

# Your guide to

# TICTeC

from mySociety



The Impacts of Civic Technology Conference

@mysociety

#TICTeC

# Contents

What is TICTeC?	1
TICTeC 2019 Paris overview	1
What is Civic Technology?	2
Why do we host TICTeC?	3
The benefits of TICTeC	3
The impacts of TICTeC	4
Who comes to TICTeC?	6
The TICTeC timeline	7
Feedback on TICTeC	8
Sponsoring TICTeC	9



# What is TICTeC?

Hosted by UK not-for-profit organisation mySociety, 'TICTeC' is '[The Impacts of Civic Technology Conference](#)'. It's the world's only conference dedicated to exploring how civic technologies are impacting citizens, institutions and the development of digital participation around the world.

Whereas many tech conferences provide a platform for organisations showcasing new or existing digital tools or components, TICTeC is specifically focused on research. The majority of speakers will be presenting evidence-based research to demonstrate the various impacts of civic technology.

As TICTeC 2020 was forced online due to the coronavirus outbreak, please see below an overview of the last in-person TICTeC in 2019. We hope to host TICTeC again in person in 2021.

## TICTeC 2019 (Paris) conference overview



200

Attendees



76

Speakers



51%

Female speakers



35

Nationalities



5<sup>th</sup>

Consecutive year



42

Talks



10

Workshops



189

Papers submitted

TICTeC 2019 was generously supported by:



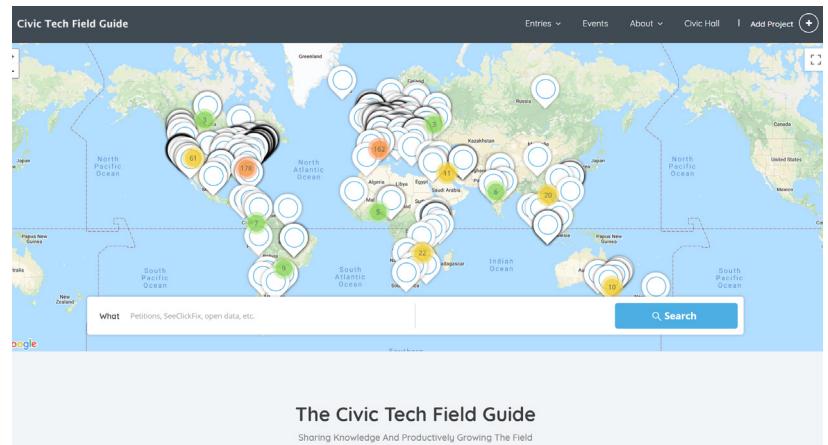
# What is Civic Technology?

The field of Civic Tech is growing across the globe, often at a grassroots level — and yet, to those outside its network, the term can be unfamiliar. You will often see ‘Civic Tech’ mentioned along with sister buzzwords like ‘smart cities’, ‘e-gov’, ‘govtech’, ‘ICT4D’ and ‘Tech For Good’, to name but a few.

Civic Tech embraces all digital tools that enable citizens to easily and effectively engage with civic life, whether that is reporting an issue to a local authority, engaging with elected representatives or monitoring the use of community assets.

At its most effective, Civic Tech can save lives, protect environments, and mobilise citizen task forces in times of crisis. At a useful if less dramatic level, it can save time and money for governments, improve neighbourhoods and keep residents informed.

Civic Tech is often — but not exclusively — built by non-profit organisations working for a better, more representative, democratic or functional society. The result is often open source ‘tech for good’ software that is free or cheap to implement.



*Check out Civic Hall's Civic Tech Field Guide to learn more about civic tech tools around the world*



# Why do we host TICTeC?

There are several existing annual conferences in which civic technology is showcased, and in which the potential for such tools to change and drive participation can be discussed, however, very few of these events include real and in-depth research into whether the potential outcomes of civic technology were realised.

Civic technology is now a mature sphere of activity, and as such, it should be scrutinising its impacts to ensure its own validity and legitimacy. That said, many civic technology organisations do not have significant resources to invest in understanding or conducting high quality research. There are, however, many researchers attached to universities, institutions and NGOs that are doing interesting research into civic technology, and wish to do more.

We created TICTeC to bridge the gap between civic tech and research – to bring two different communities together, to emphasise the importance of being able to demonstrate impact, and to share what those impacts are. TICTeC is more than an annual flagship event: it also promotes civic tech impact research and reflection in other ways, such as via the TICTeC Local conferences and the TICTeC Seminar series.

## The benefits of TICTeC

TICTeC is so much more than just helping to bring together the best minds in civic tech and digital democracy for a couple of days; it bolsters the global quality of digital democracy in the long term, solidifying an international network of digital democracy specialists armed with the skills and knowledge to instigate **real change** in how democracy can be developed and practised online, **for the benefit of citizens everywhere**.

Our post-event feedback has shown that the learning and connections made at these events has resulted in new, concrete research being conducted, new tools being developed and new research partnerships being formed (see a full list of impacts on the next page). TICTeC has been successful in shining a light onto the real-world impacts of civic technology, and it is now established in the research and civic technology community as an energising and inspiring event not to be missed.

As Stefaan Verhulst from The GovLab NYU puts it:

*“TICTeC is a crucial milestone in the development of civic tech and open government, because it takes stock of what we know, what works, and how.”*

A key element of TICTeC is that we directly provide travel and accommodation grants for key delegates, especially from underfunded organisations operating in less open countries and jurisdictions to ensure that they can attend and contribute to the conference. Our funders and supporters enable this to happen.

TICTeC matters because Civic Technologies represent the future of democratic engagement. TICTeC allows us to pause, examine what works, and, crucially, what does not — and ensures that we are all on the right path to making the world more inclusive, more equal, and more transparent.

It's one of the few opportunities for those working and interested in Civic Technology to come together in person to share experiences, knowledge, research, and code, to ensure that the wheel isn't being constantly being reinvented.

# The impacts of TICTeC

We recently asked TICTeC attendees (many of whom have attended TICTeC multiple times), if and how their attendance at TICTeC had shaped their ideas, actions and future strategies, in order to clearly determine how TICTeC has catalysed ‘real world’ impact over the last 6 years.

These impacts have been possible in large part due to sponsorship from generous organisations over the last six years, and we are excited about the further benefits we will see from TICTeC in the coming years.

We found that TICTeC has led to:

- The improvement of civic tech projects & research**
  - "Many ideas and references from these TICTeC sessions have been essential in generating the framework for my current research"*
  - "I was exposed to the research of the IDS which is proving very useful to my own work."*
  - "Each year TICTeC challenges me to rigorously consider the impact of my & my peers' work"*
- New research partnerships & collaborations**
  - "I developed a partnership with researchers at the MIT Gov/Lab because we're both regularly at TICTeC"*
  - "TICTeC has allowed us to develop a network of like-minded partners to bounce ideas off of and to partner with on our work"*
  - 
- Exposure to new thinking, ideas & projects**
  - "I learnt strategies from peers who've been operating in that context for much longer."*
  - 
  - "TICTeC exposed me to new ideas, connect with incredibly helpful people, & to generally learn about new trends from around the world."*
- New grantmaking**
  - "I connected with new funders at TICTeC that has led to grants and opportunities to submit grant proposals."*
  - 
- Exposure of work of local communities in host cities**
  - "Side events are often hosted before and after TICTeC by local organisations who are keen to take advantage of TICTeC's global audience."*

## **Work/research reaching a new & wider audience**

"I've had many colleagues get the opportunity to speak and share important research and project findings."



"At TICTeC we've gained a wider audience for our training offerings around the world"

## **Testing of new ideas & concepts**

"TICTeC has allowed us to test our ideas and concepts with thoughtful and helpful peers"

"Thanks to TICTeC we met a number of new stakeholders who have contributed to our efforts to expand our engagement with civil society"



## **Learning of latest theory & methodologies**

"Theory, broadly speaking, has been useful to absorb at TICTeC to then incorporate into my and my colleagues' work."



"It is a good space to learn from other learners of impact methods."

## **New contacts & relationships**

"The size of TICTeC has always been manageable and lends itself well to deeper conversations than huge global conferences"

"I've met other researchers who have similar styles & focal areas & we've gone on to maintain informal idea exchange type relationships."



We believe that the above impacts lead to:

**More understanding of what works & does not**

**Better digital democracy globally**

**Real change led by citizens**

**Benefits for citizens**

# Who comes to TICTeC?

Below is a sample of the organisations who regularly come to TICTeC. Here is a [full list of all organisations](#) who have previously attended TICTeC events, and here are the [individuals who attended TICTeC 2019](#).

## Attendees from organisations such as:

### Academia:



### Private sector:



### Government and inter-governmental:



### Philanthropy:



### Civil society:



## Attendees' profiles:

- Software developers
- Designers
- PhD researchers, Professors, Lecturers (mostly from social, political and computer science departments)
- UX researchers
- Data Scientists
- Founders/CTOs
- Members of parliament
- Councillors
- Mayors
- Civil servants
- CEOs
- Policy advisors



# The TICTeC timeline

TICTeC has been running for 5 years, and has grown steadily over this time.

**TICTeC 2015, London:** 1 day event, 100 delegates from 24 countries

**TICTeC 2016, Barcelona:** 1.5 day event, 140 delegates from 25 countries

**TICTeC 2017, Florence:** 2 day event, 150 delegates from 28 countries

**TICTeC@Taipei, Taiwan:** 2 day event, headline event of week long Civic Tech Fest, 270 delegates from 33 countries

**TICTeC 2018, Lisbon:** 2 day event, 160 delegates from 29 countries

**TICTeC Local, Manchester:** A spin-off event focussing specifically on civic tech at the local level, 1 day event, 120 delegates

**TICTeC 2019, Paris:** 2 day event, 200 delegates from 35 countries

**TICTeC Local 2019, London:** 140 delegates, hosted by City Hall in London

**TICTeC 2020, Online:** Moved from Reykjavik to online due to the coronavirus outbreak. 250 people from over 30 countries attended the virtual event over two days.

**TICTeC Seminars 2020:** A series of online seminars to reflect on the impacts of digital transparency and accountability mechanisms on the COVID-19 and climate crises.

## Keynote speakers have included:

- Baroness Martha Lane Fox
- Ethan Zuckerman
- Dr Shelley Boulian
- Professor Jonathan Fox
- Audrey Tang
- Dr Guy Grossman
- Tiago Peixoto
- Helen Milner OBE
- Alessandra Orofino
- James Anderson
- Nanjala Nyabola
- Dr. Hollie Russon Gilman

## Notable presenters have included:

- Oxford University
- MIT
- Harvard University
- Facebook
- The United Nations
- World Bank Group
- Google
- French parliament
- OECD
- Luminate
- Reykjavik City Council
- Change.org

For a list of all organisations who have previously attended TICTeC, see:  
[tictec.mysociety.org/sponsorship#attendees](http://tictec.mysociety.org/sponsorship#attendees)



# Feedback on TICTeC

 **Amelia Loye**  
@Emotivate 

Facebook team say #tictec is the most important conference in the world for #civitech Nice work @mysociety

16 1:09 PM - Apr 25, 2017 · Florence, Tuscany 

---

 See Amelia Loye's other Tweets 

*“TICTeC is the most important Civic Tech conference in the world, and is the only conference I travel for”*

**Samidh Chakrabarti, Facebook**

*"I have met so many inspiring people (my Society team included of course) who helped me to figure out how to improve my research."*

Maria Zuffova, University of Strathclyde

*“Fantastic conference! I had several very fruitful conversations and an attentive and inquisitive audience for my talk, which is all you can ask for. Thank you for giving me a chance to speak. I hope to make this conference a staple of my travels every year.”*

**Erhardt Graeff, MIT Center for Civic Media**

*“One metric of measuring the impact of a meaningful conference is the conversation test: where you’re talking to someone having a great conversation, but you’re also within earshot of several other great conversations happening, and you want to be part of all of them. That’s TICTeC.”*

**Matt Stempeck, Microsoft**

*“There really isn’t another conference I would choose to attend over TICTeC.”*

John Webb, Google

*“I just wanted to say thanks again for putting on the only conference I really value :)"*

**Kate Krontiris, Researcher and Strategist**

*“TICTeC 2018 was also one of the most diverse conferences I’ve ever attended, not just in terms of gender, but also in terms of representativeness of regions of the world, plus a great variety of professional profiles and backgrounds.”*

Luisa Izuzquiza, Access Info Europe

*"I think [TICTeC] is the best concentration of practitioners, academics and thinkers in this field that I've come across anywhere. It's only halfway through the first day and I've already been inspired and had my thoughts provoked, and I can't wait for the rest of it."*

## **Fran Perrin, CEO, Indigo Trust**

*"I generally feel that there are far too many events in our field and not nearly enough practical outcomes as a result, but TICTeC is very much the exception. Already I look forward to next year's event and to the forthcoming research that emerges in the interim."*

**David Sasaki, Hewlett Foundation**

*"At conferences on open data and civic tech you often hear people discuss 'This is the project I'm working on' - I think TICTeC stands out as an example where it's about the lessons learnt rather than the activities. The focus on 'This is the impact we've uncovered by doing this project' sets TICTeC apart."*

Andrew Young, GovLab @ NYU

# Sponsoring TICTeC

## Previous sponsors:



TICTeC brings together the world's best Civic Technology researchers, practitioners and funders — but as a charity we can't do it without financial support. Our total budget for our flagship TICTeC event is around \$80,000.

## Sponsorship opportunities for the next TICTeC:

### Gold: \$40,000

- Your chance to lead a plenary session of up to 1 hour during the conference
- Pre-conference interviews on the mySociety blog, promoted via our extensive social networks, newsletters and mailing lists
- Banners (provided by the sponsor) in all three conference rooms and corridors where appropriate
- Space at the conference venue to assemble a promotional display
- Six (6) free TICTeC tickets for staff
- Two (2) places at the VIP pre-conference dinner
- Social media announcement when sponsorship is confirmed

### Silver: \$20,000

- Guaranteed 20 minute speaking slot during the breakout sessions
- Your branding / logo / company url on all conference materials, conference website and promotional media
- Banner (if provided) in main conference room
- Space at the conference venue to assemble a promotional display
- Four (4) free TICTeC tickets for staff
- One (1) places at the VIP pre-conference dinner
- Social media announcement when sponsorship is confirmed

### Bronze: \$10,000

- Guaranteed 20 minute speaking slot during the breakout sessions
- Your branding / logo / company url on all conference materials, conference website and promotional media
- Two (2) free TICTeC tickets for staff
- One (1) places at the VIP pre-conference dinner
- Social media announcement when sponsorship is arranged

## Guaranteed speaking slot: \$6,000



- Guaranteed 20 minute speaking slot during the breakout sessions, meaning you won't need to compete against the hundreds of other submissions we receive through the open Call for Proposals
- Ticket price waived for the speaker
- Fee goes towards travel grants for attendees and speakers from the Global South who would not be able to attend TICTeC without financial support.

## Drinks reception sponsor: \$5,000



- Ten minute speaking slot during the drinks reception
- Your branding / logo / company url on all conference materials, conference website and promotional media
- Logo displayed during the drinks reception
- Your promotional materials displayed on tables during drinks reception (provided by sponsor)
- Social media announcement when sponsorship is confirmed
- One (1) free TICTeC ticket for staff

## Travel grantee sponsor: \$2,000



To make TICTeC as diverse as possible we need sponsors to help with travel costs to allow attendees to attend from all across the world.

- Your branding / logo / company url on all conference materials, conference website and promotional media
- Social media announcement when sponsorship is confirmed

If you have ideas for additional sponsorship benefits that are not listed, we would be happy to discuss how we can accommodate those. We are also happy to discuss the creation of bespoke sponsorship packages. Please get in touch with Gemma Moulder to discuss further: [gemma@mysociety.org](mailto:gemma@mysociety.org)

## Sponsorship opportunities for TICTeC Seminars 2020:

From September to November 2020, we'll be hosting a [series of seminars](#) to reflect on the impacts of civic technology when tackling the COVID-19 and climate crises. Panellists from around the world will come together for these timely and important discussions, followed by optional networking sessions to connect the global community interested in these topics. If you're interested in sponsoring these global dialogues then please get in touch with Gemma Moulder to discuss further: [gemma@mysociety.org](mailto:gemma@mysociety.org)