# Mozilla Foundation Board Meeting

November 14, 2019

# 2019 board workflow

| February | April | July | November | December | February |
|----------|-------|------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2019 Plan +Budget | Board Elections + MoCo | Berlin Retreat *(AI ToC)* | Governance + Pan-Mozilla | 2020 Program Plan | 2020 Plan + Budget |
| **Q1** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **today** | **Q4** | **2020** |

# Agenda

*(Nov 14)*

1. Approve minutes

2. State of the Internet Project

3. Pan Mozilla strategy committee

4. Board recruitment

5. Expanding the program committee

6. Brief MoCo + Thunderbird updates

# State of the Internet Project

# Why?

Vision for a
**Bolder**
**Broader**
**Bigger**
Mozilla and the
**Longer term strategy**
that will get us there

# What?

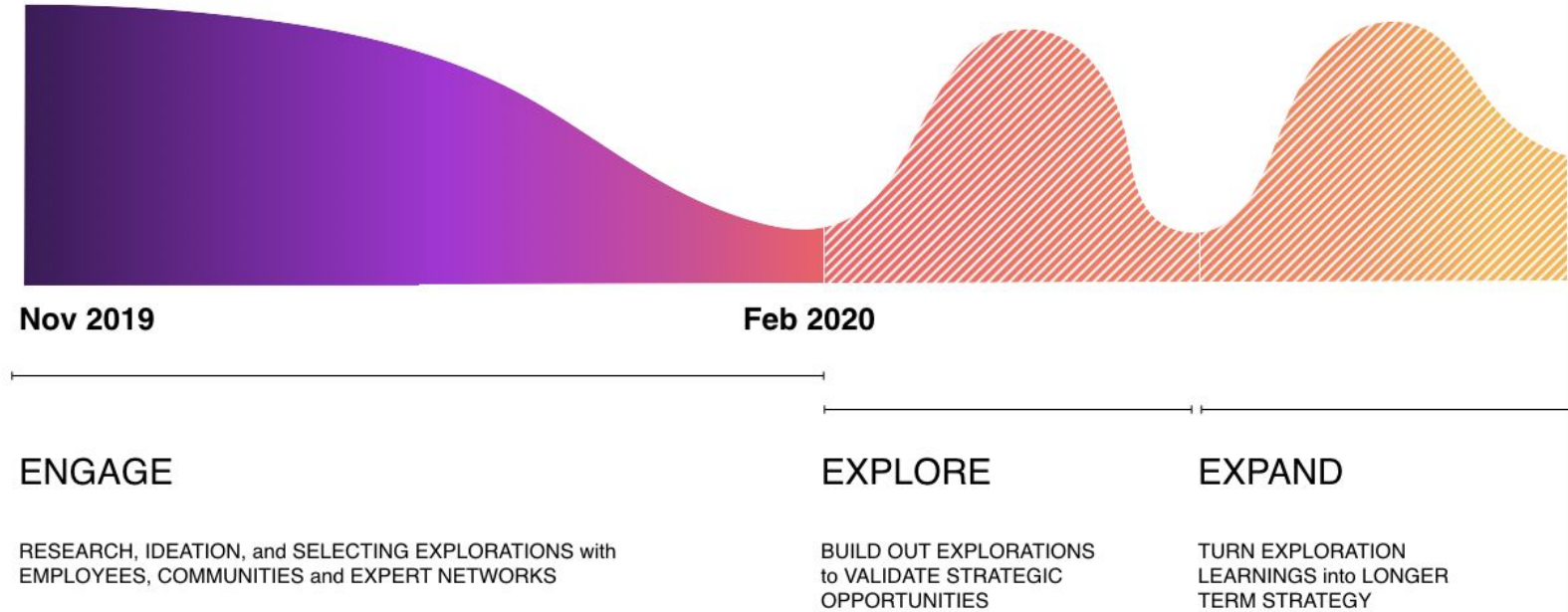**Product** and **technology explorations** that address critical topics in online life

*(examples: disinformation, bias in AI, surveillance economy, increased centralisation, data ownership)*

What?

First focus area:
**Surveillance economy**

Working with IDEO to design a
repeatable process and
launch explorations

# First step: IDEO process



**Nov 2019**

**Feb 2020**

## ENGAGE

RESEARCH, IDEATION, and SELECTING EXPLORATIONS with
EMPLOYEES, COMMUNITIES and EXPERT NETWORKS

## EXPLORE

BUILD OUT EXPLORATIONS
to VALIDATE STRATEGIC
OPPORTUNITIES

## EXPAND

TURN EXPLORATION
LEARNINGS into LONGER
TERM STRATEGY

# Reminder: where Board members can help

1. High-level, big picture perspective
2. Advice on approach, scope and topics
3. Alignment across both organisations
4. Sounding board for executives

# Pan Mozilla Strategy Committee

# Background

At the July, 2019 Board meeting in Berlin it was agreed that we want more connection and collaboration across Mozilla's Boards (MoFo/MoCo).

Based on work with Chris Stone, an initial proposal to meet this need is: **create a Pan Mozilla Strategy Committee** including founder, ED + CEO and members from both Boards.

We would like to **discuss the scope and form of this proposal today**. Mitchell will lead a similar discussion with the MoCo Board as well.

We will gather feedback, update the proposed committee charter (in board book) and bring back for formal consider by the MoFo Board at the December meeting.

# Proposed scope

"The Pan-Mozilla Strategy Committee ("the Committee"), a standing committee reporting to the Board of Directors of the Mozilla Foundation, assists and advises directors and management on **strategic issues related to the overall scope of Mozilla**.

In particular, the work of the Committee is to consider how to advance the overall charitable mission of Mozilla, with special consideration given to how the work of the different organizations within the group to support a common mission with each also maintaining their own distinct roles."

# Proposed structure

The MoFo board approves members of the Committee, which will include:

1. Founder, Mitchell Baker
2. MoFo board members (2)
3. MoCo board members (2)
4. MoFo Executive Director
5. MoCo CEO

The Committee selects a chair, at this point it should be someone other than Mitchell.

# Possible first task: State of the Internet

As it's first task, the Committee could assist with the State of the Internet project:

1. High-level, big picture perspective
2. Advice on approach, scope and topics
3. Alignment across both organisations
4. Sounding board for executives

Question for discussion: does this task fit well with the scope we've described for the Committee? Is this the sort of thing the committee is needed for?

# Board Recruitment

# Background

We **agreed to expand the board this time last year**. Since then, Bob has moved to the MoCo board. We have made little progress in recruiting.

At the same time, it is clear that we need more expertise -- and more hands on deck -- as we move into the next phase of our work. E.g. people to be on our strategy committee.

Proposal: restart the process with a goal to **get at least one new board member by April 2020** and up to two more by the end of the year.

To do this: **we need one dedicated Board volunteer to work directly with Mark** over the coming year. Also, will do public comms on this to generate ideas and create accountability.

# Proposed process

1. ASAP: one board volunteer to work with Mark on recruitment

2. ASAP: update and post board member job description on wiki

3. ASAP: blog post updating community on this plan (similar to this)

4. ASAP: internal Mozilla email asking for candidate suggestions

5. December: discuss fast track candidates, if any

# Proposed process

6. December: add advisory members to program committee (pipeline?)

7. February: approve one or two members if we have fast track candidates

8. February: review new short list, some interviews may have happened

9. April: deadline to have at least one new board member even if no fast track

10. December: goal to have three new board members by year end

# Proposal *(decision needed)*

Proposal: do two things at today's meeting:

1.  Agree to this process, including public communications

2.  Select a volunteer to work with Mark, meeting at least bi-weekly

Another option on #2 is to create a full governance committee, but that feels difficult given the amount of work in other areas and small number of board members.

Expanding the Program Committee

decision

Mozilla Confidential

# Expanding the program committee

In order to succeed with our 'trustworthy AI' work, we need more people
with expertise and profile on these issues around the Mozilla table.

**Proposal: expand this program committee over the next six months** to include, ideally
with expertise on specific AI outcome areas (tech, policy, education, etc.).

We currently have ability to add two outside voting members to our program committee.
Would like to change structure to have a larger number but non-voting / advisory only.

# Gaps to fill

*Areas where we will need expertise and may not have contact:*

People focused day in and day out on building more **trustworthy products and technology building blocks**. People driving tech innovation. *Up and coming researcher or engineer?*

Someone working on **data stewardship and data trusts** at the technical, legal and long term business opportunity level. *People at Cambridge have emerging work here.*

People focused on regions where AI is growing in a different direction, especially working on **AI in Asia and Africa**. *Someone from Deep Learning Indaba leadership?*

# Potential committee members

Key question: what level of seniority and experience do we want?

Fei Fei Li,
Stanford AI Institute
*overall expertise and profile*

Amba Kak,
AI Now + former Mozilla
*global policy perspective*

Vilas Dhar
Investor and philanthropist
*data trusts + overall strategy*

Ade Adewunmi,
Cloudera + former UK GDS
*policy + start up perspective*

# Proposal *(decision needed)*

The proposal is to **modify the program charter to allow up to four advisory members on the Program Committee**. New language would read:

> *The Committee may include up to four (4) non-voting advisory members whose experience may assist the Committee and the Board. These members need not be Board members. The appointment of advisory members requires the affirmative vote of a majority of all the directors then in office, at a meeting in which a quorum is present. Advisory members have a one year renewable term.*

We would also remove the section of the Charter that provides for outside members with voting rights. A full version of the proposed amended text is in the board book.

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