

Arbitrum Developer Guild Specification

The pursuit of a Guild was established as part of the [Arbitrum Expansion Program \(AEP\)](#), which introduced a self-service model for launching custom Arbitrum chains.

Projects deploying Arbitrum chains outside of Arbitrum One and Arbitrum Nova must pay 10% of their **Net Protocol Revenue** to the Arbitrum Ecosystem. 2% of the Net Protocol Revenue is allocated to the Developer Guild and the remaining 8% is allocated to the ArbitrumDAO treasury. Moreover, 3% of the [Priority Gas Auctions \(PGA\)](#) and the Sequencer [Fast Feed](#) proceeds from Arbitrum One is allocated to the Developer Guild.

The Developer Guild exists to:

- Recognize and incentivise long-term contributors to Arbitrum's core codebase, protocol development, tooling and infrastructure
- Ensure that a portion of Arbitrum chains-originated Net Protocol Revenue is allocated to the sustainability and decentralization of the Arbitrum stack
- Create transparent and meritocratic pathways for teams to receive support for maintaining infrastructure essential to the ecosystem

Guiding Principles

The Arbitrum Developer Guild is designed to recognize, support, incentivize, and sustain long-term contributors whose work expands the feature set, competitiveness, and decentralization of the Arbitrum ecosystem.

To that end, the Guild operates under the following guiding principles:

1. **Arbitrum alignment**
 - Guild members business model must substantially rely on Arbitrum winning (being all in) and work on initiatives that strengthen Arbitrum's scalability, decentralization, security, and/or ecosystem growth.
2. **Technical impact**
 - Contributions should directly impact the Arbitrum core protocol. Shared standards (e.g., canonized forks, reusable precompiles) are encouraged.
3. **Merit-based Membership**
 - Members will be invited by the Arbitrum Foundation to join the Guild based on their demonstrable proof-of-work.
4. **Sustainability**
 - Guild funding is largely an additional incentive on top of core business revenue, and may at times fall short of and at times exceed member operating costs.
5. **Transparency**

- Names of members alongside funding allocation will be published periodically on the [ArbitrumDAO forum](#).
- Guild members will be expected to show continued work to the wider community

Guild Membership

The Arbitrum Developer Guild is an invite-only program that rewards contributions via continuous proof of work on the core Arbitrum Protocol or related high-impact technical contributions. Membership will primarily target organizations who adhere to the following:

- Maintain an active public identity (e.g. GitHub or organizational site)
- Provide yearly updates of Guild-related work
- Follow Guild guidelines on transparency, disclosure, and license adherence
- Members must go through KYC/KYB and sign an agreement with the Arbitrum Foundation before they can become eligible for funding
- Engage in good-faith participation in feedback loops (e.g. tooling feedback, DAO comments, etc.)

Member Assessment Guidelines

Regular member assessments will depend on reports published by the Guild member to the ArbitrumDAO. This might be part of their already existing transparency report or a report dedicated to Guild efforts.

There are two types of metrics which should be captured, on both a qualitative and quantitative level:

- **Technical Contribution Metrics**, which should capture the volume, quality, meaningfulness (advancing the functionality, security or scalability of Arbitrum) and complexity of code provided to Arbitrum's core repositories.
- **Ecosystem Impact Metrics**, which should capture how contributions create shared value for users and the broader Arbitrum ecosystem by working to solve real problems or provide clear benefits to teams, chains, or developers in the Arbitrum ecosystem.

Contribution Prerequisites

The following prerequisites are required for contributions to be considered valid:

Criteria	Requirement	Evaluation Guidelines
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Contribution Scope	Direct work on Arbitrum protocol or related high-impact technical contributions	Evaluated based on commits, merged PRs, and relevance to eligible repositories.
Track Record	Core components in production for a reasonable period (12-18 months)	Measured through visible activity in public repositories (commits, PRs, issue triage)
Alignment	Contributions must further scalability, decentralization, modularity and usage.	AF will assess alignment by reviewing what problem the contribution solves and whether the chosen approach fits the aforementioned principles
Reporting	Public updates on relevant work are provided	Members must affirm readiness to share updates

Membership Adjustment

Guild membership, including suspension or removal, may be adjusted at the sole discretion of the Arbitrum Foundation, which will consider factors including:

Scenario	Action	Evaluation Guidelines
Privately maintained code	Membership suspension or removal	If the lack of meaningful contributions is not made under a publicly viewable repository, or doesn't use one of or moves away from the following licenses: BSL (Arbitrum Expansion Program), Apache 2.0, MIT, LGPL.

Failure to report	Warning, followed by suspension or removal if no change	Lack of updates without an acceptable explanation.
Proven misconduct	Immediate removal	Determined through documentation, public reporting, or internal investigation; includes plagiarism, abuse, or conflict of interest violations.
Long-term inactivity	Membership re-evaluation and possible removal	If a member has not made any meaningful contributions to eligible Arbitrum repositories or ecosystem initiatives for a prolonged period they may be subject to removal. Meaningful contributions must go beyond trivial changes, including merged PRs, impactful commits, technical proposals, or required reporting. Low-effort activity (e.g., typo fixes, dependency bumps) does not reset the inactivity window.
Violation of Guild principles	Subject to review and possible removal	Examples include misrepresenting contributions or acting against decentralization principles. Evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Arbitrum Developer Guild Operations

The Arbitrum Foundation will act as the main facilitator including:

- Approving new members to the Guild
- Deciding the %-stream for each Guild member
- Making important changes to the Guild (e.g., guiding principles, membership eligibility)
- Handling agreements with Guild members (including termination)
- Documenting relevant, non-sensitive information about guild operations
- Disbursing funds to Guild members on a regular cadence

Examples of Qualifying Guild Member Contributions

- <https://github.com/OffchainLabs/nitro>
- <https://github.com/OffchainLabs/nitro-contracts>
- <https://github.com/OffchainLabs/arbitrum-sdk>
- <https://github.com/OffchainLabs/bold>
- <https://github.com/OffchainLabs/cargo-stylus>
- <https://github.com/OffchainLabs/stylus-sdk-rs>