



2026 Tech For Resistance Hackathon

OVERVIEW

Racial equity education and **skill building** are two of the biggest pillars of the Code2040's programs, and we consider them crucial to the foundation of the experience. With that, we are excited for our 2nd Tech for Resistance **Hackathon!** This year, we are opening this opportunity for **fellows** and **general community members** alike, with a week-long event centered around technical skills that will enable them access into the tech industry, critical thinking, racial equity in practice, and actionizing ideas of how you can help use tech for good.

WHERE

We'll be **hosting** the Hackathon via Slack, all **synchronous** workshops/opening/closing sessions will be via Zoom, all **projects** will be submitted via Google Drive.

WHEN

Sunday, February 1, 2026 - Tues, February 10, 2026

- February 1, 2026 @ 4 - 5 pm ET / 1 - 2 pm PT - **Hackathon Opening Session**
 - ◆ **Welcome, Quick Keynote, Overview of Hackathon Rules**
- February 7, 2026 11:59 pm PT - **PROJECT SUBMISSION DEADLINE**
- February 10, 2026 @ 7 - 8 pm ET / 4 - 5 pm PT - **Hackathon Closing Session & Awards**
 - ◆ **Awards & Celebration! / Show the presentations of the 4 winning teams**

EACH fellow who participates (*i.e. is a part of a team that completes a project*) will receive a **\$500 stipend** for their participation!

STRUCTURE

Teams will consist of a maximum of **5 members**, and there will be **3 tracks** for teams to choose from.

- I. Teams will be required to produce a **Proof of Concept / Technical MVP & 3 - 5 minute recorded presentation & demo. These will be submitted via [Google Drive](#).**
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Tracks

Teams will be able to choose their track up until submission; teams will be able to see the # of teams in each track

- I. **Reinvent (address/improve something from the past)** / Repurposing something that is **flawed now** that could be changed and updated through the lens of racial equity
- II. **Respond (something related to present day issues)** / Project addressing inequities within the current context or providing immediate solutions to current issues
- III. **Realize (a future idea or solution so a potential issue of the future)** / Present a moonshot solution to an emerging or impending social issue that takes into account **future context**

Suggestions & Nudges for What Teams Could Create

- Sustainability & Environmental Activism
- Digital Security & Privacy
- Building inclusive future/environment
- Economic Mobility / Economic Justice
- Immigration Rights
- Fintech / Blockchain
- Health & Wellness
- Mobile App Development
- Elderly/Eldercare
- Accessibility

Awards

- I. **\$5,000** award for Best Overall Fellow's project (*as decided by the panel of judges*)
 - II. **\$2,500** award for each track winner (*Reinvent, Respond, Realize*)
 - III. **\$2,500** award for Fellow's Choice winner (*decided by the Fellows!*)
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Judging Criteria - [Judging Rubric - Tech For Resistance Hackathon](#)

- I. Judges will asynchronously judge projects between February 8, 2026 - February 10, 2026 @ 12 pm ET.
- II. Judges will critique based on the following criteria on a scale of **1 - 5** each (*for a total of possible **25 points per team***)
 - **Racial Equity Impact**
 - How well does the project **integrate a racial equity lens** in its design, purpose, and intended impact?
 - a) Demonstrates an understanding of systemic inequities

- b) Offers a solution that meaningfully addresses a racial equity issue // does this project present adept or bereft of solving a racial equity problem
 - c) Reflects principles of equity in both content and execution
 - **Creativity & Innovation**
 - How **innovative** or **creative** is the solution, especially within the chosen track (*Reinvent, Respond, Realize*)?
 - a) Introduces a unique perspective or approach
 - b) Repurposes or reimagines existing systems with fresh ideas; Takes **risks** in concept, design, or function
 - **Technical Execution & Feasibility**
 - How **well** was the **Proof of Concept / MVP built**, and how **feasible** is it for real-world application?
 - a) Demonstrates clear application of learned technical skills
 - b) Functional and reliable MVP or prototype
 - **Human Centered Design**
 - How **well** does the solution **consider user needs**, especially for historically marginalized communities?
 - a) Prioritizes accessibility and usability
 - b) Thoughtful and empathetic design choices
 - c) Considers diverse end-users in UI/UX or deployment strategy
 - **Presentation & Communication**
 - How effectively did the team communicate their **problem, solution, and impact** within the 3-minute pitch & 2-minute demo?
 - a) Clear explanation of the problem and how the solution addresses it
 - b) Engaging storytelling and flow
 - c) Demonstrates confidence, clarity, and teamwork during the live demo
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