

Civic Tech STRUCTURE

Civic Tech Structure supports organizations that build open source volunteer communities to address some of society's more pressing challenges.

Some of the social issues we have taken on

- Homelessness
- Food insecurity
- Criminal record clearance
- Legal information for Youth and their families
- Voting access and information
- City services transparency
- Improving city planning processes
- Los Angeles Data Hub (CKAN)
- LA Metro Live Punctuality visualizations

Civic Tech Structure is committed to open sourcing all the infrastructure we build and creating detailed documentation, so that other social good organizations can reduce the time-to-impact for new projects.

Some of the open source infrastructure and documentation we are building:

- Open source course on managing Digital Public Goods (DPGs) and their volunteers
- Volunteer Relationship Management Application
- Organization/Project Database
- Volunteer to open source project matching application (availability/skill/interest)
- Global Knowledge Base for the Civic Tech Community to share resources
- Template Figma design system for new projects
- Educational articles about Open Source for NGO and Government decision makers
- Research Ops Playbook and Templates
- Research Studies

Civic Tech Structure's philosophy and platform values are how we take small investments and turn them into high impact.



Learning

An environment where every member and the org itself benefit from the shared experiences of the members. From high school students to Ph.D., from novice to expert, there is knowledge to be gained by sharing practices and working collaboratively, making mistakes and learning from them in an environment that values failing fast and learning.



Impact

We choose and empower projects where there is a demonstrable impact on stakeholders, project partners, our local community, and our members. We don't seek to be the experts, but instead to learn from them and apply the leverage that technology offers to help improve pace and outcomes from their already valuable work. High profile project partners carry weight when our members are looking for work.



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The diverse experiences of all of our members help us create a better civic tech ecosystem, by bringing their lived experience to our org. Our diversity includes race, sexual orientation, learning modalities, cognitive abilities, and socio-economic experiences. Our model of inclusion requires and inspires empathy and patience, both with others and ourselves. We are all here to learn to work together to create the change we want to see in the world, and that happens one conversation at a time.



Giving

We all come together to give freely of our time, expertise, interest and empathy, in an effort to improve our local community through direct action.



Agility

There will be impediments, setbacks and disappointments. We embrace change by empowering our members to meet, talk, experiment and achieve enough common consensus to move internal initiatives forward, without rigid structures and oppressive processes. This works on project teams, Communities of Practice and Organizational Stewardship.



Scalability

In order to scale our impact with people and projects, we experiment, iterate and refine, measure and automate. Using the lowest lift tools possible for the job, and building our own, when scale cannot be achieved with manual labor or open source tools.



Sustainability

To create a sustainable community that provides consistent results and experience for stakeholders and a feeling of stability amongst its members.



Workforce Development

Enlightened self-interest is a powerful motivator. Our volunteer members have access to mentorship, one-on-one help with job searches, and resume coaching. We do project matching to fit skill and subject areas in which they wish to develop new skills, gain confidence in newly learned skills, and transition from beginner to junior, mid-level, or expert - often in areas they wish to add impressive credits to their resume.

And last but definitely not least, a true open door policy....



Radical Inclusivity

When organizations filter you out before you get in the door, they perpetuate the bias already inherent in our society. Radical Inclusivity at Hack for LA means that if you can contribute to our impact goals and peer learning environment, you are welcome here.