

Manifesto: Jaz Parkyn for Programs DC

Over the past 10 years or so, I have worked with businesses to create custom Joomla websites and data analysis platforms. I come from a background in PHP and SQL and soon discovered Joomla during my time at University. My employer encouraged me to attend my first JoomlaDay UK in 2013 and I wasn't quite sure what to expect, only having spoken to a few community members online before. After that event, I caught the 'Joomla Bug' and began looking at ways to become involved in the community. It wasn't long before I joined the Extensions Directory Team (JED) as a listing specialist and was responsible for screening the submitted extensions and handling the associated tickets.

In 2015, I was given the opportunity to attend J&Beyond in Prague and was able to meet a wider part of our community and attend my first team sprint. I will always look back fondly at the event, even if it felt like it went past too quickly! Between then and now, things have continued to fly past at speed, from becoming JED Team Leader, to building up the courage to present a session at JoomlaDay UK and the Joomla World Conference. Joomla has helped me to grow as a person and it feels great being able to give something back in return.

Nearly 18 months ago, I submitted my name into the elections for Programs Department Coordinator, and subsequently won the vote. Since being an OSM board member, I have helped to develop a better structure within the department and its teams - all teams are now holding regular productive meetings and are posting their minutes on the Volunteer Portal. Earlier this year, I wrote a series of guidelines to help a newly elected team leader within the department; I then expanded on this to create a policy to cover the responsibilities of all team leaders. Following a few rounds of feedback and suggestions, it was then voted in as an official OSM Policy as a resource for all teams within our ecosystem.

I love procedures, policies and streamlining where possible - things that soon lead into working with the Webmasters Team and assisting Wilco Alsemgeest with tidying up and developing new components for some of Joomla's own websites. I'm also still involved with the JED team - it will always have special meaning to me as it is where my Joomla journey really started. Currently, I am helping to develop the next version of the Extensions Directory, as well as being Assistant Team Leader to Anibal Sanchez.

Outside of the Joomla world, I build complex data analysis platforms for companies within the food industry, as well as running a SaaS development company using Laravel and Vue.js. However, it's always the highlight of my week when I get to build a new Joomla website, especially those that have a unique use case that needs a sleek solution. I'm a big fan of building things from scratch, including templates, components, and modules, and I love that fact that Joomla's flexibility allows me to override everything. It always puts a smile on my face when

my clients realise how easy it is to update their websites, especially when they are expecting to see 'gibberish' code!

In the next year, I look forward to working with the Programs teams and assisting them in achieving their goals.

- For the Volunteer Engagement Team (VET), I look forward to helping them identify and develop engagement avenues with the goal of bringing new people into our fantastic community, and exploring ways to better thank the volunteers that are already here.
- For the Certifications Program (JCP), I am excited to continue assisting the team on their long term goal of developing their new exam platform, and the more recent task of creating a new J!4 exam.
- For the Educational Outreach Working Group (JEO), I hope to help them on their journey in finding their place within our community, defining their mission, and making sure that they have the right resources in order to excel.
- On the board, I promise to maintain a level-headed and unbiased approach to all matters, and to work alongside everyone in our community to take Joomla into the future.

Joomla doesn't have any entry requirements. You don't need to be a rockstar developer or the loudest voice in the room to make a difference - there is space for everyone in our community, no matter your background or skill set.

Those who have worked with me understand my passion and determination. I believe in working together to create fantastic things and if I can help people to do that, then I'm happy.