

/\* ACADEMY  
SOFTWARE  
FOUNDATION

# Technical Advisory Council (TAC) Overview

February 2024

# Academy Software Foundation Overview and Governance

# An Open Source Foundation Developed in Partnership



The Academy Software Foundation provides a neutral forum for open source software developers in the motion picture and broader media industries to share resources and collaborate on technologies for image creation, visual effects, animation and sound.



# ASWF created

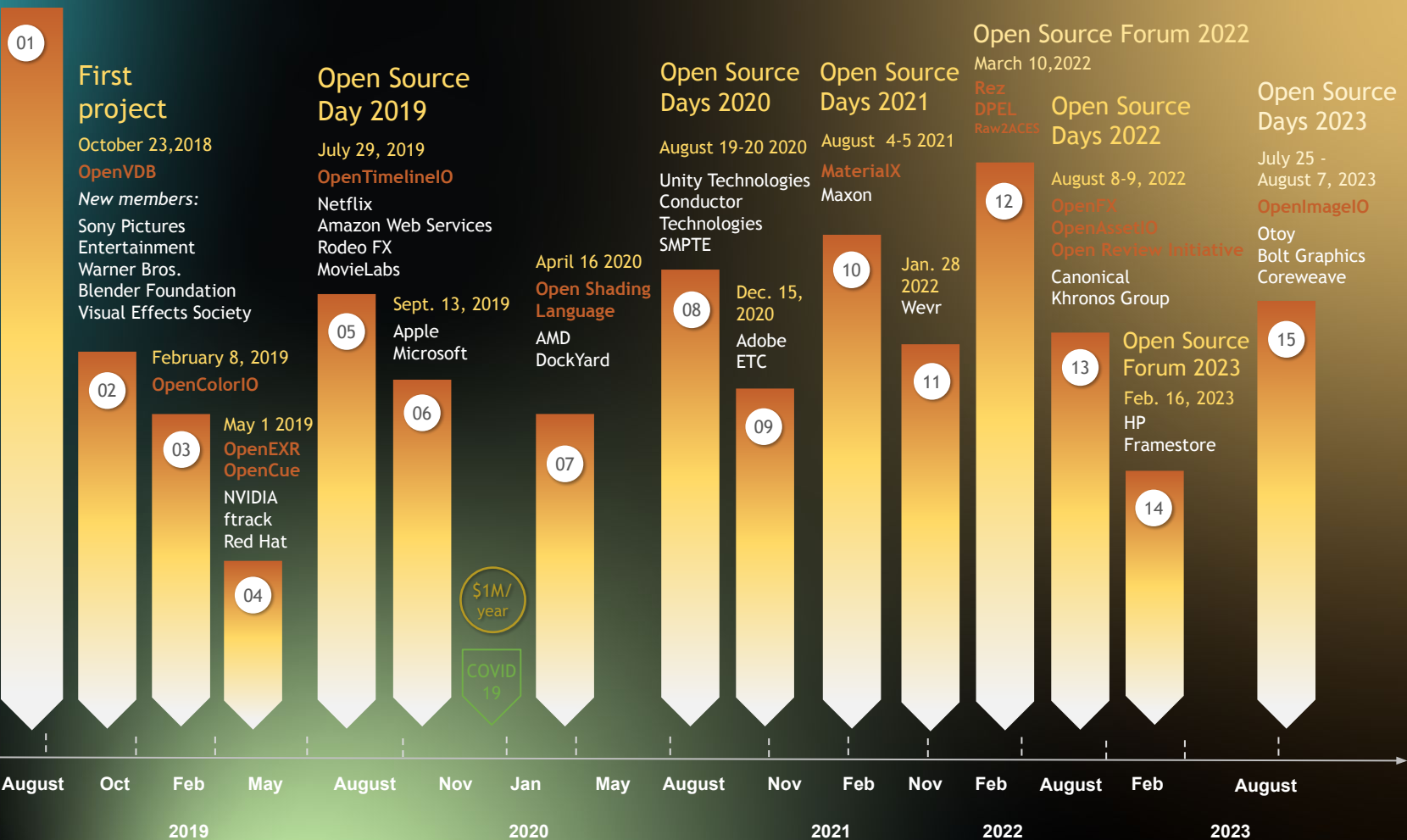
August 10, 2018

Founding members:

Animal Logic  
Autodesk  
Blue Sky Studios  
Cisco  
DNEG  
DreamWorks  
Animation  
Epic Games  
Foundry  
Google Cloud  
Intel  
SideFX  
The Walt Disney Studios  
Weta Digital



Scitech Council  
Open source  
Investigation  
concludes



# Membership

## Premier



## General



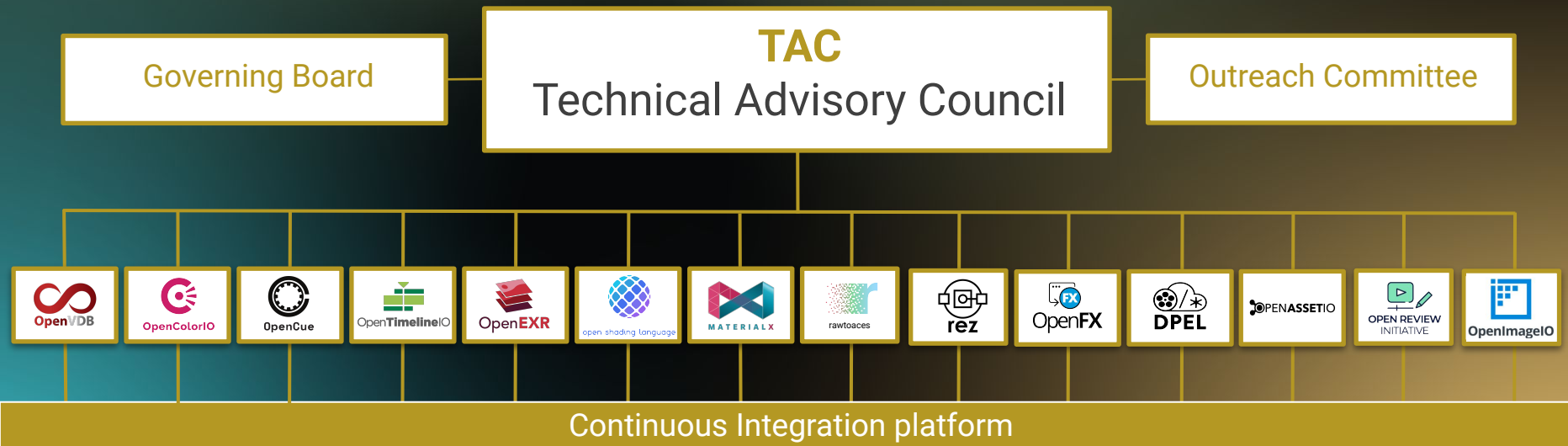
## Associate



# We're a nonprofit, but not separately incorporated

- The Academy Software Foundation is part of the [the Linux Foundation](#) and is not a separate legal entity
- Therefore, the Academy Software Foundation Governing Board is not a corporate board of directors, and is not subject to corporate law statutes (e.g., those that govern fiduciary duties and how corporate boards of directors must operate)
- The powers and duties of the Governing Board are set forth in the [Academy Software Foundation Charter](#)

# Academy Software Foundation Structure



# Working Groups

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CI Working Group

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D&I Working Group

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USD Working Group

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Working Group for  
Rust Bindings

More at <https://www.aswf.io/get-involved/#working-groups>



# TAC Responsibilities

# TAC Responsibilities

The TAC's responsibilities include:

- Setting an overall technical vision for the Academy Software Foundation
- Approving new projects and working groups;
- Overseeing the Project Lifecycle;
- Enabling collaboration between projects and working groups;
- Making recommendations to the Budget Committee for any resource needs;
- Voting on other decisions that come before the TAC.

Additional responsibilities are described in [Section 7](#) of the Academy Software Foundation Charter.

# What the TAC is **NOT** responsible for

- The TAC does **not** manage the day-to-day activities and operations of hosted projects and working groups, such as committer rights, release schedules, and roadmaps.
- The TAC is **not** responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations of Academy Software Foundation. This is the responsibility of the foundation staff.
- The TAC does **not** directly manage the overall budget for the Academy Software Foundation. The TAC makes resource recommendations to the Budget Committee and Governing Board, and provides feedback on the use of those resources.

# TAC Operations

# TAC Composition

- The TAC voting members consist of:
  - One representative appointed from each Premier member; and
  - One representative appointed by the TSC of each project at the Adopted Stage
  - Up to three (3) annually TAC appointed industry representatives
- See [Section 7\(b\)](#) of the Academy Software Foundation Charter for more information about composition.
- You can change your representative at any time by making a request at [members.aswf.io](https://members.aswf.io).

# Technical Advisory Council (TAC)



Kimball Thurston  
**Chair**  
Chief Technology  
Officer  
Weta Digital  
Limited



Bill Roberts  
Sr Director of  
Strategy  
Adobe Inc.



Brian Cipriano  
Senior Software  
Engineer / TSC  
Lead  
Google LLC



Carol Payne  
Imaging  
Technologist  
Netflix, Inc.



Cary Phillips  
R&D Supervisor  
Industrial Light &  
Magic



Chris Kulla  
Principal  
Rendering  
Engineer  
Epic Games, Inc



Cory Omand  
Director of  
Engineering,  
Pixar Software  
R&D  
The Walt Disney  
Studios



Eric Enderton  
Dir. Film  
Rendering Tech.  
NVIDIA  
Corporation



Eric Reinecke  
Sr. Software  
Engineer, Video  
Engineering  
Netflix, Inc.



Erik Niemeyer  
Senior Staff  
Software Enabling  
and Optimization  
Engineer  
Intel Corporation



Gordon Bradley  
Senior Software  
Architect  
Autodesk



Greg Denton  
Senior Program  
Manager  
Microsoft  
Corporation



Jean-Francois  
Panisset  
Consulting  
Engineer  
Visual Effects  
Society



Jean-Michel  
Dignard  
LEAD  
PROGRAMMER  
Epic Games, Inc



Jonathan Stone  
Lead Rendering  
Engineer,  
Materials and  
Shading  
Lucasfilm



Ken Museth  
Senior Director,  
Simulation  
Technology  
NVIDIA  
Corporation



Larry Gritz  
Software Architect  
Sony Pictures  
Imageworks



Matthew Low  
Principal Engineer  
DreamWorks  
Animation



Michael B  
Johnson  
Innovation  
Architect, Pro  
Workflow  
Apple Inc.



Milind Damle  
Sr. Director  
Advanced Micro  
Devices (AMD)



Ross Dickson  
Amazon Web  
Services, Inc.



Scott Dyer  
Senior Imaging  
Engineer  
Academy of  
Motion Picture  
Arts and Sciences

# TAC Chairperson

Annually in December, the TAC will elect a chairperson to serve for the subsequent year.

Duties of the TAC Chairperson include:

- Leading the strategy for setting an overall technical vision for the Academy Software Foundation
- Preparing the agenda for and leading TAC meetings, with the support of the foundation staff ( generally meets with the staff on a regular basis to align on topics and priorities )
- Serving as a voting member of the Governing Board to represent the TAC and larger technical communities.
- Be a spokesperson for the TAC and larger technical community, as needed

See [Section 7\(f\)](#) of the Academy Software Foundation Charter for more information about the chairperson role.

# TAC Meetings



# Meeting Cadence

- The TAC has virtual meetings, generally every other Wednesday. **All meetings are public meetings unless specified otherwise.**
- Format for the meetings generally include short updates, and up to two larger topics ( such as an annual review of a project/working group, new project/working group proposal, larger discussion item, or special presentation )
  - Voting will often take place at each meeting
  - If you cannot attend a meeting and wish to have someone else represent you, please contact the foundation staff at [members.aswf.io](https://members.aswf.io).
- Additionally, the TAC has two hybrid Leadership Meetings sessions per year (at Open Source Forum in February and Open Source Days in August).
  - Governing Board representatives and a representative from each General Member are invited to Strategy Sessions.
- In rare and exceptional circumstances (e.g., in an emergency situation), an additional ad hoc special meeting of the TAC may be convened.
  - To request a special meeting, please email your request to the Foundation Staff and TAC Chair, and they will decide whether a special meeting is necessary or the proposed agenda item can be discussed by email or at the next regular meeting.

# How to propose an agenda item

- Agenda for TAC meetings are managed at <https://github.com/orgs/AcademySoftwareFoundation/projects/19>
- Propose a topic for a TAC meeting at <https://github.com/AcademySoftwareFoundation/tac/issues/new/choose>
- Please submit your proposed agenda item at least 7 days prior to the meeting.
- Please be patient. TAC meeting agendas are often quite full, and the length of the meeting only allows the time for two larger topics per meeting, so if your topic is more than a short topic it may not be scheduled for the next meeting.

# Proposing an agenda item (continued)

- If we cannot accommodate your request in the upcoming meeting we may:
  - Wait until the following meeting to discuss the topic
  - Call a special meeting to discuss your topic, or
  - Refer the topic to the appropriate committee or task force of the TAC
- We may ask you to provide slides 3 days before the meeting.

# TAC Materials

- Agendas for TAC meetings will be made available the day before the scheduled meeting
- Past meeting notes can be found [here](#).
- No meeting of the TAC is recorded unless the TAC provides explicit consent to do so.

# Discussion Channels

## Relevant Mailing Lists

- TAC Public List: [tac@lists.aswf.io](mailto:tac@lists.aswf.io)
- TAC Private List:  
[tac-private@lists.aswf.io](mailto:tac-private@lists.aswf.io)
  - This list is ONLY for sensitive topics and voting
- Project and Working Group Leads:  
[technical-project-leads@lists.aswf.io](mailto:technical-project-leads@lists.aswf.io)

## Slack Channel

- You can [join Academy Software Foundation slack here](#).
- To join the TAC Slack channel, make a request at [members.aswf.io](https://members.aswf.io).

# Policies and Other Resources

# Important Academy Software Foundation Policies and Resources

- [Academy Software Foundation Charter](#)
- [Linux Foundation Antitrust Policy](#)
- [Foundation GitHub repository](#) with many other public facing policies and materials including...
  - [Elections Process](#)
  - [Academy Software Foundation hosted project charters](#), which define each project's intellectual property and licensing policies.
- [ASWF Landscape](#)
- [High Level Overview](#)

# LFX Organization Dashboard

[LFX Organization Dashboard](#) provides access to key membership materials, including...

- Member contacts, which you can change at any time ( look under 'Users' > and then under the 'Key People' tab )
- Membership details ( look under 'Membership' > 'Academy Software Foundation' ), including...
  - Membership Overview Deck and High Level Overview Deck ( look under the 'Resources' tab )
  - Your fully executed membership agreement ( look under the 'Membership' tab )
  - Details on how to leverage membership benefits ( look under the 'Benefits' tab )
  - Insights on contributors from your organization ( look under the 'Project Contributors' tab )

**ACTION: Request access to LFX Organizational Dashboard [here](#).**



# Foundation Staff



**David Morin**  
Executive Director  
Academy  
Software  
Foundation



**Deb Giles**  
Event Director  
The Linux  
Foundation



**Emily Olin**  
Director of  
Marketing  
Communications  
Academy  
Software  
Foundation



**John Mertic**  
Director of  
Program  
Management  
The Linux  
Foundation



**Yarille Ortiz**  
Senior Project  
Coordinator  
The Linux  
Foundation

**Contact the staff at [members.aswf.io](https://members.aswf.io)**

# Who's Who in the Academy Software Foundation

- [Academy Software Foundation Members](#)
- Staff: [Academy Software Foundation Staff](#), [Linux Foundation Leadership](#)
- [Governing Board Members](#)
- [Technical Advisory Council Members](#)
- [Academy Software Foundation Project and Working Group Leads](#)

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**Thank you!**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the staff at [members.aswf.io](https://members.aswf.io).