Good Governance Practices for CNCF Projects

KubeCon EU May 2022

Dr. Dawn M. Foster
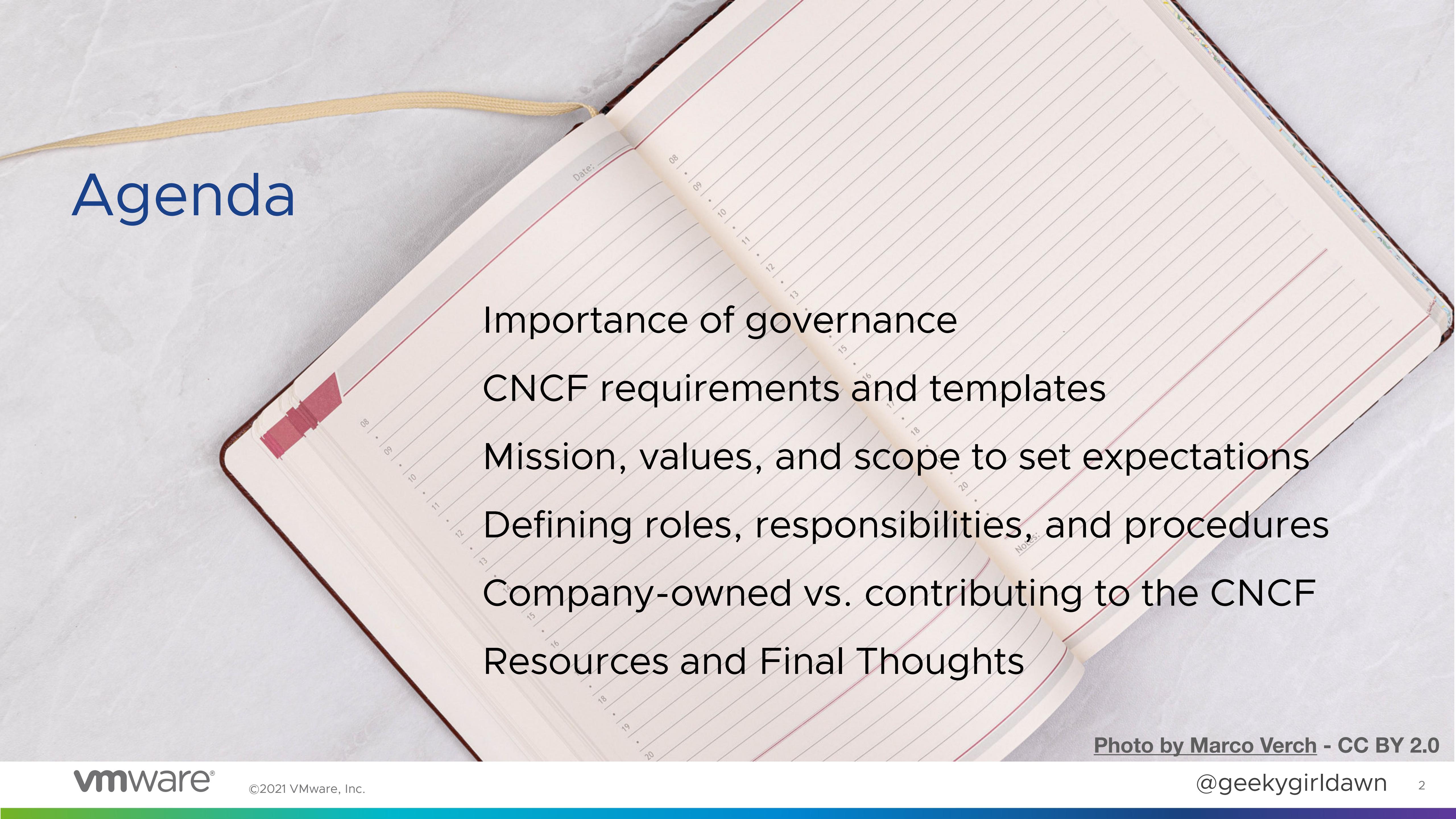
Director of OSS Community Strategy

fosterd@vmware.com   fastwonderblog.com

Open Source at VMware @vmwopensource

blogs.vmware.com/opensource

@geekygirldawn
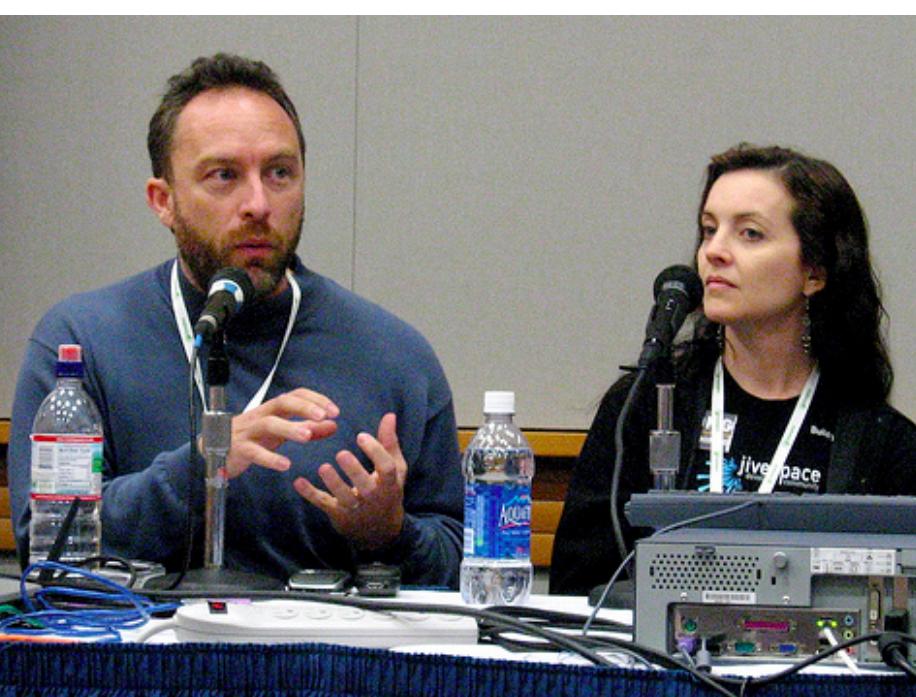
Agenda

Importance of governance

CNCF requirements and templates

Mission, values, and scope to set expectations

Defining roles, responsibilities, and procedures

Company-owned vs. contributing to the CNCF

Resources and Final Thoughts

whoami

- Geek, traveler, reader

- 20+ yr tech career focused on community & open source (Intel, Puppet, Scale Factory, …)

- OpenUK Board, CHAOSS Board and Maintainer, TODO Group Steering

- CNCF Contributor Strategy TAG chair

- PhD from the University of Greenwich focus on Linux kernel collaboration

Photos by Mom, Josh Bancroft, Don Park

Governance is Important

vmware®   ©2021 VMware, Inc.

@geekygirldawn   4

Governance is about People

Defines how people collaborate and make decisions

Kubernetes CNCF CC BY 4.0

Be Explicit

Explicit, documented governance increases project viability

Photo by Andrew Watson - CC BY 2.0

About   Contributors   Maintainers   🔍 Search this site...

CNCF requirements, templates, and how-tos

👉 contribute.cncf.io

vmware®   ©2021 VMware, Inc.

@geekygirldawn   7

CNCF Governance Requirements

Sandbox:

- Nice to have

Incubating:
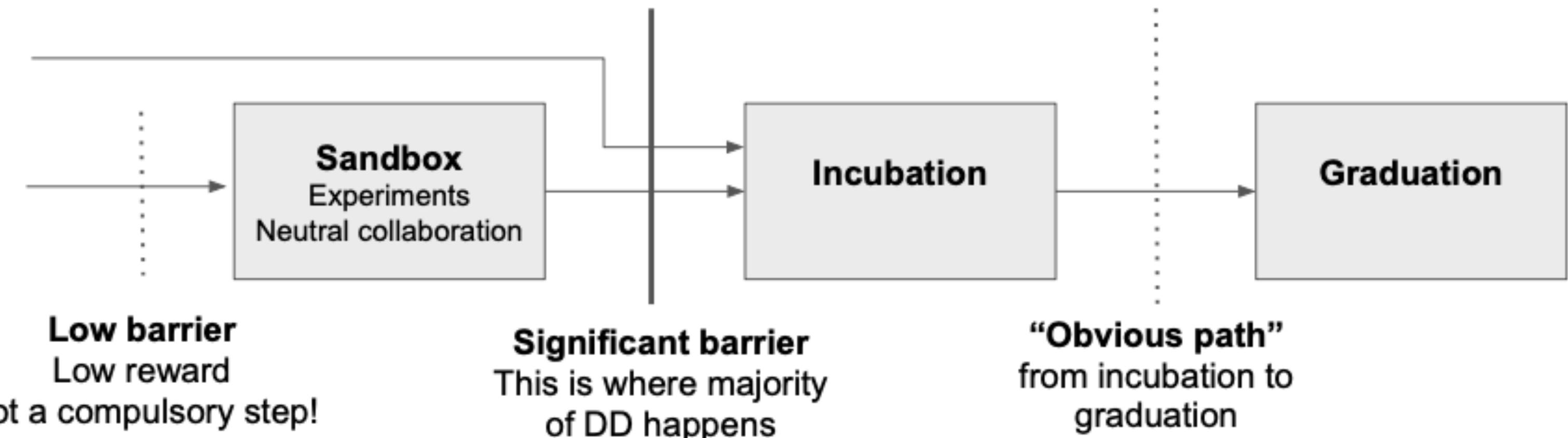
- Strongly Encouraged

Graduated:

- Required

- Explicit governance.md
  with OWNERS files

CLOUD NATIVE
COMPUTING FOUNDATION

Sandbox
Experiments
Neutral collaboration

Incubation

Graduation

Low barrier
Low reward
Not a compulsory step!

Significant barrier
This is where majority
of DD happens

"Obvious path"
from incubation to
graduation

👉 **github.com/cncf/toc/blob/main/process/graduation_criteria.md**

Templates

Governance: Maintainer, Election, and Subproject.

Contributor Ladder and Reviewing

👉 **github.com/cncf/project-template**

vmware®   ©2021 VMware, Inc.

How-to

Resources for governance
and related topics

👉 **contribute.cncf.io/maintainers**

CNCF CONTRIBUTORS

Maintainers
  GitHub
    Templates
      Recommended
        Reviewing Guide
      Issue Labels
  Community
    Community CRM Runbook
    Project Health
    Contributor Growth
      Motivation
      PR Workflow
      Engagement
      Incentivizing Contributors
      Non-Code Contributors
      Long-term Contributors
  Governance
    Overview
    Charter
    Leadership Selection

Project Guidance

GitHub
Tips for managing your GitHub repositories

Community
Tips for managing your project's community

Governance
Define an open governance model

Feedback

Was this page helpful?

Yes   No

Set expectations: Mission, Values, and Scope

👉 contribute.cncf.io/maintainers/governance/charter

Mission

Purpose, advantages,

and key features

👉 **contribute.cncf.io/maintainers/governance/charter**

Scope

Avoid misunderstandings and set expectations

👉 **contribute.cncf.io/maintainers/governance/charter**

vmware® ©2021 VMware, Inc.

@geekygirldawn

Values / Principles
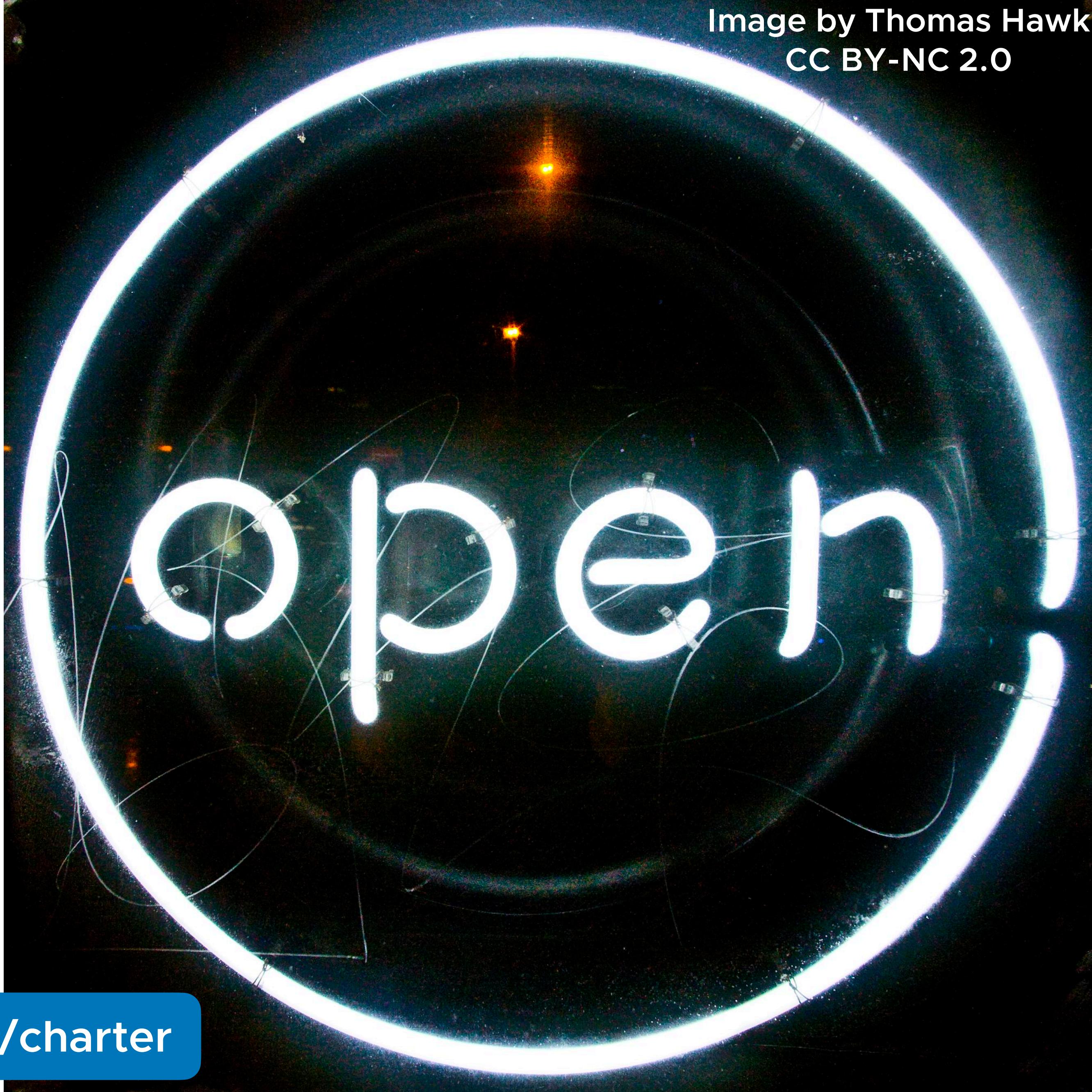
Openness

Fairness

Community over Company

Inclusivity

Culture of participation

👉 contribute.cncf.io/maintainers/governance/charter

Roles, Responsibilities, and Procedures

@geekygirldawn

Docs and Procedures

Contribution and

communication process

👉 **contribute.cncf.io/maintainers/community**

©2020 VMware, Inc.

@geekygirldawn 16

Security

Process for reporting and responding to security issues

👉 github.com/cncf/tag-security/tree/main/project-resources

vmware® ©2020 VMware, Inc.

Leadership

Contributors can climb the ladder into leadership

👉 **contribute.cncf.io/maintainers/governance/leadership-selection**

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Building a welcoming
and
inclusive community

👉 **chaoss.community/metrics**

EQUALITY

EQUITY
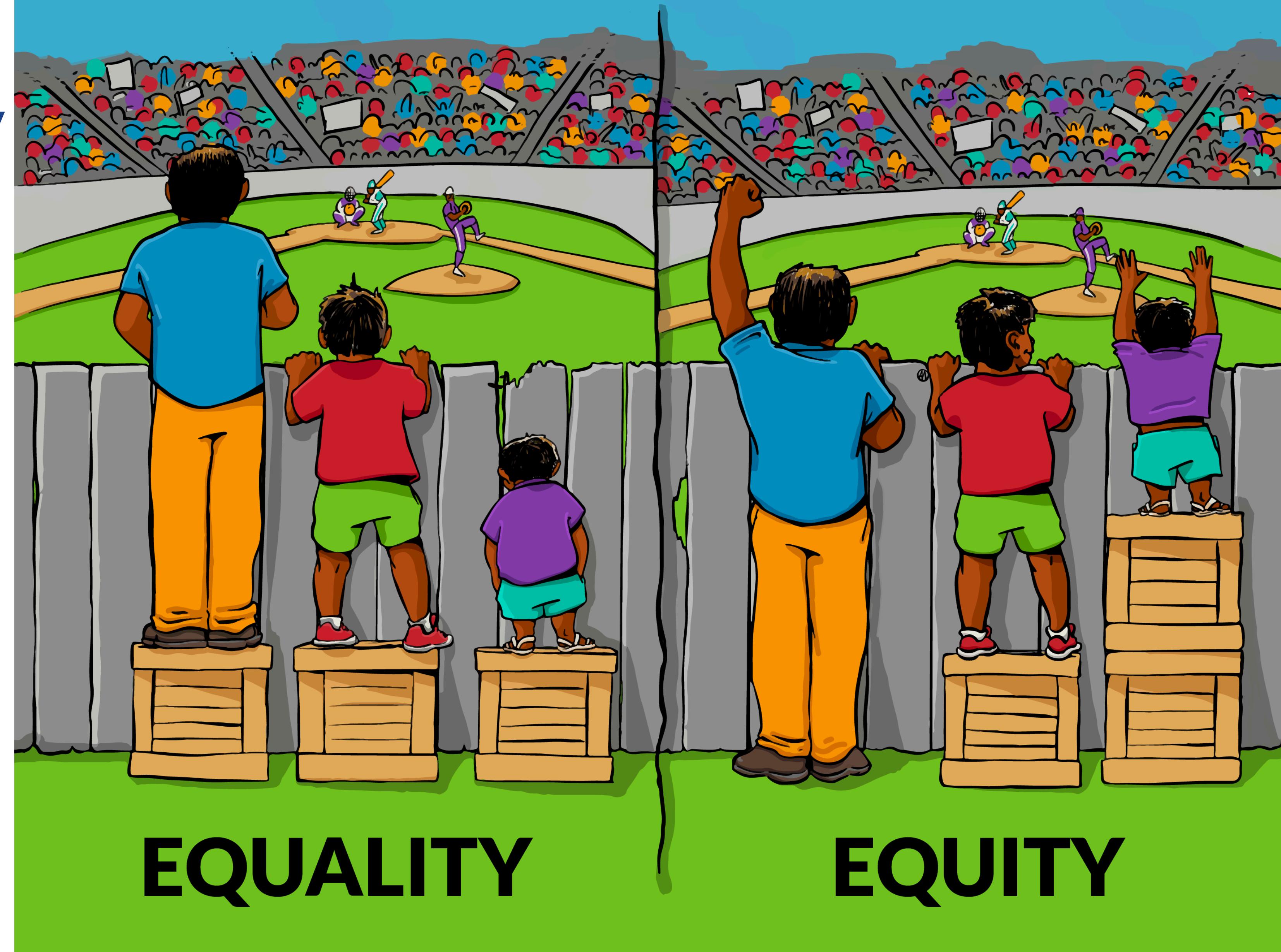
Image courtesy of the __Interaction Institute for Social Change__ | Artist: __Angus Maguire.__

Ownership: Company or Foundation?

vmware® ©2020 VMware, Inc.

@geekygirldawn

Company Owned

Be honest about governance and decision making

vmware®

@geekygirldawn

Contributing to the CNCF

Give up control for increased collaboration

👉 **https://github.com/cncf/toc/blob/main/process/sandbox.md**

Governance Evolves

Never "done"

can always

be improved

Resources

CNCF Contributor Strategy TAG Docs & Templates
https://contribute.cncf.io/maintainers/

https://github.com/cncf/project-template

The Open Source Way Guidebook
https://github.com/theopensourceway/guidebook/

Linux Foundation's TODO Group
https://todogroup.org/guides/

Join TAG Contributor Strategy Today!

Join our **Slack channel**   #tag-contributor-strategy (CNCF Slack)

Sign up for our **mailing list**   lists.cncf.io/g/cncf-tag-contributor-strategy

Drop into our **meetings**   Search for Contributor Strategy cncf.io/calendar

Participate in **Maintainer**   #maintainer-circle on the CNCF Slack
Circle meetings

**Learn more by visiting
cncf.io/contributor-strategy**

Final Thoughts

Setting expectations reduces uncertainty and makes people feel welcome

vmware® ©2020 VMware, Inc.

@geekygirldawn 26

Thank You!

Dr. Dawn M. Foster

fosterd@vmware.com

fastwonderblog.com

Open Source at VMware

blogs.vmware.com/opensource

@vmwopensource