

Brigade Congress Brainstorming Workshop Agenda

- I. Intros
- II. Initial Information about Brigade Congress
- III. Content Committee: [Make sure if you're interested to submit a form](#)
- IV. Brainstorming!

Attendees

1. Will Skora
2. Nina Kin
3. Scott Stockwell
4. Melanie Mezanec
5. Michelle Bernstein
6. Mary Joyce
7. Baret Nwogbo
8. Colleen Powers
9. Vicente Capito
10. Zach Antoyan
11. Isaiah Little
12. Carlos Gonzalez-Rivera
13. Carley Diaz
14. Mike Ubell
15. Ni Xu
16. Mark Davis (?)

Notes

- Initial responses from feedback form
 - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/2/d/e/2PACX-1vRZkIc6C87M18rEitnr1yGPV3itOaEqacMxBM14qB0c3F0C3YWeUjm-u7RKkrqa3ZaQ9Yjrb57iHZtb/pubhtml?gid=0&single=true>
- What is difference between Brigade Day at Summit and Brigade Congress?
 - Brigade Day at Summit is one day, tacked on to the beginning of the Summit. Brigade Congress is a 3 day event solely for Brigade members to knowledge share best practices of leading a brigade (project coordination (all stages of a project'), collaboration with other brigades, and other organizations in your community) and iterate together. Summit allows folks to be part of the bigger civic tech ecosystem, while Congress is solely focused on Brigade members.

- Networking
 - Baret: Harnessing the potential of networking at Brigade Day could have been improved. Can strategic moves be made to better connect people and keep a relationship moving forward? Particularly after dinners after Brigade Day, ways to connect people with the issues they were discussing.
 - Mike Ubell: More formal sessions facilitate post-event communication (gathering contact info) better than informal networking activities (like the dinner).
 - Melanie: Structured conversations around topics? Along the lines of Laura B's interest groups?
 - Colleen: Impromptu tweet, someone put out a tweet connecting new folks with experienced Summit folks and Colleen found this helpful. Maybe pairing people together based off of certain criteria. Experience,
 - Michelle: Formalized matchmaking between Brigades based on needs, goals, and experience? New? Certain size? Projects?
 - Networking - is more - than just throwing a happy hour in a room with appetizers and alcohol; but intentionally giving people to talk in small groups or well as giving people the opportunity to (Will Skora)
- Establishing a tech based political party
 - Carlos: seems like since we have such a large network with community organizers and we care about issues, why not think about coalescing as a political party?
 - Mike: I think it's a non-starter because if we lose impartiality then we lose our effectiveness
 - Melanie: Neutrality is not always possible and not necessarily worth it. Em Burnett may be interested in following up on this discussion. What issues do we take a stand on? And which ones don't we?
- NAC Sessions
 - Michelle B: I really enjoyed the sessions last year about the NAC. How are they related to Brigades and how is that changing and evolving.
- Three Different types of Discussions to Be had
 - Running Brigades/ Brigade Governance
 - What Brigades Do, Projects
 - Networking
- Session about Relationship with Code for America
 - How do we define this relationship? What is our responsibility as Brigades/ Brigade members and what is Code for America's? How can we continue to work on bettering the relationship.
- Mike: Maybe we can find the subject areas that people are most interested in discussing, and then finding people to lead those discussions.
- Mary: Maybe focus on having facilitators.
- Zay: Folks who have been around for a long time have had the opportunity to be fully immersed in the Brigade community. Importance to elaborate on civics in technology.

Put your Ideas Here! (put your name next to your comment)

- 1) Networking was good at Oakland, but there wasn't enough effort in harnessing them, I think that should be a core focus this time. - Baret Nwogbo
 - a) Differentiate between social networking and subject matter followup. Concur with the general comment that followed (personal networking should be individual's effort), but tools for structured followup that makes the collaboration effective would be helpful. -Scott Stockwell
 - b) Could we have brigades identify their areas of expertise/success and areas of struggle so that we could pair brigades? - Melanie Mazanec
- 2) Session on Brigade governance models. -- Michael Ubell
- 3) What Brigades can do to support the 2020 census -- Michael Ubell - would like to facilitate, is Mike's big interest this year.
- 4) At Summit, heard from several brigades about the challenges of smaller communities to sustain a brigade. So hoping that we can figure out a way to support those smaller communities/brigades. Kind of like what was just mentioned. - Scott Stockwell +1 from ZA
- 5) Also, the collaboration between brigades. Rather than have a proliferation of fora (discourse, slack channel, etc.) that need to be monitored, having collaboration tools (e.g., Miro), that fit the situation.
- 6) How brigades can work (and/or currently work)with local libraries ? (Will Skora) - interested in facilitating the conversation
- 7) Discussion on how to connect with rural communities, getting a better picture of their needs. (Michelle B) +1 from ZA
- 8) How to create a structure for new Brigades coming in. Publicizing onboarding process. (Michelle B)
- 9) A how-to-brigade-congress for everyone about being a good facilitator and/or participant? (Melanie) Maybe put this at the beginning of the programming.
- 10) Connection making with local connections and partnerships.
- 11) Official channels vs unofficial channels for breaking into government-- and what is an appropriate use of each. (Melanie)