

VSC: VIS Steering Committee Town Hall

2026 | VSC



Vidya Setlur
Chair



Matt Brehmer
Committee Member



Leilani Battle
Committee Member



Michael Sedlmair
Committee Member



Tatiana von Landesberger
Committee Member



Christoph Garth
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1 Elected Member
To Be Elected

1 Nominated Member
To Be Nominated

VSC Tasks

- **Strategic direction:** Guide the long-term vision, health, and evolution of IEEE VIS
- **Governance and policy:** Oversee conference governance, publications, ethics, and emerging issues such as generative AI
- **Conference leadership:** Support the selection of scientific program chairs and continuity of conference leadership
- **Conference evolution:** Oversee major organizational changes and future conference bids
- **Community stewardship:** Promote transparency, inclusivity, accountability, and community participation

MISSION STATEMENT

https://ieeevis.org/year/2026/governance/vsc-mission-statement/

Overview of Changes

1. One unified Visualization Steering Committee (VSC)

a. Merge the former VSC and VEC into a single governance body.

b. Establish a nine-member committee: four community-elected, four appointed, and one VGTC-appointed member.

c. Maintain staggered four-year terms to balance continuity with new perspectives.

d. Continue community elections and appointments as terms expire.

e. Invite General Chairs to participate in VSC meetings as ex-officio members.

f. Strengthen transparency, accountability, community representation, and long-term stewardship.

Overview of Changes

2. Empowering General Chairs and the organizing committee

a. General Chairs have greater authority to appoint operational OC roles, including Workshops and Tutorials & Panels Chairs.

b. VSC retains responsibility for core scientific program appointments: Overall Papers, Area Papers, Short Papers, Posters, and Doctoral Colloquium Chairs.

c. Preserve continuity across conference cycles while enabling incoming General Chairs to shape their organizing teams.

d. Reduce unnecessary governance bottlenecks and encourage local experimentation.

e. Maintain coordination between the VSC and General Chairs on decisions with long-term implications.

Overview of Changes

3. Clearer decision-making and opportunities for innovation

a. Give General Chairs greater flexibility to implement short-term operational changes.

b. Coordinate significant or multi-year changes through the unified VSC.

c. Encourage experimentation with conference formats, participation models, and community engagement.

d. Document major decisions, responsibilities, and rationale to improve transparency.

e. Review governance practices and community well-being regularly to support the conference's evolution.

VSC 2026: Key initiatives and strategic priorities

01 Future of VIS & research

- Long-term vision for VIS in the age of AI
- Evolving research scope and submission areas
- Emerging interdisciplinary opportunities

02 Governance & leadership

- Unified VSC/VEC governance (ReVISe 1.1)
- Scientific program chair appointments
- Greater General Chair autonomy

03 Research & publication policies

- Generative AI guidelines for reviewing and submissions
- Optional author contribution statements
- Peer-review practices and integrity

04 Conference & community

- CORE A* ranking efforts (ongoing)
- Future conference bids and participation models
- Elections, transparency, & community feedback

All public minutes are available here:
https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1sgjPLu9JwmyjHzWhHSx82U_BdcODBSH1

Addressing AI's Role in Reviewing and Authoring VIS Papers

01 We coordinated with the 2026 OPCs on **reviewer guidelines for AI use** in VIS reviews.

02 We have drafted tentative ***author guidelines for AI use** for 2027.

03 We propose an **update to the IEEE VGTC template** w.r.t. AI-generated figures and suppl. material.

04 We plan to pilot **optional** inclusion of ***author contribution statements** for 2027.

**pending additional review and community feedback.*

02 We have drafted tentative *author guidelines for AI use for 2027.

In early 2026, the VSC debated what VIS reviewers and readers should expect of authors with respect to AI usage disclosure?

… at review time? … in the manuscript?

… do we need to guidelines beyond those set by the IEEE?

> *"The use of content generated by artificial intelligence (AI) in an article (including but not limited to text, figures, images, and code) shall be disclosed in the acknowledgments section of any article submitted to an IEEE publication."*

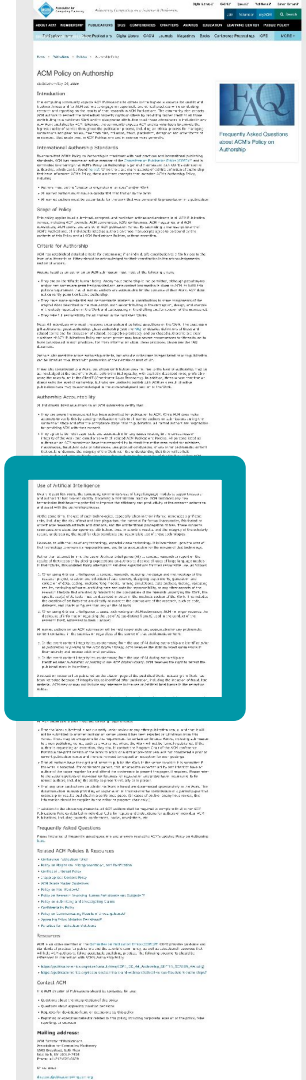
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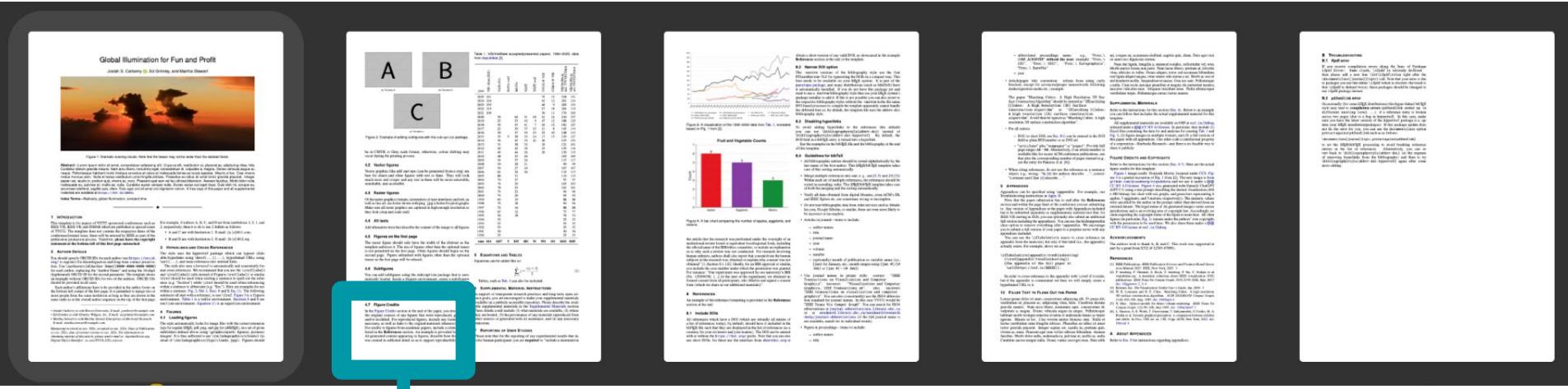
… in May 2026, the ACM updated their own policy…

"the specific use(s) of AI tools must be described in detail in the methods section of the Work…"

"When using [AI] *to assist with writing an ACM submission, ACM no longer requires the disclosure of information regarding the use of AI."*



03 We propose an **update to the IEEE VGTC template** w.r.t. AI-generated figures and suppl. material.



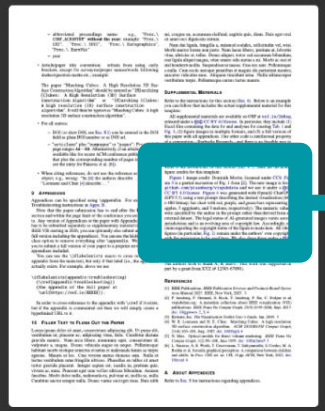
4.7 Figure Credits

In the Figure Credits section at the end of the paper, you should credit the original sources of any figures that were reproduced, generated, and/or modified. For reproduced figures, include any license details necessary, as well as links to the original materials whenever possible. For credits to figures from academic papers, include a citation that is listed in the **References** section. An example is provided below. For AI-generated content appearing in figures, describe how this content was created in sufficient detail so as to support reproducibility.

github.com/ieeevgtc/tvcg-journal-latex
vsc-26.08 branch

03 We propose an **update to the IEEE VGTC template** w.r.t. AI-generated figures and suppl. material.





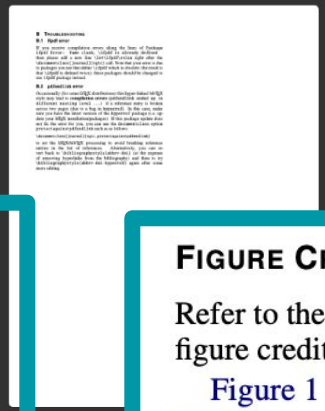


Figure Credits and Copyrights

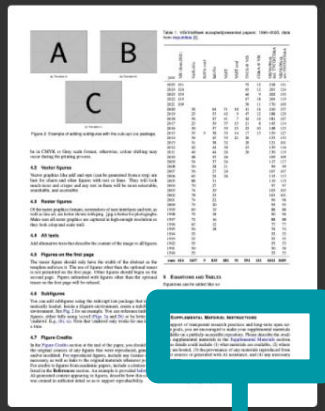
Refer to the instructions for this section (Sec. 4.7). Here are the actual figure credits for this template:

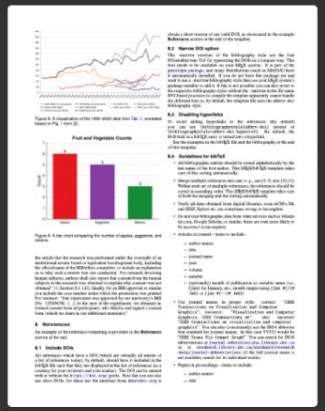
Figure 1 image credit: Dominik Moritz, licensed under CC0. Figure 3 is a partial recreation of Fig. 1 from [2]. The new image is from `github.com/pisenberg/vispubdata` and we use it under a CC BY 4.0 license. Figure 4 was generated with OpenAI ChatGPT (GPT-5.5) using a text prompt describing the desired visualization (640 × 480 bitmap; bar chart with red, purple, and green bars representing 6 apples, 5 eggplants, and 3 melons, respectively). The numeric values were specified by the author in the prompt rather than derived from an external dataset. The legal status of AI-generated images varies across jurisdictions and is an evolving area of copyright law. Accordingly, no claim regarding the copyright status of the figure is made here. All other figures (in particular, Fig. 2) remain under the authors' own copyright, with the permission to be used here. We also share them under a CC BY 4.0 license at `osf.io/2nbsg`.

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6 Supplemental Material Instructions

In support of transparent research practices and long-term open science goals, you are encouraged to make your supplemental materials available on a publicly-accessible repository. Please describe the available supplemental materials in the Supplemental Materials section. These details could include (1) what materials are available, (2) where they are hosted, (3) the provenance of any materials reproduced from other sources or generated with AI assistance, and (4) any necessary omissions.

github.com/ieeevgtc/tvcg-journal-latex
vsc-26.08 branch

04 We plan to pilot **optional** inclusion of *author contribution statements for 2027.

Author contribution statements summarize how research efforts were distributed across a research team. They can be presented in various ways, such as paragraphs, tables, visualizations, and structured metadata.

Example:

> *M.L. designed and conducted the survey and interview study, analyzed the survey and study data, and developed the concept inventory. H.P. provided feedback on the survey and interview study and helped analyze the survey data. L.B. and S.D. oversaw the project and provided feedback on the survey, concept inventory, interview study, and data analyses. All authors helped write and revise the paper.*

Next VIS Conferences

2027 — Chicago, IL

- Victor Mateevitsi, Argonne National Lab
- Fabio Miranda, Univ. of Illinois Chicago
- Khairi Reda, Indiana Univ. Indianapolis
- Michael Papka, UIC & Argonne (Advisor)

2028 — Seoul, South Korea

- Bongshin Lee, Yonsei University
- Jinwook Seo, Seoul National University

2029 — Knoxville, TN

- Tushar Athawale, Oak Ridge National Lab
- Jian Huang, Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Aidong Lu, UNC Charlotte

2030 — Salt Lake City, UT

- Josh Levine, University of Utah
- Bei Wang Phillips, University of Utah
- Kate Isaacs, University of Utah
- Paul Rosen, University of Utah
- Chris Johnson, University of Utah (Advisor)
- Chuck Hansen, University of Utah (Advisor)

2031 — Atlanta, GA

- Cindy Xiong Bearfield, Georgia Tech
- Emily Wall, Emory University
- Yalong Yang, Georgia Tech
- Alex Endert, Georgia Tech

Submit a Bid!

ieeevis.org/year/2026/governance/bids/

Discussion / Q&A

We welcome comments, questions, and feedback:

- Evolving guidelines for AI transparency, disclosure, and reproducibility
- The future of VIS and its research areas:
  - Are our current areas keeping pace with emerging research directions?
  - What should we rethink, improve, or do differently?

Share your feedback!