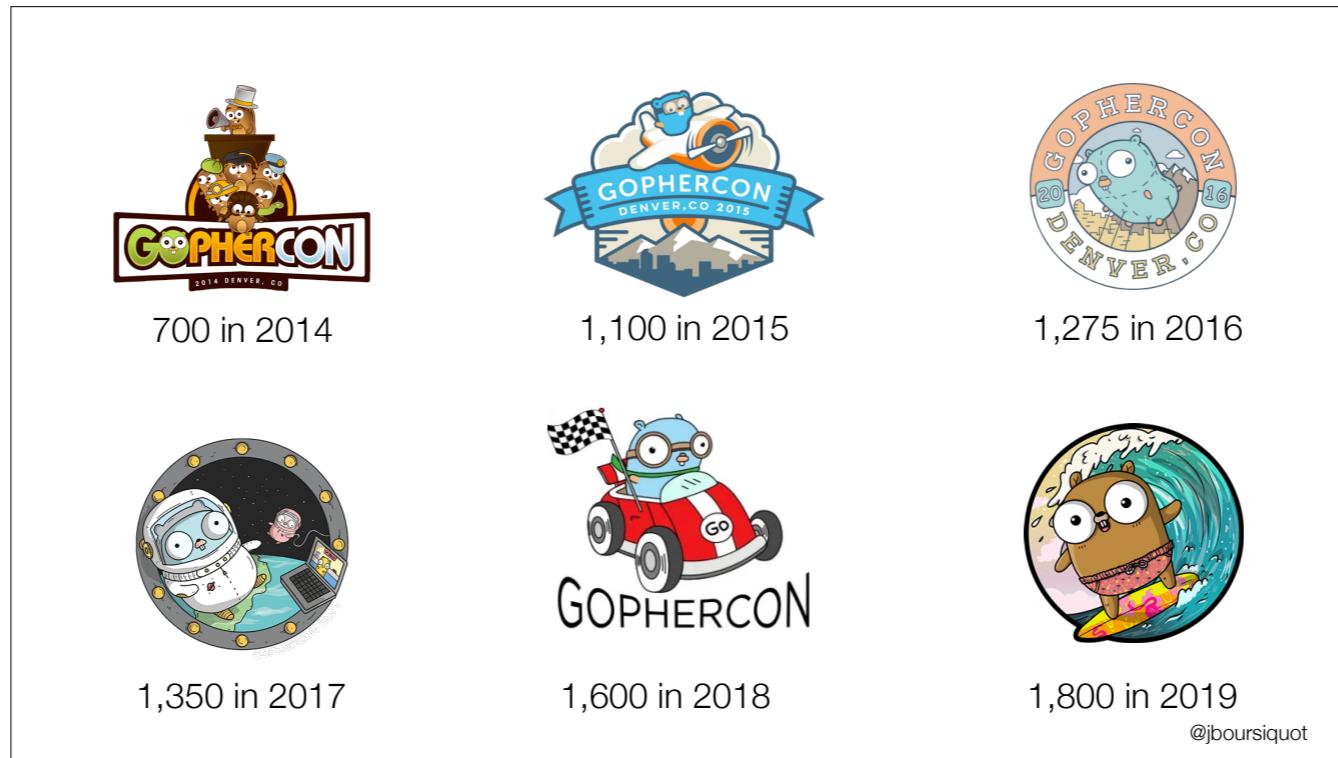


@jboursiquot

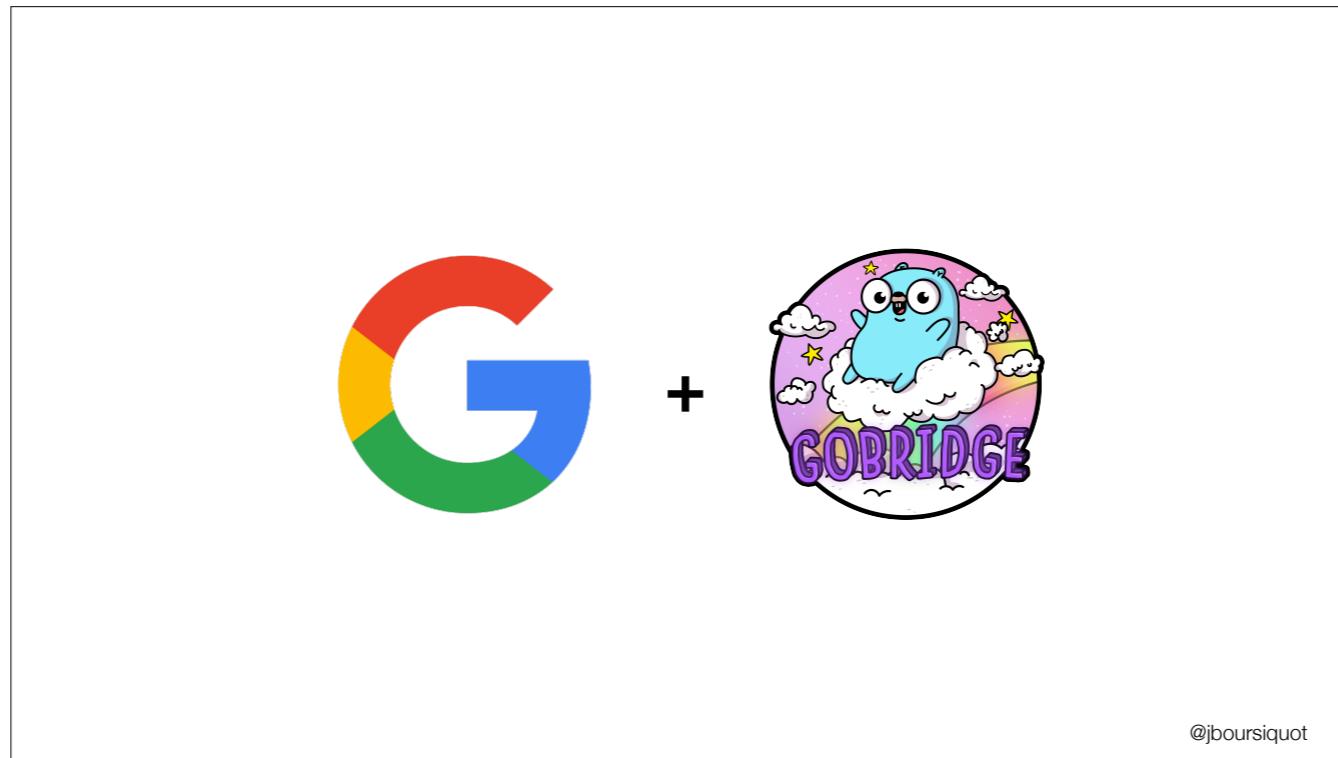
This is the largest Go audience I've ever been in front of. That's probably true for the speakers who have graced this stage before me as well because the Go community just keeps growing.



GopherCon itself has grown about 10% annually since 2014. There's now 1,800 of us in here. And that's a small fraction of an estimate that is said to be reaching a million.

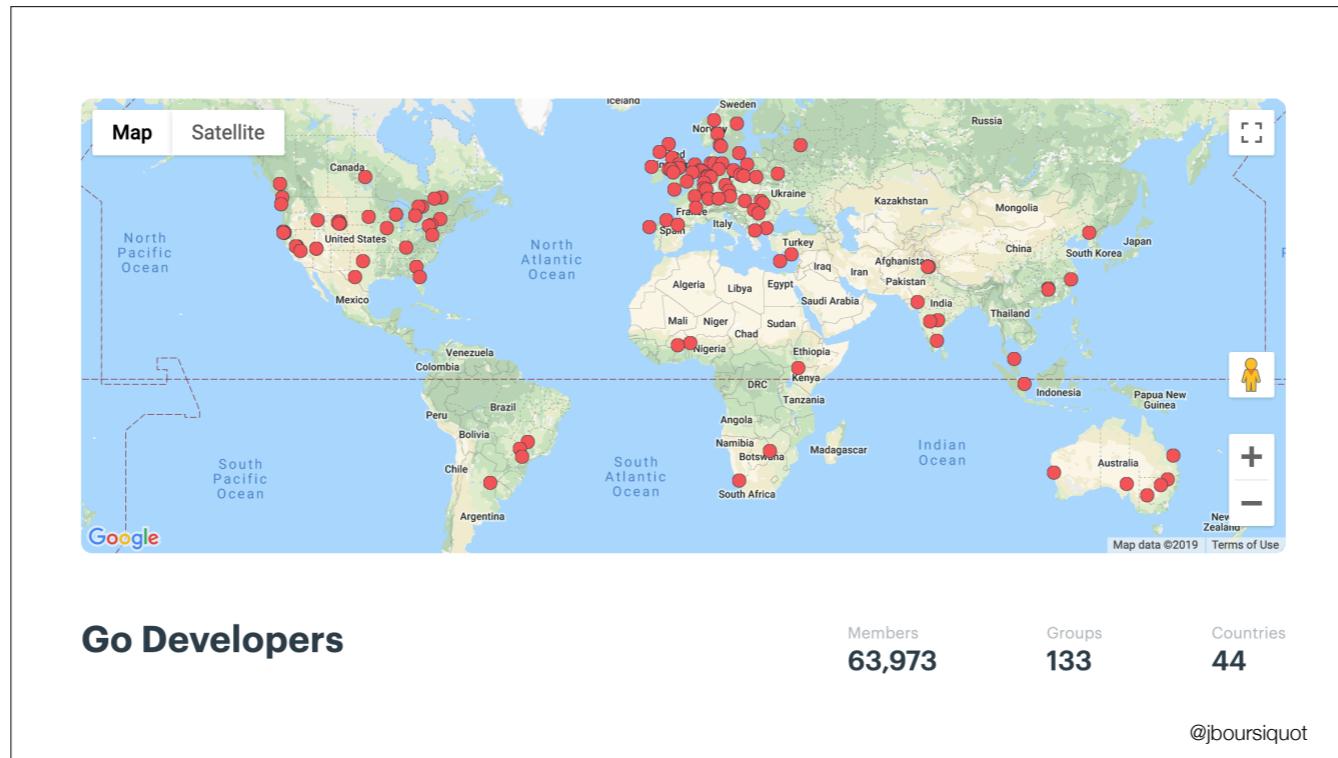


The latest annual Go Survey recorded over 5,800 survey respondents from 103 different countries.

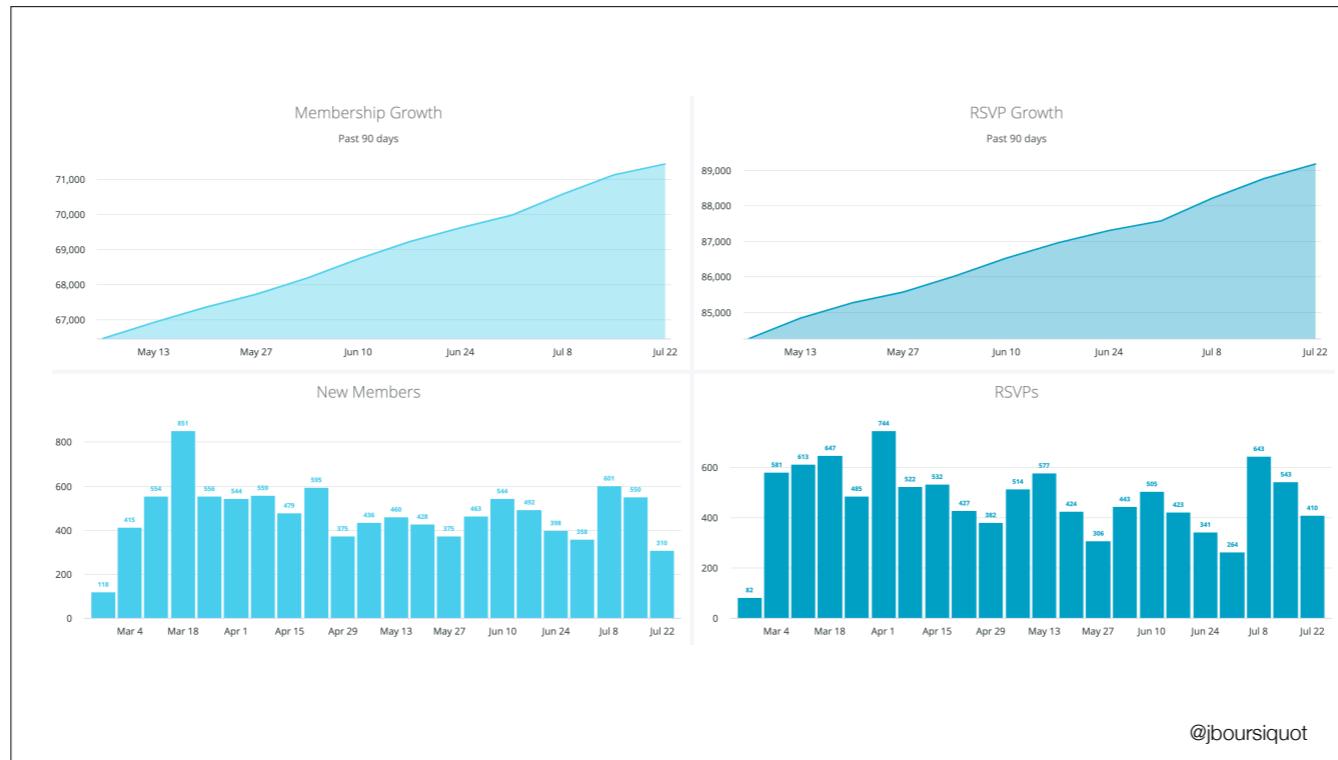


@jboursiquot

The Go Developer Network, a collaboration between Google and GoBridge to support Go user group organizers worldwide with Meetup accounts and materials, has seen some rapid growth as well since its March debut.



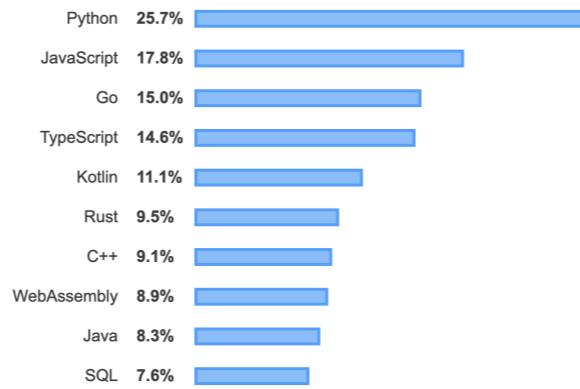
The GDN now boasts over 63,000 members across 133 user groups in 44 countries. And since we know not everyone uses Meetup, this is not a complete picture of all of the user groups active around the world.



Month after month, we continue to see increases in new memberships and RSVPs.



## 2019 Survey | Most Wanted Technologies



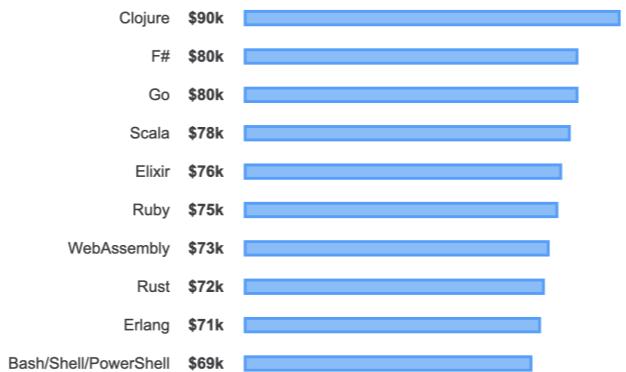
<https://insights.stackoverflow.com/survey/2019#most-loved-dreaded-and-wanted>

@jboursiquot

Industry surveys say Go is one of the most desirable languages developers want to learn.



## 2019 Survey | Top Paying Technologies



<https://insights.stackoverflow.com/survey/2019#top-paying-technologies>

@jboursiquot

Go also gets you paid as part of the top paying technologies. We are on fire!



You know, I consider myself lucky to have had a front row seat in witnessing this growth since the very first Go conference back in 2014. And let me tell you, I've been around long enough to know that we've got something special here. By "here" I don't mean Go itself. I'm talking about here, the community, those seated in this room and spread around the world.

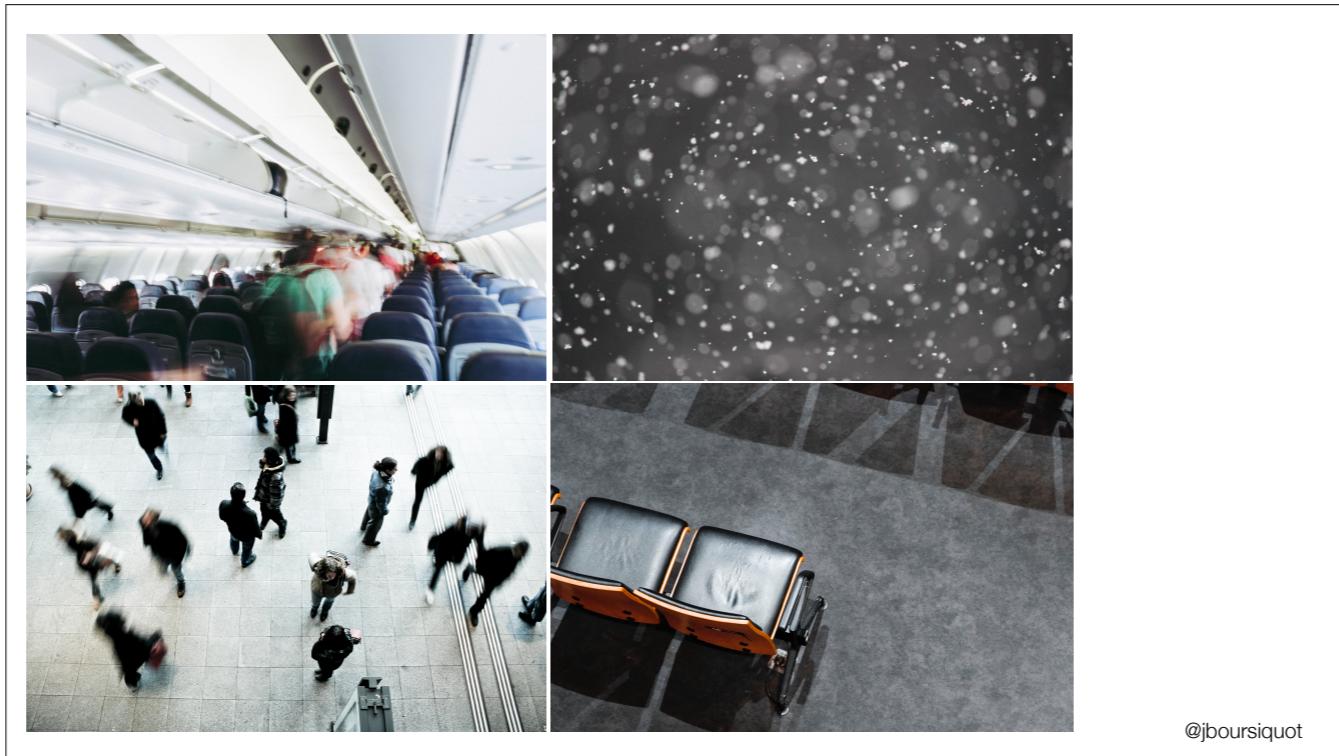


Think about it. Why are you here if not for the human interaction, the passionate exchanges, the new ideas you dream up with others, the sense of **\*\*safety\*\*** you get from being part of this whole, this tribe?

**\*\*Safety\*\*.** I don't use that word lightly. Can I tell you a story?



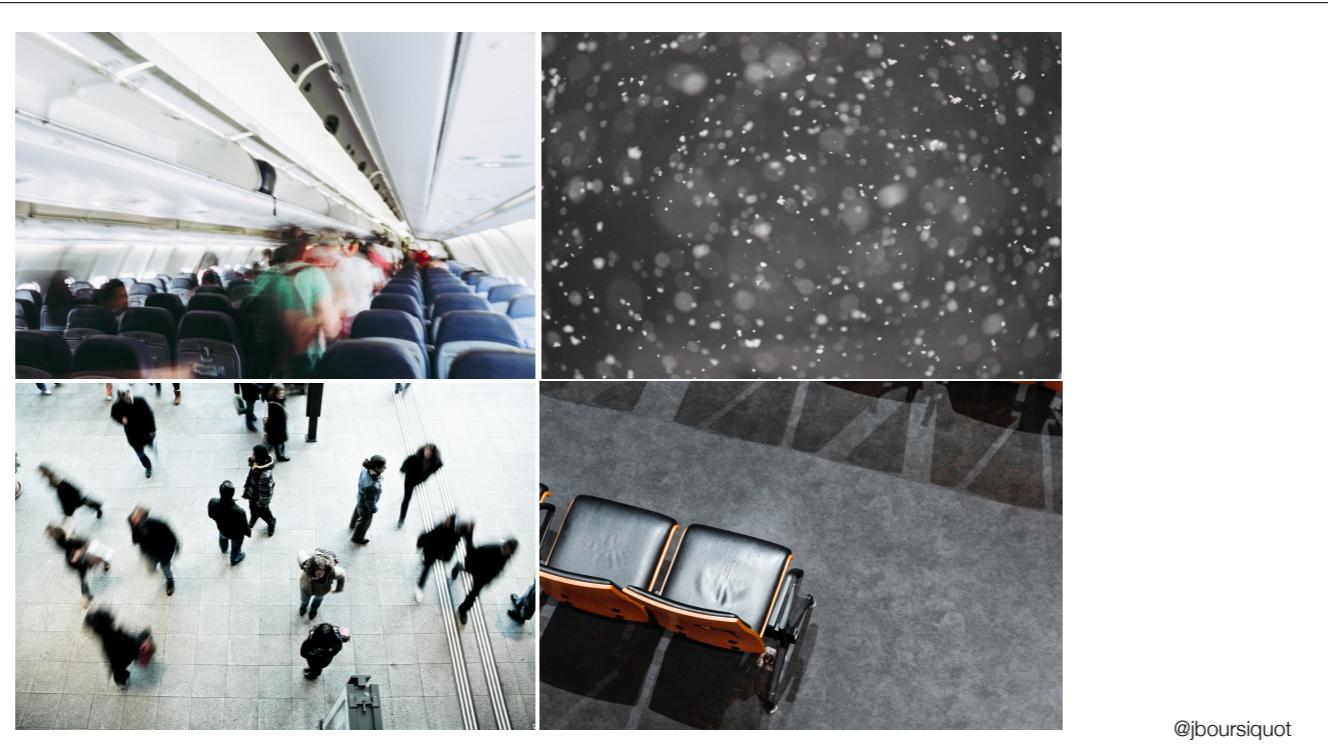
Most of you don't know or can't tell that I'm originally from Haiti. Though I loved my culture, I grew up dreaming of the opportunities that only America could offer and at the age of 15, I got my wish and emigrated.



@jboursiquot

I remember quite vividly one of my very first experiences after stepping off the plane. It's mid-December and snowing heavily outside. I had never seen snow before other than on T.V. so I'm excited and freezing at the same time. After going through the entry process, I start looking around for a welcoming or familiar face but none are in sight. A bit out of sorts, confused, cold, and lost, I sit, my head down, tears starting to pool around the corners of my eyes. An eternity later, at least what felt that way, still looking down and by now, wondering if I had been forgotten, I see feet gathered around me. I look up and staring back at me are aunts, cousins, and friends, smiles on their faces, arms open, with a warm jacket in tow.

In that moment, I felt welcomed, wanted, loved, and safe. Like I belonged.



@jboursiquot

That's what a community, small or large, that cares about you can do. It gives safety. It lets you know that you're seen; that you're not forgotten; that you haven't been left behind.

You see, our desire to feel welcomed, wanted, and safe extends beyond just family and friends. Do you think you'd be here today if you didn't feel welcomed? If you didn't feel like you belonged? Of course, not.



Community gives **safety**.

- Safe to be your authentic self
- To express yourself
- To share in wonderful events like this one and dozens of others around the world.

But there's something else that comes with community and that's opportunity.



Community gives **opportunity**.

Can I tell you another story?

(Unscripted story: She was given a chance, she took it, and I was there to witness it.)

It's a different lens through which to look at your potential impact in the lives of others, isn't it?

This requires work. We must put in some work.

I have a favor to ask of you but we'll come back to that.



Community gives **back**.

We've been talking about how Community gives this and Community gives that, in reality, it's a little more nuanced than that.

Can I tell you another story?

(Unscripted story: Newbie (in age and in experience) under the wrong impressions: "How did you manage to have these people *let* you be part of these things you're involved in?")

Nobody "let's" you do anything. You have to **BE** the change you seek. If you want people around you to be more giving, **you** have to give. It's a paradox but it's true.

Community doesn't give, **it gives back.**

The more I give to this community, the more it gives back to me. So, young blood, wax on, wax off, start giving of yourself, before you start expecting of others.

Community doesn't give, it gives back.

So now that's I've touched on my main points...we need to talk about something.



My experiences with you over the last 5 years have been nothing short of amazing as we've grown closer together. I hope you care for me as much as I care for you because I need you to come through for me on something.

(Audience participation)

Right now, I need you to look around at your neighbors. Go on, don't be shy. Can you see it? Can you see what's missing? Or rather, what we could use more of?



@jboursiquot

- Yesterday I gave myself a little challenge.
- I decided to meet and take a picture with every person at GopherCon 2019 that looked like me.
- The introvert in me said “Oh no baby, what it you doin’?” but I decide to proceed anyway.
- By the end of last night’s Welcome Party, I had accomplished my goal for the most part though I’m sure I missed a handful.
- But out of 1,800 people, I couldn’t fill this slide... (long pause to let it sink in).



Community is **accountable**.

- We can say that we are a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive community or we can **BE** one. That doesn't happen by itself.
- It can't be the work of a small few. You can't just say others will take care of it while you sit back, relax, and enjoy the many fruits that diversity brings.
- Regardless of your background, if you are here today, you are in a position of privilege.
- To whom much is given, much is expected.



@jboursiquot

I hinted earlier that we'd come back to how you can step up. Here it is.

Here's a very specific way you can help: organize, teach, or TA a GoBridge workshop. If you have no idea where to start, [gobridge.org](http://gobridge.org) has all the info you'll need on how to initiate the process and we'll walk you through it step by step.



You'll not only be exposing a number of underrepresented people to Go and in many cases to programming in general, you'll also reinforce our ethos of inclusion and send a strong message that this here community is a safe one for everybody.

That this community is one full of opportunities for those willing to put in the work.

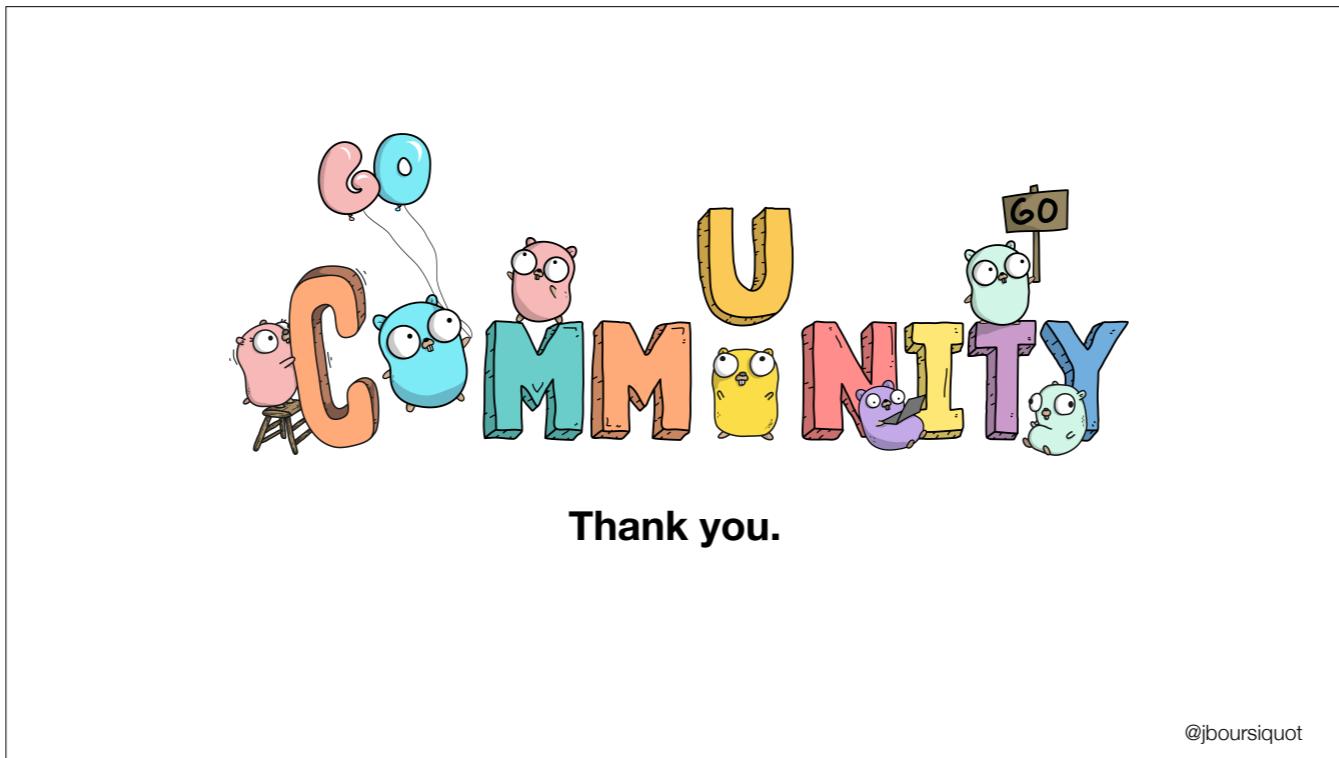
And that this community is accountable for those claims.

**One last thing...**

@jboursiquot

Nothing would make me happier at this conference today then to have all of the people who look like me—and you know who you are—to gather out on the terrace outside of those doors for a group picture.

I want to make this a GopherCon tradition so that we can look back over the years and see how far we've come.



This community holds a special place in my heart.  
There's nowhere else I'd rather be.  
Thank you.

## Photo Credits

---

- “Empty Seats” Photo by Henry & Co. on Unsplash
- “The Arrival” Photo by Ina Carolino on Unsplash
- “Snowfall in December” Photo by Jessica Fadel on Unsplash
- “Railway Station From Above” Photo by Timon Studler on Unsplash
- “Carnival” - Haitian culture par Amie by Amie
- Various other photos of Haitian culture by *Unknown*