

Teaching Open Data for Community Empowerment

Barcelona, DecidimFest 2019

Slide Deck { http://bit.ly/BetaNYC_decidimfest2019 }

βetaNYC

{ Noel Hidalgo }

Brooklyn, NY
@noneck



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

AGENCY: Department For The Aging

Page 1 of 2

COMMISSION ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

PUBLIC DATA DIRECTORY

First Edition

April 1993

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

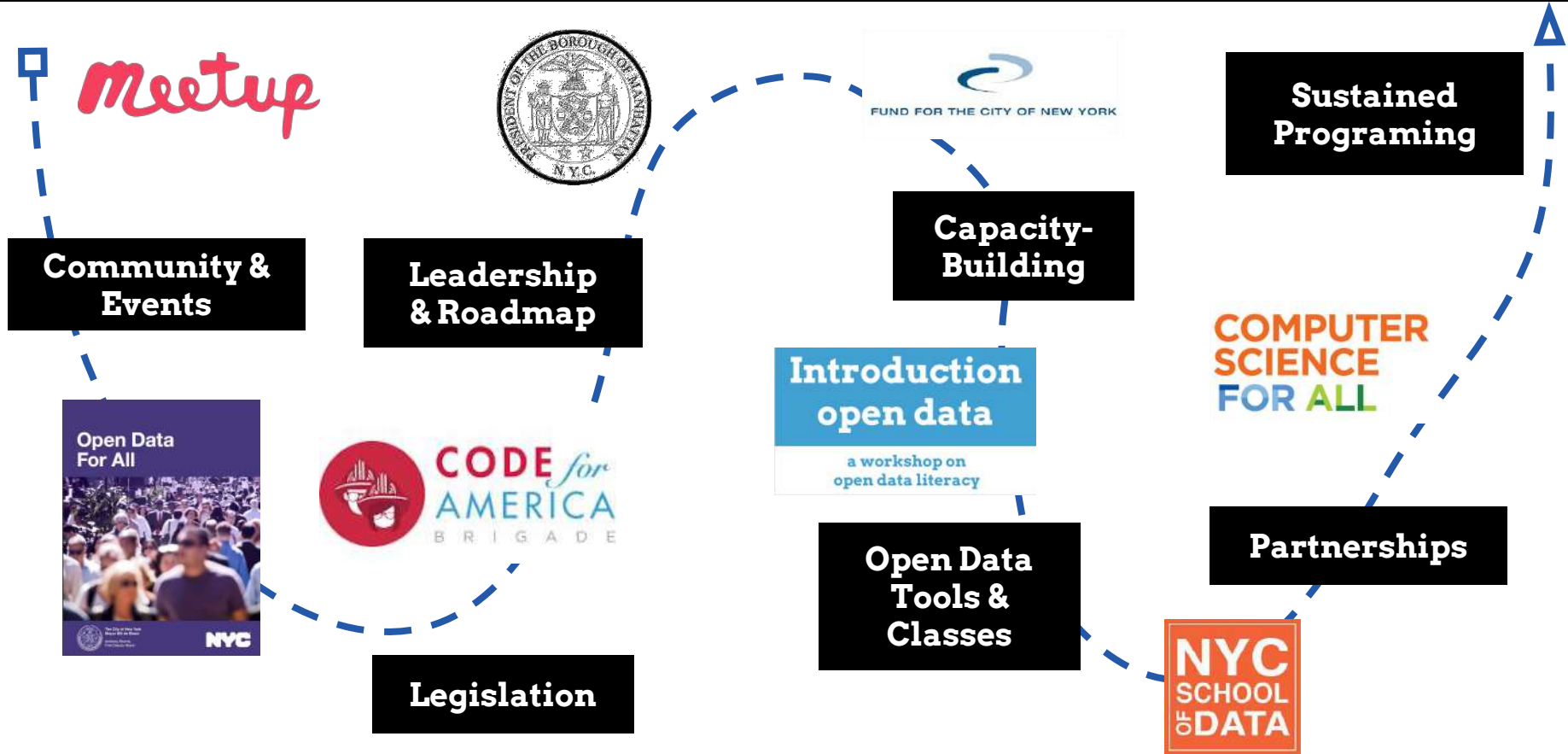


**2010
Open Data
legislation
introduced.**

**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.

Our Mission





*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.**”



Executive Summary

Welcome to The People's Roadmap to a Digital New York City. In this document you will find values and recommendations formulated by people of New York, for the people of New York, for the 21st Century. Through our roadmap, we look at technology as a catalyst for empowerment and bridging municipal management inequalities.

Through the People's Roadmap to a Digital New York City, we want to move beyond transparency. We want a government that asks us about our needs and is responsive to our problems. Written for the people, by the people, this roadmap has traveled to all five boroughs lighting a pathway for New York City to stay the world's premier digital city.

"Technology is not a slice of the pie, but the pie." - Andrew Roske, Chairman of the New York Tech Meetup

As of the November 2013 election, New York City is at a critical inflection point. A new cast of actors will assume powerful roles across government. This document will help guide the next administration and successive ones into community digital services.

<http://nycroadmap.us/>

Roadmap
resulted in
34 proposals.



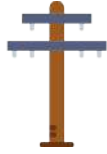
16 ideas
introduced as
legislation



10 laws &
1 charter
amendment
passed



MANY
public-private
partnerships



Connect



Learn

Innovate



Collaborate



Open Data is a powerful tool....



The image shows a screenshot of the NYC OpenData website. At the top left is the logo "NYC OpenData". To its right is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "Data", "About", "Learn", "Contact Us", "Blog", and "Sign In". The main content area has a blue background. On the left, there is a large white heading "Open Data for All New Yorkers" followed by a paragraph: "Open Data is free public data published by New York City agencies and other partners. Sign up for the NYC Open Data mailing list to learn about training opportunities and upcoming events!". Below this is a white search bar with the placeholder text "Search Open Data for things like 311, Buildings, Crime". On the right, there is a vertical banner for "The Next Decade of Open Data" with the subtitle "2019 Open Data for All Report" and a "Translate" button at the bottom.

NYC OpenData

Home Data About Learn Contact Us Blog | Sign In

Open Data for All New Yorkers

Open Data is free public data published by New York City agencies and other partners. **Sign up for the NYC Open Data mailing list** to learn about training opportunities and upcoming events!

Search Open Data for things like 311, Buildings, Crime

The Next Decade of Open Data

2019 Open Data for All Report

Translate »

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**



A large crowd of diverse people is seated outdoors, likely at a community meeting or public hearing. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text 'Community Boards x Open Data' is centered over the image in a white, sans-serif font. In the background, a building with a sign that says 'TRAVEL' is visible. The people are dressed in casual to semi-formal attire, and many are looking towards the left side of the frame.

Community Boards x Open Data



NYC Government

\$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

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

BetaNYC's Civic Innovation Fellows Community Board Technology Needs Report 2018

Introduction

Drawing from interviews with community board district managers and staff, this report details boards' most urgent technology needs and provides board recommendations and best practices to adopt. This report outlines the need for new technology, engagement in the Citizen Statement of Needs, and is meant to help community boards select their cases in the next Board District Statement of Needs cycle.

From February to May 2018, BetaNYC and the Civic Innovation Fellows interviewed 16 local community board district managers and staff for 30-minute interviews. The interviews required a wide range of board technology needs, from data-to-go notebooks like using the internet, sending email blasts, using social media, and tracking meeting attendance, to digitalizing processes like holding meetings, and introducing a CRM system into the reports and budget requests. Summaries of individual conversations, which began on page 6 of this report, convey the complexity and depth of board technology needs and make a strong case for implementing some common solutions to address these needs.

This research continues and updates the technology survey conducted by the Manhattan Borough President's Office, BetaNYC, and the Civic Innovation Fellows in 2016.

Requests from Community Board District Managers & Staff

- CRM systems
- Updated staff computer / dual systems / tablets
- Multi-function, large, touch-capable monitors
- Updated phone systems
- More meeting software – like Council Connect or MARD.org
- Responsive solutions, clear updates, and help for Community Board members to receive meeting agendas
- More the capabilities presented in the report or proposed.

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Data Design Challenges and Opportunities for NYC Community Boards

Executive Summary

Rationale for Research

New York City's 68 community boards are responsible for representing the needs of local communities in city planning and budgeting. Composed of 50 appointed volunteers that live or work within the community, community boards have local expertise that enables them to advocate on behalf of their communities. They are the most local level of NYC government. For the past several months, BetaNYC has been conducting research on community board information infrastructure because we believe that boards should have the resources they need to represent the diverse and all-too-often underserved needs in their communities and to highlight issues that they already know to impact their communities. BetaNYC has placed community boards at the center of our research because we believe that their experiences living and working within their communities uniquely positions them to connect with citizens, to understand local problems, and to build better models.

"Successful evidence... is what I'm doing, but I'm a really strong believer in that that needs to be substantiated and backed up with quantitative evidence to make it real."
-Shirley Selig, Director of Land Use and Planning, Manhattan Community Board 7

Community Board Technology Needs Report

Data Design Challenges & Opportunities for 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
in the rapidly changing digital environment



Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer and fellow Civic Innovation Fellows, including City University of New York, Data and Society Research Institute, with support from the Fund for the City of New York

In partnership with Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, BetaNYC, City University of New York, Data and Society Research Institute, with support from the Fund for the City of New York

{ Connect }

Civic Tech Talent Pipeline and Fellowship

{ Learn }

Advocacy, Research and Civic Engagement

{ Innovate }

Tools and Services

{ Collaborate }

Education, Training, and Partnership

{ our classes }

Language

{ cards }

Action

{ dashboards }

Technical Tools

{ open data portal }

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

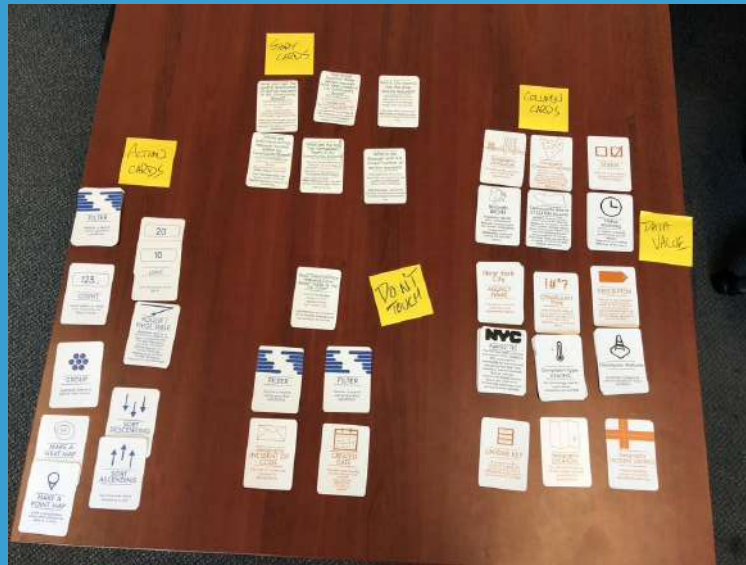
Impact

- * 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

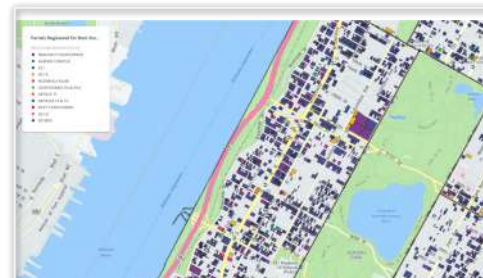
Building solutions for the city, with the city.



BoardStat



Boundaries Map



Tenants Map



SLAM

Full Board	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Quorum					
Fred Arcaro					P
Kyle Athyade					A
Ahsia Badi					P
Martin Barrett					A
Elvy Barroso					P
Robin Broshi					A
Pedro Carrillo					LA
Jim Collins					LA
Colleen Curtis					LA
Louise Dankberg					P
Daniel Devine					A
Beatrice Disman					P

BoardTrack



Data Assistance Requests

{ **Kate Nicholson** }

@KateHNicholson

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



NYC SCHOOL
OF DATA

Save the Date!

1-7 March 2020 NYC Open Data Week

7 March 2020 School of Data, aka BetaFest

**Happy Birthday,
NYC #OpenData Law!**

15 community and government organizers worked with 90 participants for 4.5 hours on 8 projects to improve mobility equity in NYC.



    — **Mobility for All**
Abilities Hackathon on National Day of Civic Hacking 2019 Recap

by *Kate Nicholson*  October 9, 2019

[Advocacy](#) [BikeNYC Blog](#) [Events](#) [hackathon](#) [Mobility for All](#) [National Day of Civic Hacking](#) [Open Data for All](#) [Report Back](#) [Video](#) [WalkNYC](#)

Empowering Public School Teachers and Students through NYC Open Data

A large group of diverse students and staff members are posed in a grand, circular atrium. The group is arranged in several rows, with some sitting on the floor in the front and others standing on the ornate, double-helix staircase that winds around the central space. The architecture features classical columns and a high, vaulted ceiling. The overall atmosphere is one of a large-scale community event.

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



Bill de Blasio
Mayor

Richard A. Carranza
Chancellor



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



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

...and government to students



Hack League Outcomes

→ Empower



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



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



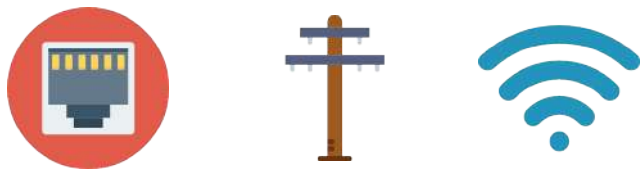
100 schools and 100 teachers trained through 3 Professional Development Opportunities; 1 training was recorded for ongoing access



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

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

Kelly Jin,
Chief Analytics Officer, NYC



Connect



Learn

Innovate



Collaborate



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