

Anyone can take notes. :) **Please contribute.** Add links. Thanks!

Goals:

- *Connect between brigades (across the network)*
- *Share information from Code for America to brigades*
- *Share information for Code for America from brigades*

Zoom registration link:

https://codeforamerica.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2PXDTzDxTa62x7F8-56SwA

Sunday, March 22, 7-8:30pm et / 6-7:30pm ct

Attendees: [Sign in on this spreadsheet.](#)

7-7:15- Intros (...)

Icebreaker: What's your silver lining?

Tim: Being able to eat during meetings

Tyrek: Time to catch up on administrivia

Brant: An excuse to use takeout

Laura: Taking longer walks with my dog, City starting to learn about remote tools

Sabrah: My grassroots groups are *finally* paying attention to the remote options I've been trying for years to convert them to.

Pamela: Time with cousin who came to visit

Nia: Time to focus

7:15-7:30- Time to Talk about Now

There's this virus thing...

How have you / your brigade been involved? What's going well?

Nashville had a virtual meetup- but had the same zoom with another brigade

- Used Google Slides to guide meeting flow
- Current project: brigade onboarding
- Bc it was virtual, everyone signed
- FWIW, C4N's virtual meeting slides:
 - https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/18-v1pwptWAudJKQuiKJXuJaL7S8Otlz9OYggu33aur0/edit#slide=id.g52c9a64554_0_80

Atlanta is going to do a virtual meetup this week
Greenville: next meetup will be virtual, first time using Zoom
Chapel Hill: figuring out how to set up meeting in Zoom

<https://meet.jit.si/>

Thoughts / ideas going forward?

Haven't looked at doing anything locally around COVID-19

7:30-7:50- Topics & Times for future calls

In the first year of these calls, we focused on learning about each brigade.

We've had this topic of identifying topics since February- let's decide and move forward.

Discussion: [Highlights from last month's discussion:](#)

Laura: This isn't in our notes from last month, but this is what I remember leaving off with-
Is this correct?

- We could use future calls to draft / build out a handbook / guidebook for brigade leaders. Kind of updating the old handbook / also gathering information and sharing between brigades.
- We considered a 3 month rotation / cycle-
 - Month 1: Identify / discuss a focus issue (for the handbook)
 - Month 2: Gather / share information on focus issue
 - Month 3: 2nd round of gathering / sharing to draft that section of the handbook

During this call, we were going to...

- Lay out that process more?
- Identify the first issue we would cover?

I think with the intent of starting the 3 month rotation in April.

Potential topics:

- COVID-19 projects / response
- How brigades are holding virtual meetups

Laura encouraged CfA staff to take turns joining meeting- to hear directly from brigades

[Engaging Local Government Leaders](#)

7:50- 8:05 April Meeting Prep

Note from Laura: My term on NAC ended. I'm interested in helping continue these calls after then, but in more of a supportive role.

1. Regular meeting time: 4th Sunday at 7pm ET / 6pm CT (Next meeting is Sunday, April 26)
2. Volunteer to help with South calls?
 - a. New survey on times
 - i. Tim Leisman has volunteered to host lunch
 - ii. Brant - later than 7pm
 - iii. Garrison- survey?
 - b. Calendar invites
 - c. Automating email - Garrison volunteered to help :)
 - d. Future hosts
 - e. Keeping up with contacts
 - i. What brigades aren't attending?
 - ii. Do we have contact info for key South Region people? (Congress and Summit attendees)
 - f. Sharing notes out / Follow-ups
3. Volunteer to tell us about your brigade / project:
4. Suggest a question / topic for the call discussion.

8:05-8:15- Other comments / questions / announcements

Anything else?

Congress Meets Code:

- Photos:
<https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipMM2mGALKyzKEI4omH1YZ-CjfUDqzftg489nrByUztTdjHKsFi7ZGgv2SghMQC8sQ?key=UmJydklBU3loNFREb3JaeHE1dHhkQVp1S1NMNGJ3>
- Setup candy and brigade projects booth, sat in round tables with congress staffers discussing ways to work together
- Think it would be interesting to have a guide to help people replicate at a state level
- BTW, this wasn't lobbying, just looking for connections
- Tyrek: I've done events to meet senators, going by offices, but not planted where people could meet us
- Laura: speaking of fort knox, we had an in since Thad connected with a staffer who runs a committee to help staffers
- Tyrek: do we have any resources on how to connect with government?
- Laura: from a city staff perspective, I think CfA could partner with other national orgs

- City county managers, alliance for innovation, american planning association, elgl (Engaging Local Government Leaders)
- Sometimes if you can't connect directly, for example to procurement, it might be worth looking at elgl and see who's written about procurement and get their help even if they are in a different city.

Collecting the Network Vision:

- Tim: Laura and I both have been working on ways to "characterize" (my word, Laura hates it) the network and understand a common vision
- speaking only for myself, I think see a recurring problem where a few people from different brigades get together and complain about CfA or network issues and brainstorm solutions like "if everyone just did this.." or "we should a nation-wide project to..."
- I think those initiatives fail because not everyone is included and no one can speak for the whole network
- I was hoping to gather everyone visions of what they want the network to be so we can make decisions as a group
- And frankly part of this is even figuring out who we are as a network and whether we should try to stay part of CfA or not.
- Laura: I am interested because often I find what I understand how we plan to work together and on what, but discover CfA has different ideas
- I am also interested in this because if for example, we decide we need to break off from CfA, everyone's included in the discussion so no one is surprised
- This is an overwhelmingly big multi-month conversation to have
- I think we also need to include the people we say we are going to help and partner with (non-profits, government, community orgs, etc)
- I do community engagement by day.
- I'm trying to be thoughtful about how to develop and Engagement Plan to how we're going to have this discussion.
- We started that discussion at the Summit unconference and I need to follow up with Meredith because this is something she and the network staff are aware
- This aligns with their goal of better understanding what the network needs and whether the Network should continue to work with CfA
- My next steps are to have a deeper discussion with Meredith and NAC.
- So, we need to figure out to include people.
- For example, Nia just joined leadership and no one included her in the CFA slack.
- Or for example, Austin hasn't really tapped into the network much yet.
- So, we want to actively include people who aren't already part.
- Sabrah: that was the intro from you (tim and Laura) that I needed to understand what was happening when I joined the unconference.
- Laura: we need a clearer understanding of who we are / want to be. As a consequence, it will help us decide whether to stay with CfA, but we're not coming with that as an agenda
- Tyrek: what prometed the network team to add this as a priority

- Laura: when Meredith first joined, she did a listening tour and noticed everyone describing the network differently
- We as a NAC tried to start having that convo, but as only 9 people in leadership, it didn't feel appropriate to represent what is a grassroots organization
- Meredith realized this wouldn't work, so she wanted to focus on National Day of Civic Action to prove there is enough unity to do some things
- And then, with priority action areas, she's trying to help find what projects are successful as a way to figure out what our vision is.
- I personally envision a pretty big task force to help and to process tons of qualitative data, make sure we reach out through multiple communication channels
- Now, everyone's remote, so maybe we'll have time to do it.
- In fact, your Twitch idea sounds good, but zoom seems awkward
- Sabrah: zoom is great for what it's great for, but I'm a fan of having the right tool for the job.
-

8:15-8:20- CfA updates

CfA events ([Brigade Events Calendar \(bottom of the page\)](#))

- Wednesdays, 5pm ET / 4pm CT, [Weekly EITC Brigade Collaboration calls](#) (March 25, April 1, April 8, April 15, April 22)- *The purpose of this call will be to get members of all Brigades interested in collaborating on the EITC project together to discuss what everyone is doing and track progress. This will be a weekly meeting that is largely a discussion, kind of like a distributed stand-up.*
- Monday, April 13 4pm ET / 3 CT- CfA Monthly Webinar (No additional info currently on the [Brigade calendar](#).)

Stay in touch: Find and share information [on Discourse](#)

8:20- April Meeting Review

Plus- [What went well?](#)

Delta- [What can we improve?](#)

-

POST CALL CHAT HERE

Sunday, February 23, 7-8:30pm est / 6-7:30pm cst

Attendees: [Sign in on this spreadsheet.](#)

Tyrek:

- Atlanta co-organizer, non-coder, shares org leadership with 3 other leads so projects can focus on their thing
- Native of North Carolina
- My goal on NAC is first to learn and listen to brigades

What would you like to see in a year:

- Krystina: would love everyone to understand better what NAC is and what they do (get a lot of questions from brigade members)
- Do you members know what CfA is and are they involved? (Larua)
- Krystina: they know, but don't feel the impact of CfA locally
- Sabrah: Our members definitely know what Code for America is, but many think both NAC and Code for America are irrelevant to us.
- Laura: even though I mention CfA every meetup, they don't care, because they don't feel any support from CfA on their projects (except maybe the people who are looking for new jobs or skillsets from CfA)

EITC / relationship with CfA:

- CfA came (meredith and two others) to Atlanta to talk about EITC
- Their goal was to find out how CfAtlanta could get involved
- From my perspective, it might come down to how involved you can be.
- People like the projects to be part of a common cause.
- But, I told them I don't think the brigade would be interested, mostly because it's not tangible / actionable
- I think this is why brigade members are disconnected
- I think I aligned a bit more than the average member with CfA because my skillset fits better
- This is why I wanted to be on NAC to help them get actionable projects and real relationships

What would you like to see in a year:

- Brant: how can we get involved / help. They were talking about building an app for this tax year, which seems too fast, but this seems like a good time to identify problems.
- Sabrah: I just want to get the communication issues resolved; we've been talking about them for years but I haven't seen any real improvement. If Code for America can communicate with brigades better, that's the first step to helping people understand its relevance. (The second step, just as important, is actually *being* relevant, which may mean reworking the NAC structure and relationship with Code for America.)
- Tim: want to see formal powers and responsibility for the NAC to solidify their future for the network (for example, budget).

- Laura: I stuck to an advisory role in part because they have a board. We have no representation even informally on it. I've only met Jenn and her wife. I've been part of non-profits and it is weird to me that the chair didn't even welcome the network at congress.

Tyrek to Laura: do they really go to NAC to think deeply or approve a checklist? What are we supposed to achieve and what should members expect?

- Laura: I hate Sabrah can't speak on the call because I don't want to speak for her, but I think she has strong feelings about it. The weird thing is the network is an org without this larger org. And they have a different operating model and we're kind of a volunteer group to the side. Meredith has only been there for about 2 years, and she's still getting acquainted and control, but even the whole org is only 10 years old and the NAC is only 3 or 4 years old because I came in the second election and the previous group was on for about a year and half (I think). I think one of the issues is to figure out what the org does. Are we just volunteer groups that build apps locally or are we trying to work together on specific issues. I think there's a limited capacity of 9 people to do things and to advise a small staff when you only appear once a month. I have defaulted to advising because my job responsibilities have increased and I can be involved in every work group. For an organization this large, all we have is the network staff and 9 NAC making decisions with 90 brigades. There should be additional levels of leadership, with active sub-committees who support specific issues etc. This also gives people a way to work up into the system before they run for NAC. Otherwise, it's always just us or ask the whole network to make a decision.
- Sabrah: I do have strong feelings, but I'm trying to restrain them until I have a little more time to observe and evaluate how NAC is operating in practice. You'll probably hear a lot more from me about it at Summit.
- Laura: I like the sorority model where you have a board, but also different topical groups and you have a region below the national level. Also, the national affiliate model. They even had trained facilitators for specific things like mediator, or strategic planner etc. The national org paid for their training and then local groups would request them at key times.

Fundraising:

- Tyrek: the fundraising trainings only had 6 spots and two of them were from the same brigade.
- Krystina: asking brigade members to fundraise when they already donate their time is asking a lot. Even comping congress is hard. Do you comp leaders or members? For example, I'm only one going to summit this year, because no one else got lucky
- Pamela: we don't do any fundraising and only recently became aware of other brigades getting paid to do work. In our spreadsheet of all the brigade funds we had a mystery \$40 and then spent \$20 of it. I agree it was a bummer that the fundraising group only had 6 spots.
- Laura: I think that comes back to the affiliate model that has a few different levels, whether small or big, young or old
- Krystina: pick something and set a deadline to see what you can do

- Tyrek: I think ultimately the brigade to brigade relationship with stronger than the relationship to CfA, so I think our two take aways are to pick that thing we're going to focus on and build our south region brigade to brigade infrastructure to do those things for yourself.

Future Calls

- Who
 - Sabrah: I definitely think it's worth having it as a regional call. In fact, I've been planning to ask Laura if the other region calls ever got underway, so I could duck in there just to listen as an at-large. But I would like to see more people coming, not just one-per-brigade. I think that's a question of publicizing them early enough and having more results from them that we could dangle as a reason for people to come. What those results would look like? That's another question.
- What:
 - Tim: can we make this a committee call to make decisions and build things for the region?
 - Sabrah: No objections to working on a handbook, but could we simply set a date for a future meeting that will be to discuss and decide on the structure for a regional council? The kind we discussed earlier that would be intermediate between the NAC and brigades?
 - Krystina: I'm Interested in a handbook/playbook in the future, but also curious what can we work on now?
 - Laura: Here are the topics I pitched
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jcS_U6M436l8lW94DCCasF9hIvgRTKEu3y2natluNZw/edit#gid=1330278199
 - Tim: Who is going to read? Who is going to lead?
 - Sabrah: Sounds interesting to me, and since we have been the biggest region, we could be a model for other regions to do the same later. As for Code for America doing it, I can't speak for their willingness, but when it comes to capacity, it would probably be a lot easier if we could give them a specific proposal to say "We need this much money to do these specific things" then if we give them a vague idea that their staff will have to juggle among all their other responsibilities.
- When
- Where
- Why
- How

Everybody: Slack is evil. :-)

Sunday, January 26, 7-8:30pm est / 6-7:30pm cst

Attendees: [Sign in](#) on this spreadsheet.

Hosted by Pamela Wood Browne (Code for Greenville [SC]) and Garrison Reid (Code For Chapel Hill)

7-7:15- Intros (Garrison)

Icebreaker: Brigade Resolution or Goal (Brigade-specific)

- Code For Chapel Hill: Expand university partners and have more substantial output
- Dayton: Have projects for people to plug into, even when there isn't anything major underway locally.
- Orlando: engaging and retaining members, make sure we give our members what they need, foster and work on relationship with Orlando Digital Services
- Melanie (Philadelphia): just moved to Philly, learn about their history and practices to share with other brigades
- Greenville: grow awareness of civic tech in general, in Greenville and SC
- Nashville: finish our 1 big concrete project to get out to people and get feedback, continue to reorganize leadership so it is more diverse, equitable, and inclusive, more democratice process, a formal path to leadership, more transparent and clear

7:15-7:20- Meet Sabrah n'haRaven (Melanie)

Filling open seat on NAC

Code for Asheville leader

Very active in transit issues

2018 CfA Summit talk (so good!!!) "[Change is Inevitable](#)"

New address: sabrah@interstel.net (wncomeless@gmail.com will still work as a backup)

7:20-7:35- National Advisory Council elections (Melanie, Janet)

FYI: [Election Framework](#) process, requirements, expectations, etc.

Election Timeline

- January 22: NAC Open Information Session with NAC Members
- January 26 at 11:59 pm PST: ***Candidate submissions close***
- January 28: ***Voting Begins***

- February 5th at 11:59 pm PST: **Voting Ends**
- February 6th: Candidates are notified of the outcome
- February 9th at 11:59 PM PST: Deadline for winners to formally accept
- February 10th: Winners announced and transition planning begins
- By February 17th: Travel for NAC members arranged
- March 11th: In-person meeting in DC with incoming and outgoing NAC to hand-off

4 Regional Seats

- There will be 4 Brigade Regional Seats. A [regional listing of brigades](#) will be reviewed before each regional election to evenly distribute brigades.
- **Note: For 2020, Texas and Oklahoma have moved from the South Region to the Midwest Region (Now called Central)**
 - Region 1: Northeast
 - Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, DC, Connecticut, and Maryland
 - Region 2: Midwest
 - Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Texas
 - Region 3: South
 - Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands
 - Region 4: West
 - Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam.

Discussion:

- Any questions?
 - Will there be a candidate forum?
- What are you most proud of from your experience on the NAC?
 - Laura: i was really proud of the unconference at summit last year. (it's not happening this year :(, but last year was great- and i think encouraged the unconference at congress)
- What's is like to be on the NAC? / What is a day in the life of a NAC member like?
 - Melanie: most of the time, it's like any of day as a brigade member. Plus some meetings and emails.
 - Janet: more layers of trying to find connectivity and connect talent in the network
- Who is running for NAC? (Today is the [deadline if you would like to run.](#))

- What do you like about this election process?
- What would you change about this election process?
 - Sabrah: Do you feel the timeline gives you enough chance to publicize the election among your brigade members? Here in Asheville, the announcement came out after our monthly meeting and newsletter, and the election will be over before the next ones.
 - Yeah, it feels really quick, especially this year :(
- What are you looking for from a South Region NAC member?

7:35-7:50- Priority Action Areas (Janet)

CfA Brigade staff are working on identifying priority action areas for this year- to provide more support to brigades in specific areas. There's a whole process for identifying these.

Background on Priority Action Areas: [Discourse Post](#)

Survey results that informed Priority Action Areas: [CfA Network Engagement: Survey One](#)

- Social Safety Net (this can include housing, food security, healthcare, etc)
- Voter Information & Elections
- Criminal Justice (this can include record clearance, re-entry resources, text messaging for courts, etc)

[Notes from Tuesday's workshop](#) where they discussed:

- 1) What do you think are the most important evaluation criteria in selecting Priority Action Areas?
- 2) What projects in this area has your Brigade participated in or have you seen in the Network that you would most like to continue and expand upon in 2020?
- 3) What new projects would you like to see Brigades work on in this area?

Discussion:

- Do you have any questions?
 - So are those the 3 Priority Action Areas? Or are they asking for people are ok with those?
 - What is next in the process?
- Is there anything that is unclear or confusing?

Process-

- What do you like about this process?
- What would you change about this process?
 - How can the candidate forum also help gather input / feedback on these topics?

Priority Action Areas-

- What do you like about these priority action areas?
- What would you change about these priority action areas?

7:50-8:05- Topics & Times for future calls (Garrison)

In the first year of these calls, we focused on learning about each brigade.

Discussion:

- What would you be interested in learning about?
 - Recruitment / onboarding / retention
 - Government relationships / local partnerships
 - Leadership management from other brigades - burnout, collaboration with team members
- Should we feature a different project each month? or quarter?
- What about different times? (In last month's call, Tim Leisman [Greensboro] volunteered to look into lunch time calls)
 - Survey to brigade captains coming week of Jan 27 (Garrison)
 - Would suggest putting the link also on the Slack and reassuring that the call isn't for captains only; no need to burden them with everything or exclude others (Sabrah)

8:05-8:15- Other comments / questions / announcements (Pamela)

Anything else?

- Krystina: These calls feel mostly informative to brigade leaders, with little room for action from brigade leaders. No action items to take away.
- Timothy: We don't make any decisions at Congress. These calls could be a chance for us to decide things. Planning homework.
- Pamela: Would love to have regional summit.
- Timothy: I'd love that. That's why I've been planning road trips. An unconference in Nashville. Sharing money and resources to get together and work on things (not a hackathon).
- Pamela: Unconference in Nashville- here we come
- Janet: I've been pushing for everyone to get a Zoom
- Sabrah: She had offered to help with a virtual world environment.
- Timothy: 2020- year of redeploys?
- Krystina: NAC members should join brigade slack
- Timothy: NAC can / should be driving things. Handling / directing money. Propose budget. Trying to form a platform- "network advocacy ..."

- Sabrah: I'm also not a fan of "National Advisory Council" as a name/purpose.
- Nia: i don't really hear much of NAC, improve communication with brigades. Building that relationship.

8:15-8:20- CfA updates (Pamela)

CfA events ([Brigade Events Calendar \(bottom of the page\)](#))

- **Earned Income Tax Credit Information Session**, Mon, January 27, 7:00pm – 8:20pm est / 6:00pm - 7:20pm cst
Learn more about Code for America's efforts in the Workforce Development space and about a new project focusing on the Earned Income Tax Credit. One fifth of eligible low-income workers miss out on this opportunity. Have a chance to talk with the EITC team, and ask questions! [RSVP](#)
 - Related to existing CalFresh app
- **Code for America Monthly Workshop**, Mon, February 10, 7:00pm – 8:20pm est / 6:00pm - 7:20pm cst
Check back in the Google Calendar for registration link and topic <https://brigade.codeforamerica.org/events>
- Saturday, March 7, [Open Data Day](#)
 - Janet's suggestion: [Creatives for the Count](#) (Census)
- March 11-13 (DC): [CfA Summit](#)

Stay in touch: Find and share information [on Discourse](#)

Discussion:

- Who is going to Summit?
 - Pamela
 - Tim
 - Janet
 - Laura
 - Sabrah
 - Whitney
 - Krystina
- Who is going to Summit for the first-time?
- Do you have any questions about Summit or upcoming CfA events?

8:20-8:30- February Meeting Prep & Meeting Review (Garrison)

Note from Laura: My term on NAC ends in March. I'm interested in helping continue these calls after then, but I really need help.

5. Regular meeting time: 4th Sunday at 7pm est (Next meeting is February 23)
6. Volunteer to help with South calls?

- a. New survey on times - **Laura** will share old survey with Garrison
 - i. Tim Leisman has volunteered to host lunch
 - ii. Brandt - later than 7pm
- b. Calendar invites
- c. Automating email - Garrison volunteered to help :)
- d. Future hosts
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- f. Sharing notes out / Follow-ups
- 7. Volunteer to tell us about your brigade / project:
- 8. Suggest a question / topic for the call discussion. (Message / tag @laurab on Slack or email me at lauramarie12@gmail.com)

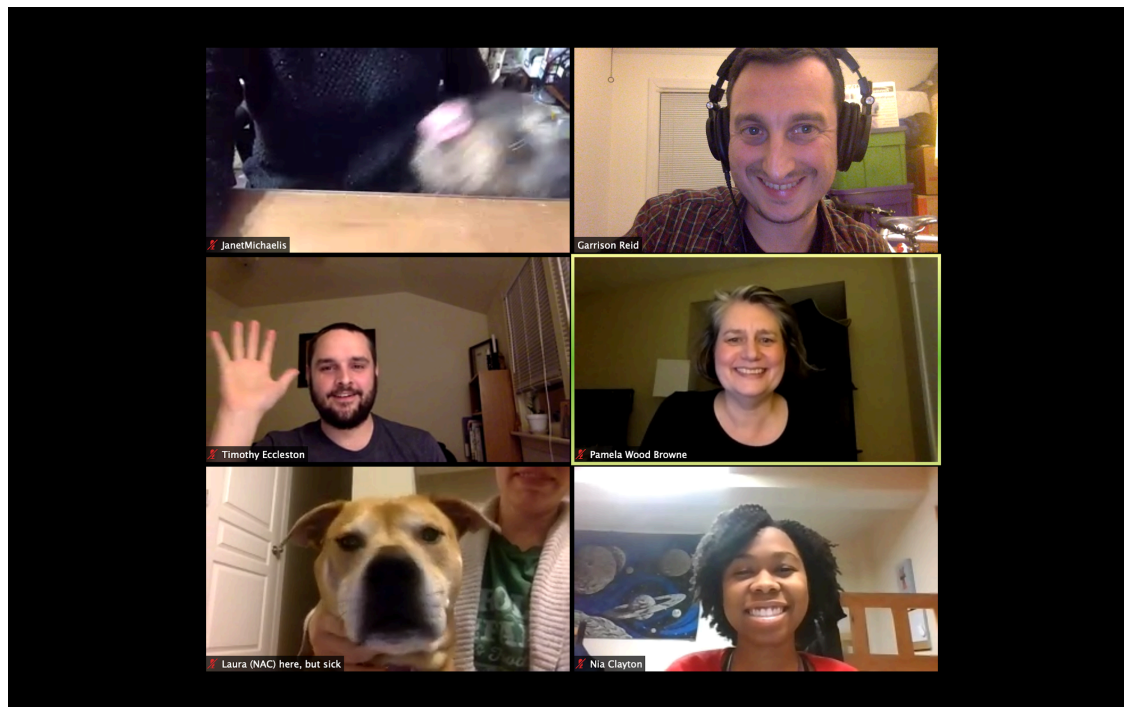
Meeting Review (Pamela)

Plus- **What went well?**

Delta- **What can we improve?**

-

POST CALL CHAT HERE



I love that photo so much!

Sunday, December 15, 7-8:30pm est / 6-7:30pm cst

Attendees: [Sign in](#) on this spreadsheet.

Hosted by Pamela Wood Browne (Code for Greenville [SC])

7-7:15- Intros

Icebreaker: Favorite thing from 2019 (Brigade-specific)

Pamela: Attending summit

Brant (Atlanta): Getting involved more with the team

Garrison: Getting involved in the program, went to interest meeting this time last year

Laura: Organizing and hosting Unconference at the Summit

Tim (Greensboro): finishing GoVoteGSO

7:15-7:45- [Summer Meals \(Garrison\)](#)

Background:

- Garrison is a teacher at Chapel Hill High School / AP Computer Science Principles
- Talked with Laura about possible programs, connected him with Durham Public Schools
- [NC No Kid Hungry](#) -- Directory of summer meal providers

Project

- Having a client that is interested in what you are creating for them
- A project that is iterative- that we can improve year over year
- Great way to show to a new client- that this is what we can do

7:45-8:00- Other comments / questions / announcements

Code for Greensboro- has open co-captain position

8:00-8:20- CfA updates (Laura)

MOU Checkin

Questionnaire- Year in Review

- Tim: filled out collaboratively at leadership retreat earlier this month (with outgoing leader, other project leaders); found it to be helpful in talking through things
 - Wondered what happens to it next- who at NAC looks at
 - Had some bumps in the road- hoping to work with CfA in the future

- Didn't necessarily expect individual follow-up

Survey-

- Interesting to know what patterns emerge regionally? Issues of more interest?
- Be mindful of projects for smaller cities and stages of brigades
- Areas of interest
 - Open Data- as a building block to unleash people's capabilities; if someone has free time, they can build something; where is the nearest city to use that has an open data api, could be a tool that helps a lot people get into that kind of work;
 - See promoting projects; there are some awesome projects that could be mirrored in Code for Chapel Hill; i just don't know where to start; (e.g. Adopt a Drain program); highlight project of the week / month- give people a little bit of recognition; here are tools to take this and convert it to your community; highlight project of the quarter- how many brigades can replicate (use as an impact measure), something that could occur outside of meetings (cfa doing a lot of the scoping and project management before), have a one on one from cfa to town / employee contact- this is the kind of thing you should be having
 - Having a national partnership- that helps connect with local gov staff, has clear roles for those partners / staff in the scoped project
 - Maybe an issue area around intro to civic tech? (Projects in which people can learn to code)
 - Inspired by Atlanta's collaboration with code class work, game truck with civic- maybe civic tech intro class
 - Greensboro- 60% of people come to meetups to code

Census group working in Atlanta

NAC elections- coming

CfA events ([Brigade Events Calendar \(bottom of the page\)](#))

- Friday, December 20, 8pm est / 7pm cst- Clean Slate Weekly Calls
Join the #clean-slate Slack channel in the CfA Slack to join by Slack call. ([map](#))
- Monday, January 13, 2020, 7pm est / 6pm cst- Code for America Monthly Workshop
- Sunday, January 26, 2020, 7pm est / 6pm cst
- Saturday, March 7, [Open Data Day](#)
- March 11-13 (DC): [CfA Summit](#)

Stay in touch:

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- Find and share information [on Discourse](#)

8:20-8:30- January Meeting Prep & Meeting Review

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Plus- What went well?

Delta- What can we improve?

- Provide incentive for brigades with high attendance (free pizza, etc.)

Chat:

Sunday, October 27, 7-8:30pm est / 6-7:30pm cst

Attendees: [Sign in](#) on this spreadsheet.

7-7:15- Intros

Icebreaker: What's your favorite / frequently visited website?

Laura: wordcounter.net

Diana: evenbrite, canva

Garrison: Googlenews

Brant: theoldreader

Pamela: todoist

Alyx: theweatherchannel

Jon: newyorktimes

Wesley: worldtimebuddy.com

[Suggested questions for the "About" sections](#)

7:15-7:30- [Brigade Congress](#) recap

[Discourse post on Diana and SeYeon's Courtbot session](#)

- CB Repository: <https://github.com/codefortulsa/courtbot-python>
 - We don't have a new website up yet, just okcourtbot.com for the old instance
 - Can test in Techlahoma Slack (I'm happy to send an invite) by starting DM with Courtbot
- Working on starting Brigade Action Team- let her know if you're interested
 - Laura: I'm glad to help plan with on-the-ground planning / launch
- Potential biggest issue: how open state court data is
 - Heard mentioned there is a potential site to determine if a state's data is open. Is that site known?
 -
- Jon: really interested in team building- to learn from for Charlottesville project. Project is about simplifying wage theft complaint form ("oceans 11 team building mode.")
- Question about long-term ownership of project (governments or brigades): that's the reason they're starting Brigade Action Team; when approached, local governments didn't necessarily see benefit / value in funding project
- FYI: [North Carolina's courtbot](#) and [Durham County's courtbot](#)

Question about 2020 Congress date? (should it be same time in oct or move to after nov. elections?)

- Risk of fatigue v. opportunity of community (having in October may risk people who can't attend bc of elections and campaigns)

Response to Laura's suggestion of changing to "brigade camp"

- Krystina likes idea of pushing relationship building at camp- intimacy, personal development, professional development, share back with brigades. I'd be down for that. More fun, personal
- +1 from Diana
- Jon: keep focus on brigades, don't make it too much about national thing (keep spotlight on individual brigades)
- Pamela: didn't have a problem with "Congress" but I like the idea of putting more emphasis on building relationships so +1 for Camp.

7:30-7:45- Discussion Topic: Big Picture Questions

What is our theory of change? What is the difference you hope to be a part of on a local / state / county level? (why are we doing the thing?)

- Brant: involved with brigade to get involved with coding projects
- Pamela: positive impact in community with technology (would like to see us grow, have a better idea of how to have impact, brigade created around project- cool, but not courtbot)

exciting impact). I've always liked the idea of "meeting people where they are" and we use our knowledge of technology to best do that.

- Krystina: **bringing government services into 21st century**, relating to someone's relationship to government, simplifying / streamlining people's struggles / life pain points
- Jon: can we change anything? Starting small, do something that is real. (helped a nonprofit with their report, data management- going to have an impact to achieve goal, strategy.) the way we do that is by using tech to make gov services clear, easy- make it feel that gov is something that works for them, personally. When people feel disconnected from gov, it leads to things going wrong in society. When gov works for them, it makes them feel like there is an avenue for them- series of small things, that in its totality, has a strong effect. Each individual project leads to a **culture of transparency, accountability**- that culture should be the theory of change for cfa.
- Garrison: about culture, about getting people started in gov, millions of people can have dramatic change, as i've gotten older, this an opportunity for me to be engaged in this conversation somehow
- Wesley: i have no idea on the specific/measurable ToC items. Focus is on "open", in terms of transparency, data, code- difference we are all hoping to make. Openness is not a threat. To get people used to change for change's sake. Change doesn't have to be scary. Bringing gov into 21st century can save money, have better outcomes.
- Alyx: use tech to change the world. Code for asheville was the only do-gooder tech meetup. Society, systems are failing. Such an opportunity to address those problems with technology- use where most efficient to close those gaps. To convince other org that tech needs to be a part of their theory of change

7:45-8:00- Remembering Carl V. Lewis

Jen's post: <https://medium.com/code-for-america/in-memorial-carl-v-lewis-560cc3ca1060>

Carl's blog posts: <https://blog.opensavannah.org/@carlvlewis>

"He became the example i wanted to follow." - Pamela (local fangirl)

8:00-8:10- Other comments / questions / announcements

8:10-8:20- CfA updates

March 11-13 (DC): [CfA Summit](#)

Stay in touch:

- [Brigade Events Calendar \(bottom of the page\)](#)
- *Find and share information* [on Discourse](#)

8:20-8:30- November Meeting Prep & Meeting Review

13. Regular meeting time: 4th Sunday at 7pm est (Next meeting is November 24)
14. Volunteer to help with South calls?
 - a. Calendar invites
 - b. Automating email- Garrison volunteered to help :)
 - c. Future hosts
 - d. Keeping up with contacts
 - i. What brigades aren't attending?
 - ii. Do we have contact info for key South Region people? (Congress and Summit attendees)
 - e. Sharing notes out / Follow-ups
15. Volunteer to tell us about your brigade:
 - a. Summer Meals projects (Chapel Hill / Durham, Tulsa)

We haven't heard from:

- Asheville
- Charlottesville
- Durham
- Fort Lauderdale
- Orlando
- Puerto Rico
- Tampa Bay
- Tulsa

16. Suggest a question / topic for the call discussion. (Message / tag @laurab on Slack or email me at lauramarie12@gmail.com)

Plus- What went well?

- Great, free-flowing **conversation on courtbot**, greater understanding of what it is and can be, good to have such a deep talk about about a project
- Get information about congress, since i wasn't able to attend
- Love the conversation, questions, feedback on court. Maybe dive in on **what other teams are doing- projects**. Use as a sounding board.
- Thinking about big picture questions was kind of helpful

Delta- What can we improve?

- **Have agenda, questions ahead of time**
- Diana: volunteer to help set up call documentation
- Feeling time-crunched, feeling stressed about time

Chat:

From Jon Kropko to All panelists: (07:05 PM)

hi everyone I'm here but my mic doesn't seem to work

From Wesley Duffee-Braun to All panelists: (07:06 PM)

I had trouble too, dialed in via phone (I'm the "Attendee") haha

From Diana Varnes to All panelists: (07:11 PM)

Canva.com!

From Wesley Duffee-Braun to All panelists: (07:13 PM)

I think my audio is back (albeit too late for intro's) - sorry about that!

From Pamela Wood Browne (SC) to All panelists: (07:14 PM)

Very cool! We have members interested in doing courtbot here in Greenville. I hear whistling too

From Me to All panelists: (07:17 PM)

maybe it's the wind, if jon's outside

From KrystinaRamos to All panelists and attendees: (07:18 PM)

It does sound like a tea kettle whistling

From GarrisonReid to All panelists and attendees: (07:22 PM)

"oceans 11 team building mode." 👍😄

From Diana Varnes to All panelists: (07:23 PM)

court.bot will be the website and each brigade can have their own directory or subdirectory

From Diana Varnes to All panelists: (07:29 PM)

Notes: Have launch in each area for CB

From Wesley Duffee-Braun to All panelists and attendees: (07:35 PM)

+1 to the library location+1000 to transparency :)

From KrystinaRamos to All panelists: (07:40 PM)

Bid for Orlando 2021 Oh wow

From Diana Varnes to All panelists: (07:44 PM)

+1 for Brigade Camp! have experience with non-profit mission statements

From Diana Varnes to All panelists: (07:50 PM)

Help foster relationships between the brigades

-through monthly meetings

-other action items

From GarrisonReid to All panelists and attendees: (07:50 PM)

Since seeing it in April, I think the poster "Done is better than perfect" or "done over perfection".

Helping in any way possible. That has really spoken to me.

From Diana Varnes to All panelists: (07:51 PM)

+1 to done is better than perfect, it's been my motto for a few years now and has been life changing

From Pamela Wood Browne (SC) to All panelists: (08:01 PM)

I've always liked the idea of "meeting people where they are" and we use our knowledge of technology to best do that.

From KrystinaRamos to All panelists: (08:04 PM)

Same

From Wesley Duffee-Braun to All panelists and attendees: (08:07 PM)

@Pamela +1

From KrystinaRamos to All panelists: (08:10 PM)

Sticker quotes

From Diana Varnes to All panelists: (08:10 PM)

@Krystina +1

From GarrisonReid to All panelists and attendees: (08:19 PM)

I can help schedule some emails. Let's chat and I can assist as needed.

From Diana Varnes to All panelists and attendees: (08:20 PM)

We can chat later, I'm happy to help

From Wesley Duffee-Braun to All panelists and attendees: (08:21 PM)

Phone died :(

From JonKropko to All panelists: (08:21 PM)

have to go, thanks for the great conversation!

From Wesley Duffee-Braun to All panelists and attendees: (08:22 PM)

The other thing is just a level-set of terms before the call That's all - no need to wait on me to dial back-in Go on to the next person :)

From Diana Varnes to All panelists and attendees: (08:28 PM)

Tulsa has a very robust Summer Meals app as well

From GarrisonReid to All panelists and attendees: (08:29 PM)

Diana, can you link the app into the meeting's notes? Thanks.

From Wesley Duffee-Braun to All panelists and attendees: (08:29 PM)

Laura++ for keeping these calls going and on point!

Sunday, September

- Call not held.

Sunday, August 25, 7-8:30pm est / 6-7:30pm cst

Attendees: [Sign in](#) on this spreadsheet.

7-7:15- Intros

Icebreaker: Summer-Fall transition

- Laura, Durham
- Garrison, Chapel Hill
- Rob, Ft. Lauderdale
- Pamela, Greenville
- Chris, Raleigh
- Timothy, Nashville
- Wesley, Nashville

- Brant, Atlanta

[Suggested questions for the “About” sections](#)

7:15-7:30- About a Brigade: Chapel Hill

- Garrison got involved by first attending other brigades, CfA brigades presented a local company
- Meet every week, alternate between Town Hall and UNC Computer Sciences Dept.
- No formal org structure, 2 co-captains, previous captains graduate,
 - Current captains: Garrison and UNC student, Nia
- Mostly students involved, noticed once school was out and they weren't there
- *How to boost attendance? Especially of non-university people*
- membership= 5-10 people
- Want more business partners, working on this fall
- Existing relationship between Town staff (open data portal) and students who graduated, then everyone moved on. New staff person and new co-captains new. Lost previous institutional knowledge. *Seeking framework for project info and contacts- for when people leave / move in the future. How to reset without starting over and abandoning previous work. (See this [CfA Discourse post about project frameworks](#))*
- Had civic data hackathon in March (first brigade event), good event, got some projects off the ground
- Done some things with other brigades, but no stand alone projects within Chapel Hill brigade
- Area for improvement: Documentation & Structure
- Working on things to build momentum
- Biggest struggle: transitioning projects between brigade people, how to keep from dissolving
- No one was showing up in summer, bc didn't have meetings last summer
- Town employees only comes to Town Hall meetings (half of meetings)
- By day, Garrison is a high school teacher - teaches Intro to Computer Science- incorporating open data into coursework, learning curriculum that Town of Chapel Hill and City / County of Durham Data Academy (for gov staff)
 - AP Computer Science principles
- Garrison has also talked with Career and Technical for public schools to identify other teachers
- Comes back to getting teachers into classroom to incorporate
- Rob: partners with community college Computer Science, meets there
 - Suggested using Austin's planning canvas (project framework), Charlotte also adopted this tool
 - <https://www.open-austin.org/civic-tech-canvas/>
 - https://www.open-austin.org/civic-tech-canvas/project_canvas_v4.pdf
 - Suggested forking projects from other brigades (e.g. Courtbot)

7:30-7:45- Brigade Congress

- Keep an eye out for request for proposals- coming soon
- Recommend submitting idea early- so planning committee can help partner
- Timothy- trying to organize carpool to Congress

7:45-8:00- Discussion Topic: [National Day of Civic Hacking](#)

[Discourse Post: We're one month away from the National Day of Civic Hacking! Ready?](#)

[Info for each state: Judicial Expungement, Sealing, and Set-aside](#)

- Miami & Ft. Lauderdale are having a joint event
- Nashville- connecting with Clean Slate legal community, different levels of justice system, focusing on relationships, balancing roles on with partners who've had issues collaborating in the past
- Greenville- 1st NDOCH, some members interested in courtbot, etc.
- Raleigh (Durham, Chapel Hill)- NC Civic Camp (2 day unconference and hackathon), Data.world doing mini training session on data literacy, NC State software carpentry doing session, local open data portals

8:00-8:10- Other comments / questions / announcements

- Any census collaborations?

8:00- CfA updates

- Mon., Aug. 26- Join us next Monday, August 26 at 7pm ET/ 4pm PT! National Day of Civic Hacking is approaching and we want to help you ensure you have what you need to hold a successful day of action! Join Aditi Joshi who is the User Researcher for the Clear My Record team, and Meilani Santillán, the Associate Program Director for Criminal Justice at Code for America who will be discussing how to execute the journey mapping and usability scorecard actions in detail. We will also go over creating a Know Your Rights site. Register here:
https://codeforamerica.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QRLUpXaFTmuOtOYt0nXBAQ
- Saturday, Sept. 21: [National Day of Civic Hacking](#)
- Oct. 18-20: [Brigade Congress](#) (Cleveland, OH)

Stay in touch:

- [Brigade Events Calendar \(bottom of the page\)](#)

- [Subscribe to This Week in Civic Tech](#)
- Find and share information [on Discourse](#)

8:20-8:30- September Meeting Prep & Meeting Review

17. Regular meeting time: 4th Sunday at 7pm est (Next meeting is September 22- **should we change to Sept. 29?**)

Should we keep 4th Sunday at 7pm? Or should we change times?

18. Volunteer to tell us about your brigade:

- Brigade 1:
- Brigade 2:

We haven't heard from:

- Asheville
- Durham
- Fort Lauderdale
- Orlando
- Puerto Rico
- Tampa Bay
- Tulsa

19. Suggest a question / topic for the call discussion. (Message / tag @laurab on Slack or email me at lauramarie12@gmail.com)

Sunday, July 28, 7-8:30pm est / 6-7:30pm cst

Attendees: [Sign in](#) on this spreadsheet.

7-7:15- Intros

Icebreaker:

What other groups are you involved in (e.g. meetups, community groups)? If you're not involved in something else, what would you want to start?

How do you hear about CfA things?

- Laura- lots of civic organizations through work (Kids Voting) & hear through NAC
- Diana - lots of other things- especially related to tech / coding and women coding, & hear about cfa through email and twitter - Techlahoma, Oklahoma Women in Tech, Free Code Camp Tulsa, SheCodes Tulsa, Code for Muskogee, Code for Tulsa

- Tim - CASA (juvenile court advocacy) & hear about cfa through email and individuals on twitter, interested in hearing about how decisions are made at cfa
- Chris - advisory board for local tech college, sports activities for middle schools (PAL- police athletic league) & hear about cfa thru grapevine, people talking, slack (but that is mostly after the fact, too late to do anything)
- Pam- Diana's soul sister - member of all the groups in Greenville, founded women who code greenville, free code camp organizer, bike/ walk greenville founding board member, beer / napkins (innovations / entrepreneurship), open works coworking space, advisory committee for technical college CS department; Greenville RECAB, Innovation & IT Subcommittee Chair; find out sporadically from slack and email
- Dawn - member of brigade, charter member of rotary club, film meetup, women in tech meetup; find about CFA through email
- Melanie - code for Asheville and NAC at-large, and an arts group (trying to broaden from civic tech) and changing jobs (may move) & hear about C4A through slack and other channels, joined discourse firehouse channel (overwhelming smattering of all activity)

[Suggested questions for the "About" sections](#)

7:15-7:30- About a Brigade: [Code for Nashville](#)

- Tim joined brigade after election to improve transparency from government, elected officials / idea postponed bc too big for the brigade
- Joined leadership bc wanted the brigade to do more than just a social hour
- Tiny bit of an org structure, 3 leads, 3 coming into leadership, everyone else is just volunteers, don't do a great job of providing goals for volunteers, not many levels of leadership, whoever gets involved can lead
- Get together once a month, presenter (analyzing dataset), someone from group will present what they are finding, then have a freeform discussion, Tim doesn't get involved, just takes notes, people come back bc there aren't other things like that in the area
- Occasional Saturday morning session, in theory for project work, new people come, too. Want to use for intentional onboarding. Creating onboarding materials now. Special session for new people
- Meet at public library, downtown library is closed after 5pm, meet in cafes for saturday sessions
- Membership will evolve to who has been through onboarding, but hasn't been formalized, currently people who do "homework"- may not include people who come just for networking, engage outside of monthly meetups
- Definitely people missing, created community engagement & diversity lead, leaders were all young, cis, white men in tech, no clear path to leadership, most underrepresented latino, good partnership with black in tech, try to give people of color speaking positions, tended to be men, leadership now includes white women, still trying to figure out how to solve in solid, sustainable way

- Oldest project was reason gov employee founded, founded to build app evaluating inequity in metro employee salaries, tim reconnected with employee, started to rebuild relationship
- Biggest relationship with --- cities hackers, pro bono law, access to justice, app- power of attorney, projects only success when have engaged community partner- gives us critical feedback, "this isn't going to work." reminds us what we're building and what we're building for ; also works with gleaning nonprofit; other partnerships would like to have; community oversight board organizer- trying to line up event where they can come, struggling to get volunteers engaged in that, not just relationship between tim and organizer
- Brigade is really good at making a space where people felt comfortable, wasn't necessarily strategic, didn't necessarily build on itself, better at recognizing community partners now; better at projects than events
- Still struggle to finish a project, hard to get people to put hours to finish it; like to be better at finishing work
- Proud of power of attorney app- responds to immediate concern, legally binding document, have community partner
- IncluCivics- project to evaluate equity in government, room for improvement, hosting government data, open data portal hosting history of the city's open data portal- hoping its a catalyst
- Room for improvement- diversity, not just who shows up, but how decisions are made, lots of tensions that are hard to balance, how to welcome people into leadership without putting too much on others, how to make diversity-led / informed organization without disparate responsibilities, would like to get scholarship, grants, etc.; issue is turnover- how can we step out of the way
- Tim is going part-time in august to spend more time on cfn, more formalized leadership, want to establish community ambassadors, think of other ways we're involved in community- especially latinx population, since 2 of 3 projects serve them, better connecting with those communities
- How do you balance speakers' expectations that something will happen with the fact that brigade work is voluntary?
 - Many speakers don't actually expect action, want to come and share their project, inform the community. Very informal. Not expecting someone to sign up to build an app
 - Also have to manage brigade members' expectations that speaker presentations must result in projects (as if they're "clients")
 - Tim: Our speakers are often trying to hone skills/showcase presentations they've been working on, not necessarily expecting action from the brigade. Hoping with the new focus on data analytics that group discussions over deeper data questions will be more productive
- Gotten away from the idea of hackathons - don't even think we should call it "hack night"

Chat ("Me" = Tim Eccleston)

From NAC Code for America (Laura B.) to All panelists: (06:12 PM)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Qk5woKRul57fn-DFZdJ1z_HHMD9LleefD4-djuxr8og/edit#

From Melanie Mazanec to All panelists: (06:52 PM)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/16TT64gPQOrhJggGQ6VgMzQmejyS-cqK0FQ78J66_SI4/edit?usp=sharing

From NAC Code for America (Laura B.) to All panelists: (06:53 PM)

no

From Me to All panelists: (07:12 PM)

I'm jealous of your courtbot, Diana! :)

From Pamela @ Greenville, SC to All panelists: (07:12 PM)

We've got some interest in doing Courtbot here too

From Me to All panelists: (07:12 PM)

Yeah, maybe we should have a mini South region courtbot conference next year or something. Memphis wants it too and they don't even have a brigade!

From Pamela @ Greenville, SC to All panelists: (07:14 PM)

Timothy - yes!

From Diana Varnes to All panelists: (07:15 PM)

I think we're at a point that I'll be working on the BAT very soon. I'll find out more next week.

From Me to All panelists: (07:15 PM)

We could meet in Memphis or Nashville for South region conferences...

From Diana Varnes to All panelists: (07:15 PM)

Nashville!

From TimLeisman to All panelists: (07:16 PM)

3 thumbs up to day of action

From Diana Varnes to All panelists: (07:18 PM)

100%

From Chris Mathews to All panelists: (07:18 PM)

Civic Spark Day

From Me to All panelists: (07:19 PM)

Explosive Civics Day!

From Chris Mathews to All panelists: (07:19 PM)

They are all about the sunk cost of the past marketing

From Pamela @ Greenville, SC to All panelists: (07:19 PM)

South Region Day of Action!

From TimLeisman to All panelists: (07:20 PM)

one strategy to convince the marketing team: we tell them that "the kids" don't understand "civic hacking" and we need a more hip term

From Me to All panelists: (07:21 PM)

Nice! "Target audience" :) Love the RFP idea, maybe even earlier than January to include BetaNYC etc. Yes, and money!

From Pamela @ Greenville, SC to All panelists: (07:23 PM)

I like the dream

From Chris Mathews to All panelists: (07:26 PM)

It sounds like someone is on a boat or in a treehouse in a wind storm.

From Pamela @ Greenville, SC to All panelists: (07:27 PM)

I think Melanie is in the boat

From Chris Mathews to All panelists: (07:27 PM)

Sounds useful

From Dawn Peterson to All panelists: (07:28 PM)

Yes, I think that would be really helpful.

From Chris Mathews to All panelists: (07:29 PM)

too many ways to communicate! :)

From TimLeisman to All panelists: (07:30 PM)

^^

From NAC Code for America (Laura B.) to All panelists: (07:30 PM)

and still not enough communication

From Pamela @ Greenville, SC to All panelists: (07:30 PM)

+1

From NAC Code for America (Laura B.) to All panelists: (07:32 PM)

btw, tim e is on the brigade congress committee, if you have suggestions for him

From Me to All panelists: (07:32 PM)

you ;) I mean yup ;)

From Diana Varnes to All panelists: (07:36 PM)

I need to drop. Have a great rest of your evening!

From TimLeisman to All panelists: (07:42 PM)

i haven't seen an email about either webinar - where can we go find more details and register?

Take aways:

Tim Eccleston:

- I really appreciate that this call happens on a monthly basis and we hit a variety of topics.
- That makes me feel like it's useful every time (no duds). :)

7:30-7:45- About a Brigade:

TAKE A PHOTO

7:45-8:00- Discussion Topic: [National Day of Civic Hacking](#)

Here's the [list of brigade delegates](#).

[Day of Action Co-Creation Process](#)

- Asheville- journey / process map, talking with legal aid, revive reentry resources website?
- Charlotte- CfA fellowship is focused on reentry
- Durham- participates in Raleigh's Civic Camp
- Greensboro- doing something on the 21st, just not building a website
- Greenville- probably will do journey mapping, this would be the first NDOCH
- Nashville- talking with community partners
- Raleigh- hosting CivicCamp
- Tulsa- not planned yet

Laura's thought: we need to find a way of communicating that doesn't involve a new slack channel

Things we need:

- Do you have anything that we can share with partners?
 - Nashville has a ppt they are using to share with partners
- Something to identify what government / community organizations are related to this topic

8:00-8:10- Other comments / questions / announcements

If nothing else, Laura has an idea :)

Please help me reach these South Region brigades- and encourage them to attend our next call.

Signs of Life?	Not Here Yet	Missing You
Never made contact with /	Been in contact, but haven't	Haven't been on a call in 3+

heard from	joined a South Region call	months.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code for Puerto Rico 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code for Fort Lauderdale- • Code for Orlando- Carley can't make Sundays. • Code for Tulsa- Carlos couldn't make it tonight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code for Atlanta • Code for Cary • Code for Hampton Roads • Code for New Orleans • Open Austin

New Brigades:

- Charlottesville
- Dallas
- Tallahassee

8:10-8:20- CfA updates

- 7/29- CfA Webinar: Impact Cascade
- 8/14- CfA Webinar: 2020 Census Actions
- Saturday, Sept. 21: [National Day of Civic Hacking](#)
- Oct. 18-20: [Brigade Congress](#) (Cleveland, OH)

Stay in touch:

- [Brigade Events Calendar \(bottom of the page\)](#)
- [Subscribe to This Week in Civic Tech](#)
- Find and share information [on Discourse](#)

8:20-8:30- August Meeting Prep & Meeting Review

20. Regular meeting time: 4th Sunday at 7pm est (Next meeting is August 28)

Should we keep 4th Sunday at 7pm? Or should we change times?

21. Volunteer to tell us about your brigade:

- Brigade 1: Chapel Hill
- Brigade 2:

We haven't heard from:

- Asheville
- Durham
- Fort Lauderdale
- Orlando
- Puerto Rico
- Tampa Bay

- Tulsa

22. Suggest a question / topic for the call discussion. (Message / tag @laurab on Slack or email me at lauramarie12@gmail.com)

The best thing I learned or heard from tonight's call:

(list your name & the thing you learned):

Plus: What went well?

- NDoA chat with Melanie was very helpful

Delta: What to change / improve?

- Sticking to time (except when we're having such a great discussion)

Sunday, June 23, 7-8:30pm est

Attendees: [Sign in](#) on this spreadsheet.

7-7:15- Intros

Icebreaker: Where do you take people when they visit your city?

[Suggested questions for the "About" sections](#)

7:15-7:30- About CfA Summit (including Brigade Day)

What was the most valuable thing you learned during Summit?

^ Include links if possible

- Schaefer: Summit is a good time to recharge and get encouragement and see what others are doing (esp. Brigade Day)
- Melanie: went into Summit feeling super burned out
 - Hearing about the cool stuff others are doing helps me recommit to this community
- Schaefer: Working to get new people involved to lead because it's disappointing to spend the whole time to get someone's development environment setup and feel like I got nothing done
- Andrew: Brigade census reaffirmed that we don't just focus on the "code side" and make sure we attracting more than developers
 - Now we focus less on coding and more on being a platform for change in our community

- Pamela: since our brigade's been based on projects, I've been focusing on having an onboarding for newcomers
 - There
- Tim: collab meeting was good, got lots of ideas from others
 - Was also interested in fundraising, sharing resources, and organizing between the brigade and national levels
- Andrew: brigade indexing call is in an hour and a half
- Jaison: It was my first Summit and it was interesting to hear about these different projects and how many were actually similar.
 - So the indexing is interesting because we could combine these projects
- Brigade Project Index conversation happening tonight at 9pm EDT
(<https://UCOP.zoom.us/j/5105876321>)

Suggestions to pass on to CfA staff

^ probably won't cover in conversation

Best part of Summit	Suggestion for change / improvement

7:30-7:45- About [National Day of Civic Hacking](#)

1. Does your brigade have a delegate? Here's the [list of brigade delegates](#).
2. See latest NDOCH update below-

Update from Monday night's webinar

But first to recap what we heard -

- 1.) *Strong concern about implementability. People wanted to know specific details and logistics of each action to ensure we weren't taking on something that was too complex or could not be successful.*
- 2.) *Need for a key metric or metrics to help brigades both to measure success and support brigades in understanding what success will look like.*
- 3.) *Relevance and/or applicability to local situation. Is this already a local priority? Is this an issue that we've been trying to advance with govt partners? On the flipside is this something we would struggle to make relevant?*
- 4.) *Leveraging existing local partners. People wanted to find an action that would allow them to continue to engage partnerships that were already in place and invested in*
- 5.) *Opportunity to start new conversations and create new partnerships. per above, was this something we were already trying to advance*

6.) a role for the traditional "sit in front of a computer and hack" to keep the existing constituency highly engaged while we expand
7.) Using elements of other ideas - i.e. FOIA requests using muck.rock tools. Hosting events in libraries

We think that what we can do as the organizing team is focus on addressing items (1) and (2), homing in on clear, detailed, implementable actions and establishing key metrics that work in concert with those actions.

That, however, is going to take a bit of work and when we sat down to think about where we would be most successful, we believed that we collectively had more experience in the criminal justice and clear my record space that would allow us to actually get to the needed level of detail.

Then the exciting development -- there will be a National Expungement Week in 2019 and it begins on September 21st, the same day as National Day of Civic Hacking. With that natural partnership and energy in place, **Criminal Justice and Record Clearance** seemed to be calling for our attention for this year's effort.

<https://www.offtherecord.us/>

Meredith and CfA staff are participating in an organizing call next week and will be looking out to what kinds of activities our brigades can lead, supercharge, or add momentum to. At the same time we'll be hunkering down to get to the level of specificity needed and to revise the delegate form we sent around earlier to include the details we come up with and get feedback on those.

In the meantime, **we need your thoughts (I will monitor the #clean-slate, and #bat-days-of-action channels on cfa slack)** as well as your help recruiting delegates. We only have about 15% signed up currently! If everyone on this list signed up or found a delegate from their brigade we'd be at least halfway there!

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rOvHKR6FagewYUfxgq_JEA4dlpWMQz8ZHHGYc3Em14w/edit#gid=0

Aloha and will be getting back to you again soon.

Ben...

P.S. We can (should?) start exploratory committees and brigade projects on the other issues. Code for Hawaii will be looking at transportation equity over the next couple of months for anyone interested in pursuing that with us.

Discussion:

- Andrew: working on reentry services
- Melanie: I don't know status on clear my record for asheville
- Chris: North Carolina clean slate is constrained by law

- So, NC will likely focus on something different but related (?)
- Pamela: clean slate is on hold in SC because a law would be needed to allow the automatic expungements
 - We've talked about doing court bot while we're waiting
- Schaffer: Court bot seems attainable if the data's available
 - The second half of this topic is the criminal justice system, so another topic is getting state ID's
 - For example an ID drive or taking people to DMV's
- Tim: has anyone tried implementing courtbot in their city?
- Rob: didn't get far with courtbot because we didn't put in the time
 - Part of the challenge is documentation as discussed in the courtbot channel
 - Brigades have ended up changing code to make it work for them

TAKE A PHOTO

7:45-8:00- Discussion Topic: CfA Interest Groups (*if time allows*)

About: [2018 Brigade Congress Lightning Talk Slides](#)

Sign-up: [Are you interested? \(Interest Form\)](#)

8:00-8:10- Other comments / questions / announcements

Please help me reach these South Region brigades. (They haven't joined a call yet.)

I haven't heard from these brigades at all.

- **Code for Puerto Rico (Tim will reach out to Carlos)**
- **Sketch City (Houston)** ** Jaison attended 6/23/19. **

If you have contacts in these brigades, please encourage them to participate.

- Code for Fort Lauderdale- Ryan and Rob have responded. They might be able to join.
- Code for New River Valley - Neal Feierabend and Jeff Hawley are here tonight
- Code for Orlando- Erin shared with the current leader, Carley.
- Code for Tulsa- John responded he couldn't make it this time. Carlos has been really busy the past few times I've messaged him.

Brigade Intros:

- Jaison (Houston): we have an annual big hackathon
 - We have monthly project nights
 - So another group Impact Hub Houston has taken on monthly hack nights as Sketch City as gotten busy
 - We still have a meetup page but we usually do things on eventbrite to stay in contact with participants (email, etc)

- I'm thinking about posting in meetup as well
- We consider the people who participate monthly as our members
- Government participates in hackathons
- Departments will talk about issues
- Winners get to meet the Mayor
- We're good at the hackathon: some great projects have come out of that
- The city's really interested, so we'll work on continuing the relationship throughout the year
- We would like help in getting ideas from other cities
- For example, at heard someone at summit talk about creating a calendar with all the open public city meetings
- I'm looking forward to stealing ideas from other brigades. Thank you in advance.
:)
- Neal (NRV): I got involved hearing about CFA online
 - I moved to new river valley in 2013
 - After being here about 6-12 months I wanted to get involved
 - Then I was introduced to someone who was already getting the brigade started
 - He had already reached out to the community, town, and departments
 - We got started Dec 2014
 - We meet every other week in the public library
 - We have informal agenda of intro's of new people and talking to them about what we do and what projects we're working on
 - Then we do project updates followed by a work session
 - We've thought about every other meeting being for new members
 - And every other being for existing members to get new work done
 - This is to avoid spending so much time getting people setup
 - We're a fairly small brigade with a core group of 3 or 4 people who show up regularly
 - We've had people come and go who were regulars for a while
 - We also get students from Virginia tech (esp. Grad students) for 2-3 meetings
 - But then they get too busy with school work etc
 - We're working with Blacksburg(sp?) transit to continue past work with them
 - Also doing work for a nonprofit on a public art installation to setup a website
 - So each frog has a different significance based on its location
 - We're good at partnering with a number of smallish community orgs over 5 years
 - We would like to improve in lots of areas (esp onboarding and retention)
 - We want them to come back instead of feeling like they're not spending their time well with us
 - We'd also like to help match the skill sets and knowledge of people who do end up coming
 - We'd also like to get non-tech people involved
 - We are currently working on a local park finding app beta with the local parks and rec department

- We're called new river valley because they are 5 counties and about 6 towns we try to represent since Blacksburg itself is small
- One of the challenges I face is finding the parks and rec activities
- It's a big outdoor activities area but there's no good way to find all the amenities without going through each town's website and search through their custom sites
- We'd like to make a nice user interface and are getting feedback on the beta soon
- Schaffer: a lack of centralized information about parks is a common issue (e.g. Raleigh)
- Andrew: this reminds me of parks and rec and libraries that don't offer unified calendar feed
 - But we need to get all the entities to stop bickering and combine
- Schaffer: Saturday September 2st is the national day of civic hacking
 - Start planning it now, including your event space
 - October 18th - 20th is brigade congress in cleveland
 - If you haven't been you should go, it's like Brigade Day over 3 days
 - If you haven't been to any CFA events, go to congress - it's centered around brigade folks unlike Summit where we're a drop in the bucket
- Melanie: BetaNYC already had something planned so their going to do their original idea for national day of civic hacking
 - Day of action is not required, but it's more effective the more participate
- Andrew: I don't know where we're going to head just yet, because we had an idea that drives our mission and partnerships
- Melanie: FWIW, I know the National Day of Civic Action is meant to allow for different ways for brigades to participate with different skill sets and sizes
 - The them was picked because there were a lot of different ideas for Criminal Justice
 - Last year at NDoCH, we had multiple tracks going so that there was one available for people just getting into what we were doing
- Chris: civic campe will be happening that Friday and Saturday (conference hackathon, talks)
- Schaffer: does anyone have suggestions for congress?
 - I know only one person did the charlotte scavenger hunt
 - I hope there's more in cleveland
- Melanie: undesign the redline tour will be in cleveland at the same time
 - We're planning a trip to see that which will be a cool way to see the city
 - It would be good to hear what people are interested
 - Code for Walk to the park for breakfast, or visit a software company on a boat etc
- Schaffer: I'm interested in all those ideas, but we might not have time
 - Personally, I like to eat at cool restaurants
- Schaffer: there's a brigades events calendar linked in the document
 - They're starting up TWICT again
 - And discourse
 - July 28th meeting for ...

- We're still looking for someone from tulsa
- We're going to do pluses and deltas
- Laura: lets go around with the pluses and deltas
 - We also learned this week to make sure most people have passwords to accounts
 - Also, things aren't tied to a single person's email for example
 - Make sure that all your accounts are safe
- Melanie: we've solved this with google groups
 - It's annoying to get emails but it helps to have lots of people who can respond
- Schaffer:
 - We use BitWarden free and paid tier
 - We used a different one (keypass) before bitwarden but it didn't sync back to the cloud
- Laura: I think Jaison talked about setting up a calendar which was originally to help people collaborate on the census
 - It would help the census to remind people to take it at events
 - Also to NRV, I recommend working with universities
 - It might be worth talking to Eli and David who led an unconference session at Summit
 - Unconference notes - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bILewQ71-J3wgxkAzk-_jqua486WtoDopEo dViLafXA/edit
 - Unconference notes 2 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pW_7NT8GEFXZbA0OntScR29dk8KVgfY 3iRSODACxf8M/edit
- Laura: hopefully the summit organizers will create a document to collect powerpoints and materials for regular sessions

Plus/delta

- Neal: I learned that other brigades have some of the same challenges regarding onboarding
- Schaefer: will look after call to find the unconference summit notes
- Schaefer: andrew will you share something you learned and do plus/deltas
- Andrew: I think this is really handy for new brigades to learn from people who've been around
 - It's also nice to ask a question in a more conversational way
 - I don't think the agenda has a spot for open random questions
- Schaefer: I think those are relegated to the end
- Chris: I learned that the NRV had a lot in common with the triangle brigades in that we're more regional focused.
 - I'd also like more time for open discussion
- Melanie: I like building more communities within our community
 - I am curious about open discussion topics people are interested in

- Neal: being my first time it was great to have this resource
 - It would be nice if the organizer didn't have to promote everyone to non-attendee
- Pamela: I don't have anything unique
 - I agree it's nice to hear what other brigades are saying
 - I like the idea of adding an open question portion
- Rob: not much to add
 - I like to hear people's voices and their take aways
 - I like spending face-to-face time on things that take discussion
 - Maybe after this call people jump onto a follow up based on topic of interest
- Jaison: I really like having the document with notes from all the calls
 - I'm looking forward to diving into it
 - I like the last couple things people have suggested to change
- Schaffer: I'll echo Chris about NRV being very regional and Greensboro
 - That seems to be the case for us as well
 - I would like to change having passwords before hand
- Tim: Likes intermediate level of collab. Delta: Alternate hosts so substitutes go smoother
- Laura: Schaefer did a great job stepping up at the last minute
 - As a delta, I'd love more open discussion in a structured way
 - So we can figure out what we want to discuss openly
 - And I have a thought in mind
 - If anyone's interested in being a guest host in the future, add your name below:
 - Schaffer
 - Tim Eccelston
-

8:10-8:20- CfA updates

- Saturday, Sept. 21: [National Day of Civic Hacking](#)
- Oct. 18-20: [Brigade Congress](#) (Cleveland, OH)

Stay in touch:

- [Brigade Events Calendar \(bottom of the page\)](#)
- [Subscribe to This Week in Civic Tech](#)
- Find and share information [on Discourse](#)

8:20-8:30- July Meeting Prep & Meeting Review

23. Regular meeting time: 4th Sunday at 7pm est (Next meeting is July 28)
24. Volunteer to tell us about your brigade:
 - a. Brigade 1: Orlando? (messed 6/23)
 - b. Brigade 2: Tulsa? (messed 6/23)
25. Suggest a question for the call discussion. (Message / tag @laurab on Slack or email me at lauramarie12@gmail.com)

The best thing I learned or heard from tonight's call:

(list your name & the thing you learned):

Laura: Multiple people should have passwords to accounts. Use a password manager!!!

(BitWarden is amazing)

Laura: You can view saved passwords in your browser

Jaison: This document exists

Plus: What went well?

- New brigades participating
-

Delta: What to change / improve?

- Designated time to ask questions/open discussion, in a structured way
- More discussion questions

Sunday, May 19, 7-8:30pm est

Attendees: [Sign in](#) on this spreadsheet.

7-7:15- Intros

Icebreaker: **What was your first job?**

- Laura: camp counselor
- Chris: lifeguard in Rhode Island
- Cody: at Market Basket
- Pamela: holiday staff at a toy store
- Garrison: babysitting, RA at Texas State
- Nia: score keeper at Carolina Courts

[Suggested questions for the "About" sections](#)

7:15-7:30- About [Open Savannah](#)

- **How did you get involved?:** Moved from St Louis. Background in Journalism. Shocked by lack of open data. Created as Open Data Savannah. Sensed interest. Partners with coworking space.
- **How does your organization work?:** Meets every other week. Currently restructuring. Will meet at a community center in areas of specific socioeconomic need. Previously met

at coworking space. Mix of people discussing issues and people working. Tech vs. citizen.

- **Who is in your brigade?:** Sign-in each participants on an iPad in coworking space. Moving away from Meetup to have better access to member emails. Avoiding “membership” term to make it feel like insider/outsider.
- **Who are you working with at this time?:** Good: disenfranchised citizens. So-so: city government, community organizations
- **What has CfS been good at?:** Weakness: lack of tangible output/defined projects. Pros: Better relationship with communities. Community-centric. Moving to focus on community has caused a decline in tech support.
- **What could be improved?:** On-boarding. Merging the community and tech into a common mission/task. Alternating between community center and coworking. Get speakers to present at coworking.
- **Anything else we should know about CfS / What’s coming up?:** Partner with Georgia Tech to organize and analyze data from sea-level-rise sensors tracking. Data storytelling effort to share the data to communicate it well.

7:30-7:45- About [Code for Miami](#)

- **How did you get involved?:** Was already working with community partners, wanted to get involved to be able to present and share information to government
- **How does your organization work?:** Co-captains (project lead / new volunteers). Both captains have to agree to add on new projects. Work well with universities, coders, startup community. Public Interest Technology network
- **Who is in your brigade?:** 2-3 members, 1400 Meetup members. 8-25 attend. Incorporated into a non-profit a couple years ago. Doesn’t struggle with diversity issues- men, women, black, brown, etc. good relationship with city- helped test website
- **Who are you working with at this time?:** Use law/bar organizations to work closely with police, invite the people (who aren’t always supporting) to attend meetings.
- **What has CfS been good at?:** Partnerships and
- **What could be improved?:** Balance between new/old members
- **Anything else we should know about CfS / What’s coming up?:** Projects of success miamigraph, lobster-lobbyist management, UI review for govt website. Sprint structure for rapid development. Make sure that “client” will pick up and run with product after project deployment. Cross-brigade projects.
 - Working to build data portal for affordable housing.
 - Created flood tracker using Particles, a .
 - <https://blog.particle.io/2018/11/30/energizing-miami-to-a-better-future-through-community-built-iot-flood-trackers/>

Photo time?

7:45-8:00- Discussion Topic: South Region Summit / Hackathon

If we were to have a South Region Summit (for all South Region brigades), what should we aim to accomplish?

- Create more consistency in structure of
- Civic education for brigade members
- Unconference
- Move away from coding, more about design
- How do we support the people who are coming? Not just how do we do the projects?
- New brigades in Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas

Hackathon

- Climate change
- Emergency
- Love the idea of having something that we could work on regionally
- Health and human services
- Criminal justice
- ABA Justicehack- how to scale projects that are already working
-

8:00-8:10- Other comments / questions / announcements

Please help me reach these South Region brigades. (They haven't joined a call yet.)

I haven't heard from these brigades at all.

- **Code for Puerto Rico**
- **Sketch City (Houston)**

If you have contacts in these brigades, please encourage them to participate.

- Code for Fort Lauderdale- Ryan and Rob have responded. They might be able to join.
- Code for Miami- Gregory said he's join tonight's call.
- Code for New River Valley - i've heard from them, but he hasn't been available the last 2 times.
- Code for Orlando- Erin shared with the current leader, Carley.
- Code for Tulsa- John responded he couldn't make it this time. Carlos has been really busy the past few times I've messaged him.

8:10-8:20- CfA updates

- May 29: Brigade Day
- May 30-31: [Code for America Summit](#)
- June 10: CfA workshop: [Deep Dive: User Research Workshop](#)
- June 23: [South Region monthly call](#)

Stay in touch:

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- [Subscribe to This Week in Civic Tech](#)
- Find and share information [on Discourse](#)

8:20-8:30- June Meeting Prep & Meeting Review

26. Regular meeting time: 4th Sunday at 7pm est (Next meeting is June 23)

27. Volunteer to tell us about your brigade:

- Brigade 1:
- Brigade 2:

28. Suggest a question for the call discussion. (Message / tag @laurab on Slack or email me at lauramarie12@gmail.com)

The best thing I learned or heard from tonight's call:

(list your name & the thing you learned):

- Pamela: relationships with ABA
- Nia: Code for Miami's relationship with government
- Garrison: realize Code for Chapel Hill doesn't have as much resistance as other places
- Carl:

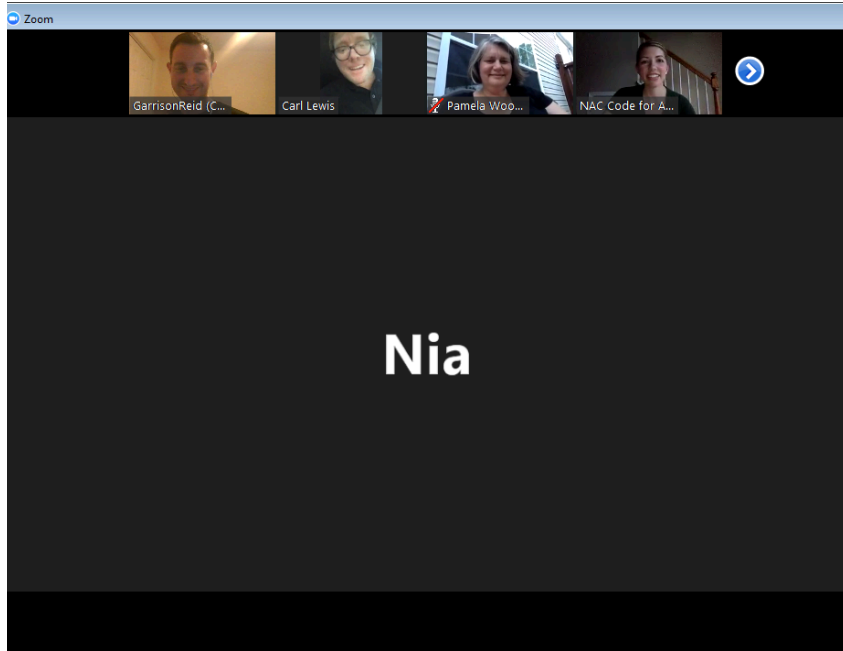
Garrison: How to partner with universities?

Plus: What went well?

-

Delta: What to change / improve?

-



Sunday, April 28, 7-8:30pm est

Key:

- **bold** denotes recommendations (you should probably do this)
- **red** denotes areas that may need attention

Attendees: [Sign in](#) on this spreadsheet.

There were 12 people on this month's call, but here are the few who stuck around to the very end (when Vicky took our pic). Thank you all!



7-7:15- Intros

Icebreaker: What is a superlative or award you've won when you were a kid?

[Suggested questions for the "About" sections](#)

7:15-7:30- About [Open Austin](#)

- Victoria: used to be Brigade Captain; now Partnerships
- Background in design; moved to Austin after college; looking to get involved in the community; found Open Austin through Meetup; didn't know anything about civic tech or open-source software
- Saw as a way to learn more about what's going on in Austin
- Started as Brigade marketing lead; moved to co-captain, then captain; now in a partnership role
- Been part of the group for about 4 years now
- [Leadership team](#) of 4 currently; Matt Carey; Mateo Clarke; James Mensch.
- **Currently a nonprofit; deciding whether they want to keep this up**

- Moved off of the official board recently; time to step back and restore
- **Leadership team meets biweekly on video chat** to sync up about issues; Find our meeting log here and running notes here
 - [Most recent Leadership notes](#)
 - [All 2019 leadership notes](#)
-
- [GitHub](#) repo is used like Trello
- [Host 2 meetups per month](#)
 - library night: hear about different projects followed by happy hour; more social and to learn about project; take more to setup and plan, so moved away from these during the current leadership shift; held at the same library on the east side of Austin for the whole year, **now holding [leadership socials](#) instead**
 - [Community action night](#): pitches and then breaking out into groups; held at an old library where the [City of Austin's Innovation Office](#) is; downtown Austin; free space
- Mostly mix of people interested in tech and open data; many are professionals looking to volunteer time meaningfully; a few gov't employees, esp. From transportation dept; designers, devops folks; some project managers or marketing background people, but usually technologists
- No clear definition for members; anyone who attends regularly; fairly loose
- Always interesting to see non-tech folks and their knowledge of local issues; **desire to find people who know deeply about local problems and are looking for tech help**
- Seen a few interesting **projects at the intersection of tech and journalists**; **would like to see more policy wonks** because policy and law knowledge is helpful for making lasting change ([Open Austin Advocacy](#))
- Overall positive relationship with city;
 - [Communications and Technology Management](#) dept - handles the city's [open data portal](#); each city's dept has a data liaison and hosts monthly open data meetings;
 - [Innovation Office](#) - provides space, good relationship; open lines of communications; **[Open Gov't Partnership](#) - international agreement to make the city more open**; second cycle for Austin's involvement; **want to get more community input and visibility for projects**;
 - Transportation dept - becoming another org that's more open; Mateo works there; hiring more tech folk (See Mateo's post: [Explore Dockless Data with Austin Transportation](#))
- Good at bringing like-minded people together; sharing knowledge; make citizens more aware of open data and local gov't; don't get a lot of [feedback from surveys](#), but seems to be a welcomingspace
- Successful projects:
 - Texas Appleseed - partner organization; Matt's project; wanted to create web visualization of the school-to-prison pipeline; stats on a map; worked well with the

type of activities and technologies that are part of the group; had good hand-offs so far; [Texas School Discipline Lab](#)

- [Park equity project](#); volunteers created a visualization about the equitable distribution of parks; also showed ages and numbers of children in different areas;

See [other Open Austin projects](#)

- **Good to start a dialogue with community orgs and members who deeply understand problems; be able to form partnerships instead of one-offs**
 - Laura's comment: love their [Project Ideas repo](#)
- Areas for improvement: onboarding, project management; looking to find good projects to bring into the brigade; better set expectations of what we can do as volunteers; help others to find things that they're interested in; "the project piece is hard"; always a matter of making plans and then what actually happens depends on who shows up and stays; have to see whether people's goals remain the same over time;
- Big shift in the people who are present from when the nonprofit was formed; **knowledge bleed is an issue**; figuring out manageable amount of work; **How can we make more sustainable practices? What's next?**
- Asked membership about nonprofit status; **need to develop a decision tree for both scenarios, but that's a lot of maintenance**;
- **Sustainability is key!**
- 20-30 people at each Meetup;
- **more partnerships with other organizations that have issue champions that can be paired up with tech folk are needed; matchmaking is difficult**
- Open Austin has been around for 10 years now; lots of changes over time
- James was previously part of Code for Philly; had other members join from other brigades
- San Antonio and Denton have had brigades in the past; Bryan-College Station is starting up;
- Austin had a CfA Fellowship for the [Affordable Housing Data Portal](#)
- Interesting Open Austin finds (from Laura)
 - [Blog: Projects and mangement](#)
 - [Project: Budget Party](#)

7:30-7:45- About Code for Hampton Roads

- Kevin Curry
- Co-hosted an event in 2010 called City Camp; then the CTO at the time had idea for Geek Core; applied and got grant from Google; formed a brigade (called geek core at the time); did that for 2 years;
- Have [organization structure on website](#); organize around needs and topics; on Hampton's smart roads board; have a safety & justice lead, a GIS lead, a DevOps lead, a communications lead; **have two openings: member support (helps with onboarding and orientation) and fundraising**;

- Used to do weekly hack nights and meetups; stopped a few years ago for various reasons; **didn't have active projects or active gov't partners**
- [Starting back up again](#); applied for a [community fellowship](#); Norfolk
- Will meet monthly for presentation night; have a hack night in between; so meeting twice per month
- 15-20 people who come; also very active in [going out to other Meetups and events](#);
- [757 Dev](#) - group of all tech folks in the greater area; invite people to participate, [757colorcoded](#)
- Were a diverse leadership team at first; people have moved away; **had no women or POC on leadership team and had gaps in functional areas; working on these issues** and have started to correct these issues;
- Good relationship with local gov't; on **several members on local boards and commissions; highly recommend doing this!**
- City of Virginia Beach - happy to work with the brigade as well
- Good at sourcing and defining opportunities and then running them to completion; good at rallying support and going after problem solutions
- Most successful projects and events
 - Used to stuff with local company; Dominion Enterprises; not a lot of tech companies, so this one stood out;
 - [HRTB.us](#) - Hampton Roads Transit Bus; very first project back in 2011; running online ever since; 65k transit riders served; all done by brigade; transit uses an old version of Trapeze transit system; weren't able to upgrade due to cost; no mobile-friendly near-real-time service for customers; worked with the organization, who had no resources and no staff; got the administration to post the log online and built an app on top of that data; in the wild - this app has changed lives;
- Areas for improvement: **diversity; need roles filled; need to renew leadership; leaders have been involved for a long time; need fresh blood and training up to keep it going**
- Very excited about fellowship opportunity; have 1700 barrack-style homes built in 1950s that will all be demolished soon; residents will have the opportunity to move back after rebuilt in 10 years; city, housing authority, and residents are very frustrated with digital communications, so designed fellowship to help; people-first model for project; help residents understand what's happening; help city understand what the residents need
- Norfolk school board is a connection; reaching out to different communities
- On the south side of the James River; things on the other side of the river are less involved; Norfolk is hub of the brigade and centrally located
- Kevin - should share transit app with the CfA marketing and fundraising team! They're looking for stories to share.
- Meet at Norfolk State University Innovation Center; going to be pretty active this summer
- Interesting Code for Hampton Roads finds (from Laura)
 - [Code4HR news stories](#)
 - [Norfolk Drains](#)

7:45-8:00- Brigade Challenge Question: “How to make the most of [CfA Summit](#)? And other Summit comments / questions”

- Who's gone before: Kevin, Mike
- Who's going: Schaffer, Kevin, Mike, Laura, Melanie, Leila, Kazi
- Kevin: very intense if you haven't been before; lots of activities; prepare yourself!; **put in for opportunities to present or do a lightning talk**
- Mike: **if you get in early Tuesday, [Open Oakland has a Meetup](#)** where you can meet some folks and see a larger brigade event; get to know some folks beforehand;
- Laura: did first talk at Brigade Congress; started some design interest groups;
- Matt: not going; what can we report back?; **cross-brigade collaboration**
- Laura: BATs (brigade action teams); developed by Jason Hibbets, who just rolled off NAC; structured to house cross-brigade projects
- Kazi: first Summit; got funding!; trying to figure out what to expect; didn't go last year; asked to post talks that are happening; Brigade Day sounds like Congress; excited to talk about plans and to learn more; seen Summit videos on YT; still the communications lead for Charlotte;
- Vickie: interested in learning and talking about **sustainability; what do leadership cycles look like and how to make things last longer term**
- Laura: go to Brigade Day and then two days of Summit; over 1000 attendees
- Tim: do program evaluation in day job; excited about talk on **applying behavioral insights**; won't be attending Summit

8:00-8:10- Other comments / questions / announcements

Please help me reach these South Region brigades. (They haven't joined a call yet.)

- Code for Fort Lauderdale
- Code for Miami
- Code for New River Valley
- Code for Orlando
- Code for Puerto Rico
- Code for Tulsa
- Sketch City (Houston)

- Code for Greensboro: nonprofit status is dissolving 501(c)3 status is leaving as the last of the old leadership is leaving; bank account was in their name; **lots of organizational knowledge bleed over the years; many had left; now can't get in touch with the people in previous leadership; can't get ahold of the funds now**; the people who have legal obligations: **make sure to take care of these tasks before they fall off the radar completely**; website is hosted by an individual and is currently still down

- **CfA brigade setup warnings: don't put things/ accounts/ etc. in individual's names;**
 - Code for Durham - Instagram account is missing with leadership overturn
 - Open Austin's website - one of the first iteration website redirects to a personal website of one of the original leaders now
- Laura - hosting an unconference at Summit; not sure what this is going to look like; lots of people, so this could become unmanageable quickly; have a space; may set up as designated free space for different brigade topics; leadership transitions, sustainability topics; these topics are the focus for Brigade Day;
- Melanie: first call as a NAC member; at any brigade meetings, hear the same issues over and over; **we're all facing the same problems; how can we better document and share solutions?**
 - Laura: we **need to be better at sharing and recording information and knowledge; Discourse would be helpful if people actively went in and curated material, but info keeps getting lost; Brigade website needs help**
- Code for Durham has a [semi-annual social](#); can be more approachable for new members; celebrate wins over the past six months - talk about project progress; last meetup in June and in December; meet at brewery;
- Tim: going to set up socials after taking May off; have first meeting in June - get pizza and refresh for summer after small spring break; see who shows up who's new

Thanks to the best notetaker and get-'er-doner, Leila Alderman!

8:10-8:20- CfA updates

Congrats to the [new members of the National Advisory Council](#), including fellow South Region leaders, Carl V. Lewis (Savannah) and Melanie Mazanec (Asheville)

- May 13: CfA workshop: [Partnering with Local Government Workshop](#)
- May 19: South Region monthly call
- May 29: Brigade Day
- May 30-31: [Code for America Summit](#)
- June 10: CfA workshop: [Deep Dive: User Research Workshop](#)

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8:20-8:30- May Meeting Prep

Photo time?

29. Regular meeting time: 4th Sunday at 7pm est

a. ~~Sunday, May 26~~ **Moved to preceding Sunday (May 19)**

2. Volunteer to tell us about your brigade:

Brigade 1: TBD (messed New River Valley)

Brigade 2: TBD (messed Fort Lauderdale)

3. Suggest a question for the call discussion. (Message / tag @laurab on Slack or email me at lauramarie12@gmail.com)

4. Interbrigade / Intranetwork communications: How can we best reach each other?

- Slack
- Email
- Carrier pigeon? ;)

The best thing I learned or heard from tonight's call:

(name & thing):

-

Plus: What went well?

-

Delta: What to change / improve?

-

Sunday, March 24, 7-8:30pm est

Attendees: [Sign in](#) on this spreadsheet.

7-7:15- Intros

Icebreaker: What is the last good movie you saw? (And what made it good?)

- Laura: Apollo 11 documentary
- Chris & Tim: Christopher Robin
- Ryan: new Mary Poppins
- Pamela: Harry Potter & Wonder Woman
- Carl: Active Measures, lifelong Taylor Swift fan, shares birthdate/year
- Victoria & Garrison: Spiderman: Into the Spideverse

[Suggested questions for the "About" sections](#)

7:15-7:30- About Code for Greenville

- Started partnership with brigade and coding class - so students had something to work on
- Stepped into leadership and project lead
- Also, founder/lead-organizer of Women Who Code, Greenville
- Pamela and Jeremy are co-captains
- Has one night where they do updates and talks and another where they focus on doing the projects. Felt like there was a lot of talking only happening when they had only one meetup night.
- Have a (trolley project) project that is in maintenance mode. Also OpenData and mentorship projects. Criminal Record Expungement project has been primarily relationship building. Unsure what to do with new folks that are trickling in?
- Working to find a good project that people are excited about and figure out how to engage the new people coming in.
- ***wasn't aware of all the cfa resources for brigades***
- [Laddr](#) - Platform for brigades to use to create websites. Has built in functionality for slack invites. Early brigade websites have been built with Laddr.
- Carl Lewis - Brought up "**Tool Fatigue**". We use a lot of different tools for different tasks and it can get hard to manage with volunteers.
- **Working to have a "city camp"** - [Savannah has done this](#). Think this event would create a broader buy in and momentum in for city staff. Raleigh has done 8 - now calling it civic camp.
- Need help: Would love if someone could speak in person or via video so people can become more aware of the civic tech space and CFA. Feel there needs to be more education around this work.
- State of open data in Greenville. "Not super great". "There's no data". No portal or anything. **No Open Data portal**
- <https://jkan.io/>
- <https://opennc-collaborative.org/jkan/>

7:30-7:45- About [Code for Greensboro](#)

In the MPA program at UNCG, found brigade via academic research about smart cities: How can Greensboro become a smarter city? <http://theclevercity.net/>

- Used to be a 501c3 non-profit.
- Meet every other tuesday
- Exploring "what does it mean to get work done and how should we do it?"
- Working on a specific project and then have other people discuss projects.
- People who have proposed projects don't have much interest in being project champions

- Host workshops - recently did a GIT workshop - working to build capacity to work on the projects.
- About 11 people show up to action night
- 5ish people are the core attendees
- Working to figure out outreach plan
- Got ghosted on projects with the City and the league of women's voters.
- Best at "intro to git" workshop, had people coding at the end
- At community action nights, people come with no experience- by the time they've come to 2 / 3 nights, now they're writing stuff. But that's not really what we want to be doing
- What's missing - skilled programmers. Wondering how to bring in professionals/industry people.
- Need to find a balance between eager new people and trained people ready to create output.
- Hoping the completion of MPA program will help bond with current country/city employees/agencies
- [ELGL Annual Conference](#) in Durham, NC May 15-17

Follow-ups:

- Talk with Carl (Savannah) about smaller cities
- Talk with Victoria (Austin) about changing brigade structure. victoria.d.odell@gmail.com / info@open-austin.org

7:45-8:00- Brigade Challenge Question: "What is the problem we're trying to solve?"

- Chris: trying to improve the lives of our citizens, government interactions, building tools, building relationships, lift everyone up on the way, expose issues, make government more transparent
- Ryan: make the city a better place to live -- anything that fits within that is fair game.
- Garrison: transparency, collaboration + what Chris said, have a stronger voice than just a vote, i can help in a lot of ways- where my skillset can be more beneficial
- Pamela: "We seek to: educate the community about power of Open Data, build open source applications to use open data to solve community issues, and cultivate a culture of entrepreneurship around civic technology."
- Victoria: Help community and government exchange ideas and information through the use of data, technology, and design. [OA about](#).
- Tim: government doesn't work all that well. Through opening new channels of participation and collaborating in new ways and redesigning... we can make it work better
- Carl: to improve government's capacity to serve the invisible population in savannah. More equitable participation in public feedback. Regional issue: "must be this tall to enter" innovation club - larger cities taking open data and apis as given

- We need to demystify “open data”
- Sunlight Foundation guide to open data policy best practices:
<https://opendatapolicyhub.sunlightfoundation.com/>
-

<https://medium.com/code-for-america/process-vs-product-856076f7985f>

Discussion

- (For Code for New Orleans, we explicitly don’t allow pitching and other entrepreneurial activity at our meetups — solutions and projects have to be entirely open and free to the city and to the audience (usually all residents). Curious about the idea to encourage entrepreneurship around civic tech.
- Pamela’s response: I think the key is “culture” of entrepreneurship. There hasn’t been any focus on creating businesses - just projects being built as volunteers.
- Chris: Some of the projects that we have worked on have become start-ups - so entrepreneurship as a means of sustainability)

8:00-8:10- Other comments / questions / announcements

Code for Chapel Hill- had first hackathon; about equal thirds students, tech, and gov representatives; insightful discussions with students and town

8:10-8:20- CfA updates

Congrats to the [new members of the National Advisory Council](#), including fellow South Region leaders, Carl V. Lewis (Savannah) and Melanie Mazanec (Asheville)

March 31 deadlines:

- **Census:** [Complete the Brigade Network Census](#) and tell your Brigade members to complete it as well! You can use this [sample email and Slack message](#) for outreach to your Brigade. Anyone who completes the census will be put in a raffle to win a free Summit ticket, so don’t miss out on this opportunity!
- **Summit:** [Get your Summit tickets now!](#) You can purchase a ticket or apply for a complimentary ticket. You can also apply for travel support.
- **Community Fellowship:** Apply for [the 2019 Community Fellowship](#). Check out the [FAQ](#), and [this brochure for Government partners](#) to learn more about how to submit a strong application.

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8:20-8:30- April Meeting Prep

Photo time?

30. Regular meeting time: 4th Sunday at 7pm est

a. Sunday, April 28

b. ~~Sunday, May 26~~ Move to preceding Sunday (May 19)?

2. Volunteer to tell us about your brigade:

Brigade 1: Open Austin

Brigade 2: Open Savannah

3. Suggest a question for the call discussion. (Message / tag @laurab on Slack or email me at lauramarie12@gmail.com)

4. Interbrigade / Intranetwork communications: How can we best reach each other?

- Slack
- Email
- Carrier pigeon? ;)

The best thing I learned or heard from tonight's call:

(name & thing):

- Garrison -- Tool fatigue (<https://opensavannah.org/getting-started>)
- Chris M - Open Data is a challenge everywhere
- Pamela - "We are not alone" common struggles and challenges like dealing with transitions after primary leadership leaves and also onboarding new members.
- Tim - Balance between life/school and volunteer commitments -- "hearing all your voices" AKA CfA collective support and energy
- Victoria - Hearing that we have similar experiences! Especially around tool fatigue and creating community and holding space for learning while also trying to have impact with a volunteer base.
- Laura: there are brigades in cities with no open data portals. Lack of open data portals in general. Plus, focus on brigades as a method of engagement (for "non-traditional" volunteering and underrepresented groups) - not just building a thing.

- <https://opendatapolicyhub.sunlightfoundation.com/>

Plus: What went well?

-

Delta: What to change / improve?

-

Monday, February 25, 7-8:30pm est

Attendees: [Sign in](#) on this spreadsheet.

7-7:15- Intros

Icebreaker: What is your favorite data set?

7:15-7:30- About [Code for Cary](#)

Met at chamber of commerce for a year

Moved to coworking space

Partnered with local development nonprofit to develop parking app

Competition with other tech meetups for attendance

Meeting once a month wasn't a good cadence- every other week works well

insert link to [Brigade Handbook](#)

Town Council member- municipal sponsor for brigade

- Town didn't want staff liaison with brigade
- NC law about staff vs. volunteer roles (Insert more info?)

7:30-7:45- About [Code for New Orleans](#)

[Code for New Orleans intro slides](#)

7:45-8:00- Brigade Challenge Question: How can we help with Emergency Management?

Info from Ryan Harvey and Mike Bishop

[Hurricane Response Efforts slides](#)

8:00-8:10- Other comments / questions / announcements

8:10-8:20- CfA updates

- Tues., February 27, 7pm EST: [2019 Community Fellowship Q&A](#)
 - [Applications are due March 31](#)
- Fri., March 1: National Advisory Council (NAC) elections end
 - [Learn about the candidates](#) & [Be sure to vote](#)
 - FYI: CfA is running [two friendly competitions to get out the vote](#).

- Sat., March 2: Open Data Day
- Mon, March 11, 7pm EST: CfA webinar: [Marketing Tactics for your Brigade](#)

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- Find and share information [on Discourse](#)

8:20-8:30- March Meeting Prep

1. [Take survey to establish regular meeting time.](#)
 - Should we have 1 regular time?
 - Or alternate 2 different times each month? (Example: One month we have a lunchtime call, another month we have an evening call)
2. Volunteer to tell us about your brigade:
 - Brigade 1: Austin
 - Brigade 2: Greensboro
3. Suggest a question for the call discussion. (Message / tag @laurab on Slack or email me at lauramarie12@gmail.com)
4. Interbrigade / Intranetwork communications: How can we best reach each other?
 - Slack
 - Email
 - Carrier pigeon? ;)

Plus: What went well?

- I like the Google Doc with links!
- Ryan's slides

Delta: What to change / improve?

- Timekeeping

Sunday, January 27, 7-8:30pm

Attendees: [Sign in](#) on this spreadsheet.

7-7:15- Intros

Icebreaker: What did you do for fun when you were 10 years old?

7:15-7:30- About [Code for Muskogee](#)

Diana started the brigade, help develop tech talent for the area

Hold hack session for courtbot

Diana- marketing, project management

Matt- tech lead

Sabrina- website

4 regulars, 5 or 6 show up every meeting

[Techogee](#)- general user group

Don't really have a structure- every body pitches in

Changed meeting location from library to coffee / tea / wine bar

At least half men and half women

Really good at collaboration- haven't had disagreements / arguments, people are good about jumping in

Only working on [courtbot](#)

Working on packaging to deploy across the state

Talking with cfa to take on- so other brigades can deploy

Working on local gov relationship, not well-established yet

First meeting as code for muskogee in January 2018

Got word out thru meetup- matt was looking for tech around muskogee

Sometimes facebook events bring people in

Sabrina and diana have taught coding classes for teenage girls- one has joined

Tulsa got burned out on courtbot

Biggest struggle: best people to have a relationship with in local government, especially interest from judicial system, how to pitch in red state

Laura will introduce Diana & Matt to Durham County Court Reminder contact

Question from Ryan, New Orleans: **How to sell CourtBot to conservative area?**

- Matt suggests working with **legal aid groups**
- Laura suggests creating / promoting **infographic** that summarizes data related to issue
 - **How to propose something that city thinks is effective? Advice on managing government administration change?**
 - **How to get local government to incur costs?**

7:30-7:45- About [Open Charlotte](#)

Andrew found "get together and code group" on Meetup

Kazi- Random friend invited to random Facebook event- hosted by Code for Charlotte; fit urge to give back (Birthday party fundraiser)

Celebrate brigade birthday every January (party to start year off), doubled as fundraiser

Started in 2014 as Code for Charlotte; a CfA Fellowship city- created [Citygram](#) (subscribe to your city- notifications based on a location)

[Rebranded to "Open"](#) to show it's not just for coders

Brigade structure: grown leadership team from 2 co-captains, 4-6 people- spread out depending on levels of interest

Community Action Night- provide brigade intro, explain brigade needs (not just code)- helped spread out load

A lot of changes since rebranding in May 2018- changed from weekly hack nights to “community action night” - focus more on purpose of meetings, not just doing; now meet 2-3 times per month with specific purpose

Meet at co-working space, pizza

Looking forward to going out more- holding project night and leadership / community night (see what community’s about, branching out, good way to reach out to “uncoders”, see what’s going on in Charlotte)

- Were focusing too much on certain projects (e.g. [holiday donations from police department](#))
- Turned into less Code for Charlotte more Lets Run a Toy Drive
- New focus on identifying community partners- having relationships
- Past: meeting and onboarding every tuesday night led to burn out
- Now: onboard once per month
- 1,000+ people in Meetup group, seen number fluctuate
- Focusing more on becoming a platform for getting things done, instead of churning out projects; serve as a platform to springboard idea- connect with volunteers, etc.

Have a good relationship with local government- City open data portal person involved

Not much relationship with County government

Really good at: consistent about meeting, knowing where we’re going to be, inviting people in, opening doors to leadership, successful projects, adapting to new things

Events: Hack for Change last weekend, don’t do a lot of events, 1-2 / year

Areas of Improvement: communication with projects (past projects failed due to past project night schedule)

Have streamlined stack- makes onboarding new members easier

Focused on education, advocacy, brigade

Sabrah: Asheville has people who don’t want community nights focused on speakers, but they also don’t come to project nights. Trying to find the right balance between community relationships and active project work.

How to match volunteers with the right activities?

Ways to connect with local governments:

- Watch press release and social media for what they’re trying to promote
- Contact with [ELGL](#) members (search for your city to find possible contacts)
- Understand their problems / goals by looking at their strategic plans
- Go to public meetings for boards and commissions

Suggestion from Ryan Harvey (New Orleans): **connect with students and local tech / coding courses**. Ryan teaches- he can speak about instructor perspective

7:45-8:00- Brigade Challenge Question: Plans for Open Data Day?

Laura suggested **proclamation** with local City Council

Asheville has an event planned- City has been slowly, but steadily releasing police data

8:00-8:10- Other comments / questions / announcements

8:10-8:20- CfA updates

- Time for [National Advisory Council \(NAC\) elections](#)!
 - January 28: [Open information session](#) with current NAC members
 - January 31 at 11:59 pm PST: [Candidate submissions](#) close
 - February 1: Campaigning begins
 - Candidates response the ballot questions will be posted on Medium
 - Candidates will be encouraged to engage with the network on the #nac-elections channel on the Code for America Slack
 - Mon., Feb. 11, 7pm est: [NAC Election Candidate Forum](#)
 - February 11: Voting begins following forum
 - March 1: Voting Ends
- Thurs., Jan. 31, 8pm est: [Membership Collective](#)
- Mon., Feb. 4, 7pm est: [Census Information Session](#)
- Sat., Mar. 2: Open Data Day

Questions about NAC:

- What is the time commitment?
- What is the travel commitment?
- Can you run for regional position after holding at-large position?

ICYMI: Did you miss the 2019 Strategic Priorities Workshop with CfA's Chief Program Officer ST Mayer discussing Code for America's 2019 priorities, and ideas from Code for Buffalo and Hack for LA about Brigade 2019 planning?

- ◆ Watch the [video](#) from the workshop
- ◆ Check out the [agenda](#) for links to the slides and discussion during the workshop

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8:20-8:30- February Meeting Prep

2. [Take the Doodle Poll for the February call.](#)

(During / after that call, we'll set a regular call time.)

2. Volunteer to tell us about your brigade:

Brigade 1: Cary (Ian)

Brigade 2: New Orleans (Ryan)- depending on call date

3. Suggest a question for the call discussion. (Message / tag @laurab on Slack or email me at lauramarie12@gmail.com)

Emergency Management recap- (Ryan and Mike)

Plus: What went well?

- Good idea of call structure
- Kept it to 1.5 hr
- Like to hear from other brigades
- Have an opportunity to hear about other brigades

Delta: What to change / improve?

It would be good to have people register with their last name as [lastname - BrigadeName] ? That way we can keep track of which brigades are present.

Thursday, November 29, 7-8:30pm

Attendees:

- Atlanta- Luigi Ray-Montanez
- BCS (Bryan/College Station)- Cody Mays
- Charlotte- Andrew Natoli, Ryan Edge
- Durham- Laura Biediger, Jim McManus
- Greenville- Pamela Wood Browne
- Raleigh- Chris Mathews, Jason Hibbets

7-7:15- Intros

Icebreaker: Tell us about a holiday tradition

7:15-7:30- About [Code for Atlanta](#)

- Luigi got involved a while ago- Transparency Camp West, worked for Sunlight Foundation
- Code for Atlanta started from NDOCH organizing, then had CfA Fellowship
- Follow CfA roles- community lead, etc.- moved to more flat structure, organizing team of 5
- 2 hack nights / month (1st- midtown Atl, 2nd- uptown/buckhead area)
- Anyone who comes to meetups (even just once) is considered a member, also people on email list, slack
- Diverse tech community in atlanta, racial and ethnic diversity in brigade
- Partner with people in local government on per project basis, don't have long-term partnership, [BankOnAtlanta](#) (resources website to banks participating), adhoc partnerships, partnered with MARTA- most popular hackathons (300-400 people attend, good press)
- Good at MARTA / transit-related projects, a lot of other social good groups in town
- **Areas of improvement:**
 - Retaining members for long-term, especially experience folks, people who can lead projects, not just college students and boot camp graduates, difficult to sustain without experienced people consistently coming back, if you're not trying to learn about civic tech, you might stick around
 - How to build partnerships with government without it taking a lot of work, brigade leadership is stretched, hard to keep in touch during workday hours
 - Jason comment: difficult to maintain partnerships during transitions
- Try to do 3-4 hackathons per year
- Civic Spark Day- built neighborhood websites, kids came with their parents

7:30-7:45- About [Code for BCS](#) (Bryan/College Station, TX)

- Cody works in government, attended conference where Jen spoke, sees inefficiencies in government, haven't been able to connect right people to the problem, contacted Veronica
- Meet 2x/ month, 1 meetup, 1 other (field trip)
- Cody held a few meetings before
- **Areas of Improvement:**
 - Hard to find regular meeting space
 - Hard to get people excited about it, Has 40-45 members through meetup, 10 people come so far, they really want to make community better, Reached out to student organizations at Texas A&M
 - Hard to make connections with government partners, city cio is all for it
- **First project suggestions**

- Came up with ideas for first project at the last meeting, going to vote at next meeting, CourtBot appeals to Cody, college town / transient population- with people getting parking tickets, get project because work with citizens and local government
- Luigi: Make online maps of spaces interested to people [MapsForUs](#), fill with data from Google spreadsheet, can imbed on any website, built asset map of disinvested neighborhood (identified what was there and what wasn't there), good piece of advocacy for that organization
- Chris: openstreetmap- people don't have to have coding skills to contribute, easy for people to make an impact, easy to crowdsource information
- Andrew: a bunch you can do with mapping, like public art, great for new volunteers
- Jason: LocalWiki, people shared knowledge of community; recommend contacting a startup or local business for space; scope out other meetups and figure out where they meet; Encourage a quick win; Learn what a community need it
- Andrew: Charlotte meets at coworking space, have to pay, Charlotte started in random spots
- Pam: Meets at co-working space
- Luigi: Meets at co-working space, venue sponsors, also hold hackathons

7:45-8:00- About [Open Raleigh](#) (formerly Code for Raleigh)

- Had been doing CityCamp, Jason had convo with council member- became Brigade
- Built out Adopt a Bus Shelter, deployed for city, people could sign up to maintain and clean bus shelters- make more user friendly
- Have an event series- unconference / hackathons every 3 months or so, NC Open Pass series
- A lot of virtual meetings- people at home planning, informal meetings a coffeeshops / breweries
- Trying to get back into regular meeting cadence- have impact through regular projects
- Without regular meetings, losing focus with regular events
- Thinking about doing a meetup series between 2 big events, 2019 planning coming up
- Brigade structure: 4 captains / co-chairs, a lot of ebb and flow bc of day jobs
- Event committees- sponsorship, marketing,
- Once a month- come together with up dates; meet weekly closer to events
- Members- core planning list (20 members), 4 Triangle brigades share Meetup group, hard to track
- Good relationship with government & community, sometime confusion as to how government can use us as a resource, a lot of false starts, gov doesn't know if they want to trust volunteers
- A lot of partnerships in the startup community, NC RIOT, very organized,

- Talking about doing a lunch series (lunch with a govie?), not agenda, just figure out where they can fit in
- Last 2-3 years focused on events, feels like lost in tune with community, looking to reposition / accomplish
- At end of datapalooza event- put out a call for volunteers, 12 people filled out, if we get half to participate- that's something, super valuable- don't be afraid to ask for help, "if you like what you saw here, join us"
- Chris: 6 week design thinking sprint to reinvigorate brigade, event series- engage people who carry projects from first event to last event; project management
- **Success this year**
 - Journey mapping
 - Design thinking event with first responders, excited to be in room and they were listened to, partnered with Innovate Raleigh, able to highlight in press and blog posts, helped build relationships that launched projects in event series

8:00-8:10- Other comments / questions

- Andrew: New directions in Charlotte, conversations after Congress, making sure we're following through on purpose, move to more community-oriented- maybe project night once per month, have a community night once per month; so in the zone with the police dept toy drive project; also rebranded from Code for Charlotte to Open Charlotte
- [Resources from CfA](#) (e.g. Heroku) (Jim joined the call to learn more about these kind of resources)

8:10-8:20- CfA updates

- MOU
- Membership Information
- CfA National Advisory Council Elections
 - December: Gather eligible voters names and info and enter data
 - January 14th: Announce elections timeline, start soliciting recommendations, and first day for candidates to file
 - January 21nd: NAC Open Information Session
 - February 5th: Last Day for candidates to file
 - February 18th: Elections Begin
 - NEED TO PICK A DATE: Candidate Forum
 - February 27th at 11:59 PST: Elections End
- [Design Meetup](#) (Dec. 3)
- Workshop: Brigade Action Teams (BAT), hosted by Jason (mid-Dec.)

8:20-8:30- Delta / Plus for this call

Plus- What went well? What did you like?

- Open dialogue, learned about different brigades, shared pain points
- Got a lot of ideas, hearing about other brigades, and other network events
- Open dialogue
- Organic format, power of hearing others
- Seeing everyone
- Open dialogue, participating to learn more about hierarchy of cfa
- NAC updates, color commentary, ability to ask questions
- Open format, hearing about everyone else's project, roundtable about pain points and how people solved them, collaboration across brigades
- Really cool, supposed to be a community, hearing ideas, motivate me,

Delta- What should we improve?

- More we do this, it will take shape, don't introduce too much structure
- Have one challenge focus- announce beforehand, encourage conversation
- Agenda to look at before meetings
- Prepare for more people on call, time management, feel like people can participate

Laura's Questions for the About section

1. How did you get involved with your brigade?
2. How does your brigade work?
 - What is your org structure? (if you have one)
 - When do you get together?
 - Where do you meet?
3. Who is involved in the brigade?
 - Who would you consider your "members"?
 - Is there anyone missing? - groups you need more representation from?
 - What is your relationship with your local government? and community organizations?
4. What is your brigade really good at?
 - What have been your most successful projects / events?
5. What are the areas for improvement in your brigade?
 - Where do you need help?
6. Anything else we should know?

- What are you most excited about / looking forward to?

Calendar: <https://coastalgaciviccalendar.bubbleapps.io/>

Photo:

<https://cvlassets.nyc3.digitaloceanspaces.com/Screen%20Shot%202019-03-24%20at%208.14.45%20PM.png>