

CALENDAR ADVISORY

Email subject: Registration opens for civic hackathon to address local challenges with technology

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS ADVISORY

REGISTRATION OPENS FOR CIVIC HACKATHON TO ADDRESS LOCAL CHALLENGES WITH TECHNOLOGY

- *Organizers plan Hack for Western Mass to give opportunity for people to get involved in serving their community by using technology to create new, innovative applications and platforms.*
- *Organizers are working with local nonprofits and government agencies to submit challenges for hackers to tackle.*

AMHERST, MA - Registration is now open for the first Hack for Western Mass -- an event to bring together government officials, non-profit leaders, and volunteer technologists, data wranglers, and designers to develop technical solutions to local or national challenges.

The event -- part of the National Day of Civic Hacking -- takes place the first weekend of June at UMass Amherst. Over two days people will work on small teams to address challenges submitted by nonprofits and government agencies. Similar events in the past have had results ranging from projects that match surplus food to those who can distribute it to tools for identifying backers of political ads to maps of city tree ecosystems.

Over 60 people have already registered for the event so far.

WHAT: Hack for Western Mass

WHERE: University of Massachusetts Amherst Integrated Sciences Building

WHEN: Saturday, June 1st and Sunday, June 2nd

WHO: Developers, data experts, designers, local advocates, subject matter experts, and people passionate about improving their community

WHY: Civic "hackathons" are the good kind of hacking. They bring together government officials, non-profit leaders, and volunteer technologists, data wranglers, and designers to develop technical solutions to local or national challenges.

REGISTER AT: <http://hackforwesternmass.org>

For more information about the Hack for Western Mass please visit:

<http://hackforwesternmass.org/>

Solving Real Problems, Helping Real People. The event will focus on building technical solutions, but it is not about the technology; it's about addressing local problems and challenges. The goal is to produce workable solutions that improve daily life for real people in our communities. The technical solutions we build will be built for a purpose, not just as an exercise.

For more information about the National Day of Civic Hacking please visit:

<http://hackforchange.org/>

National Day of Civic Hacking is a national event that will take place June 1-2, 2013, in cities across the nation. The event will bring together citizens, software developers, and entrepreneurs from all over the nation to collaboratively create, build, and invent new solutions using publicly-released data, code and technology to solve challenges relevant to our neighborhoods, our cities, our states and our country. National Day of Civic Hacking will provide citizens an opportunity to do what is most quintessentially American: roll up our sleeves, get involved and work together to improve our society.

What is a hacker?

A hacker is someone who uses a minimum of resources and a maximum of brainpower and ingenuity to create, enhance or fix something.

Civic hackers, as we think about it, are engineers, technologists, civil servants, community members, scientists, designers, artists, educators, students, entrepreneurs – anybody who is willing to collaborate with others to create, build, and invent open source solutions using publicly-released data, code and technology to solve challenges relevant to our neighborhoods, our cities, our states, and our country.

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