Joshua R. Simmons

Open Source Community Strategist
Advocate, Speaker, and Web Developer

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Joshua helps companies, nonprofits, and public institutions get the most out of free and open source software (FOSS), be good open source citizens, and maintain great relationships with FOSS communities.

He is passionate about the commons, inclusivity, ethical technology, and building cultures of mentorship. As part of his advocacy, Joshua advises community and project leaders, speaks at conferences, organizes events, talks to classrooms of students, and participates in foundations as well as industry groups.

- 20 years as a user of open source, and 6 years as an advocate and contributor.
- 15+ years building websites, web applications, and hacking together little tools.
- 10+ years community building and outreach experience.
- 5+ years media relations and public speaking experience.
- 5+ years experience organizing both community and corporate conferences.

Affiliations

- Program Manager for **Google Open Source**
- Board Director for **Open Source Initiative**
- Co-organizer of **North Bay Python**, a **Software Freedom Conservancy** member project
- Program Committee Member for **Copyleft Conf**
- Advisor for **Open Source Community Africa**

Public Materials

- Personal website: joshsimmons.com
- Presentations, tutorials, and panel appearances: joshsimmons.com/talks
- Articles and interviews: joshsimmons.com/media

Experience

Program Manager on **Open Source Programs Office Outreach Team** at **Google** from 2016 to present
- Created a working group of communications managers, marketers, and open source leadership across strategy, outreach, and compliance to harmonize open source communications across Alphabet.
- Laid the foundation for a communications program, managed 7 social channels and served as editor-in-chief publishing 80 blog posts from 70 authors per year, doubling audience size and read time.
- Designed, built, and maintained tools and infrastructure to support programs like Google Summer of Code, saving time, reducing error rates, and providing a better experience for program participants.

Board Director and Chief Financial Officer for **Open Source Initiative** from 2016 to present
- Advocated for the Open Source Definition, the license review process, FOSS adoption, and building communities inclusive of many skill sets and reflective of the demographics of the world around them.
- Helped drive growth in individual and organizational membership, with a focus on increasing representation of those outside of the United States and bridging ideological differences.

- Recruited a new controller, helped build processes to support the needs of member projects, presided over significant revenue growth, and created projections to inform discussions about use of funds.

Community Manager for **Open Source and Web Technology** at **O'Reilly Media** from 2013 to 2016
- Pioneered the Community Manager role for O'Reilly, writing guidelines, developing processes, building tools, and helping to grow the team from one to five.
- Navigated multiple crises that spilled onto social media and into in-person events, each time prioritizing safety, managing the story, and using the experience to mitigate future risk.
- Advised on editorial and marketing strategy, doing research and outreach to recruit readers, authors, attendees, sponsors, and community partners.

Co-founder of **Web & Interactive Media Professionals (WIMP)** from 2011 to 2015
- Co-founded a user group hosting over 150 events for 1,100+ members in the semi-rural North Bay, eventually opening a coworking and event space in downtown Santa Rosa, CA.
- Drove partnerships with local universities, libraries, businesses, coworking spaces, nonprofits, municipalities, and economic development agencies to find, serve, and advocate for the community.
- Donated over $200,000 in services to local nonprofits through charity hackathons, each bringing teams of professional designers, developers, and marketers together with apprentices and nonprofits.

Previous Roles

- **Communications Manager** at SoCo NEXUS and North Bay iHub from 2012 to 2013
- **CEO** at Bluebird Interactive from 2011 to 2013
- **Web Designer and Developer** at Nu-Designs Web Marketing from 2009 to 2010
- **Marketing Consultant** at eBoost Consulting from 2006 to 2007
- **System Administrator** at Elite Network Center from 2004 to 2005
- **Freelance Web Developer and Digital Marketing Consultant** from 2002 to 2011

Community Involvement

- Advisor for **Open Source Community Africa** from 2018 to present
- Program Committee Member for **Copyleft Conf** from 2018 to present
- Co-organizer for **North Bay Python** from 2017 to present
- Advisor to **Utah Open Source Foundation** from 2017 to 2018
- Advisor to **Libraries.io** from 2017 to 2018
- Board Director for **Open Source Initiative** from 2016 to present
- Digital Media Advisor at **Santa Rosa Junior College** from 2013 to 2016
- Program Chair of **North Bay Web Conference** in 2011
- Co-organizer of **TEDxSantaRosa** in 2011

Education

- **Philosophy** and **Computer & Information Sciences** at Santa Rosa Junior College from 2008 to 2009
- **Journalism** and **Philosophy** at San Diego State University from 2006 to 2007
- General Education at Sonoma State University from 2004 to 2006