

Building a Python Community in Zimbabwe

by Anna Makarudze
PyCon Nigeria 2018
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About

Fundraising Coordinator:
Django Girls Foundation

Director:
Django Software
Foundation Board 2018

Organiser:
Various events



Aim

To answer the “What’s in it for me?” question with regards to participating in open source communities.

How it all started



Learning about PyCon Namibia 2016



My first Python events



Django Girls Harare



Django Girls Masvingo



PyCon Zim 2016 & 2017



Challenges faced setting
up the community?

Lack of
direction

Volunteering vs
Entrepreneurship

Lack of know-how

How to organise
not-for-profit
open source
events.

Lack of local funding

Ailing economy
+ less Python
usage compared
to PHP

African myths about “Python”



Poverty

Volunteering
and non-profit
work is tough
for an
unemployed
population.

Political Sanctions against Zimbabwe

Blocked
international
sponsorship for
our events.

Getting past our
challenges

Crowdfunding for first PyCon Zimbabwe



Partnering with university personnel

Access to
students and
staff who use or
have potential
to use Python.

International sponsorship/ support

International
organisations +
individuals
(sponsor
conference
tickets).

Learning from the community

How others
organise events,
handle CoC
issues etc.

Getting involved with
the international
community

DSF Membership

Got nominated
to join DSF
membership in
August 2016.

PyCon events in Africa

PyCon Namibia

PyCon South
Africa

International Events

Django: Under The
Hood 2016

DjangoCon Europe
2017

PyCon Italia 2017

DjangoCon Europe
2018

DSF Code of Conduct Committee

My first attempt
at working with
a remote team,
on a volunteer
basis.

Django Girls Foundation

Hired for remote
position as
Fundraising
Coordinator.

Running for 2018 DSF Board

Nominated
myself and later
regretted it
after seeing so
many
nominations.

Any personal benefits
for me?

Exposure

How to organise
and run Python
events.

Develop Python
skills.

Crucial Friendships

Awesome
friends around
the globe.

Reputation and profile building

Showing up
when invited
and being
transparent
helps people to
trust you.

Employment Opportunities

Meeting
potential
recruiters at
conferences and
online.

Mentors

Meeting
potential
mentors at
conferences.

Access to Resources

Programming
books donated
or buying a few
copies of my
own through
friends.

Volunteering in the
open source community
has no direct, tangible
financial benefits...

... but it offers invaluable and immeasurable benefits which eventually result in economic benefit.

Questions???

Thank you!

@amakarudze