

Participatory Data Gathering

A Workshop Outline for Using FoodMapper

Intended Audience of this Document

Community organization leader, educator, or mentor. You are likely an administrator of or trained user of the FoodMapper application. You should know how to create new users, and troubleshoot basic problems using the 'admin' interface.

Before You Start: Factors to Consider

1. important to have an organizational goal in mind: how will you know the activity was productive?
2. the flexibility of FoodMapper data collection means that gatherers should agree upon a standard set of traits or some criteria that make the points collected meaningful
3. An underlying purpose of these activities is fostering participation. The tool is simple enough that almost anyone can participate, but how they participate and contribute helps define the role they take in service and volunteering and can provide immeasurable feedback about the goals your organization should pursue.

Getting Started

Have a comfortable and relatively quiet place to meet. It's important for everyone to be able to listen and speak in turn during planning and training.

Recruiting

Talk to your community about their wants and needs. *What questions do you want to answer about the food geography around you?* Invite them to join in a collaborative effort, to team up, and gather the information needed to answer these questions together.

Planning: Setting Goals

- Discuss and agree upon what the goals of the data collection activity should be.
 - a specific neighborhood region?
 - only stores? store opening hours? availability of fresh produce?
 - visible advertisements?
- Determine the way that *Name*, *Description* and *Tag* fields should be completed
 - You might brainstorm a list of potential tags or keywords.
- Set a time or space limit for the gathering project. You could...
 - walk a planned path
 - travel freely to a certain landmark
 - log every time you eat or see someone eating for a day, or even a week

Training: FoodMapper UI

Demonstrate the usual steps in using the mobile or desktop application.

- sign in
- choice of map
- enabling location awareness
- placing the map crosshairs
- adding a point:
 - entering name, description, and tags
 - reviewing for errors
 - editing and correcting mistakes
- commenting on points

Go Out and Collect

FoodMapper is best when you're out scouting! That's the idea behind mobile data collection, so get out and see things first-hand.

Using Smartphones and Tablets

- Get as many mobile devices together as you can-- at least one for every pair (or small group) of participants.
- If in pairs or teams, suggest that one person 'drive' the app and have the partner focus on observation and situational awareness. This is a good safety precaution for mobile use in unfamiliar places. They can trade responsibilities and take turns.
- A strong technology user can be paired with a weaker technology user, and they can take turns or assist each other with the interface if there is confusion.

Paper Option (Worksheet On Page 4)

If not enough mobile devices are available, or participants are unfamiliar with technology, offer a paper-based option. In this form, they can write down the locations and details they gather and these can be entered later by you or another volunteer in the wrap-up phase.

Return and Reflect

Set a time for everyone to return to the meeting point. It is important to stress the results of the activity.

- Review the goals
- Show the Results
 - Project a view of the total map so everyone can see.
 - Discuss the data in terms of how it meets those goals for understanding and question answering.
- Some questions and answers may be subtle or unanswered
 - Ask, how could we gather more or better data next time?
 - Are the answers we need available?
- Share Observations
 - What new problems can we identify?
 - What did we see?
- Invite Insights
 - What new understandings did you discover during the activity?
 - Did you get any ideas for solutions?

Conclusion

Hopefully, the workshop event was a success. Thank everyone involved by acting on the insights you've learned.

You may have taken pictures or video of the activities. If so, you should plan to secure permission to use anyone's image. Save or photograph the setting, the paperwork, the space of the ideas. This will trigger your memory in future recollection, and will serve to document the process and decisions.

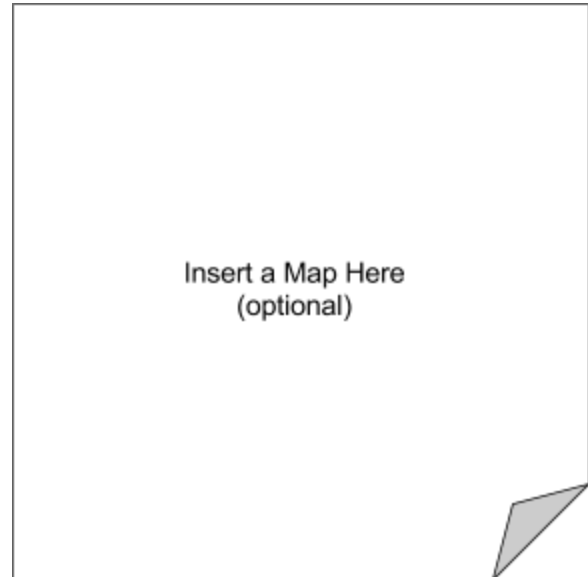
Promote future events. Reach out and tell the story of the participation, the activity, and the learnings, altogether.

FoodMapper Worksheet

Name	
Goals	
Route	

Tag Words

Insert a Map Here
(optional)



Place	Name	Description	Tags