Name of project and Project URL on Ideascale/Fund

Community CIP Editor: 1 year budget (continued)

⇨ Ideascale: https://cardano.ideascale.com/c/cardano/idea/107579

⇨ Fund 10 page: https://projectcatalyst.io/funds/10/development-and-infrastructure/community-cip-editor-1-year-budget-continued

Your Project Number

1000054

Name of project manager

Robert Phair, CIP Editor - https://github.com/rphair

Date project started

01 October (begin Q4) 2023

Date project completed

30 September (end Q3) 2024 (except for final report & video, submitted belatedly 04 April 2025)

List of challenge KPIs and how the project addressed them

⇨ **Technical standards** - *Creation and improvement of standards used within the ecosystem that help to improve the overall quality of software deployed.*

In the 12 months of this project, Cardano's CIP process (with proposer Robert Phair as the principal maintainer of the GitHub CIPs Repository, CIP meeting convenor, and developer liaison) worked with developers, architects and stakeholders to create **33 new standards** (roughly 3 per month) for interoperability, common development efforts, and core technologies:

(query for **new** CIPs and CPSs merged in this period: omitting updates and administrative tasks)

⇨ **Technical documentation & education** - *Amount of people viewing resources, reduction in number of common questions for contributors due to better resources.*

The number of participants in Cardano's CIP process has increased steadily during this period: mainly caused by authors and reviewers diversifying far outside the original companies of IOG, the Cardano Foundation, and their partners. One might consider a standards repository to be "boring" but visitors have numbered in the thousands, likely due to the critical documentation now posted in the form of peer-reviewed & rigorously edited CIPs: (GitHub CIPs repo > Insights > Traffic)

List of project KPIs and how the project addressed them

⇨ *Online metrics of direct CIP editor participation - from proposal [IMPACT] section*

Catalyst funding allows proposer Robert Phair to remain available daily to classify, respond to & keep advancing new CIP submissions while handling the bulk of repository maintenance. Also stated in prior reports and proposals, this remains true at the time of this report submission (6 months after Fund 10 project completion):

CIP Pull Requests (past and current) contributed to by each significantly participating editor (including Emeritus editors) as of 2025-04-04 15:00 UTC (clickable search links):

- **45 current + 574 completed (involves:rphair)**
- 6 current + 445 completed (involves:KtorZ)
- 33 current + 353 completed (involves:Ryun1)
- 0 current + 307 completed (involves:sebastiengllmt)
- 31 current + 260 completed (involves:Crypto2099)
- 0 current + 199 completed (involves:crptmppt)
- 12 current + 61 completed (involves:perturbing)

For a continuing year, these statistics demonstrate that Catalyst funding of the proposer's activities can sustain a level of contribution and performance previously only achieved through salaried positions at IOG, the Cardano Foundation, and their executive partners.

⇨ *GitHub community reports with further progress links & KPIs*

For many specific links to contributions, achievements, and community interactions over the project year (and now 6 months beyond), see each of the project year's monthly reports:

- https://github.com/rphair/cip-editing (*2023-10-03.md* through *2024-09.md*)

Key achievements (in particular around collaboration and engagement)

⇨ *Remediation of old non-compliant CIPs (see: key issue)*

Completed the most ambitious self-imposed work order ever placed into the CIP repository (by Emeritus CIP editor Matthias Benkort [KtorZ]): after an initial 2 years of many arbitrary document formats and unconventional CIPs posted in these "early days", the proposer undertook a rationalisation of every CIP on the repository into our modern standard & highly readable format.

⇨ *CIP workflow & editor Wiki (see: planning issue) (output: **CIPs Wiki**)*

Prior to this publication there were no "user friendly" descriptions of Cardano's CIP process: i.e. readable and engaging enough to encourage participation, if only by interested observers in the community. The resulting 10 documentation sections have something for everyone at all levels of participation, and have encouraged hundreds of active users and observers on GitHub to participate in CIP authorship and review more effectively than ever.

⇨ *Process & tagging to eliminate backlog (see: key issue)*

Over 70 CIP repository pull requests had remained almost untouched for periods between 6 and 18 months: a problem recognised by editors, and leading to a congested, intimidating standards archive for the community. This effort created a rigorous classification system indicating the state & next required activity of each submission (documented in an 11th documentation section **Wiki > State tagging**) so that over a 3 month period all these stalled CIPs could be promoted or discontinued.

Key learnings

Observers have been under the impression that full time work is required to maintain the CIP repository. The surprising truth has been that — perhaps due to editor cooperation in a loose, distributed framework, plus this year's process improvements — most of the work can be done on an hourly budget of about 2 days a week with only community oversight & voluntary reporting instead of management & organisational overhead.

Next steps for the product or service developed

This project has already been continuing, with funding as approved in a follow-up Catalyst proposal ([Fund 13: Community CIP Editor Robert Phair: 8 month budget](#)) that is covering the activities of the last 6 months (before the submission of this report) and the 2 months afterwards.

It currently seems to suit the CIP effort very well that funding is obtainable through Catalyst rather than the highly competitive and time-consuming Intersect-led funding processes. Therefore it is likely the proposer will continue for 1 more term on Catalyst (probably Fund 14) before either retiring as an Emeritus editor or seeking a more traditional means of funding.

Final thoughts/comments

From the beginning, Catalyst funding for CIP work has defied traditional audit attempts (and proposal bids with specific milestones) because the "development" activities can never be known in advance. Only the community itself can create its own needs for standards, as well as evolve its own measures of whether our emergent standards are considered legitimate enough to follow.

So unlike other "development" work in technology or cryptocurrency, I [the proposer] can only hope to keep validating the trust of the community & voters. Most would have anticipated that the CIP process would have been centrally administered by the Cardano Foundation or IO Engineering, and so it is still a miracle of our industry that no central authority has "control" of Cardano's standards... it remains fully decentralised and therefore a pure example of our highest ideal.

Links to other relevant project sources or documents

Discord: Cardano Improvement Proposals (use invitation link if not already a member)

Link to Close out video

Submitted close-out video & transcript: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvrl61ySwek