Interim Committee Update

2023
Intersect Committee Update

Introduction

Intersect empowers a distributed network of builders and contributors to share the belief that every voice holds value and that building together is stronger. Members forge a secure, collaborative ecosystem to ensure Cardano’s sustained growth and evolution in a safe space.

Intersect is being built by members for its members, and committees & working groups play a vital role in driving Intersect forward. This 2023 end-of-year wrap-up reports on the progress of the committees that have stood up since Intersect launched and the numerous working groups that have begun integrating into Intersect!
Interim Structure and Approach

Committees are formal bodies within Intersect, typically focused on a domain or function. They are composed of Intersect members and, where applicable, Intersect professional staff to drive efficiencies. They are primarily recommending bodies that discuss and identify opportunities for improvements to Cardano’s development and governance landscape, and collaborate in a distributed way. Some committees will ladder up to others. For example, the parameter committee will make recommendations to the technical steering committee for further consideration. Committees may also collaborate with others where relevant.

On the other hand, working groups are formed by committees when applicable, and support a respective committee’s wider remit or objectives by focusing on specific goals or needs. Working groups can also include non-members of Intersect and bring in expertise from outside of Cardano or even blockchain.

Following Intersect’s launch in July 2023, five committees have been stood up or migrated by Intersect members. These are:

- Civics
- Technical steering
- Membership and community
- Open source
- Parameter

Moving into 2024, a Cardano budget and vision committee will be established to explore a budget for the continuity of Cardano, and look much further ahead to Cardano’s vision and technical roadmap. Cardano’s product functions will also have dedicated working groups established by those who maintain and contribute to the 26 core Cardano repositories.

There are also opportunities for existing alliances and other collectives to integrate into Intersect and collaborate.

For now, let’s catch up with the latest.
The Cardano civics committee ensures that Cardano’s governance is accessible, fair, and transparent. This is a very broad mandate, but some of the duties may include:

- Facilitating a ratification period for the constitution
- Enabling and maintaining the history of off-chain discussions about proposals
- Monitoring tools for on-chain voting to verify that they are maintained and operational
- Updating guidelines, templates, and standards for on-chain voting
- Providing non-binding recommendations as requested by the community regarding Cardano governance improvements.

In November, the civics committee began its first piece of work – providing a recommendation related to Cardano’s governance. To do so, the civics committee established a working group to analyze governance-level protections, or ‘guardrails,’ following the implementation of CIP-1694, and has spent most of its time focused on guardrails related to the Cardano treasury. In December, the committee will likely approve this as its first recommendation and prioritize its focus areas for 2024.
Membership and Community Committee (MCC)

The membership and community committee (MCC) focuses on fostering a strong sense of community and inclusivity within the Cardano ecosystem. It devises strategies to engage community members, promote collaboration, and encourage meaningful contributions. By organizing events, forums, and online platforms, the committee creates spaces for interaction and knowledge-sharing among community participants. Additionally, the MCC oversees membership within Intersect and by doing so, ensures that each member has access to benefits and opportunities for fuller participation in Cardano’s growth and development.

It’s been an incredible experience for the MCC to help establish Intersect since it launched. The MCC proudly announces that Intersect has approximately 900 members with a strong mix between individual contributors and organizations. This couldn’t have been done without the support of the community and joining Intersect as founding members in 2023. Please look out for major announcements relating to membership in early 2024!

The MCC has had 10 meetings since being established on an interim basis, with two being public. The last public meeting was held on December 12 following Intersect’s final Town Hall of 2023. All Intersect members and those passionate about the development of Cardano’s community are welcome and encouraged to participate!

If you’d like to establish a working group within Intersect, please apply here:

In other news, for the latest membership and grant opportunities, please see the Intersect website:

More expansive updates will be provided on the website in early 2024.
The parameter committee is a group of technical domain experts that meet every three weeks to discuss all Cardano protocol parameters, including network, technical, and economic parameters, providing technical advice and recommendations based on updated parameter settings. They also consider community proposals to update parameters.

The purpose of this committee is to provide technical advice and recommendations relating to updating protocol parameters, taking into account economic, security, network, and other technical considerations as appropriate to protect the long-term sustainability of the Cardano blockchain.

The committee published its first recommendation on Cardano Forum as PCP-001, reducing the ‘MinPoolCost’ parameter from 340 to 170 ada. The committee is working on the next recommendation, following the PCP process described on the Cardano forum.

The parameter committee also began collaborating with the Cardano civics committee. Some committee members were invited to the parameter committee’s meeting to discuss the guardrails and limits for treasury withdrawals. The two committees agreed to continue this collaboration in the future.

Follow the meeting notes on the Cardano Forum:

Propose any parameter change or participate in the ongoing discussions on the Cardano Forum:
Open Source Committee

The open source committee (OSC) has been exceptionally busy with two technical working groups (TWGs) engaging in this work: the policy and the strategy TWGs.

The policy working group has heavily engaged and worked with Cardano developers, OSC, and willing community participants on a governance policy for Intersect projects. This policy serves as a benchmark for projects to follow and is specifically aimed toward the governance of the Cardano core repositories by default. This policy is still in draft form and, with the consent of the OSC, will be shared more widely in the near future.

The strategy working group has worked extremely hard in its short time together. Launched in mid-October, they sourced two different drafts compiled into an interview polls list. Currently, several community members have been interviewed, and will conclude before the end of the year. A final public poll on Discord on the same topics will also be held. This feedback will comprise the community input piece to the strategy and then serve as a base to launch from. Current Chair and Intersect member, Modus Create, will help draft the OSC Strategy.

Vital to Cardano’s open source maturity and overall growth is the maintenance of the core code repositories by the community, for the community. To help enable this, the stewardship of core Cardano repositories has now passed from Input Output Global (IOG) to Intersect.

The repository migration took place on December 16, 2023, to transfer all 26 repositories with minimal impact on ongoing developer activity and initiatives. Intersect’s open source committee and the Open Source Program Office will oversee and manage all the Cardano repositories as part of the open source strategy.

Moving into Q1 2024, the OSC’s roadmap plan shows the following items on the agenda:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Jan 30th</th>
<th>Feb 1st</th>
<th>Feb 15th</th>
<th>Apr 30th</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GovTool and Cardaminal (via TxPipe) migration</td>
<td>First draft of open source strategy</td>
<td>OSC plan of action and succession</td>
<td>Open source strategy is in effect</td>
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The OSC has published a survey for members of Intersect and the wider Cardano community to provide feedback and thoughts on Cardano’s open source approach. You can contribute here:
Get involved

Intersect’s Discord server and the Telegram announcement channel are open for all members to join! Especially if you are interested in joining any of the committees or working groups that have already been formed to determine the priorities for Intersect in the future. In 2024, Discord will continue to evolve with non-member spaces and the expansion of working groups and member-only areas.

Join Discord server:

Join the TG announcement channel:

You can also reach out to the Membership and Community committee directly by emailing mcc@intersectmbo.org. In 2024, there are plans for further committee transparency and knowledge-sharing by opening new communications channels via GitBook.

And as always, if you have any questions, ideas, or suggestions, please get in touch via email, X (Twitter), or LinkedIn.

Thank you from the Intersect team and committees!