

Gaining Contributors - a NumFOCUS Perspective

Leah Silen, Executive Director



NumFOCUS - A Brief Overview

- Founded to fill a gap in the support of OS projects
 - Address the needs of OS scientific computing
- NumPy, SciPy, IPython, Matplotlib, Astropy
 - Escalating adoption rate among institutional and corporate users
 - No means to manage funding, pay developers, organize community



NUM FOCUS

The logo for '10 YEARS' is integrated into the word 'FOCUS'. The '1' is a vertical orange bar. The '0' is a teal shape with an orange top curve. The word 'YEARS' is written in small teal capital letters across the middle of the '0'.

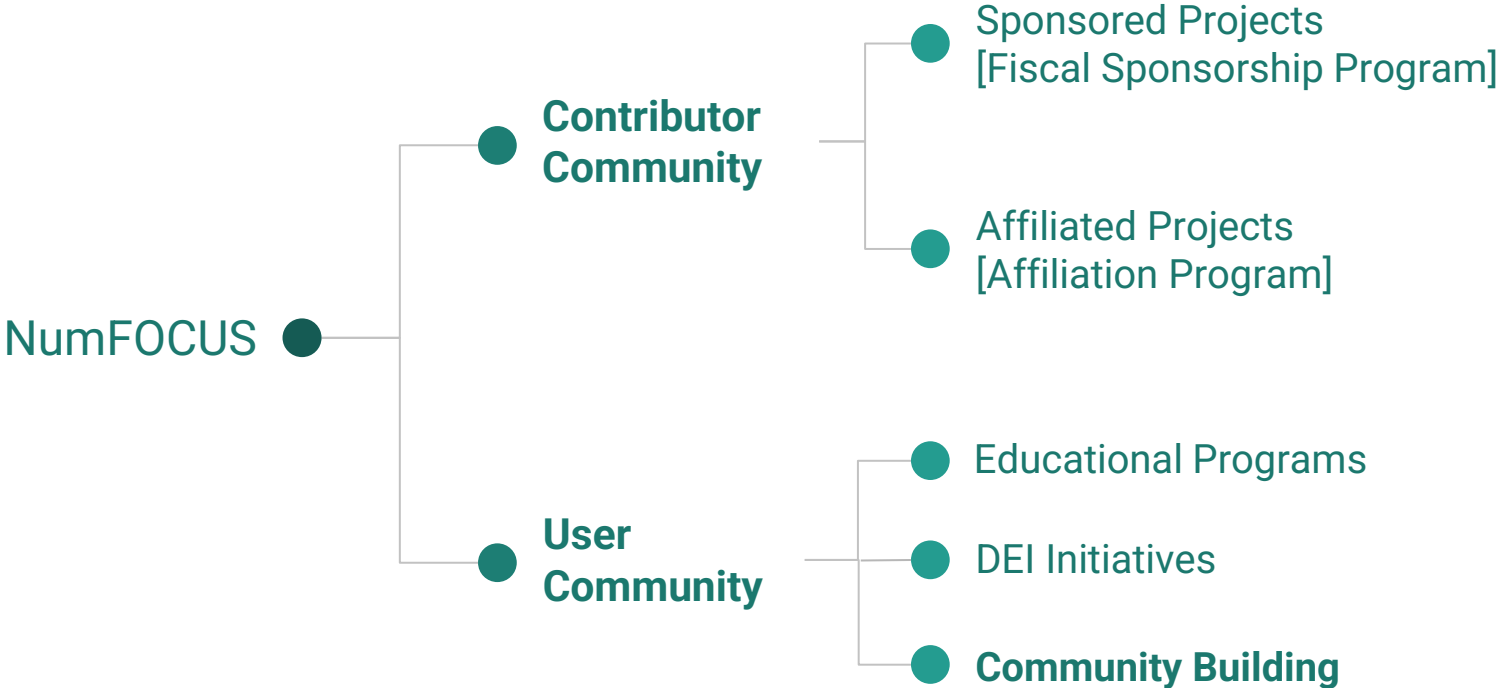
A DECADE OF SUPPORTING OPEN SCIENCE

A DECADE OF SUPPORT

- Began fiscal sponsorship program in 2014 with 5 projects
- Today NF supports 47 Sponsored and 56 Affiliated projects
- Awarded over \$575K in Small Development Grants to meet short-term project needs
- Hosted 68 events in 18 countries with >28K attendees



PROJECT SUPPORT



PROJECT SERVICES

Financial	Legal	Grants	Marketing	Fundraising	Sustainability	Events
AP/AR	Contracts	Application Review	Promotions	Corporate Outreach	Project Workshops	Logistics and Finances
Contractor Agreements	Licensing	Budget Review	Social Media	Individual Donor Reports	DEI/CoC Support	Websites
Reports	Trademarks /IP	Reporting	Logos	Donation Platform	Conference & Messaging Platforms	Registration Management
Donor Mgt.	GDPR	Fund Allocations	Newsletter/ Blogs	Donor Relations/ Support	Operational Support	Promotion
Tax Filings	Liability	Grantor Outreach	Collateral	Use Cases	Dev. Advocate	Talks/Tutorials/ Sprints

Building sustainable communities around open-source software projects is one of the fundamental challenges in open-source development; especially in the absence of regular funding.

In my experience, the problem is transforming active users into active contributors.

Ross Barnowski, NetworkX and NumPy Maintainer



Community Building



Key Elements of Community Building

- Engagement
 - ◆ Code and Non-Code Contributions
- Education
- Recognition
- Communication



USER ENGAGEMENT*

- Social Media
- Blogs
- Community Forums
- Conferences/Workshops
- Sprints/Hackathons (<https://blog.scikit-learn.org/events/sprints-value/>)
 - Community
 - Developer



* *Outreach should be inclusive*

USER EDUCATION

- Website
 - Tutorials
 - Blogs
- GitHub
 - Easily Accessible New Contributor Guidelines
- Sprints
 - Mentors or Partners
- Presentations -
 - Include Contributor Information



CONTRIBUTOR RECOGNITION

- ★ Recognize to Retain
- ★ Provide Tangible Benefits to Contributors
- ★ Encourage Contributors to Submit Talk or Tutorial Proposals
- ★ Provide support for contributors coming from academia to publish on their work. There are many open-access journals that provide a medium for these publications, such as the Journal for Open Source Science (JOSS) or Frontiers



NUMFOCUS

OPEN CODE = BETTER SCIENCE

Learn more about our work and how to get involved - numfocus.org
or contact us at info@numfocus.org