

## Steel City Codefest | Code of Conduct

The planning team for Steel City Codefest is dedicated to making sure all participants have a safe, welcoming, collaborative, productive, and fun experience during the Codefest event, as well as on Codefest's digital channels, including Twitter, Facebook, and Slack. The goal of this document is not to provide you with a list of things that you cannot do, but rather a guide to make it easier to create valuable connections across the social good and technology sector that are vital to the growth of inclusive innovation in and around Pittsburgh.

We ask that in participating in Steel City Codefest, you abide by our Code of Conduct so that it can be a positive experience for all those involved. Below are the principles that we'd like to share with you all:

### Be Welcoming

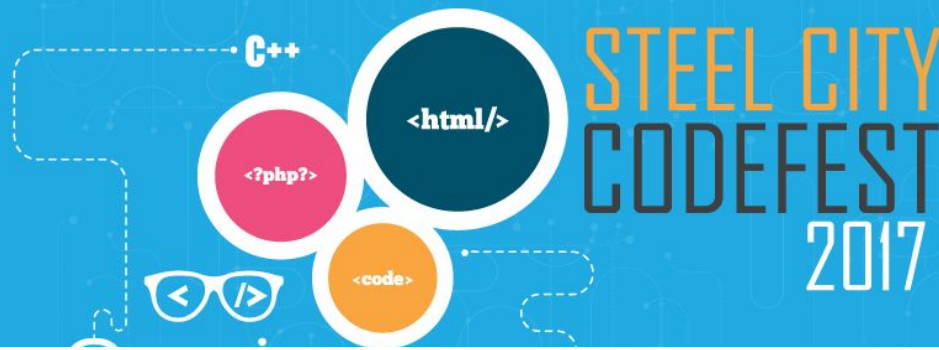
Mayor Bill Peduto has declared that [Pittsburgh is a City for all](#) and Steel City Codefest is no exception. We welcome and support people of all backgrounds, skill levels and identities, and ask that you and your teammates do the same. This includes, but is not limited to, members of any race, ethnicity, culture, national origin, color, immigration status, social and economic class, educational level, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, size, family status, political belief, religion, and mental and physical ability.

### Be Respectful + Kind

Whether it's your first time participating in a Codefest, Hackathon, or Start-up weekend, or your 100th, it's always good to remember not to focus so heavily on the result that you don't enjoy the process of making it happen.

Steel City Codefest is an event for people all of the different skill levels and approaches to meet and work together towards solving some of the area's toughest challenges. As a result, we do not expect that everybody will share the same opinion. However, we do expect that participants navigate disagreement respectfully. A place where people feel uncomfortable or threatened is not a productive one.

Additionally, we expect that members will educate others respectfully. To this end, do not assume anybody else's level of expertise or knowledge. Do not belittle a lack of information, or



insist on unnecessary precision. We are all learning, so afford others—as well as yourself—room to grow. ( part of this language was adjusted from the [DC Chapter of Code for America](#))

### **Be Understanding**

When we disagree, we try to understand why. Disagreements, both social and technical, happen all the time and Steel City Codefest is no exception. It is important that we resolve disagreements and differing views constructively. Remember that we're different. Ask questions and seek to understand before giving advice.

The strength of Steel City Codefest comes from its varied community, people from a wide range of backgrounds. Different people have different perspectives on issues. Being unable to understand why someone holds a viewpoint doesn't mean that they're wrong. Don't forget that it is human to err and blaming each other doesn't get us anywhere, rather offer to help to resolve issues and to help learn from mistakes. (Language adapted from the [Speak Up!](#) project)

### **Be Awesome**

You've signed up for Codefest, so you're already awesome in our minds. Here are a few other things to keep in mind to be even more awesome:

1. Keep the humans you are going to impact with your technology in the front of your mind. Make sure you are building, designing and innovating for them.
2. Share resources, talent, snacks, and stories. Our participants are professionals, freelancers, and tinkers. This is great opportunity to learn from and about others.
3. Communicate! Is there someway that we can be better? Let us know.

### **Thank you all for participating.**

If you'd like to contribute to the Code of Conduct, have questions, or would like to report a violation of these principles, please contact a member of our team at [hello@steelcitycodefest.com](mailto:hello@steelcitycodefest.com).