



Human Data Commons Foundation

2019 Annual Review

Mission

The mission of the Human Data Commons Foundation (HDC) is to integrate tech, ethics and consciousness in tech development, delivery and consumption. This means going beyond “ethics as usual” cookie cutter approaches to tech ethics by advocating for deeper inclusion of human values and perspectives in the advancement of tech.

HDC is a non-profit organization incorporated in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

History to Date

The Human Data Commons was originally founded in 2017 as a non-profit to advocate for ethical storage and use of data in the technosphere. One of our early initiatives was to publish a report card of privacy policies among tech wearables companies. This report has since been published as a chapter in a book.

One of our main interests has been to bring together community that normally wouldn't be rubbing shoulders – such as tech developers and people interested in human consciousness, arts and ethics. HDC has now hosted 4 annual ParTeCK gatherings in Vancouver (and online in 2020) to support this community development. Each year, 50 some participants have attended the multi-day event for deep dives into various intersections of tech, ethics and consciousness – supported by Harvard alum and author Zak Stein, local politicians, indigenous advocates and representatives, as well as members of our community. Yearly grants have also been awarded to participants each year – over a 4-year period, approximately \$150,000 has been awarded through a private donor and managed by HDC.

HDC is currently undergoing a clarifying shift in strategic direction towards the integration of tech, ethics and consciousness more explicitly. Our Board is in a process of identifying what that means moving forward and how we can increase our sustainability.

An HDC Executive was in place from 2017 – 2019. In 2019, when operational funding ran its course, the HDC Board chose to continue to run the organization as a working board. The majority of funding has been from a private funder who has continued to fund specific projects. In terms of funding, 100% of funding to HDC is and has been sourced from private donations by members of the public. We have never received donations from government, private corporations or granting agencies.



Projects and Initiatives

ParTecK Event and Community Grant

ParTecK was born in 2017 out of a desire for spaces for meaningfully sharing about the current landscape of tech among social innovators, tech-innovators, and thought leaders. Highly diverse participants coupled with thought-provoking presentations, culture building and opportunities for unique collaborations makes for a highly engaging event. ParTecK themes vary from year to year and comes with a pre-backgrounder as well as an event summary. Community Grants have been managed each year to participants who meet our grant criteria. <https://humandatacommons.org/parteck/>

Wearables Report Card

The *Quantified Self Report Card* is a series of 3 annual report cards focused on aspects of privacy policies among wearables. The first report card is now a book chapter; our 2019 report card received attention from several media outlets in November 2019.

<https://humandatacommons.org/quantified-self/>

Advocacy and Consulting

Initiatives to support tech policy awareness have included a *Top 10 Issues for Canadian Voters* which was released prior to the fall 2019 election.

HDC is currently developing its consultancy arm to support the inclusion of ethics more consciously, within tech development.

HDC Board

Darlene Gering

Darlene Gering works at the intersection of business and social impact. Darlene started her career at Dun & Bradstreet in Toronto. Following her desire to live and work in Latin America, she founded D&R International S.A. in Costa Rica which became Dun and Bradstreet's fastest growing agency in Latin America. Darlene led Thriving Generations Employment Agency, a social enterprise helping moms in poverty transition back to work. She has recently founded Sociatek to create economic empowerment for women in Latin America.



Carissa Kazyss MNRN, MA

Carissa Kazyss is co-chair of the HDC Board. She co-designs ParTeck, HDC's annual flagship event and is a steward of the emerging ParTeck community, drawing on her background in network coordination and community development. Carissa has a MA in Integral Psychology and a Master's in Natural Resources Management. She works at the nexus of personal and organizational development in her coaching and consulting work.

Scott Nelson

Scott Nelson is co-chair of the HDC Board. He is a tech entrepreneur and investor. His passions include consciousness, blockchain, decentralized digital currencies, and open source and standards. He's a digital footprint minimalist, cyclist, and integral psychonaut.

HDC Advisor

Rochelle Fairfield

Rochelle Fairfield is an Advisor to the Human Data Commons Foundation in Vancouver, Canada, where she helps convene and design their annual ParTeck event. Her work integrates academia, project and event design and facilitation, transforming individuals and systems, industry governance and ethical praxis. She has an MA in Integral Theory, certified as an Integral Coach, is a long-time Zen practitioner and has written on gender and power as well as co-authoring the HDC's annual *Quantified Self Report Card*.

A Few Metrics

Reports Released – 2017 - 2019	10
Book chapters published	1
Annual ParTeck Events	4
Community Newsletter Subscribers	170
Total Community Grants managed 2017-2019	~ \$150,000
Community Grant projects	13