

**CITIZEN'S OPEN AGENDA: A PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVING CITIZENS ENGAGEMENT AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH EXISTING PROJECTS TAKING PLACE IN MONTERREY, MEXICO.**

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## **Introduction & Context**

Mexico's war on drugs has led Monterrey, my hometown, to the City's worst social crisis. Words like gunned, hanged, dismembered, coup de grace, beheaded, incinerated, dissolved in acid, to mention some, became part of our regular language and the everyday news in addition to the more than 70 thousand people that have lost their lives because of it.<sup>2</sup> However, tragedies like the killing of 2 graduate students by Mexican army crossfire inside the university campus<sup>3</sup> or the dead of more than 50 people in a casino attack<sup>4</sup> have shaken our foundations and provoked the awakening of civil society in an unprecedented way. Recognizing that only through citizen's engagement and accountability, we will be able to rebuild our social-fabric, this proposals focuses on fostering collaboration of the following organizations to develop new visualizations and tools to promote more effectively and more widely, citizen's engagement.

## **Strategic Alliances and Theory of Change**

<b>The Citizens Lab<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Coding Mexico<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>CIC<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>Mayor, How Are We Doing?<sup>8</sup> (MHAWD)</b>
Hosts Hackatons with the objective of creating collaborative spaces where citizens meet to transform data into useful applications.	Focuses on creating "civic technology" through online challenges and efforts for opening data.	Has the technological platform <i>Tehuan</i> 3.0 (T3.0), whose main function is to receive and disseminate citizen's reports.	Accountability mechanism that commits municipalities to voluntarily submit information about specific issues.

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<sup>1</sup> 2-pager description for Prof. Beth Noveck's class "Government 3.0". Master in Public Administration Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy. Robert F. Wagner Graduate School on Public Service, New York University. December 19, 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Retrieved from: <http://www.zetatijuana.com/2012/05/28/sexenio-de-calderon-71-mil-ejecuciones/>

<sup>3</sup> Retrieved from: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/03/22/mexico.students.killed/>

<sup>4</sup> Retrieved from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-14674706>

<sup>5</sup> "City Changer Lab de Convivencia":

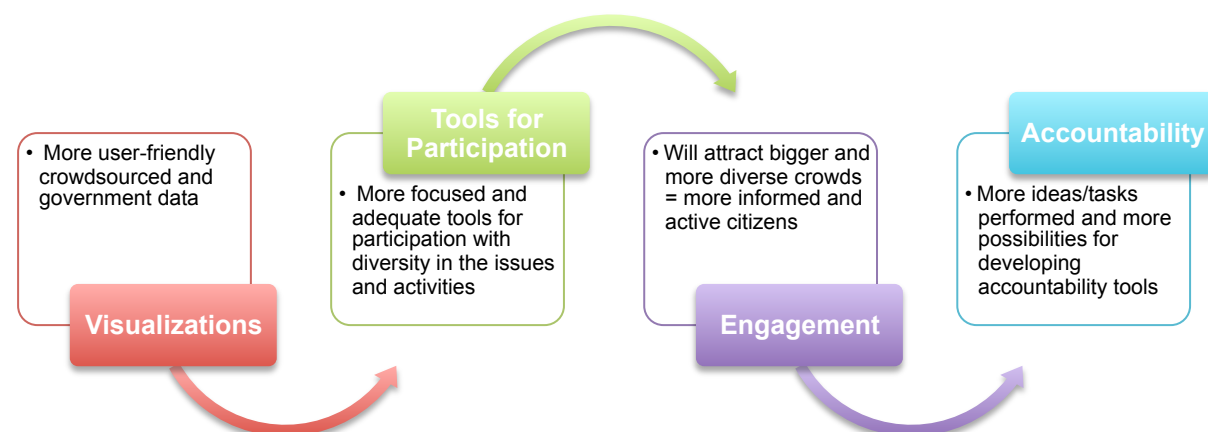
[http://www.onuhabitat.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=992:registro-onu-habitat-hack-day-monterrey&catid=205:noticias&Itemid=258](http://www.onuhabitat.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=992:registro-onu-habitat-hack-day-monterrey&catid=205:noticias&Itemid=258)

<sup>6</sup> "Codeando México": <http://codeandomexico.org/>

<sup>7</sup> "Centro de Integración Ciudadana": <http://tehuan.cic.mx/tehuan/>

<sup>8</sup> "Alcalde, ¿Cómo Vamos?": <http://www.comovamosnl.org/>

Taking advantage of the current on-going projects/platforms + crowdsourced and government data they are generating, several add-ons will be proposed under the assumption that:



### Proposal For New Tools To Improve Engagement and Accountability

Project	Description	Links
<b>Mapping Crime Reports</b>	Tehuan's platform does not cross the crowdsourced data with the government's data. The cross-reference of the information could give the community a clear understanding of crime in their area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.police.act.gov.au/crime-and-safety/crime-statistics.aspx">http://www.police.act.gov.au/crime-and-safety/crime-statistics.aspx</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://maps.nyc.gov/crime/">http://maps.nyc.gov/crime/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Budget Expenditure Explorer</b>	A clear visualization of how the municipal budget is spent could enhance/catalyze the need for accountability mechanisms. Furthermore, the budget expenditure explorer could focus on MHAWD specific area of interest, that is, transparency on private contracts.	<a href="http://twaweza.org/uploads/flashes/budget-visualization-kenya-000/Kenya.html#/home/viewType=Bubbles&amp;spending=Actual&amp;split=Purpose&amp;year=2010-11">http://twaweza.org/uploads/flashes/budget-visualization-kenya-000/Kenya.html#/home/viewType=Bubbles&amp;spending=Actual&amp;split=Purpose&amp;year=2010-11</a>
<b>Mapping Municipal Services</b>	Development of a visualization that lets the citizens know the frequency of when municipal services should be provided according to location. With it citizens will have the possibility to easily detect when a service is completely broken or delayed.	<a href="http://codeandmexico.org/organizaciones/4/retos/14-sistema-de-informacion-y-alertas-sobre-el-suministro-de-agua-en-la-ciudad-de-oaxaca">http://codeandmexico.org/organizaciones/4/retos/14-sistema-de-informacion-y-alertas-sobre-el-suministro-de-agua-en-la-ciudad-de-oaxaca</a>
<b>Living Cities v. Monterrey</b>	Taking inspiration from the <i>Living Cities</i> initiative T3.0 could attract more users by developing a visualization that reflects the traffic density of the city.	<a href="http://here.com/livingcities/">http://here.com/livingcities/</a>
<b>Emergencies First Responder</b>	App that notifies everyday citizens, who are trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation that someone nearby is having a cardiac emergency and may require CPR.	<a href="http://pulsepoint.org/app/">http://pulsepoint.org/app/</a>
<b>#MtyMuyBien Volunteers in Action</b>	T3.0 mapping of volunteering opportunities that creates a new space for interested users in tailored searches according to the users/volunteers interest.	<a href="http://www.volunteermatch.org/">http://www.volunteermatch.org/</a>
<b>Wiki-Surveys</b>	Drawing inspiration by the All Our Ideas model, by seeding some examples, the users may decide through <i>pair-voting</i> , and their own suggestions, which are the issues that most concern them.	<a href="http://www.allourideas.org/">http://www.allourideas.org/</a>
<b>Utility Hackatons</b>	Even though hackatons are already taking, they could compliment the current proposals, if created, could give more data for targeting objectives.	
<b>Capacity Development</b>	As more groups of citizens may get interested in participating their collaborations could be enhanced by offering "Open Data Literacy" programs and courses.	

The key of this proposal is collaboration and creating effective teams among organizations.