather than being a time to report what you've done worked well. As a group you can share thoughts and work together.
- Slowing down the pace of meetings.
- Make expectations clear for all meetings and the group in general.
- Clear scoped and reasonable goals. Avoid broad abstract thing you're hoping to achieve. Nothing wrong with small goals in a given term. It's easier to measure progress. Smaller goals also make it easier to scrap a goal if it's determined it's not good and move to another.
- People with diverse experiences and backgrounds bring in different approaches to and help with answers. The decision making process is very different and it can be great to have teams with different sets of skills and knowledge of ArchivesSpace in general.
- When forming teams how are people split up? Work in the diverse experiences idea when deciding who goes onto what team.
- How do we get more people into this?
  - What if we did profiles on people who are doing committee stuff to show that all those people are and what they know and why they ended up doing this. Put out the stories to help other people get involved by showing it's awesome and you'll love it.
  - Be more transparent about the process. Be more clear in messaging. The process should be open and clear, make sure that original call for help is clear and shows what the process looks like before getting started. "You don't need any skills and there's docs and here's what happens next and how this works"
  - Rethink how we're asking people to join based on institution size. Since you can work in a BIG place but still be a lone arranger and that makes you not really a large institution even though you've joined like that. Let people define their own type of institution thing rather than the one assigned to them when their institution joined ArchiveSpace. Self identify your size.
- Why'd you get involved?
  - Only person at work using it, wanted to meet people, new to OS, being able to learn and engage with people who know more.