Burlington, Vermont Selected for Code for America Brigade – Volunteer Group to Build Civic Apps and Open Data Projects for Community

Local Burlington Group Selected to Join National Network Collaborating With Local Governments to Use Technology to Solve Problems

Burlington, Vermont, September 17, 2013 – Today, a local group of community-minded developers, technology integrators, designers and hackers of all types announced it has been selected to join the official Code for America Brigade program.

Code for America seeks to foster and facilitate innovation in government. Through Brigades it helps to organize and support civic hackers locally to use technology to enhance their community.

"As Burlington's reputation as a green, tech City continues to grow, I am impressed but not surprised that Code for BTV has been selected to join the ranks of the national Code for America Brigade. I offer many thanks to Bradley Holt and Jason Pelletier for launching Code for BTV and congratulate them on the well-deserved recognition of being named Brigade Captains. Burlington's membership and participation in the Code for America Brigade will allow us to continue innovating within our City and provide a tremendous opportunity to collaborate with other innovative cities around the country."

–Mayor Miro Weinberger

This local Brigade, Code for BTV (codeforbtv.org), will collaborate with local government and non-profits in Vermont to build websites, web tools, and apps that address local needs as well as leverage civic applications and open data to help communities better serve the public using technology.

Code for BTV, led by Bradley Holt and Jason Pelletier, will participate in the Brigade's leadership program, which includes monthly trainings, participation in a network of civic and tech leaders, and support from Code for America staff.

"We're very excited to join the Code for America Brigade program. Over 50 civic hackers have been working with Code for BTV since the National Day of Civic Hacking in June. Joining the Code for America Brigade program is an opportunity to combine the substantial work being done by local civic hackers with the great work being done by Code for America at the national level."

–Bradley Holt, Brigade Captain

Code for America launched the Brigade program in 2012, enacting 16 local chapters. This year 15 new Brigades will be added to the program in locations including Burlington, VT; Seattle, WA; Kansas City, MO; South Bend, IN; Las Vegas, NV; Miami, FL; Anchorage, AK; Tulsa, OK; Minneapolis, MN; Sacramento, CA; Washington, DC; Salt Lake City, UT; Cary, NC; Durham, NC; and Houston, TX.

Inaugural Brigades also exist in Oakland, CA; Raleigh, VA; Philadelphia, PA; Asheville, NC; Maine; Austin, TX; San Diego, CA; Boston, MA; Detroit, MI; Grand Rapids, MI; Chicago, IL; Lexington, KY; Northern Virginia; Hawaii; Norfolk, VA; and New York, NY.

Code for BTV will be working closely with the City of Burlington's Mayor's Office.

While the private sector has experienced rapid innovation over the past decade, adopting new technologies that change the way people access information and services, local governments haven't adapted at the same rate. Code for America Brigades partner with local governments to foster civic innovation. Developers and designers collaborate with municipal leaders to create and implement web applications, and explore new approaches to local challenges.

The next major Code for BTV event will be a hackathon on Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27 called **Hack the Stacks: Civic Hacking at Fletcher Free Library**. The focus of this hackathon will be creating apps for Fletcher Free Library, continuing to work with Big Heavy World to promote and preserve Vermont-made music, and building WordPress websites for Vermont's non-profit organizations in collaboration with the Vermont Digital Economy Project.

More information is available at: codeforbtv.org

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Code for America Founded in 2009, Code for America (CfA) is a nonprofit collaborating with local governments to foster and facilitate innovation. CfA is known for its fellowship program, which embeds tech and design professionals in local governments explore new approaches to resolving local challenges. Through the Accelerator, Brigade, and Peer Network programs, CfA is connecting cities with startups and volunteers, as well as each other. For more information, watch Founder Jennifer Pahlka's TED talk: codeforamerica.org/TED or go to codeforamerica.org.

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Code for BTV (codeforbtv.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.

Code *for* **BTV**
A Code for America Brigade