DCN Event Calendar Q&A

What is the DCN Community Events Calendar?

It's a web calendar designed for use by local organizations. It allows an organization's staff or volunteers to enter and correct events via the web. These events are then automatically incorporated into the organization's web calendar.

Organizations may also optionally mark events for inclusion in a pooled community calendar. These events are automatically shown on the larger community calendar.

How does it differ from calendar X?

The biggest difference is that by maintaining their own events, organizations also will be cooperatively maintaining a pooled community calendar.

Other significant differences:

- Public calendar pages may be easily styled to match your web site; you may even incorporate the pages into your web site.

- No costs or strings. Calendar use is free of cost for Davis non-profits. Calendar pages are free of advertising, and will stay that way. There is an optional, small-text credit to DCN.

Where may I see the calendar in action?

http://events.dcn.org is the web address of the pooled community calendar. You may also find links there to the calendars of currently participating organizations.

Good examples of incorporating the calendar into existing web sites:

- **Explorit Science Center -** http://www.explorit.org/
- **Davis Senior High School PTA** - http://www.dhspta.org/
- **City of Davis** - http://cityofdavis.org/calendar/

Can the DCN calendar work with our existing web site?

Yes. First, you may adapt the calendar's visual presentation to match the style of your web site by use of Cascading Style Sheets. Second, you may incorporate either block or 'upcoming events' style calendars into your existing web pages. Documentation on each is available on the web.

Can our organization use its own event categories?

Yes. When an organization's calendar is first created, it uses the community's event categories. However, you may specify event categories for your organization. These organization-specific categories will appear in place of the community categories whenever your organization-specific calendar is viewed. Individual events may be associated with both organization-specific and community categories. The former will be useful when viewed via an individual organization's calendar, the latter when viewed via the community calendar.

Can we produce a joint calendar with organizations X, Y & Z?

Yes. Each organization maintains its own events – and may display its own calendar. We have mechanisms that allow the creation of calendar display pages (automatically updated) for any set of organizations. We also have tools to help with selecting which data belongs in the pooled calendars. If you need help with this, e-mail the DCN web team <msmosaic@dcn.org>.

We don't want all our events on the community calendar.

That shows good judgment. Only those events marked as *public* and *show on community calendar* are shown on the community calendar. Your organization might even wish to show two different versions of its own calendar: one showing only public events and one showing all or only private events.

How may my organization get a calendar?

DCN's *Resource Allocation Committee* (RAC) allocates DCN resources including calendars, SimpleSites, mailing lists, etc. See http://www2.dcn.org/dcn/about/committees/rac/apply_html.

Some organizations (like PTAs) may already fall under group projects, and may simply ask the DCN web team msmosaic@dcn.org to set up the resource.

Who supports the calendar?

The DCN Web Team (email: msmosaic@dcn.org), a group of volunteers, who also developed the calendar.

What is DCN?

DCN is a Davis-based 501(c)(3) non-profit research, demonstration and community service organization, http://www2.dcn.org/davis/orgs/DCN/ . It exists, in large part, to carry out projects like the community calendar.

Who owns an organization's calendar?

The organization to which the calendar was granted (see *How may my organization get a calendar?*). This may not be as obvious as you think; with some calendar services, the calendar belongs to the hosting company and *de facto* control over it to the individual who set it up and holds the password.

Can you add feature X?

Possibly. Most existing features are a result of user feedback. If you ask for a feature, we'll try to determine if it's of general interest, doesn't break anything, and may be incorporated without complicating general use.

What's under the hood?

The DCN event calendar is built on Zope, www.zope.org, the leading open-source application server, and MySQL, www.mysql.org, the leading open-source database management package. The calendar is also itself open-source, and someday the web team will get around to packaging and distributing it, probably via SourceForge. Until then, contact the web team.