

FAQ for Steel City Codefest Participants

This document is meant to provide a general overview for of Steel City Codefest. If something is missing, please contact Sara at hello@steelcitycodefest.com

How do you select the challenges?

We had a two-month-long process where we had an open call for ideas and challenges from the nonprofit, public, and social good sector. During that time, we engaged directly with 40 organizations and sourced eight challenges. You can read about them on our website <http://steelcitycodefest.com/submit-challenge>.

What are the benefits for participating?

There are many benefits to participating in Steel City Codefest:

1. Help solve real-world challenges to help real people in Pittsburgh, **which means your participation will help generate longer-term positive impacts**
2. Meet with a few of Pittsburgh's top tech companies like Google and MAYA Design
3. Connect with leaders from the nonprofit and local government sector.
4. Food. Lots of good food and a t-shirt!
5. We are throwing a party in your honor (the Mayor will be there).

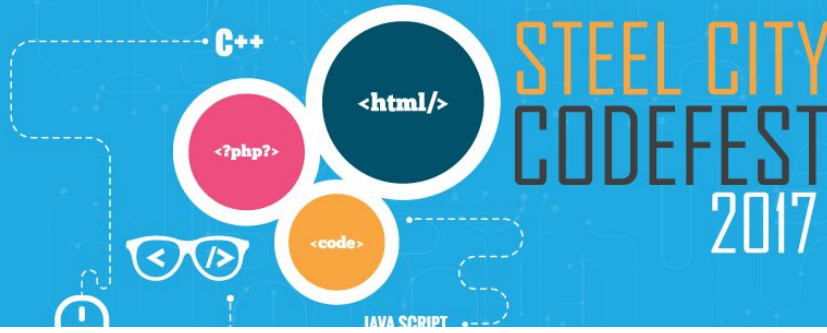
Who can participate?

Steel City Codefest is for coders, designers, techies, and innovation enthusiasts at all levels.

You can register as an individual or as a team. If you register as an individual, we've created a [Slack Channel](#) so that you can connect with others flying solo and form a team beforehand. If you are still solo at kickoff, we will make sure you find your dream team.

If you are registering as a team, you will be asked to input the names of all people on your team. You can always switch teams and substitute people.

We also welcome youth under 18 to participate with the permission of a parent or guardian. If you have questions about signing up a youth team, please contact Sara Innamorato at hello@steelcitycodefest.com



How can I find a team to join?

If you register as an individual, we've created a [Slack Channel](#) so that you can connect with others flying solo and form a team beforehand. If you are still solo at kickoff, we will make sure you find your dream team.

How much does it cost to participate?

The cost to participate in Codefest is \$10 per person. This includes your dinners at the work nights, snacks, and a really awesome T-shirt.

What is the competition schedule?

You can see the full competition schedule [here](#).

What should I bring?

You'll want a computer. We'll be providing most other things - WIFI, work stations, large post-it pads, small post-its, writing utensils, snacks, drinks, etc.

What is Codefest's policy for Intellectual Property?

Competing teams will fully own the Intellectual Property of their submissions, and will not be required to share their code or design details. Judging will happen via demonstration at the closing event. In the spirit of the competition, we encourage participants to open source their applications to the community or the appropriate Challenge Organization.

Post Codefest, teams and Challenge Organizations have the freedom to negotiate their own terms regarding IP, NDAs, equity agreements, and other financial or legal considerations.

We do reserve the right to use your application's likeness as a promotion for this or future contests.

Exception: If you are part of a team that works with one of the participating nonprofits to to apply, and are awarded grant funding for the completion of any app after the event you will be asked, through a formal contract, to allow the partner organization to use the app without restriction. This only applies to those who seek funding through our post-Codefest grant application. More details on this will be available in the grant application.



I don't think I can compete in Steel City Codefest (because of timing, skillset, etc.). How else can I help?

We'd love to have you as a volunteer. Please email Sara for more details, hello@steelcitycodefest.com

How will the apps developed be judged?

Steel City Codefest is all about community and connecting people across sectors in Pittsburgh. We still give away a few cool prizes from local places as a thank you for participating.

Your application will be evaluated using the following criteria

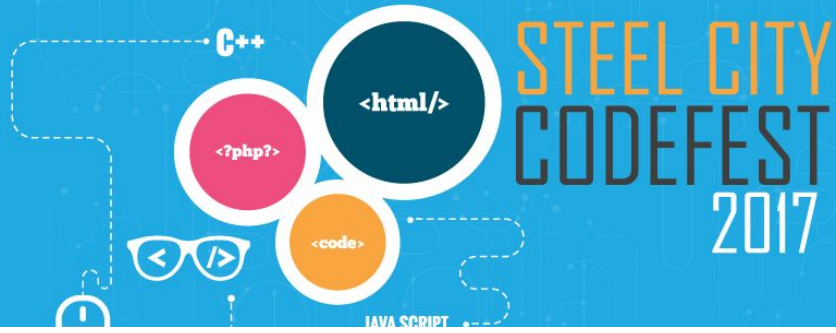
1. Design/Simplicity: Does the design allow users to easily navigate and accomplish core functionality
2. Impact: How well did you understand and execute on your challenge?
3. Technology: Is the proposed technology feasible to implement. Is it cost-effective and implementable on the scale require to be impactful.
4. People's Choice: During the App Expo at the wrap-up event, attendees will be able to vote for their favorite apps.

These criteria will be judged through the following methods: 1. All teams must submit a short form summarizing your application by Friday, April 7 at noon. 2. At the wrap-up event, teams of judges from each category will walk around and interact with your team and application. Imagine it like your high school science fair (did we mention the wrap-up event is also in an old gymnasium?)

Who should participate in Steel City Codefest?

Steel City Codefest gives everyone the opportunity to grow and learn — no matter your background or skill level.

- **Companies** and organizations are welcome to sign up teams.
- **Coders** with experience app development. Since we partner with a few of Pittsburgh's top technology firms, Codefest is a great chance to connect with these organizations.
- **Hobbyists** who code. This is great way to try something new or connect with others who also geek out



- **Students** who are studying UI/UX, CS, design or anything in between are welcomed hone your skills during Codefest. We welcome high school aged students as well. For details, email Sara at hello@steelcitycodefest.com

Who runs Steel City Codefest?

Steel City Codefest is made possible by a diverse set of community partners and sponsors.

Codefest is a project of the Urban Redevelopment Authority and the City of Pittsburgh. The Forbes Funds in partnership with the BNY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania provide the Post-Codefest grants.

2017 Sponsors include American Eagle Outfitters, Bakery Square, BNY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania, the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University, Five Star Development, Google, Innovation Works, NetApp, PNC, ShowClix, Wall-to-Wall Studios, and UPMC Enterprises.

Partners and allies include University of Pittsburgh Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR), University Library System-University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, MAYA Design, Code for Pittsburgh and Work Hard Pittsburgh.

What is the schedule for the hackathon?

Steel City Codefest Kick-off Event

Friday, March 31, 2017

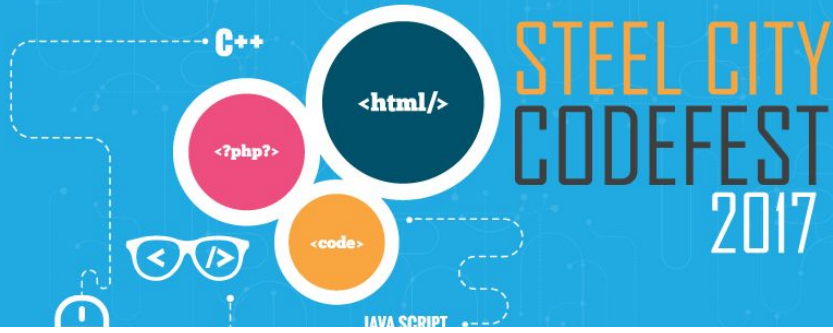
4:30PM to 12:00AM

Alloy 26 | 100 South Commons Pittsburgh, PA 15212

4:30PM Check-in Opens

4:30 - 5:30 PM Networking + Dinner

5:30 - 6:30PM Event Programming



Challenge Presentations

Human Centered Design Presentation and Activity

6:30 - 7:30 PM Teams Select Challenges

7:30PM - 12AM Work Night [optional]

Steel City Codefest Work Night [optional]

Monday, April 3, 2017

5:00PM to 12:00AM

Google | 6425 Penn Ave #700 Pittsburgh, PA 15206

5:00PM Space Opens for Participants

6:00PM Dinner is Served

12:00 AM Space Closes

Steel City Codefest Work Night + Challenge Check In

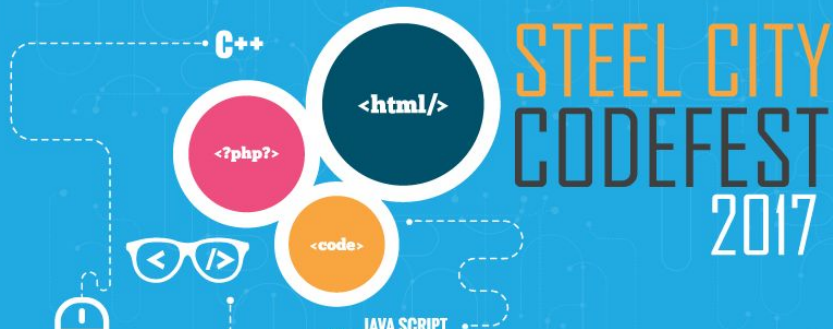
Wednesday, April 5, 2017

5:00PM to 12:00AM

MAYA Design | 4444 Liberty Ave. #1600 Pittsburgh, PA 15222

5:00PM Office Space Open

6:00PM Dinner is Served



6:15 - 7:45PM 30 minute One on Ones with Challenge Submitters

12:00AM Office Shuts Down

NextFest

Steel City Codefest + Inclusive Innovation Week Wrap-up

Friday, April 7, 2017

2:30PM to 7:00PM

Ace Hotel | 102 South Whitfield St. Pittsburgh, PA 15206

2:00PM Participant Check-in Opens

2:30PM Judge Check-in Opens

2:45-4:30PM Judges Review Apps with Teams

4:30PM Expo Open to the public + Food

5:45PM Programming Begins

Opening Remarks: Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto and
Congressman Ricky Burgess

Social Impact of Tech on Food Insecurity in Pittsburgh: Leah
Lizarondo, 412 Food Rescue

Presentation of Awards

6:45PM Programming Wraps

