Civic Hacking

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Civic Hacking

building apps to help local government connect with citizens
- BYU Open Source Lab

helping cities create 21st century interfaces to government that are simple, beautiful and easy to use

Code for America

▶ Jennifer Pahlka TED Talk

quick cheap simple

beautiful

open



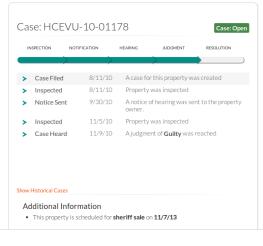






1708 ST ROCH AVE + WATCHLIST







Search for more information via the Orleans Parish Assessor's website

Common Questions

> If I have information about a property, how can I get it to the City?

View All Questions >

Data Sources

Data in BlightStatus comes from:

. City of New Orleans Permits &



Welcome To

HONOLULU ANSWERS

Find answers to your questions about Honolulu city services.

Try driver license, jobs, or registration...

SEARCH

Most Popular Categories:

Animals

What do I do about wild roosters? - How do I register my dog for a license tag?



Welcome, let's get started.

Make staying prepared for wildfire fun and easy.

Already a user? Log in here.

take the tour Create an account

In 2011, over 1300 homes were destroyed in Bastrop County due to wildfire.

We don't want that to happen to you. We've developed an easy-to-use application that brings together a variety of checklists and fire tools, and gives them to you in a manageable, timely, and actionable form. Get to know Prepared ly a little better by checking out our video. We're brought to you by the City of Austin and Code for America, and we're here to help you stay wore prepared for wildfire.



Prepared.ly from Code for America on Vimeo.



An interactive analysis of crime in Chicago's 50 wards (beta)



1. Select year

2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 **2012** 2013

2. Select wards

Choose one or more wards to see crime data. Selections will appear below. More info »

Height = no. of crimes

ter an address or an intersection... Find my ward



3. Compare



Darker squares indicate higher volume of crime.

Clear all

Select a ward above or search by address to see details.





Meet Textizen

Open civic dialogue to new participants with a powerful mix of offline outreach and online engagement.

We're citizen feedback for the digital age.

What is Textizen?

How it works

Outreach

Interested?



Looking to hear from your community? Textizen can help.

Our platform for text-message surveys empowers communities to reach residents where they are. Now anyone with an opinion and a minute can join the civic dialogue.

. Match our story in one animated minute



A NEW KIND OF PUBLIC SERVICE

By the People, For the People, For the 21st Century

ABOUT | PROGRAMS | FELLOWS | CITIES | APPS | BLOG | DONATE | GET INVOLVED

WHERE'S MY SCHOOL BUS?

← PREV APP ALL APPS

Where's My School Bus? is a location information app allowing parents to track their child's bus in real time.

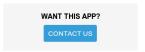
Built during the 2011 Fellowship year for the City of Boston by Joel Mahoney, Karla Macedo and Talin Salway, Where's My School Bus offers real-time school bus tracking for parents.

A student's bus is displayed on a detailed map, showing both its recent and current location. Waiting at the stop for a late bus? Blizzard got traffic moving at a crawl? Use your smartphone or computer to instantly check the bus location. Tracking your student's bus has never been easier, faster or more accurate.









NEXT APP →

OVERVIEW



Where's My School Bus? is a location information app allowing parents to track their child's bus in real time.

https://schoolbus.bostonpublicschools.org/

CREATED BY

2011 Fellows Joel Mahoney, Karla Macedo and Talin Salway for the City of Boston

To try the app visit schoolbus.bostonpublicschools.org.

- really vibrant space
- lots of excitement about open government
- big on open source and startups
- opportunities
 - Open City Apps
 - ► Code for America
 - Sunlight Foundation OpenGov Grants
 - Knight Foundation Tech for Engagement

BYU Open Source Lab





Citizen Budget

Open Finances - Open Source

A beautiful home page



A page for each fund



Explore details of each fund

Citizen Budget

- started with a Code for America project, had students customize it, eventually rewrote it
- deployed at budget.cedarhills.org
- plans to improve it
 - write a Javascript front end with Angular or Ember
 - enable staff to edit explanations on each page
 - allow user comments and responses from staff
 - write additional converters for municipal budget packages
 - possibly convert into SaaS, charge cities for storage

The Next App

- customer service portal
 - resident takes a photo, enters complaint in Smart Phone app
 - begins a dialogue with city staff as they work on fixing the problem
 - problems marked Open, Working, Closed
- staff uses web app and phones to track progress of customer service items
- report track record to mayor on a weekly/monthly basis
- ▶ Citizens Connect (Boston)
- ServiceTracker for City of Chicago
- Open311.org
- GitHub

The Next App

- digital feedback
 - city posts short, targeted questions on current agenda items
 - what should the curfew be for city parks?
 - residents can provide feedback, vote each other up or down
 - similar to Textizen, but via smartphone app, more interactive
- council can use feedback to guide decisions

Framework

- design an open source framework for city apps
 - hosted in one place instead of tens of different apps
 - plugin architecture so cities can activate different apps on demand
 - hostable or SaaS
- the Wordpress for civic hacking

Vision

Vision

- BYU Open Source Lab hosts R&D for city apps
 - joint research with Political Science, Digital Arts, Computer Science to study citizen engagement through deployed apps
 - funding via Sunlight Foundation, Knight Foundation, others
- collaboration with developer community through Code for America Brigade
 - organize a hack night that meets at least once a month
 - foster a relationship with a local government partner
- can stay open source, can get help to transition to a startup
 - Textizen
 - BlightStatus → Civic Insight
 - ullet Honolulu Answers o Department of Better Technology

Who Wants to Help Out?

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