Creative Commons welcomes new energy and expertise onto its board

Mountain View, CA, December 16, 2013: Creative Commons, a globally-focused nonprofit that provides legal and technological tools for sharing and collaboration, welcomed eight new members to its board of directors today. It also announced a new advisory council to complement the board and provide input and feedback to CC leadership. Several alumni of the CC board will be transitioning to the advisory council.

The announcement comes on the anniversary of the first Creative Commons licenses, which were launched in 2002. Since then, thousands of creators around the world have used Creative Commons licenses, amassing a selection of over half a billion CC-licensed works, spanning the worlds of education, art, academia, data, science, and much more.

"With the continuity of current board members and a fresh outlook brought by the new members, Creative Commons is well prepared to engage with a very different environment from the time of its founding," board chair Paul Brest said. "The board includes some of the world's foremost experts in technology, intellectual property law, the internet, and business and social entrepreneurship. It's appropriate that we're announcing the new board on December 16, the date when it all began eleven years ago."

The new board members reflect the broad diversity of the global Creative Commons community. Four of the new board members — Renata Avila (Guatemala), Dorothy Gordon (Ghana), Paul Keller (Netherlands), and Jongsoo Yoon (South Korea) — are Creative Commons affiliates, experts who represent Creative Commons around the world and localize CC licenses and other materials for their jurisdictions.

Creative Commons also gained board members with substantial experience in technology and product development, like Ben Adida, the director of engineering at Square who previously served as CC's first technology lead; and Christopher Thorne, a veteran technology entrepreneur and private equity investor. The new members also bring additional legal acumen to the organization, including Microsoft intellectual property counsel Thomas C. Rubin and New York University Law School professor Chris Sprigman. Together, these individuals will augment Creative Commons' existing capacity in technology and intellectual property law.

Creative Commons CEO Cathy Casserly will be leaving her role as CEO in early 2014, but will continue to serve on the newly formed advisory council. "While my role in the organization will be changing, I'm proud to continue to serve the CC community alongside this diverse and talented group of leaders," Casserly said. "Through our collective efforts, we will continue to work toward our vision of a truly collaborative, free internet."

Additional information

Bios and photos of Creative Commons board and advisory council members
http://creativecommons.org/board

Creative Commons launches Version 4.0 of its license suite
http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/40935

About Creative Commons

Creative Commons (http://creativecommons.org/) is a globally-focused nonprofit organization dedicated to making it easier for people to share and build upon the work of others, consistent with the rules of copyright. Creative Commons provides free licenses and other legal tools to give everyone from individual creators to large companies and institutions a simple, standardized way to grant copyright permissions and get credit for their creative work while allowing others to copy, distribute, and make specific uses of it.

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New members joining the Creative Commons board of directors

Ben Adida is director of engineering at Square. His passion is using technology to empower people. Ben has done extensive work in online payments & identity, secure voting, personal health records, and the broader Web. He has developed free software for 15 years and Web software for 18 years. Previously, Ben was director of engineering at Mozilla and research faculty at Harvard Medical School. He was CC's CTO at the time of CC's 2002 launch. Ben received his Ph.D. at MIT in the Cryptography and Information Security group.

Renata Avila is a Guatemalan Human Rights and Intellectual Property Lawyer, and an advocate for freedom of expression, privacy, access to information and indigenous rights. Renata is the country lead of Creative Commons Guatemala and a member of the Web Index Science Council. She is currently leading the "Web We Want" campaign, which aims to create a positive, human rights agenda for internet users.

Dorothy Gordon is the Director-General of Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT (AITI-KACE), which specializes in information and communications technology (ICT) training, consulting, research, and advocacy for Africa. She is deeply committed to growing Africa's technology capability to innovate and manage solutions to address the continent's needs. Her current interests center around innovation ecosystems, digital content creation, intellectual property regimes, mobile apps development, open source technologies, and women in ICT.

Paul Keller is vice-chair of Kennisland, an Amsterdam-based think-tank focused on innovation in the knowledge economy. Paul is public project lead for Creative Commons Netherlands and a leading expert on open licensing systems in the cultural heritage sector. From 2009 to 2013, Paul has been Creative Commons' Collecting Societies Liaison. In this role, he has been instrumental in negotiating pioneering cooperations between Creative Commons and various collective rights management organisations. Paul also serves as a board member for Dutch Culture that aims to strengthen the Dutch arts, culture and heritage sector by promoting international collaboration.

Thomas C. Rubin is chief intellectual property strategy counsel at Microsoft, where he leads product development and global policy related to copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets. He has testified about orphan works before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee and addressed issues at the intersection of content and technology before government, NGO, academic, and industry forums throughout the world. A fervent supporter of Creative Commons since its inception – including by driving the creation of CC license add-ins for Microsoft Office documents and CC license filters for Bing image search – Tom has taught seminars at Yale and Stanford and been a longtime fellow at the Stanford Center for Internet and Society.

Chris Sprigman is a professor at the New York University School of Law and the Co-Director of the NYU Engelberg Center on Innovation Law and Policy. He teaches intellectual property law, antitrust law, competition policy and comparative constitutional law. His scholarship focuses on how legal rules affect innovation and the deployment of new technologies.

Christopher Thorne is the executive chairman of Broadline Principle Capital, a multi-sector growth equity investment firm. As an early pioneer in China's private equity industry, he received Private Equity International's Asia Deal of the Year award for a China transaction he led in 2007. Chris oversees investments with niche category-leading companies in healthcare, technology, consumer packaged goods, advanced materials, and financial services. A McKinsey & Company alum, Chris received his MBA, JD, and AB degrees from Harvard University.

Jongsoo (Jay) Yoon is serving as a presiding judge at the Seoul Northern District Court. He graduated from the Seoul National University College of Law and received a master's degree in law from the University of Seoul. He is especially interested in social and legal issues related to intellectual property rights, personal information, internet governance and IT, and most of his thesis work was related to these issues. He also plays leading roles in various volunteer works in and out of Korea as the Project Lead of Creative Commons Korea, a nonprofit organization which spreads the idea of Creative Commons in Korea.