

Session Notes

Session Title	<i>Code, Care, and Community: Strengthening our PiTech Storytelling</i>
Session Facilitator	<i>Noel and Gabby</i>
Time Block	<i>12:15pm to 1:15pm</i>
Room Number	<i>2-112</i>
The Board - Link	📄 CityCamp NYC - The Board (Public)
CityCamp NYC - Session Guide	https://www.citycamp.nyc/2025/08/21/pitch-your-session/
BetaNYC Code of Conduct	https://www.beta.nyc/code-of-conduct-anti-harassment-policy/
CityCamp NYC Email	citycamp@beta.nyc

CityCamp Session Scribes will capture the discussion and insights here. Remember to identify actionable discussion items that generate ongoing discussion or calls-to-action that may continue after the event!

Session Scribe Notes

Schedule of the Session

Tick-tock	
15	Introduction of Gabby, Noel, the scribe, and the goals of this discussion. Note that the discussion will be recorded on a Google Doc. Icebreaker / What is community? What does it mean to you? Define this in three words.
10	What we have done and what is kinda working.
20	Discussion • Have community members share their challenges with community engagement • How can BetaNYC improve outreach and community engagement? ◦ Examples of organizations and newsletters to learn from.
15	Wrap up • Define action items for BetaNYC and the community

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three takeaways to report back to the broader community. |
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General Notes

Take clear notes that capture the discussion here:

- The goal is to ask people what the best way is to communicate the work BetaNYC does to the community. What are good ways to move the conversation forward after an event?
- People's three words to describe what community means to them:
 - Inspiration, lifeline,
 - Belonging, respect, solidarity
 - Relationships, context, interests
 - Care, collaboration, values
 - Belonging, comfort, interest
 - Values, local, support
 - Jazz club, bookscoope, thriftstore
 - People, connection, inclusivity
 - Collaboration, communication, love
 - what world needs
 - People around you
 - Acceptance, empathy, solidarity
 - Being at ease
 - Values, integrity, safety
 - People, purpose, power
- What BetaNYC has used for comms and how many people use that:
 - Used [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) for a while, then a tool called Talk,
 - Messages on Slack. A few hands.
 - Migrated newsletters to be weekly. A few more hands.
 - Publish work on LinkedIn. Not many hands.
 - Publish work on Reddit. Very few hands.
- How people usually get messages about community events:
 - Slack - is a good way of directing attention.
 - Email and Facebook - but it depends on if he likes the group enough.
 - Slack and email - Facebook is for family only
 - Bluesky - would like to see more there. They have a format that let you move around your content across platforms.
 - Slack - other socials got worse, so burned out
 - Reddit - but I tend to know what I'm looking for
 - Word of mouth - or slack channels with close people like colleagues.
 - Discord - feels like this connects the local community.
 - Marketplace (a few people on here!)

- The content in the newsletters:
 - I skim the newsletter.
 - Love the newsletter format - It is a one-stop format for all things I might be interested in and the important stuff.
 - Also like the fellow profiles - these are stories about people in PIT.
- How people engage with these platforms in general. Topics like burnout:
 - Casual suggestions from people in the community without a sense of urgency.
 - Everything in social media is about trying to go viral and extreme opinions. People are always trying to make their voice heard.
- Only a very few people knew that they could submit things to their newsletter. Only those people said that they would submit things if they knew.
- What would you want in an NYC PIT newsletter?
 - The Politico digital newsletter has an interview that is interesting. Maybe something like this?
 - Human-centered content
 - Datasets and new tools that are coming from public agencies.
- How do academic entities communicate?
 - Small universities use LinkedIn to communicate because they aren't that well supported
 - Georgetown uses a network and has the highest click-to-conversation rate.
 - LinkedIn accounts for faculty sometimes have a good reach
 - Important to break down the silo with other departments to build capacity and awareness about what everyone else is doing.
 - Pay and give credits to students for the work that they do.
- What would you like to see (for teachers and students)
 - Divide people into teams and have them to work on a group project on some technical stuff. Would be cool to have them work on community projects.
 - Usually these projects end up becoming zoom meetings and surveys that burn them out.
 - Students have difficulty getting internships.
- Podcasts people listen to
 - Marketplace
 - Hell Gate
 - FAQ NYC
 - City agencies' podcasts
- What other kinds of connections can be made
 - Crosspollination between people from different disciplines interested in PIT.
 - Connecting people with city agencies or other groups that need technical expertise
 - Where and how people establish trust? Formal vs informal? What level? Neighborhood level?

Roadblocks and Questions

Capture barriers, challenges, and differing views:

- Social media causes burnout.
- Social media has irrelevant and uninteresting content.
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Key Takeaways

Identify key insights or topics discussed and summarize:

- [Notes]
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Action Items

Capture possible action items that individuals or the group discussed here

- Burnout - who wants to fill the gap, and how would you bring them together?
- BetaNYC's aggregate role into other conversations - that way, this content could be shared more directly
- Humanity of podcast - maybe a podcast for people who are seeking that interactivity?
 - But the attention economy is always aiming to ciphem my attention away from the people around me into our devices. It is okay to make a podcast but not make these podcasts irresistible.
 - So maybe a prompt/question to ponder on to divest from the attentions economy.
- Tech mentors or a point person to hold you accountable on your personal projects.
- Storytelling around the work betanyc has done - regular call with journalists to inform them about ongoing work and projects.

Group Session Notes

This is a living document, and as participants, please feel free to help it grow! Please add your notes, photos of notes, thoughts, or reflections here, during or after the session:

General Notes

Do you have any notes you'd like to share with your session group?

- [Notes]
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Key Takeaways

Did you identify any important takeaways from the discussion?

- [Notes]
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Roadblocks and Questions

Capture barriers, challenges, and differing views (*note: please capture differing reviews with respect, this space is for capturing ideas not critiquing them*)

- [Notes]
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Action Items

Are there any actions you plan to take after the session? Or would like to work on with others?

Each Session should aim to answer these three questions

1. What should the next Mayoral administration do to address this session topic?
2. What should the next City Council do to address this session topic?
3. What should we do as a community to address this session topic?

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Reflections

Just want to provide your reflection on the session? Please feel free to do so!

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Contact Information

If you'd like to share your contact information to continue the conversation, please do so!

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