

Your Role in Fostering a Data-Driven Community

Wednesday morning, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

One of the roles of local data intermediaries is to enhance the data capacities of other institutions and promote a culture of learning and collaboration. The services of NNIP Partners are critical, but not sufficient, to ensure a widespread culture of using data to improve communities. Places also need data-savvy nonprofits, governments committed to open data and informed decisionmaking, and philanthropy committed to investing in community information infrastructure. If communities do not articulate all the components required to support the use of community information, they miss the opportunity to take full advantage of the existing siloed efforts, see new points of alignment, identify gaps, and make the case for more investment. This long-term effort will unfold differently in each place, but all NNIP Partners are well-positioned to help convey the vision for a data-driven community and facilitate communication among the varied players.

The purpose of this session is to encourage Partners to imagine what a data-driven culture would look like in their cities and consider what roles they could play in service of reaching that goal.

Kathy Pettit (Urban Institute) will introduce and moderate the panel. We will ask each meeting participant to take a few minutes to use the handout provided at your table to reflect on about your own community.

The speakers will then talk about 10 minutes each:

- *Laura McKieran* at CI:Now will describe the information environment in San Antonio that motivated governments, funders, and nonprofits to form the Alamo Regional Data Alliance and the vision they have developed together.
- *April Urban* at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, will share how her thinking has evolved about the role of the Poverty Center through active outreach to other research and civic tech organizations over the past three years.

Following Laura's and April's remarks, we will give participants about 10 to 15 minutes to discuss these ideas at your table. We will end the session with plenary discussion.

Discussion:

- What did this illuminate about your community information system?
 - Where is the environment rich?
 - Where are there holes?
 - What did this make you think about in terms of your organization's role plugging the holes?
- What are other examples of activities that NNIP Partners can undertake to improve the knowledge about and connectivity among various community information players?
- Are there activities or materials that the network can produce to help local Partners and other organizations understand the necessary components to create and support a data-driven community?

Resources:

Alamo Regional Data Alliance: <http://cinow.info/data-planning/>

CTRL-ATL-CLE Data Days: <http://datadayscle.org/2017/>