

MapLibre Sponsorship Program



Overview

MapLibre is an open-source fork of Mapbox after their switch to a non-OSS license in December 2020. MapLibre maintains two main projects: MapLibre GL JS is a JavaScript framework for rendering maps in web browsers, and MapLibre GL Native is a C++ library to show maps in mobile apps on iOS and Android. In addition to that, we maintain an ecosystem of open-source plugins and extensions. MapLibre offers mature and rich styling of vector maps. Users like MapLibre because of the feature-compatibility with Mapbox GL JS v1 and the familiar APIs. Migrating from Mapbox to MapLibre is simple and we guarantee that it will stay like that.

The primary goal of MapLibre is the continuity of the existing APIs. We focus on maintenance, modernization of the code bases, and implement strong continuous integration and testing. To foster an active community, we answer user questions and have set up and are maintaining a documentation website covering the public API, as well as an exhaustive collection of examples. Our declared goal was and is to avoid community fragmentation. In its first year of existence, MapLibre has had a successful start and the community has proven to be united behind one common open-source fork where we all join our efforts.

Major companies trust MapLibre and have built their map products on top of our framework including Microsoft Azure Maps and Amazon Location Services. Given the significant industry adoption of MapLibre, one would assume that sustainable maintenance structures have been implemented. However, this is not the case and we call for your help!

The biggest challenge for an open-source project like MapLibre is continuous dedication. Volunteers tend to provide amazing short-term contributions, but a project's long-term viability depends on the members actively responding to new user's questions and contributions. We think that the only way to ensure long-term stability is to hire full-time maintainers who's responsibility will be to organize and coordinate rather than to code. By participating in the MapLibre Sponsorship Program, you can make this happen and MapLibre will continue to be the best framework for users to create beautiful custom maps.

What Is Sponsorship For?

The MapLibre Sponsorship Program aims to secure the continuity of the project and keep the code base healthy and up-to-date. A **full-time maintainer** for MapLibre GL JS and a second one for MapLibre GL Native will take care of the following tasks:

- Infrastructure maintenance
- Organize pull request review
- Issue triage
- Facilitate user questions
- Community building
- Documentation

To complement the work of the full-time maintainers with contributions from the community, we want to establish a **bounty program** where everyone can participate. Bounties are predefined cash payments for work packages like bug fixes, minor new features, or research tasks. This incentivizes contributions from all community members and counteracts a "we-and-them" atmosphere between the community and the full-time maintainers.

Governance and Fiscal Host

MapLibre's governance consists of two bodies with defined responsibilities and competences: The Governing Board and the Technical Steering Committee.

MapLibre's **Governing Board** is responsible for the overall project strategy. All financial decisions fall under its authority. The Board consists of 4 members who are elected during the FOSS4G conference and have tenure for one year. Meetings take place quarterly. Current Board members are Petr Pridal (CEO at MapTiler), Yuri Astrakhan (Principal Engineer at elastic), Luke Seelenbinder (Stadia Maps), and Oliver Wipfli (independent) who replaces Marcel Normann *ad interim*.

The monthly meetings of the **Technical Steering Committee** on the other hand facilitate the steady flow of information between contributors, maintainers, and commercial actors. Everyone is invited to join the Technical Steering Committee meetings. These meetings are the place to discuss best practices, code quality standards, and to accept or reject non-trivial pull requests.

Open Source Collective 501(C)(6), a registered non-profit organization located in Walnut, CA (USA), is MapLibre's **fiscal host**. Transactions from sponsors are directed to Open Source Collective and expenses to contributors of MapLibre have to be approved by the Governing Board. Full public accounting transparency is provided by <https://opencollective.com/maplibre>.

Who Should Sponsor?

Your organization should sponsor MapLibre if

- Your products are built on top of MapLibre.
- Your customers use MapLibre.
- You want to upstream new features.

By keeping the project alive, your organization will benefit. You can continue to use an open-source framework your users are familiar with, share maintenance costs with others, and be able to upstream features.

With your support, you ensure a sustainable path of the framework you are using and you reduce the risk of having to fork and maintain a code base of this complexity and scale yourself.

You help avoid community fragmentation which means that new customers will be able to migrate existing map styles to your service with ease.

What Is Sponsorship Not For?

Development of major new features is not part of the MapLibre Sponsorship Program. We think that feature development should happen through engineering time contributions by a company or by contracting an experienced developer directly. MapLibre is happy to facilitate contacts between companies and individuals for feature development.

By joining the MapLibre Sponsorship Program, you make sure that the foundations are there for high-quality code review, continuous integration infrastructure, and testing which are all prerequisites for a sustainable open-source project that accepts upstreaming of new features.

Sponsorship Tiers & Benefits

Sponsors choose one of the following tiers and provide funds for at least 2 years.

Platinum: 300,000 USD per year with 35 percent allocated to Bounties. Logo on our website and in GitHub README, mentioned in all presentations, 16 t-shirts, seat in Advisory Council (see below).

Gold: 150,000 USD per year with 25 percent allocated to Bounties. Logo on our website and in GitHub README, mentioned in all presentations, 8 t-shirts, seat in Advisory Council (see below).

Silver: 80,000 USD per year with 20 percent allocated to bounties. Logo on our website and in GitHub README, mentioned in all presentations, 4 t-shirts, seat in Advisory Council (see below).

Bronze: 50,000 USD per year with 10 percent allocated to bounties. Logo on our website and in GitHub README, mentioned in all presentations, 2 t-shirts, seat in Advisory Council (see below).

MapLibre Advisory Council

The newly formed Advisory Council acts as a forum for feedback and exchange between participants of the MapLibre Sponsorship Program and MapLibre. The Council will meet on a regular basis and the members of the MapLibre Governing Board and the Technical Steering Committee can join the meetings.

Sponsors are invited to share how they use MapLibre SDKs internally to the level of detail that is possible and reasonable to them. We understand that sharing of such information will not always be possible due to business interests and other constraints.

While the Advisory Council has no binding decision power, we value the platform and think that a regular exchange between the sponsors and MapLibre will improve the long-term stability and sustainability of the project.