Django.Social

Inclusive social events for the Django Community in a city near you

how-to guide

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Getting Started

So, you are thinking about setting up a Django.Social group in your city. That's amazing!

We have been running django.social groups for 2 years now and have a formula that really works. In this document we will share our experiences to help you.

The idea behind django.social is to bring people together to socialise and do things away from the code. Your group should be a safe place for everyone regardless of experience or technical knowledge.

Your events should allow people to meet while taking part in a different social activity each time. The conversation starter at your event will always be your shared interest and passion for Django.

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Getting Started

The django.social community was designed to facilitate the in-person interactions that people are missing now that most people are working remotely.

Think of your new django.social group as the "work night out" or the place for your "water cooler chat" - the only difference is that it's with your local community rather than actual work colleagues. But if they are local too, invite them along.

The events held so far across our groups have been the catalyst for new friendships, enabled people new to the city to meet local people and have sometimes led to work opportunities.

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Getting Started

Each group in each location is slightly different, although we do ask the same from each organiser.

The role of the organiser is key to the success of your local group. It's important that we find the right people who are dedicated and passionate about the wider Django Community and want to bring local Django people together.

You will need to create and draft an action plan to get your group up and running. In exchange, we will provide you with marketing templates, promote your group via our social channels, create your meetup page and add your group to the global django.social community.

Each successful group is run for the local community without expectation of getting anything in return. It's helpful if one of your team has prior experience running events.

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Action Plan

Discuss your idea locally to gage interest and invite people to form your "Organising Team"

We recommend having 2-3 people to share the workload

Pick your activities and dates for your first 3-4 events

Keep your events simple and inclusive to all. Socials should be easy to run.

Find a local Sponsor to support your group, this could be by providing a venue, refreshments or more

Start off with some no/low cost events. The most important thing is actually meeting.

Keep running your events regularly, consistency is key

Try to pick a date to hold your event, 1st Thursday, 2nd Saturday or mix it up and see what works. Once you schedule an event don't cancel, even one person in attendance is fine. Your event might be the only interaction they have in person that week!

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Pitching Sponsors

Every django.social event should aim to be free to run or very little cost and able to run without a sponsor

If you are lucky enough to have a local sponsor for your event/group here's some tips to help articulate what you might need. Consider that it is very hard to determine any return on investment for a sponsor so make sure you manage their expectations

A sponsor could get involved by providing a venue, somewhere to meet when you can't be outside. Company offices, Co-working Spaces or a Cafe/Bar are good options

In some groups the sponsor will be asked to provide each attendee with a drink or they could put on something to eat. This should in turn be communicated to the group when advertising the event

Money should never change hands between a sponsor and organiser

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Event Ideas

Walk in the Park	Summer BBQ
Boardgames Night	Gentle Jog
Coffee Morning	Book Club
Co-Working Day	Scenic Picnic
Boat Trip	Quiz Night
Karaoke Night	Sports Event
Lightning Talks	Movie Night

Photo Gallery

Next Steps

We would love to meet you and welcome your team to the Django.Social community

Please submit your proposal to start your local community and we'll come back to you with any feedback and tips. Once onboarded you can expect the following:

Community organisers meet regularly on a monthly call to share tips for events that have worked well, experiences that can help other groups, etc. We will invite you or one of your team to join this.

There is a django.social Discord channel with an organisers chat which you and your team will be invited to join. The discord channel will be opened to all members of your group too.

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Thank You

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