

THE HUMAN-AI INNOVATION COMMONS

Inventor & Contributor Onboarding Framework

As Amended February 2026

This framework governs the process by which inventors and dataset contributors join the Commons, assign intellectual property, and participate in our mission of ensuring that AI-generated prosperity benefits humanity broadly. It reflects our foundational belief that the creators of valuable intellectual property—whether patents or training datasets—deserve both fair compensation and the knowledge that their work contributes to human flourishing.

PART I: FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

Article 1: The Three-Way Covenant

When an inventor or contributor assigns intellectual property to the Commons, three commitments are made simultaneously: the creator receives fair compensation (33% of licensing revenues); workers displaced by AI receive support (33% to UBI and transition programs); and the safety of AI development is advanced (33% to alignment research). These three commitments are indivisible. No licensing agreement will compromise any of these allocations.

Article 2: The AI Collaboration Requirement

The Commons exists specifically to steward intellectual property that emerges from human-AI collaboration. We accept inventions and datasets where artificial intelligence meaningfully contributed to conception, design, curation, or development. This is not a technical threshold but a philosophical one: we believe that as AI becomes increasingly capable, new frameworks are needed to ensure its contributions benefit humanity broadly.

Article 3: Permanence and Trust

The three-way allocation framework is irrevocable. No future board, donor, or acquirer can alter these percentages or redirect funds away from their intended purposes. This permanence is not a constraint but a feature: it ensures that contributors can trust their work will always serve the mission they joined.

PART II: ETHICAL STANDARDS

Article 4: Beneficial Purpose

All intellectual property accepted by the Commons must have plausible applications that benefit humanity. This does not mean every invention must solve a global crisis—incremental

improvements to everyday life are valuable. But we will not accept inventions whose primary purpose is harmful, or datasets whose primary training applications would cause harm.

Article 5: Excluded Applications

The Commons will not license intellectual property for: autonomous weapons systems or lethal autonomous decision-making; mass surveillance infrastructure designed to suppress civil liberties; technologies whose primary purpose is discrimination based on protected characteristics; environmental destruction at scale; or other applications determined by the Board to fundamentally contradict the mission of human flourishing.

Article 6: Dual-Use Judgment

Many technologies have both beneficial and harmful applications. The Commons will evaluate dual-use technologies based on their most likely applications, the availability of safeguards, the comparative benefit-to-harm ratio, and whether accepting the technology advances or undermines our broader mission. When in doubt, we will err toward caution.

Article 7: Licensing Ethics

Beyond what we accept, we also consider how we license. The Commons may decline licensing arrangements with entities whose broader activities contradict our mission, even when the specific licensed application would be beneficial. We seek partners who share our values, though we recognize that impact sometimes requires working with imperfect institutions.

PART III: ELIGIBILITY

Article 8: Who May Contribute

The Commons welcomes contributions from individual inventors, small teams, academic researchers, and others who may lack the resources to navigate the intellectual property system alone. We also welcome contributions from those who have the means but choose to align their work with our mission. Contributors must have legal authority to assign the intellectual property in question.

Article 9: What We Accept

For patent contributions: Inventions that are novel, non-obvious, and useful, with clear commercial potential. We accept inventions at various stages of development, from promising ideas to filed provisional applications to granted patents.

For dataset contributions: Datasets with demonstrated or potential value for AI training, including text corpora, image collections, audio datasets, code repositories, scientific data, and specialized professional datasets. Contributors must demonstrate clear ownership or licensing authority.

Article 10: Patentability and Commercial Viability

The Commons will conduct preliminary assessments, but contributors should understand that not all submissions will prove viable. Inventions that cannot secure patent protection, or datasets without training value, cannot generate licensing revenue and therefore cannot fulfill the Commons' mission.

PART IV: THE ONBOARDING PROCESS

Article 11: Initial Inquiry and Early Support

The Commons recognizes that breakthrough ideas can come from anyone—including those without the resources to navigate the IP system alone. The traditional barriers to patent protection, which can exceed \$15,000 for a single filing, effectively exclude individual inventors from participating in the innovation economy. We are committed to removing these barriers.

We welcome contributions at all stages of development: from fully developed concepts with provisional patents already filed, to inventions with provisional applications in progress, to promising ideas that have not yet been formalized. The stage of development affects our process but not our willingness to consider a contribution's merits.

Protection of Confidential Information: Upon receiving an initial inquiry that warrants further evaluation, the Commons will execute a mutual Non-Disclosure Agreement. This NDA protects both parties: it ensures the contributor's ideas remain confidential during our review process, and it protects the Commons from claims related to information we receive.

Article 12: Evaluation Process

The Commons evaluates contributions through a multi-stage process: technical review (is the invention novel and non-obvious, or does the dataset have training value?); commercial assessment (what licensing potential exists?); ethical review (does this align with our mission?); and resource allocation (can we effectively steward this IP?). Contributors will be informed of decisions in writing, with explanation where appropriate.

Article 13: Assignment and Agreement

Upon acceptance, contributors execute a Contributor Agreement that formally assigns intellectual property to the Commons while preserving their right to the 33% revenue share. This agreement is the foundation of our relationship and reflects the three-way covenant at the heart of our mission.

PART V: RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Article 14: Contributor Rights

Contributors retain: the irrevocable right to 33% of net licensing revenues; the right to be identified as inventor or creator (where legally appropriate); the right to transparent reporting on licensing activity; the right to consultation on significant licensing decisions affecting their contribution; and the right to continued involvement in the Commons community.

Article 15: Commons Rights

The Commons retains: full authority over licensing decisions and negotiations; the right to sublicense and enforce IP rights; the right to determine prosecution and maintenance strategy; and the right to make reasonable operational decisions without prior contributor approval.

Article 16: Contributor Responsibilities

Contributors accept the following ongoing responsibilities: cooperation with patent prosecution or licensing, including responding to technical questions; good-faith participation in licensing negotiations when their expertise is needed; honest and complete disclosure of any facts material to their contribution; conduct consistent with the Commons' mission and values; and refraining from actions that would undermine the Commons or its community.

Article 17: Amendment and Interpretation

This framework may be amended by the Board of Directors, provided that no amendment shall alter the fundamental principles set forth in Part I or weaken the ethical standards set forth in Part II without unanimous Board consent and a determination that such changes are necessary to preserve the Commons' mission.

Questions of interpretation shall be resolved by reference to the Commons' founding purpose: ensuring that AI-generated prosperity benefits humanity broadly rather than concentrating among the few.

PART VI: DATASET CONTRIBUTIONS

Article 20: Purpose and Scope of Dataset Program

The Commons recognizes that training datasets represent a distinct category of intellectual property generating substantial value in the AI era. Creators and owners of datasets used to train artificial intelligence systems deserve both compensation and assurance that their contributions serve human flourishing. The Dataset Program extends the Commons' three-way benefit-sharing model to this emerging asset class.

This Part governs the acceptance, licensing, and revenue distribution for datasets contributed to the Commons. All foundational principles established in Part I, and all ethical standards established in Part II, apply equally to dataset contributions.

Article 21: Eligible Datasets

The Commons welcomes datasets meeting the following criteria:

(a) Ownership and Rights. The contributor must own or control the licensing rights to the dataset, including the right to authorize its use for AI training purposes. Contributors must disclose any third-party rights, licenses, or encumbrances affecting the dataset.

(b) Demonstrated or Potential Training Value. The dataset must have demonstrated value for AI training or reasonable potential for such value. This includes but is not limited to: curated text corpora (literary works, technical documentation, specialized knowledge bases); image and video collections (photography, artwork, annotated visual data); audio datasets (music, speech, sound design); code repositories and software archives; scientific and research data (medical imaging, genomic data, experimental results); and specialized professional datasets (legal documents, financial records, engineering specifications).

(c) Ethical Alignment. The dataset and its intended training applications must meet the ethical standards established in Part II. The Commons will not accept datasets whose primary purpose is to train systems for weapons development, surveillance, exploitation, or other excluded applications.

(d) Provenance Documentation. Contributors must provide reasonable documentation of dataset provenance, including how the data was collected, any consent mechanisms in place, and the basis for the contributor's ownership claim.

Article 22: Dataset Licensing Model

Unlike patents, which typically grant exclusive rights, dataset licensing operates on different models suited to AI training economics:

(a) Non-Exclusive Licensing. Unless otherwise negotiated, the Commons licenses datasets on a non-exclusive basis, allowing multiple AI developers to train on the same corpus. This maximizes revenue potential while ensuring broad access.

(b) Licensing Structures. The Commons may negotiate dataset licenses using various structures, including: per-training-run fees; subscription or access fees; revenue-sharing arrangements tied to model performance or commercial deployment; tiered pricing based on organization size or use case; and hybrid structures combining upfront and ongoing payments.

(c) Ethical Use Provisions. All dataset licenses include provisions restricting use for applications that violate Part II ethical standards, with termination rights for misuse.

(d) Attribution Requirements. Where appropriate, the Commons negotiates attribution requirements ensuring dataset contributors receive recognition for their contributions.

Article 23: Dataset Revenue Distribution

Revenue generated from dataset licensing follows the same three-way allocation as patent licensing:

(a) One-third (33%) to the dataset contributor or contributors, distributed according to ownership shares documented at the time of assignment.

(b) One-third (33%) to Foundation programs addressing economic displacement from AI and automation.

(c) One-third (33%) to AI safety and alignment research.

Article 24: Collective and Aggregated Datasets

The Commons may accept datasets contributed by multiple creators, subject to:

(a) Clear Ownership Documentation. All contributing creators must be identified, with their respective ownership shares documented.

(b) Consent of All Parties. All contributing creators must consent to assignment and to the terms of the Dataset Program.

(c) Distribution Agreements. The contributor share (one-third of revenue) will be distributed among creators according to documented ownership shares or as otherwise agreed among the contributors.

(d) Representative Authority. Where a collective designates a representative to manage its dataset contribution, that representative must demonstrate authority to act on behalf of all creators.

Article 25: Dataset Valuation and Negotiation

(a) Market-Based Pricing. The Commons seeks market-rate compensation for dataset licenses, informed by comparable transactions, dataset uniqueness, and demonstrated training value.

(b) Contributor Consultation. For significant licensing decisions, the Commons consults with dataset contributors regarding proposed terms, though final authority rests with the Foundation.

(c) Transparency. Contributors receive regular reporting on licensing activity and revenue, consistent with Article 14 transparency requirements.

Article 26: Relationship to Existing Rights Frameworks

(a) Complementary to Other Protections. The Dataset Program operates alongside, not in replacement of, existing copyright, database rights, and other legal protections. Contributors retain any underlying intellectual property rights not explicitly assigned.

(b) Opt-Out Registries. The Commons respects contributor preferences regarding opt-out registries and consent mechanisms. Contributors may specify that their datasets not be licensed to entities that have failed to honor such mechanisms.

(c) Coordination with Industry Initiatives. The Commons seeks to coordinate with industry initiatives addressing data provenance, consent, and compensation, including but not limited to the work of organizations focused on ethical AI training practices.

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*Adopted by the Board of Directors
February 2026*