



Visual Brand Guide

UPDATED SPRING 2019

We're building this brand together.

THE BASICS

Thanks for taking the time to explore Swing Left's Visual Brand Guide. **These are guidelines, not rules.** You can use the tools inside to create communications that empower and inspire your community to take action and make meaningful change. You understand your needs and your community better than anyone—so take the ideas here and make them your own!

This is a living document

Great design is responsive—to the moment and to this movement. The principles and design choices in this guide represent our current best practices, but our system will continue to be updated.

Design builds trust

Great design helps communicate messages, tell stories, and can directly impact our ability to inspire and drive action. Design isn't about making things "pretty"—it's about effectively conveying ideas and information in a resonant, accessible way. Consistent design is a key to creating a trustworthy brand.

We're building this together

If you have questions, concerns, or great ideas to share, we want to hear from you! Email design@swingleft.org or tweet using [#SwingLeftDesign](https://twitter.com/SwingLeftDesign) and let's get a conversation going.

The logo consists of the word "Swing" in red and "Left" in blue, with a blue swoosh above the "i" in "Swing".

Swing Left

The logo is centered within a dashed white border, illustrating its placement within a composition.

Swing Left

The logo is rendered in white against a solid red background, demonstrating high contrast.

Swing Left

LOGO

This is Swing Left’s primary logo, which you can use in social media graphics, flyers, signage, and more! The logo is most legible when you keep the following in mind:

Contrast between the logo and the background

On dark, simple backgrounds (top left) the logo can be used in either full-color or in 1-color white. On red (bottom left) there’s not enough contrast between the red “Swing” and the background, so it should be used in white.

Space between the logo and other content

Give the logo room to breathe. Make sure the area around the logo is clear of competing text and visuals.

Alignment within the composition

In most cases—like in a graphic for Twitter, or on a flyer for an event—the logo should typically reside in the corner or on the edge of a composition. Use the logo to help define the margins of your design (the space between the edge of a composition and where the content begins.) To help with readability, these margins should be generous and even all around your document.



Margin

Make sure there's space between the edge of a composition and where the content begins.

The margin at the top, bottom, left, and right are all equal. Content should stop at the dotted lines.

SwingLeft

Alignment

Notice that the Swing Left logo has a swoosh at the top of the "i" that sits above most of the letters, and part of a "g" that goes below. When aligning the logo, ignore these parts! The bottoms of the flat, lowercase letters should touch the edge of the margin.

PRIMARY

Bitter Regular

Bitter Regular / 30 pt / No tracking

BITTER BOLD

Bitter Bold / 20 pt / 70 pt tracking

Open Sans Regular

Open Sans Regular / 18 pt / No tracking

OPEN SANS EXTRABOLD

Open Sans Extrabold / 16 pt / 40 pt tracking

SECONDARY

GOOD CONDENSED

Good Condensed Ultra / 30 pt / No tracking

Fineday

Fineday Style Two / 25 pt / No tracking

TYPOGRAPHY

Swing Left's primary typefaces are **Bitter** and **Open Sans**—they're open source, built into Google Docs, and free to download and use.

Swing Left uses **Good Pro** in a heavy, condensed style for big, bold headlines—particularly when space is limited—and **Fineday**, a whimsical script, as an accent in small amounts.

Two typefaces, a lot of variety

Bitter and Open Sans both come in a variety of weights. You can use font weight, size, capitalization, and letter spacing to change emphasis and visual heft of pieces of copy.

Keep it readable

Sometimes designs require typefaces that are more distinct or expressive—like when you're hosting a themed event, or trying to convey a certain emotion in your design through type. It's OK to experiment with other fonts, but try not to use more than three per design and, most importantly, remember that readability is always the most important factor in choosing a typeface.

COLOR

Color can help increase contrast and hierarchy in a design. Warm colors like red and yellow are dominant—they come forward in a design and the eye is drawn to them. Cool colors, like blue, are recessive—they often fade backward, causing other colors to appear more prominent.

OK, THERE IS ONE RULE

Though these colors are chosen to work well together in a variety of combinations, you should avoid putting light blue directly on top of red, and vice versa. When these colors touch they create a “vibrating” effect that can make some people feel sick!

WHICH COLOR TYPE TO USE

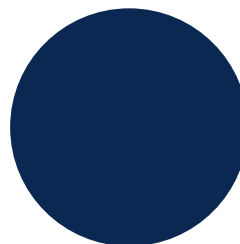
HEX: Web color

RGB: Digital-only designs

CMYK: 4-color print designs

PMS: Offset printing & merch

PRIMARY

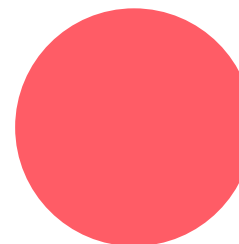


HEX: #0a2852

RGB: 10, 40, 82

CMYK: 100, 85, 35, 35

PMS: 294U

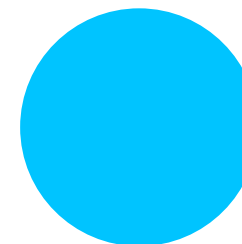


HEX: #ff5c66

RGB: 255, 92, 102

CMYK: 0, 80, 50, 0

PMS: 178U



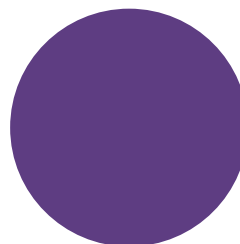
HEX: #00c4ff

RGB: 0, 196, 255

CMYK: 75, 0, 0, 0

PMS: 306U

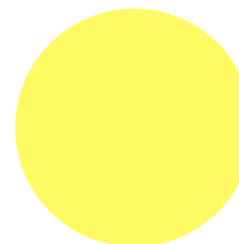
SECONDARY



HEX: #5e3d82

RGB: 94, 60, 130

CMYK: 100, 85, 35, 35



HEX: #fffa64

RGB: 155, 250, 100

CMYK: 0, 5, 70, 0



HEX: #f9fff4

RGB: 249, 255, 244

CMYK: 2, 0, 5, 0

IMAGERY

Images of places and people can help give context to your designs and convey your organizing work in a relatable way. You should try to use your own photos whenever possible, but if you need to use others' photos, remember:

Creative Commons & Public Domain

Most images online are not free to use. Make sure you're only choosing images licensed under Creative Commons or that are in the Public Domain. Be sure to include proper attributions in your design.

[Learn about Creative Commons](#)

Free stock photos

Free stock photos can make excellent background images, but should be used sparingly.

[Find stock photos at unsplash.com](#)



A Public Domain image from a Rally / unsplash.com



FULL COLOR

If the photo is the most important part of your design, consider using it in full color. Be mindful of placing text, other visuals, and the Swing Left logo over busy, colorful photos, as these additional elements will be much harder to read.



COLOR SCREEN

A color screen makes an image 1 color—where deep blacks are the color you choose, and lighter colors become lighter tints of that color all the way to white (no tint.) These images are still high contrast, so be careful with additional elements.



OVERLAY

Overlaying a semi-transparent photo on a color reduces contrast and makes an image recede in the composition. This technique is ideal for background images in designs where you have a lot of text that needs to be more dominant.

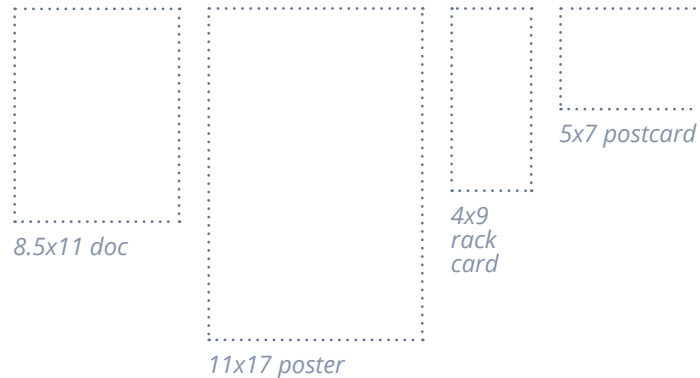
Let's make things from all this stuff.

Find templates

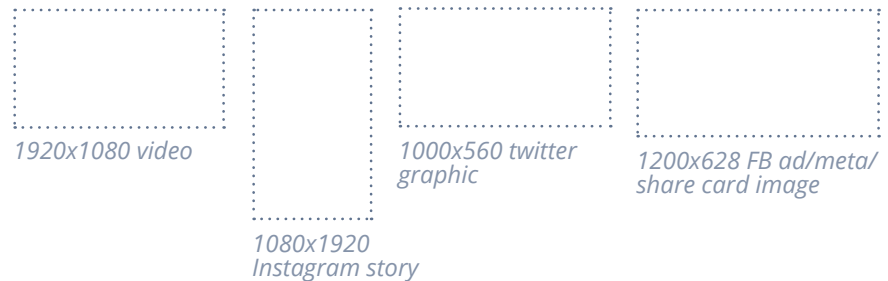
SOME STANDARD SIZES

Now that you have the basic building blocks for Swing Left-branded designs, you can start making all the things you need! Here are some common sizes and formats:

PRINT (SAVE AS PDF)



DIGITAL (SAVE AS PNG)



Check out the Swing Left brand in action.

FOLLOW ONLINE

The best way to see the Swing Left brand in action is to join the conversation online on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

You can find plenty of inspiration and ideas on the **@SwingLeft** national social media accounts, and be sure to follow other local Swing Left groups who are taking these guidelines and making them their own.

[Follow on Twitter](#)

[Like on Facebook](#)

[Follow on Instagram](#)



Swing Left