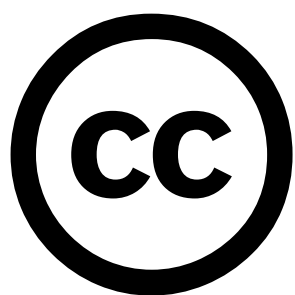




**About this
Open Work**

"Kaleidoscope" by
docoverachiever is
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creative commons

Annual Report

2023



"[great colors of nature](#)" by [marcostetter](#) is published under [Public Domain Mark 1.0](#).

About Us

Creative Commons (CC) is the global nonprofit organization behind the CC Licenses and public domain tools, which power open sharing on popular platforms like Wikipedia, Flickr, YouTube, Medium, Vimeo, and Khan Academy. Since 2002, the CC Licenses have served as an alternative to traditional copyright, providing a simple, standardized, and legal way for individuals and institutions to freely share images, music, research, educational resources, and cultural artifacts.

Chief Executive Officer

Anna Tumadóttir

General Counsel

Kat Walsh

Board of Directors

Marta Belcher

Glenn Otis Brown

Delia Browne

James Grimmelman

Lawrence Lessig **Emeritus*

Angela Oduor Lungati

Bilal Randeree

Alek Tarkowski

Jeni Tennison

Luis Villa

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A Note from Leadership



CC staff photos are licensed under [CC BY 4.0](#).

2023 was a busy year at Creative Commons. Our [Open Culture](#) program and [Open Climate Campaign](#) entered their third and second years, respectively. We hosted our first in-person CC Global Summit since 2019 in Mexico City. We held critical consultations and open panels on AI, copyright, and the CC Licenses, cultural heritage, education, and science; and we launched our [Open Infrastructure Circle](#) in an effort to ensure the CC Licenses are funded well into the future.

We also marked transitions in leadership. At the end of December, Catherine Stihler concluded her time as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Creative Commons, and I transitioned in as Interim. In March 2024, I was appointed CC's permanent CEO. I look forward to working closely with our Board of Directors, staff, and larger community on [the critical work that awaits us in 2024](#).

Anna Tumadóttir, CEO

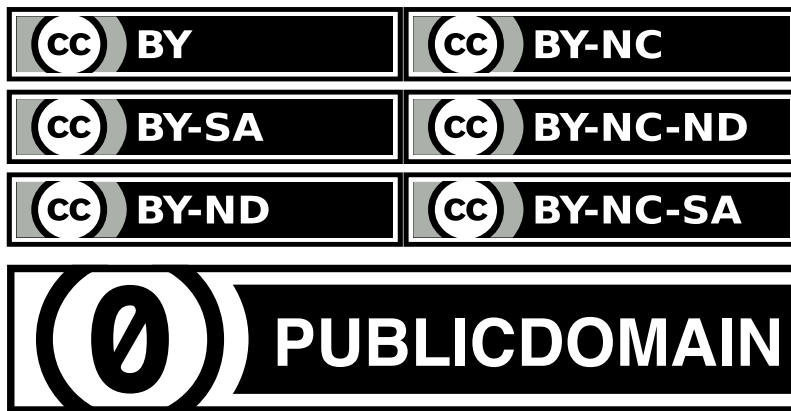
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Tumadóttir', written in a fluid, cursive style.



Licenses and Public Domain Tools

The first CC License was created in 2002. Today, we boast [six CC Licenses](#) and two public domain tools, setting a global standard for sharing.

We've estimated that over 2.5 billion pieces of content were CC Licensed by the end of 2023.



Our legal and technology staff continued to make key infrastructure updates and manage daily maintenance to ensure these Licenses work for everyone.

In 2023, we launched the Open Infrastructure Circle ([OIC](#)) to ensure consistent funding for this work.

We're grateful to the early supporters of the OIC, including the William + Flora Hewlett Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Filecoin Foundation for the Decentralized Web, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Endless, Siegel Family Endowment, Flickr, Microsoft, and Paul and Iris Brest.



"The great growling engine of change - technology. Alvin Toffler" by [katerha](#) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#).



Training in how to use CC Licenses is key to their adoption.

We offer a ten-week [CC Certificate](#) program that is now tailored not only to the education and library sectors, but also galleries, archives, libraries, and museums and [available in 10 languages](#).

As of 2023, we've certified:



**1,705
Graduates**

across



**65
Countries**

In 2023, we greatly expanded our CC Licenses training and education offerings:

19 Workshops & Trainings

with institutions like ALA, Connecticut Humanities & State University of New York, Digital Research Alliance of Canada, and WikiConf North America.

2 Week-Long CC Certificate Bootcamps

for California Community Colleges.

27 Webinars

on topics like the basics of Open Culture, the possibilities of Open Educational Resources (OER) for business-university cooperation, and the future of CC Licenses in digital and online education.

12 CC Legal Open Office Hours

hosted by our legal team, providing a personalized opportunity for the CC community to ask questions about CC Licenses, open access, and sharing.





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global summit

Over 300 attendees from 45 countries joined us this past October in Mexico City for the first in-person [CC Global Summit](#) since 2019. The theme was AI & the Commons with over 60 sessions and 180 speakers. [Learn more here.](#)

Thank you to our sponsors: John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Microsoft Corporation, Filecoin Foundation for the Decentralized Web, Akin, Anthropic, Mozilla Foundation, The Michelson 20MM Foundation, MHz Curationist, Frontiers Media, Arnold & Porter, and Crowell & Moring.

Our Impact

CC believes that opening up knowledge is key to addressing the world's most pressing challenges. Today, we steer campaigns, programming, and training in many areas:

Open Culture

2023 was quite a year for the CC Open Culture Program, thanks to generous funding from [Arcadia](#). We grew our Open Culture team from one to two and a half staff, rolling out new initiatives like TAROC (Towards a Recommendation on Open Culture) and [Open Culture Live: A Webinar Series](#). We invite you to read "[What did Creative Commons do for Open Culture in 2023?](#)" to learn more.

Open Journalism

Thanks to generous funding from the [John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation](#), CC hosted its very first Open Journalism track at the CC Global Summit, including eight presentations, lightning talks, panel discussions, and workshops as well as a [keynote by Anya Kamenetz](#).

Representatives from 33 news outlets and digital rights-focused organizations attended the CC Summit sessions. The Open Journalism track built on [numerous collaborations and workshops](#) throughout 2023.

Open Education

We delivered workshops and presentations on CC Licenses and Open Educational Resources at over 16 conferences and events. The CC Open Education Platform also funded six global projects, [including work to advance the UNESCO Recommendation on OER](#).



"Follow the Color Brick Road" by [Bert Kaufmann](#) is licensed under [CC BY-SA 2.0](#).



Our Impact

We expanded our work in biodiversity, climate, and life sciences focused on ensuring that science research and data are open.

Open Science

Open Climate Campaign

CC, along with SPARC and EIFL, completed year one of our four-year [Arcadia](#) funded Open Climate Campaign focused on promoting Open Access to research on climate science and biodiversity. We invite you to read “[A Year in the Open Climate Campaign](#),” detailing our progress engaging national governments and funders of climate change research.

Open Climate Data Project

In 2023, with support from the [Patrick J. McGovern Foundation](#), we launched a new project to help open up access to large climate datasets. We successfully conducted a landscape analysis of 30 major global sources of climate data and published our “[Recommendations for Better Sharing of Climate Data](#).”

Project to Openly License Life Sciences Preprints

CC [secured new funding from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative](#) to help make openly licensed preprints the standard for sharing scientific knowledge.

Open Earth Platform Initiative

We co-launched [a new project with Norway](#) to help implement open licensing policies to ensure Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation publicly funded climate research, educational resources, data, and software are open.

"Coral Reef at Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge" by [USFWS Pacific](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC 2.0](#).



Areas of Exploration

Support for Creators in the Time of Artificial Intelligence

In 2023, we convened hundreds via roundtables, community conferences (e.g. [MozFest](#), [Wikimania](#)), and public events (e.g. symposium on [Generative AI & Creativity](#)) to debate copyright law, the ethics of open sharing, and other relevant areas that touch AI.

At our CC Global Summit, participants drafted [community-driven principles](#) on AI that are a valuable input and will help inform the organization's thinking as we determine CC's exact role in the AI space.



"The Pillars of Creation" by James Webb Space Telescope
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"bird flock in vedanthangal" by [VinothChandar](#) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#).

2023 Financial Health

Income

Foundations \$4,402,663
Corporate Sponsors \$413,349
Major Donors \$103,215
Small Dollar Donors \$144,217
Program Income \$169,980
Consulting \$173,939
In-Kind \$30,358
Other \$38,792

Total: \$5,496,708

Expenses

CC Licenses & Training \$763,196
Programs \$2,248,091
Events \$395,600
Operations \$1,654,225

Total: \$5,061,112



Our Supporters

We thank you all for your steadfast support of our work. In 2023, we received contributions from 30 foundations and companies and over 2,700 individual donors.



Thank You!

Amateur Radio Digital
Communications
Andrew Gass
Ben Adida
Brewster & Mary Kahle
Bruno Hannud
Colin Sullivan
Douglas Jaffe
Douglas Van Houweling
Esther Wojcicki
Garrett Camp
Gabriel Levin
James Grimmelmann

John Seely Brown
Lawrence Lessig
Marta Belcher
Mary Shaw & Roy Weil
Molly Van Houweling
Mustafa Üstündağ
Paul and Iris Brest
Reid Borsuk
Tassanee Ponlakarn
Ted and Michele Wang
Zahavah Levine and Jeff Meyer





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