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Public Invited to Take Guided Tours of Civic Hackathon

Technology Professionals Work with Local Non-Profits & Government at “Hack the Stacks” event on October 26-27, 2013 in Burlington, General Public Invited to Learn More About Civic Hacking

Burlington, Vermont, October 24, 2013 – On October 26-27, 2013, a local group of community-minded developers, technology integrators, designers, and hackers of all types will come together for “Hack the Stacks: Civic Hacking at Fletcher Free Library” in Burlington, Vermont. They are inviting the general public to take guided tours of the event to learn more about civic hacking.

“Hack the Stacks” is hosted by Code for BTV (codeforbvtv.org), a Code for America Brigade focused on the greater Burlington area. Code for BTV was recently selected to join the official Code for America Brigade program. Code for America is an organization that seeks to foster and facilitate innovation in government. Code for BTV works with the City of Burlington’s Mayor’s Office, among other civic, non-profit, and government partners.

At “Hack the Stacks,” Code for BTV will collaborate with local government and non-profits in Vermont to build civic apps such as a statistics tool for Fletcher Free Library based on open data. This civic app would allow the library to keep track of statistics such as checkouts, door counts, and volunteer hours.

The hosts and hackers are inviting people to take a guided tour of the event and several related collaborative high-tech projects underway that will benefit the public in the greater Burlington area and beyond. While the skills and technologies of these efforts are advanced, the tour will provide a friendly and accessible overview that will be especially useful to civic leaders, policy makers, and anyone interested in novel approaches to modern community building.

“Hack the Stacks’ at Fletcher Free Library is another great example of Burlington’s growing reputation as a green, tech City able to take advantage of new technologies to foster innovation and transparency in our City government,” said Mayor Miro Weinberger. “Code for BTV’s emphasis on civic engagement, the talented community of developers in Burlington, and the technological assets that exist in our City create an excellent environment for innovation and opportunities to improve the way the City does business. I encourage our community members to take the tour and learn more about the potential of civic hacking.”

“On behalf of the Fletcher Free Library, we are pleased to host ‘Hack the Stacks,’” said Rubi Simon, Fletcher Free Library Director. “Our library is a tremendous resource for the community and one of only a handful of libraries in the nation with Gigabit Internet access. We’re very excited about being part of this initiative that has the potential of being an essential economic driver for our community and a natural partnership for libraries. The most important aspect of this partnership is that it encompasses what libraries are all about, the dissemination of information in all its possible formats and equal access to all. By expanding Code for BTV’s projects, we have the potential to put useful library information at the fingertips of all our library guests.”

To register for a tour, please visit:
hack-the-stacks-tours.eventbrite.com

To learn more, or to register for Hack the Stacks as a civic hacker, please visit: codeforbvtv.org

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Code for BTV (codeforbvtv.org) Code for BTV is a Code for America Brigade that facilitates sustainable collaborations on civic software and open data projects between coders, designers, and organizations (both governmental and non-governmental) in the greater Burlington, Vermont area. We host events for civic hackers to come together and work on building and reusing civic apps and support open data initiatives.