



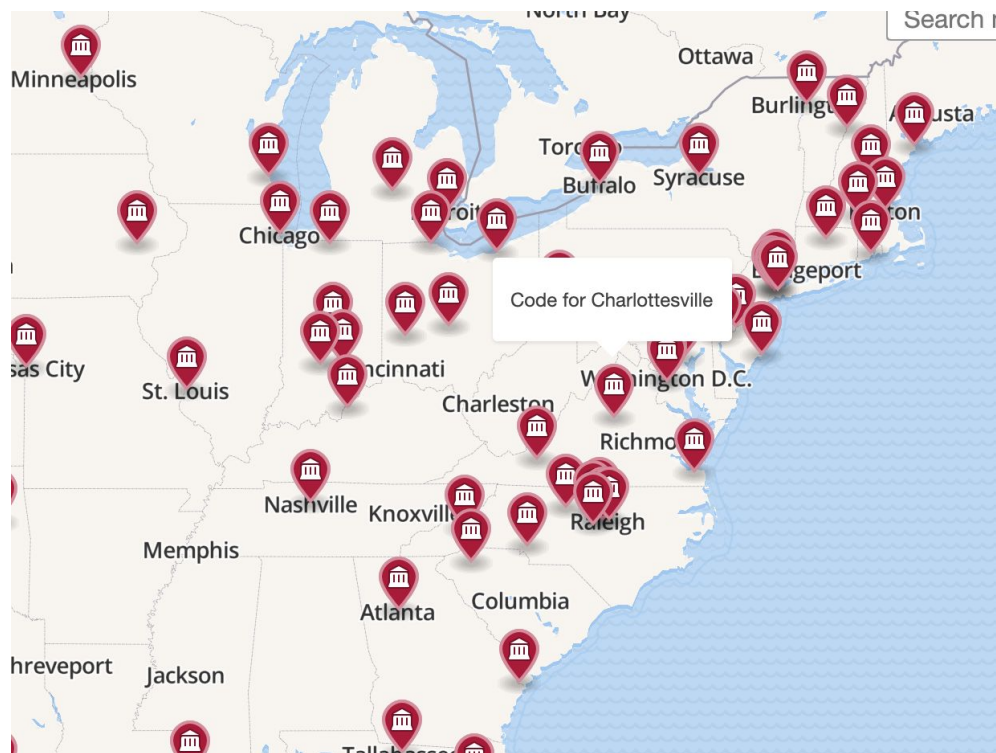
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**CHARLOTTESVILLE**

**2021 Kickoff! New Project  
Announcements & Info Session**

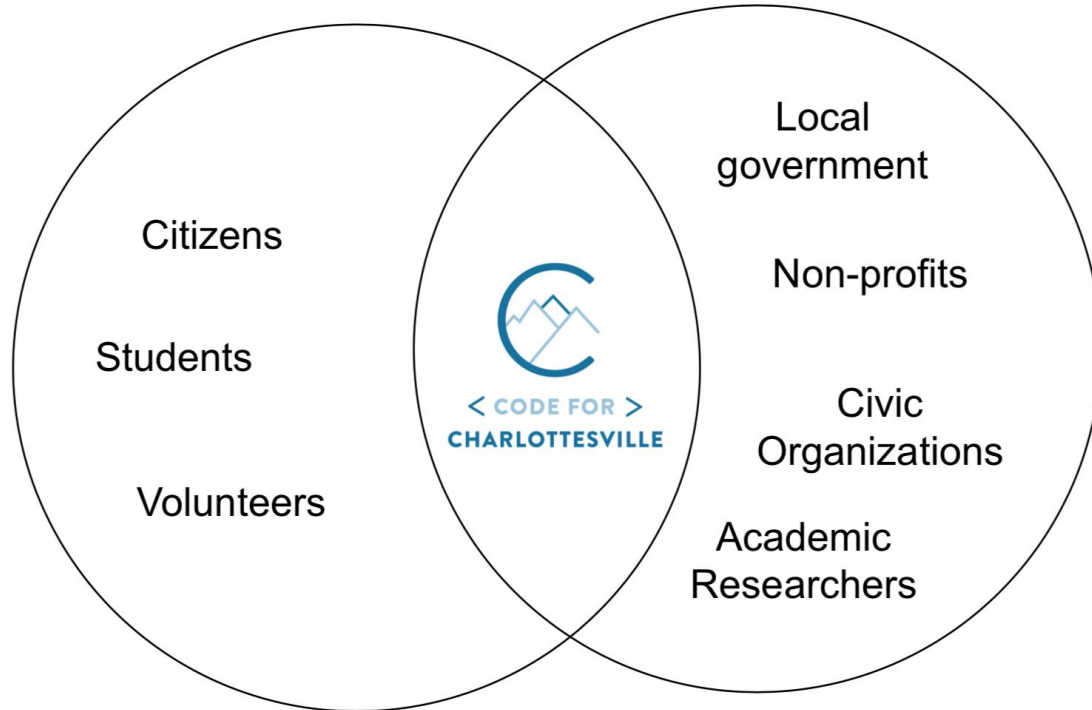
February 22, 2021

# CODE *for* AMERICA

Code for Charlottesville is  
part of the Code for America  
network of local brigades



The mission: to bring volunteers with tech, data, design, and research skills together to work on community service projects with local government or nonprofits



# Who are we?

**We are 100% volunteer.** And  
100% Zoom for the near future

Our volunteers include

- Charlottesville/Albemarle residents
- People who live in MA, CO, CA, FL (with Zoom what's the difference?)
- employees at Cville tech companies
- UVA undergrads, grad students, and faculty
- Local government employees
- Non-profit leaders and employees
- Most of all, people who want to use tech to help our communities

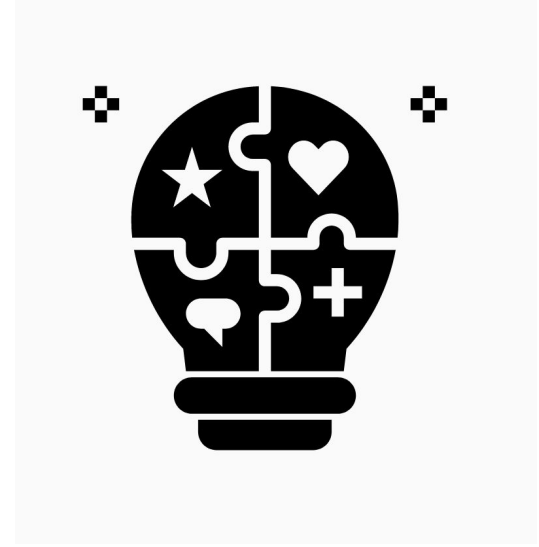


# What skills are needed?

**Tech skills, and non-tech skills!** Everyone is welcome and everyone is needed.

Every project needs

- Software dev and database skills
- UI and UX design
- Research about the social policies we interact with
- Community organizing and team-building skills
- Data science
- Clear, descriptive writing
- Grantwriting help
- People who really understand how government/nonprofits work
- Project management
- Social media specialists
- Blockchain





# What we've done in the last 1½ years



- We were created in September 2019. We've been growing and learning how to do this work.
- Our first three projects were with the [Legal Aid Justice Center](#), the [Charlottesville Fire Dept.](#), and the [Charlottesville Office of Human Rights](#).
- Since March 2020 we've been entirely on Zoom.
- In Nov. 2020 we launched a **core leadership team** to grow Code for Cville and to develop new projects.
- **We have three new projects ready for new volunteers!**

# Our Philosophy: Show Up and Listen



Tech for social good projects sometimes fail because they **don't solve the problems the community partner most needs to solve**

We believe that **tech shouldn't lead**: instead we have conversations with community partners about the problems they face and find ways for tech to solve those problems

**We always work with a community partner** and we spend a significant time before launching a project scoping the project with them

# Many steps to launch a project

**Step 1:** Several conversations with a community partner to understand the need and how tech can realistically solve it

**Step 2:** Build a small volunteer dev team to write a project description, acquire the data, meet with the partner, arrange events

**Step 3:** (**we are here**) “Hack nights” with larger volunteer teams to achieve main goals

**Step 4:** hit the stretch goals with a smaller, dedicated team





# How to get involved



City Streetlights

Core  
leadership  
team

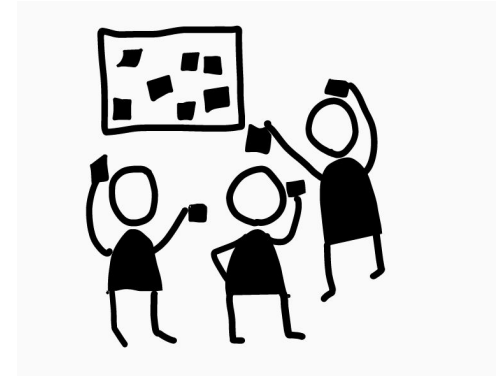
Criminal record  
expungement

“The Shop”

# The Shop



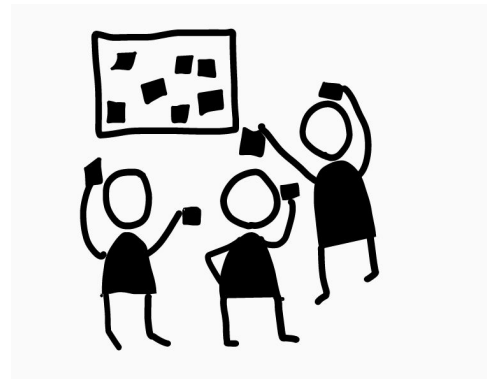
- The Shop is a **pro bono tech consulting service** for area nonprofits. We're working with the Center for Nonprofit Excellence to find partners.
- **Small teams** of 3-4 volunteers to one project
- We will work on **whatever the nonprofit needs**: websites, databases, hardware install, etc.
- Goal: help organizations in a way that builds institutional knowledge and generates templates
- We need people with tech skills, people with experience working with nonprofits, and writers



# The Shop



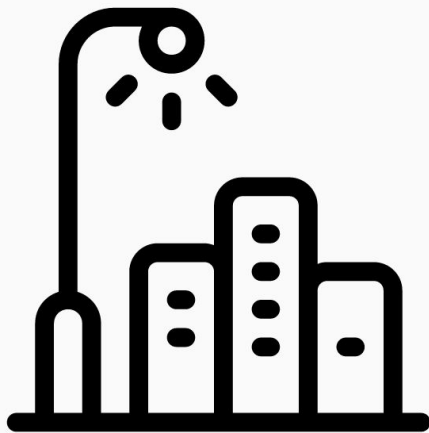
- The idea for The Shop is to be an **umbrella**. Do lots of smaller projects, keep track of lessons.
- But we also want to be **principled**: templates will be constructed to meet modern **accessibility** standards. Everything we design will be easy to **translate** to other languages.
- We are launching with three pilot projects: one with **The Haven**, one with **Kid Pan Alley**, one with **Blue Trunk**
- We will launch the full project next month





# City Streetlights

- We are working with the [City of Charlottesville Climate Protection and Energy Management Programs](#)
- The goal is to collect all of the available data on Cville's streetlight network: **where are they, what kind of bulb and fixture, how old, etc.**
- We are working on a **web-based GIS interface** to map the lights and allow the city to work with the metadata to build calculators for cost and other outcomes
- We're currently deciding the best way to create this tool



# Criminal Record Expungement



- In Virginia, getting charged with a crime (not convicted) leads to a criminal record that pops up on background checks. [That keeps people from jobs, housing, and loans.](#)
- Some records are **expungeable** - hiding the records from these background checks. The state legislature is about to pass a new law expanding what is expungeable.
- LAJC wants to **look at the public data** on court cases to find how many records exist that are expungeable, how they break down by race and region, and answer other questions

# Criminal Record Expungement



- Ben Schoenfeld, a C4A volunteer in Hampton Roads, collected anonymized court records and made them available as CSV files on [virginiacourtdata.org](http://virginiacourtdata.org)
- Michele Claibourne, Jon Ashley, and a team at the [UVA Legal Data Lab](#) are working on a searchable front-end application for the data
- In the meantime, we're putting the data in a cloud bucket. **We need help wrangling and analyzing the data to answer LAJC's questions**
- We also need help with [writing and policy research](#)



# Core Leadership Team



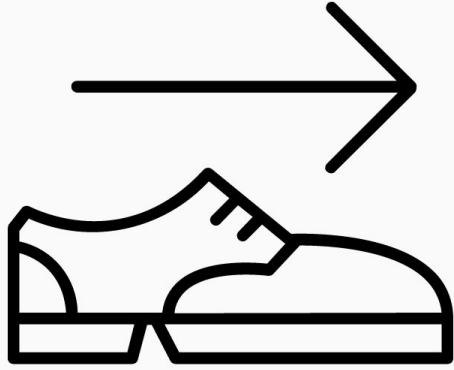
We want Code for Charlottesville to **grow, to do great work, and to be reliable partners for local government and nonprofits**

We have a small team working to lead the brigade.

Some of the roles:

- Organize a project, or find a new project
- Set our values and make sure we abide by our ethical code
- Manage outreach to community partners and volunteers, and manage social media

# Next Steps



Thank you for being here tonight! We would love for you to be involved with any of the projects or the Core Team.

**Step 1:** fill out our new volunteer form to register on our website

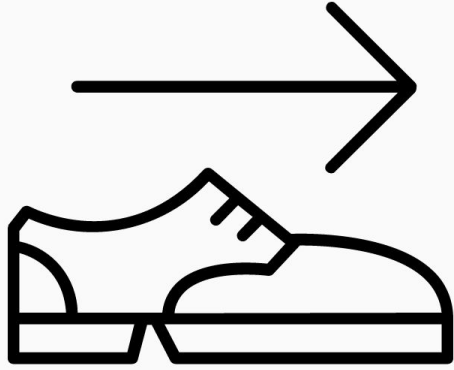
<https://www.codeforville.org/volunteer>

Be sure to check the boxes for any projects/teams you are interested in joining!

**Step 2:** sign up for our Slack

<https://tinyurl.com/c4cslack>

# Next Steps



Slack has specific **channels** for each project. Join the right channel to be kept in the loop:

- [#theshop-volunteer-team](#) for The Shop
- [#streetlights-volunteer-team](#) for City Streetlights
- [#expungement-volunteer-team](#) for Criminal Record Expungement

Send me (Jon Kropko) a direct message if you want to be part of the Core Team.

All three projects will be holding orientation meetings this week.

Thanks! Any Questions?

