



COMMUNITY ORGANIZED CNCF SUPPORTED

KCD TEXAS, AUSTIN 2026

# TRANSPARENCY REPORT



# THANKS TO OUR ORGANIZERS



**Richard  
Boyd II**



**Harsha  
Thirimanna**



**Eddie  
Wassef**



**Mara  
Ruvalcaba**



**Cristobal  
Nevares**



**Srihari  
Nagaram**



**Jamie  
Parker**



**Chad  
Crowell**



**Mars  
Toktonaliev**



**Rafael  
Brito**



**Cristher  
Castro**



**Vishwa  
Gandhi**



**Joel  
Hernandez**





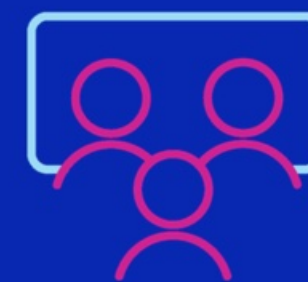
**Katie Gamanji**  
**Apple**  
Principal Engneer

## SPEAKERS & SESSIONS

Renowned practitioners from across the Southwest and the broader U.S. shared real-world insights into cloud-native infrastructure and Kubernetes adoption, drawing more than 200 engaged attendees



**27**  
Speakers



**3**  
Workshops

First-Time  
Speakers

**2**

Female  
Speakers

**8**

Male  
Speakers

**19**

# Keynote speakers

Ian Coldwater



Jonathan Bryce



Katie Gamanji

The State of Cloud Native  
The Shift Towards AI



Abhinav Dahiya

We Migrated to Kubernetes  
and Our Costs Went Up: A  
Journey to Real Savings



Andrew Martin

SandBox Breakouts: Rapid  
Unscheduled Agents Access



Angel Ramírez

How we built an open-source  
AI framework for professional  
engineering teams



Engin Diri

Stop Wasting GPUs: How We  
Built a Golden Path for CPU  
Sharing on Kubernetes



Cesar Diaz

Kubernetes at the Edge:  
Devoting the Ineliminable  
with Nx and Kfx



Dolis Sharma

Cracking the OWASP  
10 for Kubernetes



Duffie Cooley

How did that happen?  
And is it a security  
Problem.



Goutam Tadi

Kubernetes-Powered  
Multi-Cloud Apache  
Airflow at Scale: The  
Astra Architecture



Graziano Casto

Stop Overprovisioning  
for Application Startup



Jooho Lee

KServe and the Next  
Step for LLM Workloads:  
LLMInferenceService in  
Context



Julia Furst Morgado

Mastering the Dark Arts  
of OTEL Debugging



Kedar Kulkarni

AI-Driven DevOps: How  
LLMs and Agents Are  
Changing Software Delivery



Lin Sun

Enhance Your Agent  
Accuracy with Agent  
SABE



Marina Moore

Linux for the Cloud  
Native Engineer



Michael Forrester

The 90-minute IBM AI  
Ats by Implementation:  
Let's Build a Platform  
Together and Score  
What's Left.



Myroslav Mishov

The Post-Hypervisor Era:  
Unifying Browserfield VMs,  
AI, and Containers on a  
Single Control Plane



Shravani Gunturu

Hybrid Cloud at Enterprise  
Scale: Private Kubernetes  
for Portability and Control



Tyler Auerbeck

We have the Kured off-Self  
Service, Multi-Tenant  
Infrastructure With  
Kured and Packer Linux



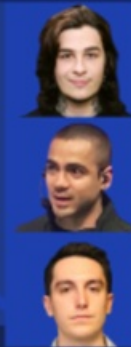
Whitney Lee

Listen! In the Future Your  
Platform's Next Interface  
is an AI Agent



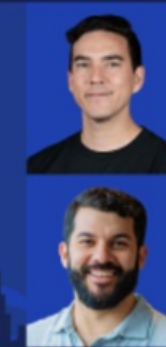
Lucas Duarte  
Jairo Martinez  
Eric Anderson

From Zero to Hero: Deploying  
Production-Ready LLMs on  
Kubernetes with NVIDIA GPUs  
- Workshop



Peter O'Neill &  
Chris De La Garza

Identify AWS Access  
Control with Reverse  
Proxies



## KCD TEXAS ON LINKEDIN



Spent the day at KCD Texas, Austin - May 15, 2026 and it genuinely felt like one of the most energetic cloud-native events I've attended.

From Kubernetes, platform engineering, observability, AI agents, security, and multi-cluster operations — every session reflected how fast the industry is evolving toward scalable AI-powered infrastructure.

What stood out most was the blend of innovation and community — insightful conversations with industry leaders, engineers, and architects shaping the future of AI and cloud-native systems.

And yes — the Texas vibe, cowboy hats, longhorns, and the amazing community energy made it even more memorable 🤠🔥

**Bala Annapurna Kantipudi**  
[/in/bala-annapurna-kantipudi-b427b823a](https://www.linkedin.com/in/bala-annapurna-kantipudi-b427b823a)





My first KCD and it was a wild one! A riveting experience to engage with not just the local cloud-native community but also from speakers and engineers from across the country and folks who flew in from other countries too. In an era where AI is evolving at a breakneck pace and "keep in the human in the loop" is not a joke anymore, I daresay that community is all we've got. Glad I got to make new friends, and meetup and chat with some incredible thought leaders in this space: Chad M. Crowell, Lin Sun, Lisa-Marie Namphy, Whitney Lee and many more! I finally got Lin to sign my copy of her book since KubeCon last year - thanks Lin!!

**Goutham K.**

**[/in/goutham-kanags/](#)**



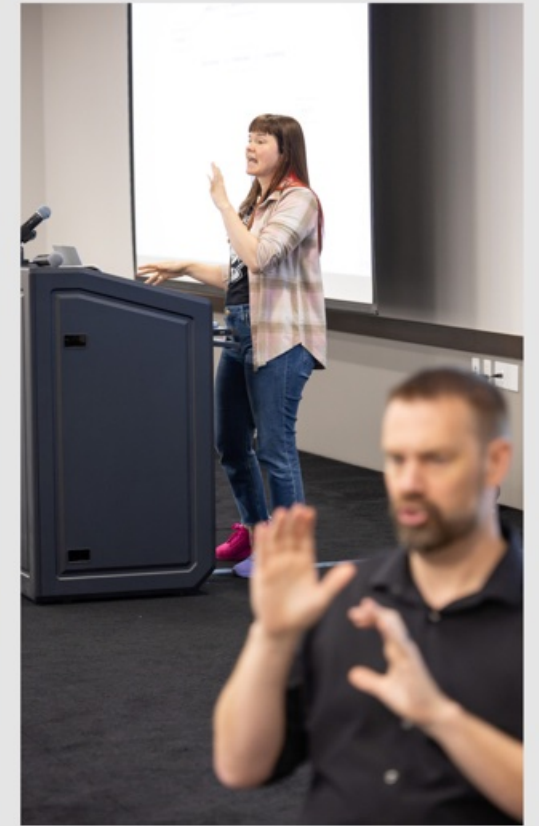
KCD Texas, Austin - May 15, 2026 had the tech, the crowd, and somehow... a longhorn stealing the spotlight 🤠 with Jayanth Murukonda Joel H

**Mahendran Vasagam**

**[/in/mahendran-vasagam-0738704/](#)**









**PLATINUM**

**SOLO.IO**



**vCluster**



**WSO2**

**GOLD**



**CLOUDBOLT**



**Chainguard**

**Diagrid**



**elastic**



**Grafana Labs**

**ISOVALENT**  
now part of CISCO



**Teleport**



**plural**



**SILVER**



**PARTNERS**



**COMMUNITY**



**MEDIA**



# STATISTICS

KCD Texas 2026 maintained strong momentum in its third year, with 207 checked-in attendees, just slightly below 2025's 213. While year-over-year attendance was nearly flat, the event continued to bring together a strong regional cloud native community

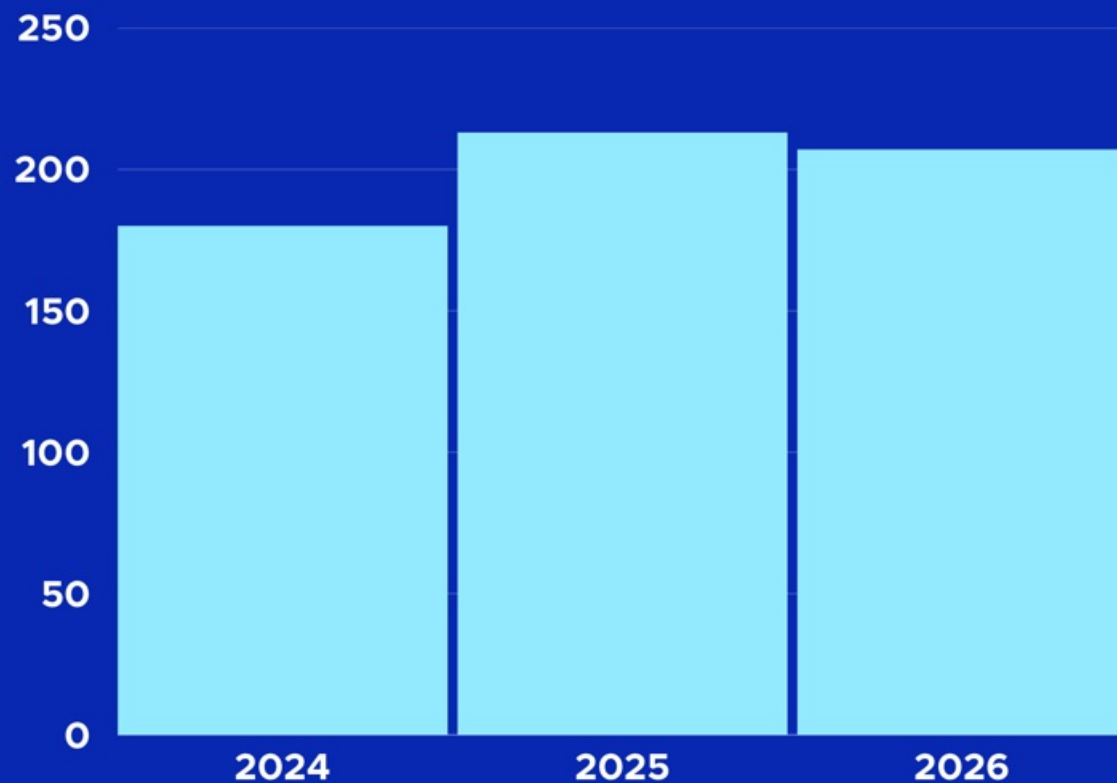


Among pre-registration survey respondents, 69.8% said this was their first time attending KCD Texas, showing continued growth in the community alongside a solid base of returning attendees.

## YEAR TO YEAR

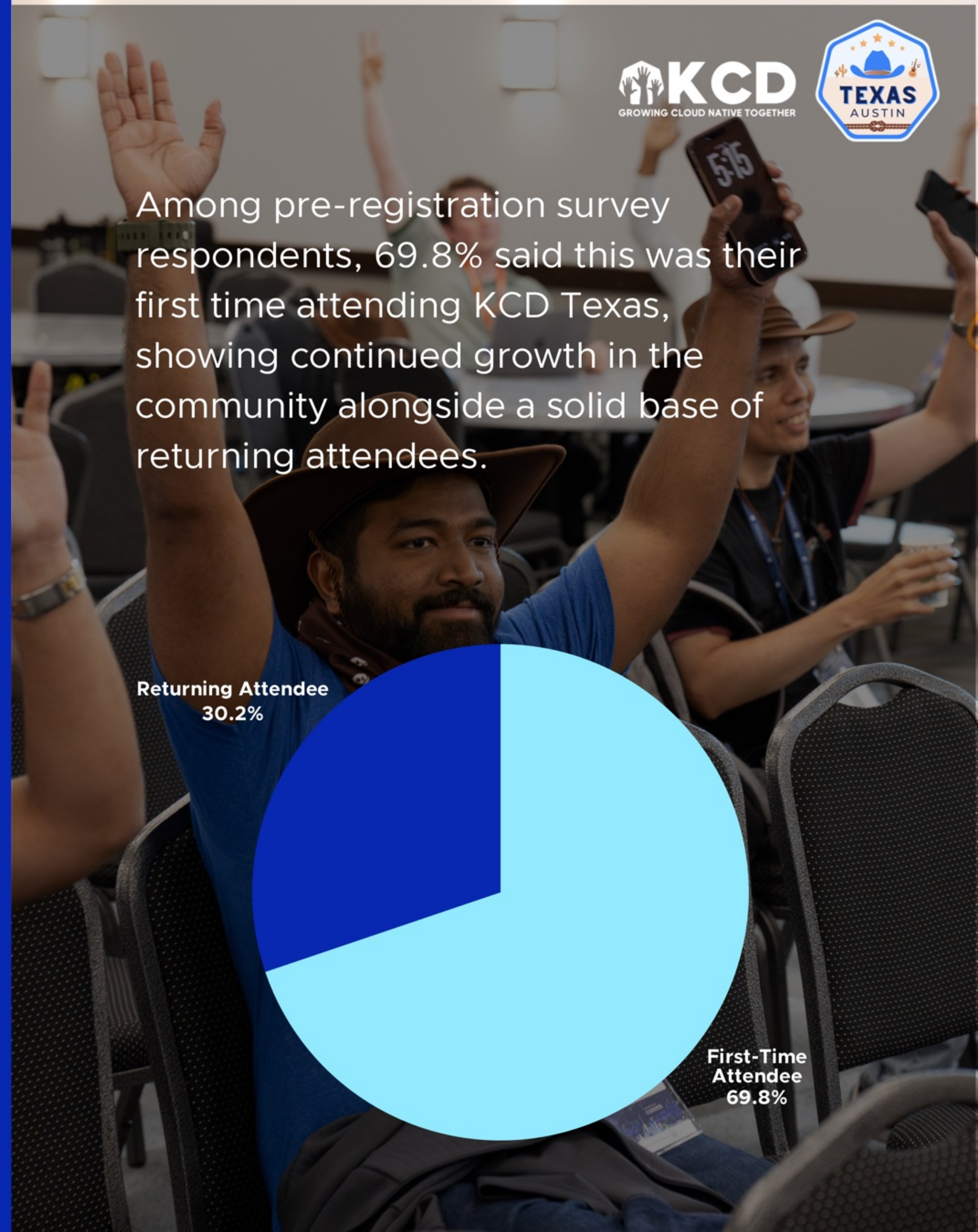
**-3%**

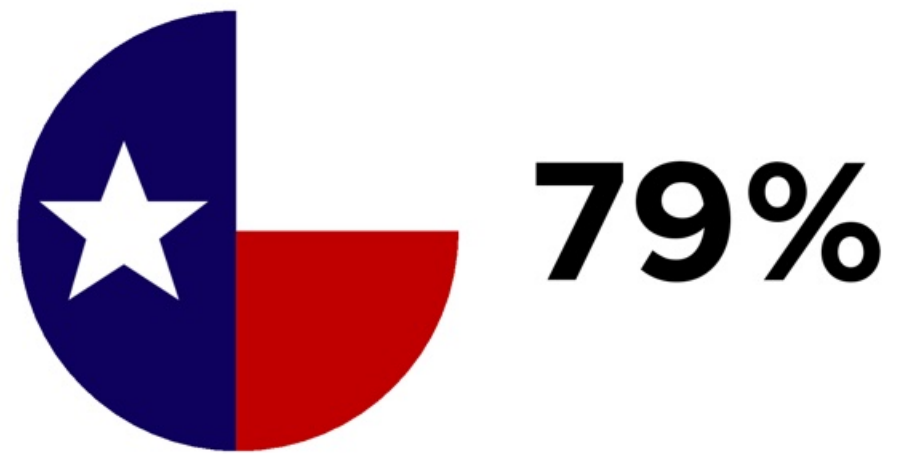
DECLINE FROM LAST EVENT



Returning Attendee  
30.2%

First-Time Attendee  
69.8%







Based on our pre-registration survey, 79% of respondents were from Texas, while 21% joined us from other U.S. states



GENDER

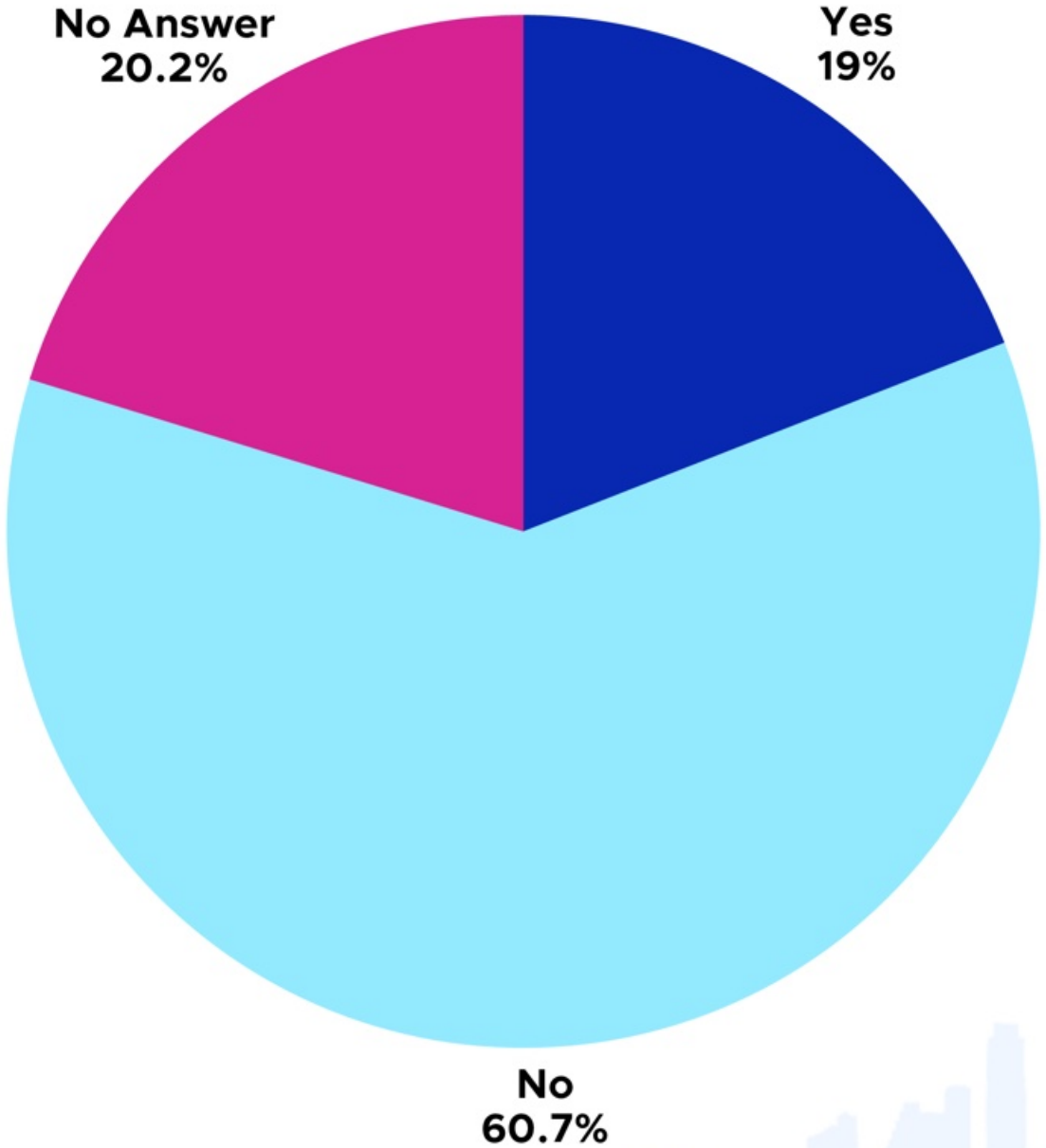
 Male  
**70.1%**

 Female  
**19.7%**

 Non-Binary/Other  
**1.6%**

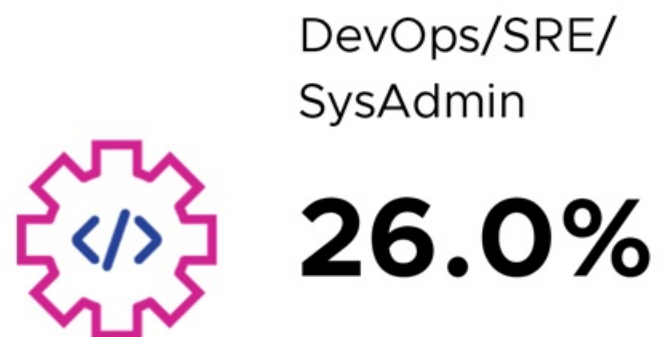
 Prefer not to say  
**8.7%**

DO YOU IDENTIFY AS A PERSON OF COLOUR?



# ATTENDEE DEMOGRAPHICS

## I PRIMARILY CONSIDER MYSELF AS:

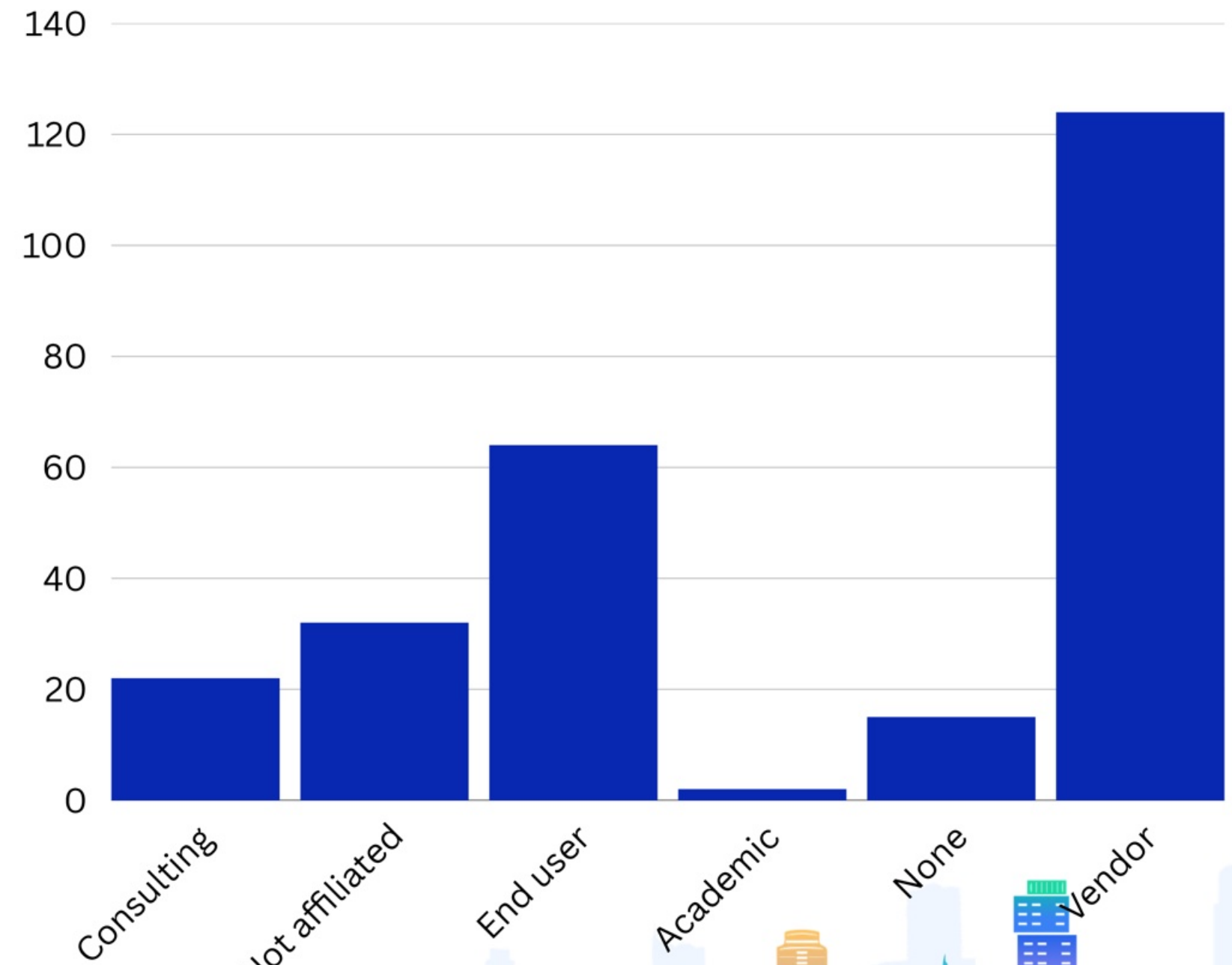


# ATTENDEE DEMOGRAPHICS

## ORGANIZATIONS

We saw a healthy mix of organization types at KCD Texas, from end users and vendors to consultancies and independent practitioners.

Academic participation was still small, which gives us a clear goal for future editions as we work to bring more students and educators into the cloud native community.



# FINAL WORDS



## KCD Texas 2026 was a reminder of what makes this community special

People showing up to share, learn, and build together. As we close out our third year, we're grateful to every attendee, speaker, sponsor, volunteer, and organizer who helped make this event possible.





COMMUNITY ORGANIZED CNCF SUPPORTED

“

**It was very engaging  
and as a sponsor there  
was lots of opportunity  
to engage with  
potential customers.**

---

### INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SPONSOR?

By becoming a sponsor, you will have the opportunity to connect with a diverse audience of industry professionals, showcase your brand, and contribute to the growth and success of our community.

Contact us for more information on sponsorship packages and how to be a part of our exciting journey!

---

### CONTACT

**Organizer Group**  
[organizers@kcdtexas.org](mailto:organizers@kcdtexas.org)

---

### LET'S GET SOCIAL

 @KCDTexas

 company/KCDTexas

 @TexasKCD

