The Next Generation of Open Data

Thursday morning 9:00 – 10:45 a.m.

Since our first "NNIP and Open Data" panel five years ago, the goals of open data around the country are moving beyond just the number of files released to how useful those files are to various audiences, including those inside local government. People also recognize that *only* making data available in electronic formats online is not sufficient to maximize the use of the data for the benefit of communities. Every place needs to boost capacity in multiple sectors to have government staff with the capacity to identify how the data can be used to improve planning and operations, a vibrant civic tech community that can uncover opportunities to visualize and share the data with the public, a private sector to add value through apps and websites, and local data intermediaries to use the files as a source of raw material for creating indicators and conducting analysis. NNIP partners have also advanced open data locally. Two of our partners (in Pittsburgh and Detroit) have open data portals and many other partners improved the accessibility of data on their own websites.

The purpose of this session is to learn how NNIP partners can help to make open data more relevant for local communities in order to address pressing issues and to advocate for better open data practices in their local governments.

The session will be moderated by Laura Meixell (Analytics and Strategy Manager from the City of Pittsburgh) who will begin by sharing thoughts on the city's collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh. Each of the presenters will then speak for 10 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of moderated questions and plenary discussion.

- *Bob Gradeck* from the University of Pittsburgh will suggest ways that the NNIP partners can support local governments' open data efforts in order to improve the access to data needed to address community issues and share examples from the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center and other cities.

- *Seema Iyer* from the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance will discuss how they collaborate with the government to support the city's open data efforts and engage stakeholders in ensuring access.

- *Joy Bonaguro,* Chief Data Officer for the City and County of San Francisco, will describe her efforts to prioritize their open data efforts based on the potential outcomes for the city and build the capacity of staff within city agencies to use the data they produce.

Discussion: (45 minutes)

- What are ways that NNIP partners can support the efforts of their local governments in opening up data valuable to the community?
- What advice would you give to NNIP partners whose cities or counties have not launched an open data portal?
- What should NNIP do as a network related to open data for local decisionmaking?

Resources from Speakers:

- SF OpenData: https://data.sfgov.org/
- Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center http://www.wprdc.org/
- BNIA data on the Baltimore Open Data Portal: https://data.baltimorecity.gov/browse?q=bnia
- Vital Signs Data Downloads: http://bniajfi.org/vital_signs/data_downloads/

Other Resources:

- NNIP and Open Data (cross-site and local materials) http://www.neighborhoodindicators.org/activities/projects/nnip-and-open-data
- US City Open Data Census: http://us-city.census.okfn.org/
- CityCamp: http://citycamp.com/