Teaching Open Data for Community Empowerment

Barcelona, DecidimFest 2019


BetaNYC
{ Noel Hidalgo }

Brooklyn, NY
@noneck
AGENCY: Department For The Aging

APPLICATION NAME: Grants Management

YEAR ACTIVATED: 1989

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION
This system controls, by Cost Center, the budgets and expenses for each of the Department's 400+ service providers. The system ensures that prompt reimbursements occur each month to these service organizations to assure continuous cash flow for necessary purchases of provisions, staples, goods, and other materials.

DATABASE CONTENTS
Miscellaneous statistics, grants/specific funded programs, federal/state grants, service contractors, contractor directory.

1993 - The FIRST public data directory
2010
Open Data legislation introduced.

2012
Passage of NYC’s Open Data Law!

2016, 2017, 2018
Amendments.
Our journey in building trust
BetaNYC is a civic organization dedicated to improving the lives of New Yorkers through civic engagement, open data, technology, and design.
If one can not own the sea nor the air, how can one own the land?

We care for the commons.
No walls.

No borders.

Solidarity, not silos.
The People’s Roadmap to a Digital NYC — 2013

“We firmly believe in a progressive New York City where technology fuels opportunity, inclusion, engagement, efficiency, and innovation.”

Roadmap resulted in 34 proposals. 16 ideas introduced as legislation. 10 laws & 1 charter amendment passed. MANY public-private partnerships

http://nycroadmap.us/

Executive Summary
Welcome to The People’s Roadmap to a Digital New York City. In this document you will find reports and recommendations from solicited experts of New York City to the people of New York for the 21st Century. Through our roadmap, we utilize technology as a catalyst for improvement and rethinking municipal management initiatives.

*Through the People’s Roadmap to a Digital New York City, we want to move toward transparency. We want a government that acts on what our hearts and minds are driving towards. Written for the people, by the people, this roadmap has been crafted for New York to help the world’s premier digital city.

*“Technology is a vector of the arts, but not the pen.” — André Malraux, French writer of the New York Tech Majority

As of the November 2013 election, New York City is at a critical inflection point. A new set of actors will assume powerful roles across government. This document will help the next generation of leaders and organizations create community digital services.

http://nycroadmap.us/
Open Data is a powerful tool....

if people know how to use it.
Empowering Key Communities with Open Data

NYC Community Board Staff & Members

Civic Hackers & University Students

NYC Public School Teachers & Students
Community Boards x Open Data
$95+ Billion Budget
8.5+ Million Residents

NYC Government
Mayor-Council system
Strong-Mayor form
325,000 gov employees
#4 largest gov in USA

Other electeds
* Public Advocate
* Comptroller
* Borough Presidents
* District Attorney

City Council
* Speaker
* 51 members
* 35 committees

59 Community Boards
The people of New York City

50+ Agencies

Borough Presidents

Comptroller

Mayor

Public Advocate

City Council

District Attorneys
NYC Community Boards

59 community boards with 3 staff members & 50 appointed volunteers, administer issues for 150,000 residents.

New Yorkers as young as 16 years old can become community board members.

NYC Government, Decentralized
3 Responsibilities of Community Boards

1. Urban Planning
2. Participatory Budgeting
3. Licensing & Permits
Research, Advocacy, and Curriculum

Community Board Technology Needs Report

Data Design Challenges and Opportunities for NYC Community Boards

Open Data Classes

New York City's Civic Innovation Fellowship Classes of 2015-2017

A program to empower Borough Presidents and Community Boards to engage in the rapidly changing digital environment

BetaNYC’s Civic Innovation Fellows Community Board Technology Needs Report 2018
Civic Tech Talent Pipeline and Fellowship

Advocacy, Research and Civic Engagement

Tools and Services

Education, Training, and Partnership
{ our classes }
Language

{ cards }

Technical Tools

{ open data portal }

Action

{ dashboards }

Replication

{ train-the-trainers }
Audience
* 59 Community Boards
* 3 Library Systems
* 51 City Council Members & their staff
* Community Activists
* 1.1 Million Students
* 8.5+ Million Residents

Pedagogical foundations
* Physical and Digitally Interactive
* Linked to real world problems
* “Big” Browser based — Laptops & Desktops
* Openly Licensed CC By-SA

Impact
* 1,000s have been taught
* Adopted by NYC as its curriculum
* Agencies use the curriculum to look / use data
Five terms:
* sort
* filter
* group
* count
* pivot
BetaNYC Tools & Services

Building solutions for the city, with the city.

BoardStat

Boundaries Map

Tenants Map

SLAM

BoardTrack

Data Assistance Requests
{ Kate Nicholson }

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New York, NY
Empowering Civic Hackers & University Students through NYC Open Data
BetaNYC Civic Innovation Fellowship

@ Manhattan Borough President’s Office

University students develop a deeper understanding of civic technology, open data, design, and their role in NYC government

Partners:
Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, BetaNYC, CUNY Service Corps, and Fund for the City of New York.

Supporters:
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Data & Society Research Foundation, the Mayor’s Office of Data Analytics, and New York City’s Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications.
Program Highlights

- 2 Semesters x Applied Learning
- Diversity of Students
- Exposure to Civil Service
- Gov & Technology Careers

Program Impact

# 6 Years & 49 Students
# 12 CUNY Schools
# 5 Boroughs
# 30 Data Assistance Requests
# 6 Tools
# Over $500,000 in funding

2019-2020 Civic Innovation Fellows @ NYC Municipal Building
Civic engagement events to create culture and community

Save the Date!
1-7 March 2020 NYC Open Data Week
7 March 2020 School of Data, aka BetaFest
15 community and government organizers worked with 90 participants for 4.5 hours on 8 projects to improve mobility equity in NYC.
Empowering Public School Teachers and Students through NYC Open Data
Hack League
with CS4All NYC Department of Education
Computer Science x Civics x Design

Middle and High School students apply computer science and NYC Open Data to identify civic issues through open data and develop solutions that they present to local decision makers.

- Computer Science
- NYC Open Data
- Human-centered Design
- Civics

Phase 0: Professional Development
Phase 1: Design-a-Thon in Schools → Finalists →
Phase 2: Hackathons x 5 Boroughs → Finalists →
Phase 3: Final Hackathon @ City Hall
Exposing students to government

...and government to students

(Remember 16 year olds can serve on Community Boards!)
Hack League Outcomes

5 boroughwide events engaged over 300 students from 65 middle and high schools in building 72 data-driven prototypes.

100 schools and 100 teachers trained through 3 Professional Development Opportunities; 1 training was recorded for ongoing access.

Cross-stakeholder Partnership with Borough Presidents, Council Members, local Nonprofits and government agencies.

1,500 students participated (source: 50% of schools self-reported. Estimated total is 2,500 students.)
- Strong diversity at boroughwide events
- Large number of females participating with many all-female teams winning

Thanks for all that you do for these students that I hope will be future members of MODA.

Kelly Jin, Chief Analytics Officer, NYC