

Wikimedia New York City Chapter

Board of Directors

c/o Ira Brad Matetsky (User:Newyorkbrad)

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To the Wikimania 2012 Site Selection Jury:

We are writing to advise you that the Board of Directors of the Wikimedia NYC Chapter has voted to endorse the Washington, D.C. bid to host Wikimania 2012. This endorsement was unanimous (one board member who is active on the bid committee abstained from the vote).

Washington would be an excellent site for the conference and would be convenient for large numbers of Wikipedians and Wikimedians who might wish to attend. The Washington area is home to ample conference facilities, hotels and dormitories, transportation facilities, and other services necessary to host the conference. The membership of the Wikimedia Washington Chapter includes dozens of members who regularly attend meet-ups and other events, are committed to the mission and projects of the Wikimedia Foundation, and we are sure will do an excellent job coordinating all aspects of the conference.

New York City, where the Wikimedia NYC Chapter is headquartered, is about 225 miles or just a few hours from Washington. The Board and membership of Wikimedia NYC anticipate that if Wikimania 2012 is held in Washington, many of us will be active participants in planning and hosting the conference.

We are sensitive to the importance of geographical diversity among Wikipedians, and relatedly, the need to hold Wikimania in a wide variety of geographical locations. However, as the jury knows, the last time Wikimania was held in North America was in 2006. Given the number of participants from the United States and Canada who attend Wikimania each year, we think that hosting the conference on our continent once every five years would not be considered excessive or unreasonable by participants from other regions and language communities.

We ask that you consider our endorsement of the Washington, D.C. bid – and our intention to participate actively in the conference if the bid is successful – in making your selection decision. If you have any questions concerning our endorsement, we would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,



Ira Brad Matetsky (User:Newyorkbrad)
for the Board of Directors, Wikimedia NYC