

RE: Call for Ocean Worlds Working Group Co-Chairs

Dear Ocean Worlds Community,

NASA has indicated support for forming a joint Ocean Worlds Working Group (OWWG) under the umbrella of the Outer Planets Assessment Group (OPAG), Small Bodies Assessment Group (SBAG), and Network for Ocean Worlds (NOW) as a vehicle to communicate the goals and needs of the Ocean Worlds (OW) community to NASA. This Cross-AG OWWG should reflect the intellectual diversity that bridges planetary science and astrobiology, and cover the rich diversity of targets that provide unique opportunities for mission and technology development. The OWWG will enable the OW community to directly define research and analysis needs, organize mission development and strategic planning efforts, and identify supporting technology development priorities. There has already been significant development of OW priorities in both the Roadmap to Ocean Worlds and the 100+ community white papers that fed into the recent Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal Survey which provide a foundation for the OWWG efforts. This working group will also provide the necessary community infrastructure to hear, share, and document new ideas as the science continues to evolve. The OWWG will communicate their findings through OPAG, SBAG, and NOW to NASA's Planetary Science Advisory Committee (PAC).

As a first step, the OPAG, SBAG, and NOW have formed a committee to select Co-Chairs for the OWWG. These co-chairs will be empowered to establish the operational structure of the WG in collaboration with the OPAG, SBAG and NOW leadership, and will initiate a call for members of the working group.

Co-Chair Position

The Cross-AG OWWG will have two Co-Chairs chosen by representatives of the OPAG, SBAG, and NOW steering committees. We are currently seeking a minimum term of 2 years for the inaugural co-chairs. At any point, an interim Co-Chair may be appointed for either Co-Chair position. Interim Co-Chairs step in when the other Co-Chair cannot serve in the position for more than six weeks for any reason with no questions asked and no explanation needed. The process for identifying and selecting an interim Co-Chair will be determined by the Co-Chairs if and when the need arises.

Co-Chair Position Responsibilities:

- Work with the other Co-Chair and OPAG/SBAG/NOW leadership to organize a Cross-AG Ocean Worlds Working Group (OWWG).
- Lead the development of the OWWG Charter as the inaugural Co-Chairs for the OWWG.
- Cultivate an encouraging and inclusive environment for considering and discussing ideas and other input from the Ocean Worlds (OW) community in order to determine the common goals and needs of the OW community
- Formulate the OWWG's strategy for effectively communicating the evolving goals and needs of the OW community to NASA.
- Advocate for the OW community and present OWWG findings and recommendations to the wider planetary science community, through OPAG, SBAG, NOW and up through to the PAC.
- Communicate with leaders and members of relevant professional societies.

Time Commitment and Support:

- The estimated time commitment for this role is one hour per week on average (sometimes more hours in a single day), but the Co-Chairs are given the agency to determine the exact commitment level needed with the support of the OPAG, SBAG and NOW leadership.
- This is an unfunded role, but prospective candidates are encouraged to talk to their employers about support that may be available for service activities.
- No travel is required. WG meetings are held virtually and engagement with the AGs can be navigated remotely.

Desirable Co-Chair Skills and Characteristics (two or more of the following):

- Has research interests and expertise that pertain to OW science
- Has positive ideas for advancing inclusion, diversity, equity, and access (IDEA) principles within the OW science community
- Has recent experience in OW science activities such as working on related Decadal survey white papers, presenting on OW science at meetings, or advocating for OW science at community meetings (i.e., at OPAG, SBAG, NOW)
- Has past leadership experience in any context or a strong desire to step into leadership roles for the Cross-AG OWWG
- Has experience with one or more AGs (e.g., attending AG meetings virtually or in-person, serving on a steering committee, town hall meetings, or other activities)

Co-Chair Selection Process

Nomination Process

We are requesting self-nominations packages that include the following information:

1. A 1-page cover letter that includes:
 - a. A discussion of your experience with Ocean World science and related activities
 - b. A discussion that describes your vision for the OWWG and engagement of the broader OW community
 - c. A discussion of your leadership style and values that you would bring to the role of Co-Chair
 - d. A discussion of your experience with IDEA best practices within the planetary community
 - e. An explanation of why you wish to serve as Co-Chair and how the role would align with your other professional responsibilities.
2. A 2-page CV describing relevant experience/skills indicated above.

Complete Applications should be uploaded by **February 15, 2023** to:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/WVcUvgAbCrifblrqzcBK>

Selection

All candidate application materials submitted by the specified deadline will be fully considered by a committee consisting of representatives from the OPAG, SBAG, and NOW steering committees, who will be responsible for selecting candidates to be offered the two co-chair positions. The selection committee will use the desired Co-Chair skills and characteristics listed above holistically for their evaluation of candidate applications.

Notification

The selected candidates will be contacted to ask if they accept the Co-Chair role. If the candidate accepts, the position will be announced. This decision is anticipated to be made in late March/Early April of 2023.

Announcement

After the new Co-Chairs accept the positions, we will announce them via email through the OPAG, SBAG, and NOW membership distributions.

If you have questions, or difficulty uploading your application, please contact Kennda Lynch (klynch@lpi.usra.edu) or Carol Paty (cpaty@uoregon.edu)