

**IDEA SHOWCASE**

May 22, 2014

1. **Design-a-thon: Generating Solutions for Community Issues (and possible other topics)**

*Bob Gradeck, UCSUR (Pittsburgh)*

Summary: Possible topics include: Design-a-thon to design approaches to address a variety of community issues; focus on tactical urbanism, contestational politics, direct citizen action, community organizing; additional topics include liberating data from smaller municipalities.

1. **Exploring affordable housing and residential tax revenue sharing**

*Jeff Matson, CURA (Twin Cities)*

Summary: We are calculating the savings high income earners realize from the mortgage interest deduction compared to the amount of affordable housing assistance in low income neighborhoods. Related to this is a new study we're starting this summer on residential property tax revenue sharing. What would it look like to take a portion of the property tax from high value houses (> $300,000) and put it into an affordable housing production fund?

1. **Metadata tracking system**

*Greg Sanders, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago (Alumni)*

Summary: Chapin Hall is considering the feasibility of creating an open-source full-lifecycle metadata tracking system, tentatively named Metadash (see <http://bit.ly/1gfFdOB>). Government, non-profit and academic institutions could freely download the Metadash code base and install it on their network to track information about their data holdings. The metadata life cycle begins when when a request is received or a need arises for data that--at this early stage--might be imprecise.

Metadata tracking follows a predictable path:

* A data request or need is refined until it is possible to search for available “candidate” data sets to fulfill the need.
* Available data sets are evaluated for quality, difficulty of processing, cost, sustainability and good fit.
* Data sets that meet applicable criteria are acquired, evaluated in more detail and documented.
* Extract-transform-load (ETL) processes begin, with cleaning, geocoding, aggregation and other transformations coded and documented.
* Finished data tables are documented at the database, table and column levels through human-crafted narrative and automated digital processes. The resulting metadata can be viewed by partners or the general public (if appropriate).
* The desired data elements are made available via a data warehouse, open data portal, APIs or other dissemination methods.
* The metadata that has been tracked in this system can be linked to other metadata documentation by means of meta tags, semantic web technologies or other linkages.
* Our goal is to make it easy to track details about both the data and the process. This project will build on the success of the CIty of Chicago’s Metalicious data dictionary platform, which is maintained here at Chapin Hall.
1. **Vision Six.One.Four: A Community Visioning Process**

*Aaron Schill, Community Research Partners (Columbus)*

Summary: If the young professionals of Columbus designed their ideal neighborhood, what would it look like? Community Research Partners, in partnership with The Ohio State University, developed Vision Six.One.Four, a community visioning project to answer this exact question through the Create Columbus Grant Program. The project: (1) brought together a large number of young professionals to engage in a creative visioning workshop, (2) systematically collected large amounts of qualitative data identifying the types of housing, entertainment, retail, green space, and transportation options preferred by young professionals, and (3) resulted in the creation of a report and website that communicate specific, implementable ideas to the development community and local leaders.

1. **Creating Social Capital Indicators**

*Eleanor Tutt, Rise (St. Louis)*

Summary: We have been talking with Cleveland about measuring social capital of neighborhoods. How can we capture this important, but intangible characteristic?

1. **Regional Neighborhood Delineation Project**

*Mingming Zhang, The Piton Foundation (Denver)*

Summary: The Piton Foundation's Data Initiative has a long, successful history of providing community information. Two of the program's main tools, Community Facts and School Facts, allow visitors to find information and perform basic analysis on Denver’s neighborhoods and schools. Although these applications were considered technologically advanced when they were launched on Piton's website in 2004, they have since become outdated. The Data Initiative recently announced that it is launching a new Community Facts tool with a regional focus. Through this project, the Data Initiative will develop a classification scheme, analyzing quantitative data with statistical process and spatial analysis to delineate neighborhoods’ boundaries for the remainder of the seven-county Denver region. This regional neighborhood layer will serve as the reporting unit in the new Community Facts, allowing the Data Initiative to continue its history of communicating information in easy-to-understand visuals while reaching an expanded regional community.