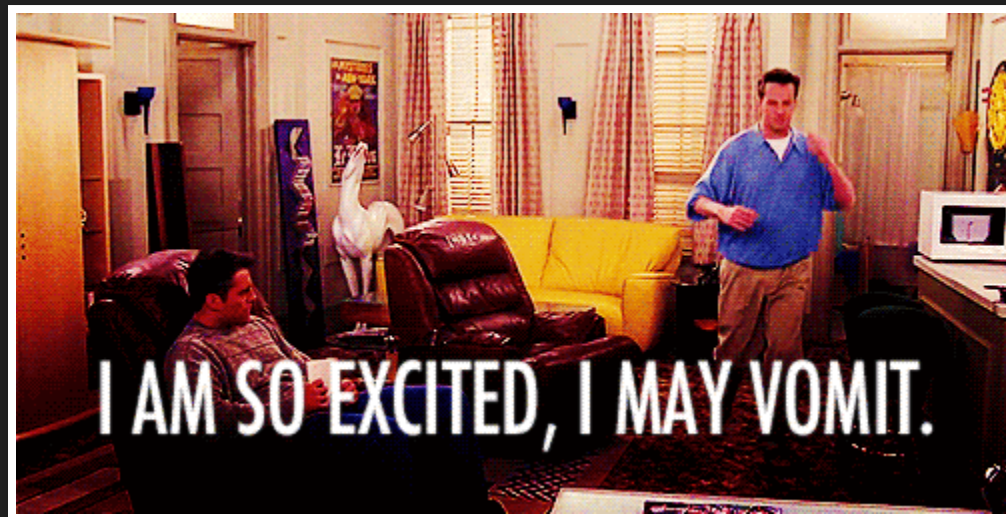


# GOVERNMENT OPEN DATA

Jason Jones

*Analytics & Innovation Manager  
Guilford County Government*



# OUTLINE

- Open Data: Past and Present
- Open Government
- Musings on Future
- Your Turn



# WHAT IS OPEN DATA?

*“Open data means data that is available online, in an open format, with no legal encumbrances on use or reuse, and is available for all to access and download in full without fees or a requirement of registration.”*

Source: <http://opendata.myguilford.com/dataset/open-data-policy-and-governance/resource/99be58db-5051-44bd-aad0-77fc36b07e5e>

# FIRST MENTION

*“The term open data appeared for the first time in 1995...about the disclosure of geophysical and environmental data... before being a technical object or political movement, open data was rooted in the praxis of the scientific community. Researchers were the first who perceived the benefit of openness and of sharing of data.”*

Source: <http://parisinnovationreview.com/articles-en/a-brief-history-of-open-data>

# PUBLIC SECTOR EMERGENCE

In 2007, some people got together north of San Francisco and decided...

*“The basic idea is that public data are a common property, in the same way as scientific ideas...directly inspired by the approach and practice of open source, built on three concepts: openness, participation and collaboration.”*

Source: <http://parisinnovationreview.com/articles-en/a-brief-history-of-open-data>

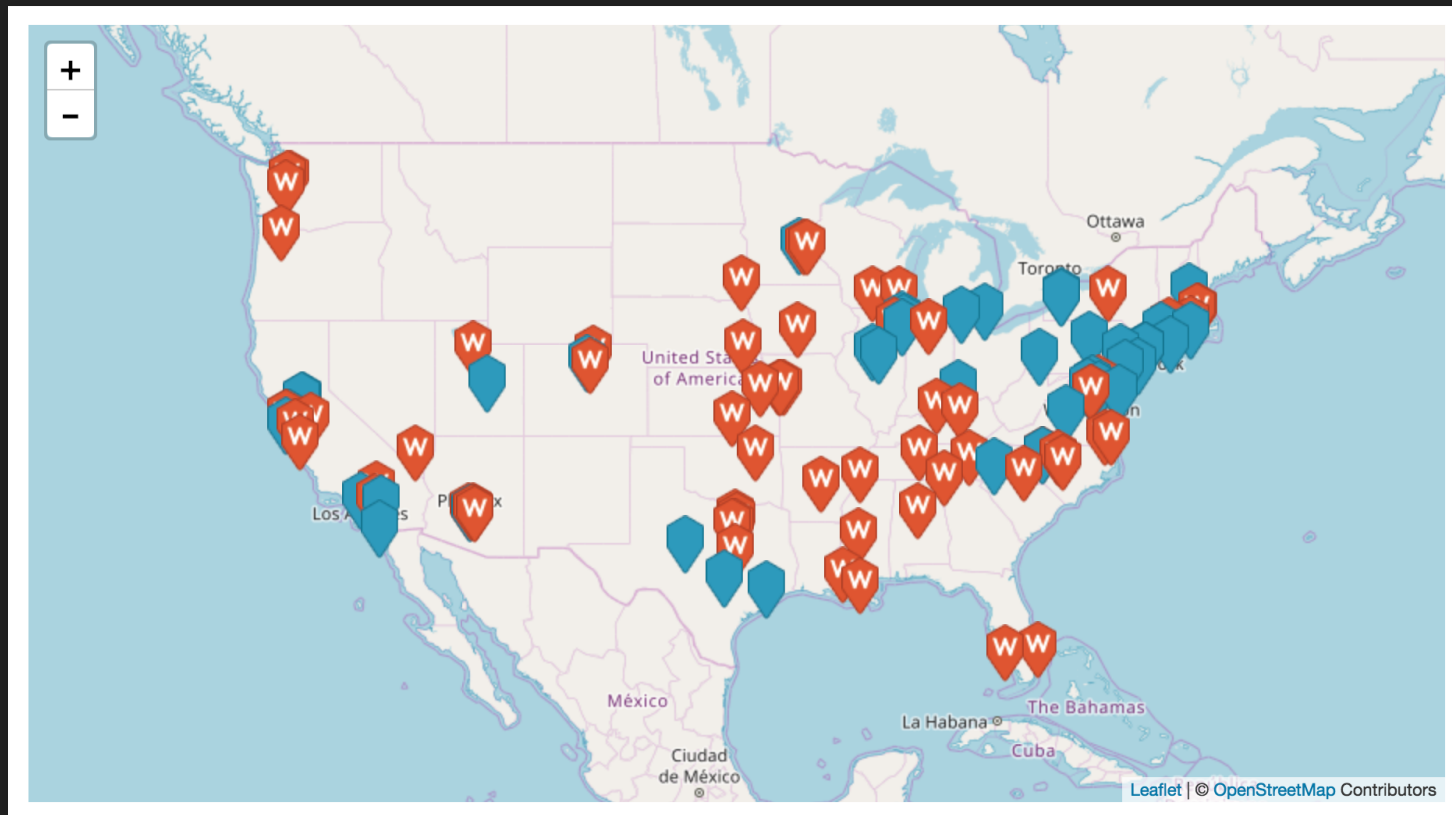
# THANKS OBAMA

- Signed two presidential memoranda concerning open government
- Open source culture foundation: transparency, participation, and collaboration
- Direct connection/reference to 2007 meeting



# THE PRESENT

- Not as broadly adopted as you would hope
- Primarily about transparency, less about collaboration



Source: <http://www.opendatapolicies.org/browse/>

# THE PRESENT

- Meaningful implementation is difficult
- Data skills & literacy gap (internal & external)
- Most useful data is often most protected
- All about trust & relationships





# BONUS SLIDE: POPULAR DATA

## Topics of the most popular open datasets

1		<b>Police and crime:</b> Police incidents; jail bookings; police station locations; crime statistics
2		<b>Transportation:</b> Taxi licenses; transit data; traffic counts; road infrastructure data; parking data
3		<b>Emergency calls:</b> Police, fire, and EMS responses; 911 calls; response times; incident reports
4		<b>Development:</b> Commercial developments; housing developments; property data; housing affordability
5		<b>Building safety:</b> Building permits; safety permits; certificates of occupancy
6		<b>Finance:</b> Revenue; spending; employee salaries; capital budgets; payments
7		<b>Elections:</b> Election results; polling locations; campaign finance reports
8		<b>Businesses and licenses:</b> Business licenses; liquor licenses; vendor, contract, and procurement data
9		<b>Inspections and service requests:</b> Restaurant health inspections; 311 requests; code violations
10		<b>Education:</b> Schools information; student health data; after-school programs; library locations

# WHAT IS OPEN GOVT?

- High levels of transparency
- Mechanisms for public scrutiny and oversight
- Emphasis on accountability
- Increased citizen participation & collaboration



Source: <https://opensource.com/resources/open-government>

# THE DISTINCTION IS IMPORTANT

- You **CAN** have open data w/out open govt
- You **CAN NOT** have open govt w/out open data



The combination of open data & open government will not be the exception, it will be the expectation

# THE FUTURE OF OPEN DATA

*“...the goal isn’t anymore to change the world through data but to try, more modestly, to modernize public action.”*



Source: <http://parisinnovationreview.com/articles-en/a-brief-history-of-open-data>

# BUT HOW?

- **Joy's Law:** There is cumulatively more knowledge and talent outside of an organization than in it
- Look towards the sharing economy as a model
- Shifting towards more **participation and collaboration**



Source: <http://elgl.org/2016/03/13/break-it-down-open-data-and-the-sharing-economy/>

# BUT DON'T FORGET

*“What is measurable isn’t the same as what is valuable”*



Local government will become increasingly responsible for gathering & providing sufficient context

Source: <https://medium.com/ethnography-matters/why-big-data-needs-thick-data-b4b3e75e3d7>



# THICK DATA

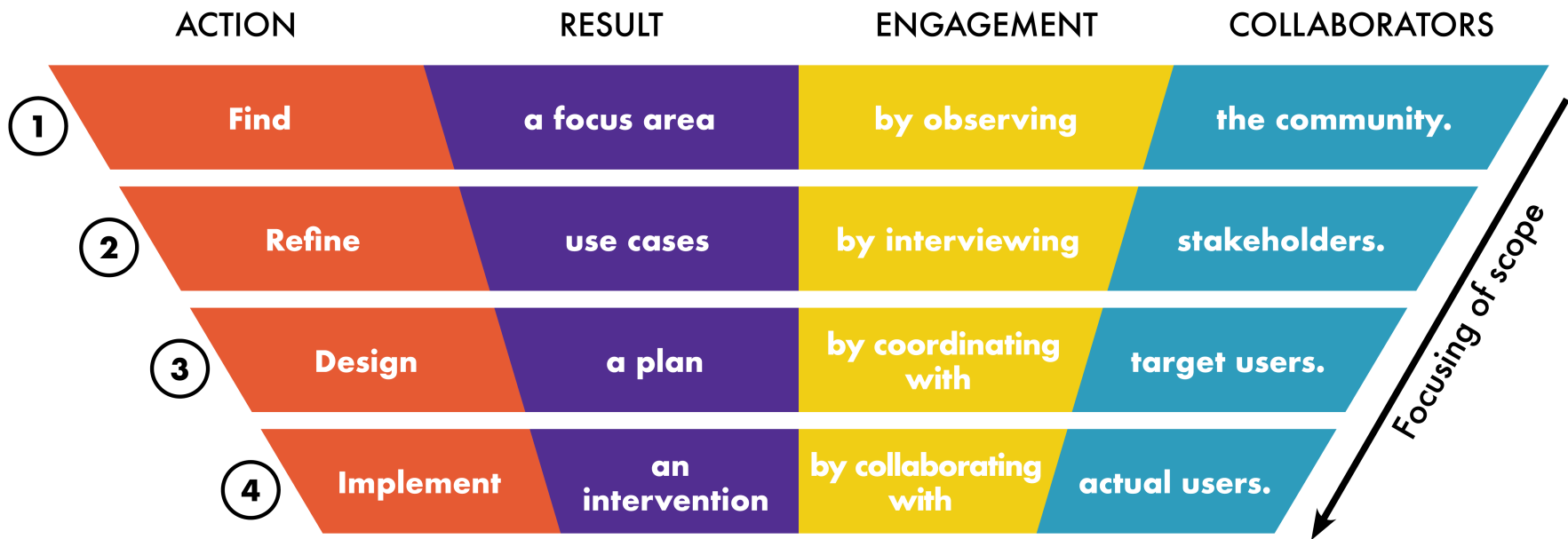
*“Thick Data is data brought to light using qualitative, ethnographic research methods that uncover people’s emotions, stories, and models of their world.”*



Source: <https://medium.com/ethnography-matters/why-big-data-needs-thick-data-b4b3e75e3d7>

# GETTING THERE

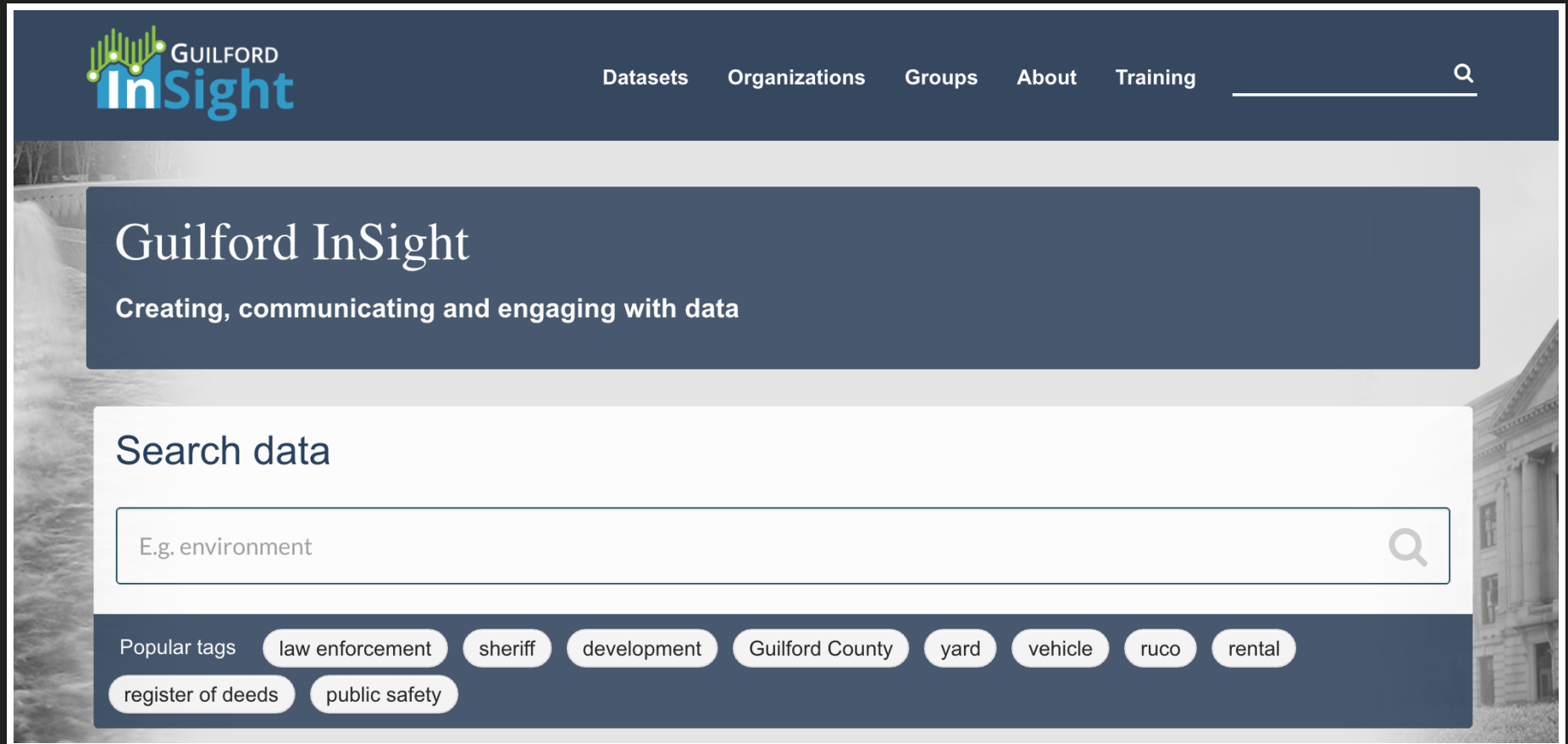
## Tactical Data Engagement: The 4-Step Process



Source: <https://sunlightfoundation.com/2017/09/19/introducing-a-guide-to-tactical-data-engagement/>



# SHAMELESS PLUG



Link: <http://opendata.myguilford.com/>

# BUILDING THE FUTURE - WITH YOU!


We want our data to be:

- Useful
- Usable
- Used



# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

I'm so glad you asked!

 DataRefuge Stories

Name		Area(s) of Research	
E-mail or @		Age	Zip Code
My Data is _____ years old. <small>(number)</small>	My Data lives in _____. <small>(place)</small> <small>* City, State, Region</small>		
I use my Data to _____. <small>(verb)</small>	I wish my Data could _____. <small>(verb)</small>		
My Data and I are	The next chapter in		

 DataRefuge Stories

In \_\_\_\_\_,  
(zip code)

I wish I had more

    
(place icon here) (place icon here) (place icon here)

data. \_\_\_\_\_

Source: <http://stories.datarefuge.org/>

# THANK YOU SO MUCH!

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