**NNIPCamp Dallas**

Session 1: Wednesday 10/22/2015, 1:30-2:30pm

Location: Griffin

Session Title: Opening up your data

Organizer: Brian Karfukel

Primary Notetaker: Erica Raleigh

Brian, from the Furman Center, wonders is there is a way to put our data on a “thing” to start freeing up data stored at the Center; How are NNIP partners making choices about how to disseminate data online?

Participants:

* Jessie Partidge - Metro Area Planning Council in Boston: data platform, was on WEAVE, tried CKAN, had trouble
* Chris Whitaker - Code for America
* Natalie Young - University of Utah; had WEAVE, not fully set up to make data easy to download; geo-server started, but not fully maintaining it
* Gary Painter and Richard Parks - USC Price Center for Social Innovation; seeking answers and strategy
* Katherine - Harvard School
* Oscar Villarreal - NJ; trying to figure this out
* John - Rutgers Newark; center gets a lot of requests for data, reports, etc.; always looking for ways to make that more accessible
* Omar Rivers - Office of Info and Tech at Newark; partnered with Rutgers to develop a CKAN platform; doing digital data collection now
* Audrey Spiegel - Atlanta Regional Commission; Neighborhood Nexus available built on WEAVE; AGO for shape files
* Bernice Butler - Data Quality Campaign; learning how to teach open data to school districts without violating student privacy
* Noah Urban - Data Driven Detroit; ESRI open data portal connects to AGO, brings in data from other open data portals
* April Urban - Cleveland; suite of applications to open data up in Cleveland, raw to aggregated
* Clarence Wardell - Police Data Initiative; working with 26 jurisdictions to open up their data; providing TA to help departments navigate
* Charlotte-Anne Lucas - NOWCastSA; do a lot of mapping; partner a lot with CINow, who is using WEAVE
* Bob Gradeck - Univ of Pittsburgh; just launched a regional data center (legal and tech infrastructure for publishing data)
* Joel Stewart - ProvPlan; data hub to store data for various agencies, some of it is accessible to the public
* Zachary Szczepaniak - UNC Charlotte Urban Institute - county level and school data in Tableau
* Alexis Harper - UT; storing and analyzing data from a bunch of different organizations, try to connect this groups when they should be making connections; does a lot of work with crime-related data, which can be more sensitive datasets for release

**Questions arising from the table**

* Do you hire internally?
* Do you partner?
* ESRI or boutique? What’s the advantage or disadvantage of either direction?
* What is shareable? How do you document?
* What is the nature of the data? Static? Dynamic?

**Helpful Tips**

* Figure out pricing models before choosing a tool
* Remember you can’t meet all needs with one or even several tools
* Different geographic levels, making it possible for custom geo selections by users

**Process** (how, who, what)

* How do you help people figure out what it is they actually want - seems to be the biggest hurdle in users accessing information and requires a human touch
* Legal framework, privacy concerns
* Technology is easy, it’s the legal framework that’s the challenge
* Figure out your user needs first (attend hackathons, be present among the community you are trying to serve)
* Understand your audience, don’t make it so hard on yourself
* Policy relevance
* What are people using as base geographies?
* Metadata - many existing schemas out there, tap library science folks, or call Bob Gradeck

**Tools**

* DAT “GitHub for data”
* DataCats will host for a minimal amount per month
* CKAN
  + Jessie’s org got to the point of having a data catalogue and metadata, had to hire someone for additional customization
  + Set up can be challenging
* DKAN
* WEAVE
* CartoDB
  + Quick choropleths, but not fully customizable
  + If you have a lot of layers it can get really expensive; can pay for
* Open Data Soft
* Socrata
* ESRI
* Tableau

**Next Steps / Action Items**

* Bob - share the list of questions: <https://t.co/crF4nFJOCD>
* Erica - reach out to Spike for CKAN supports?
* Erica - talk to Leah/Kathy about getting a survey question added for partners to identify specific platforms/tools in use at their orgs
* Anyone working in economic development; safety and justice; health - get in touch with Christopher Whitaker to get on the Slack channel
* Also check out <http://www.wprdc.org/>
* ANYTHING ELSE???

For the Data Driven Detroit Due Diligence Investigation from the Network: <https://drive.google.com/a/d-acis.org/file/d/0BwxRHdfKQ62GU1pRWmpLZnJQQkk/view?usp=sharing>