# IGNITE SESSIONS

Thursday morning, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

These 5-minute presentations give a lightning-quick overview of a project or technology.

**Using Widgets to Responsibly Disseminate ACS Data**

Publishing high demand ACS data like income and poverty at the neighborhood level has been vexing because of the high margins of error associated with the 5-year ACS records. To help users understand and use this data appropriately, we innovated a widget that allows users to test whether two data points are statistically different at the 90th percentile and another widget to help users combine multiple data points and their associated margin of error. We combined these with simple instructions on how to write about this 5-year averaged data in grant proposals. User testing allowed us to refine the format and language to optimize usability. The new data pages and widgets were launched in mid-June and have enjoyed 175 unique visits per day and nearly 1,250 unique visits per week.

*Ben Horwitz, Greater New Orleans Community Data Center*

**From CSV to Web App in 300 Seconds?  How About 30...**

Using ArcGIS.com and free web hosting tools, you can create simple effective web maps in just minutes. Embed your maps in websites and blogs or share via social networking, and even create professional-looking map applications with no software to install or servers to maintain.

*Jeff Matson, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs*

**Lessons Learned from Experiments in PostGIS**

For years, RHCDA has stored our data primarily in ArcGIS geodatabases for two main reasons: ArcGIS file formats are widely understood by our partners, and the net benefits of moving to a solution like PostGIS were uncertain.  Recently, in order to gain a better understanding of our options, we’ve transferred some of our data to PostGIS.  This presentation will cover what factors pushed us to shake up the status quo and the challenges and rewards thus far.

*Eleanor Tutt, Regional Housing and Community Development Alliance*

**Who Moves to Lawrenceville, and Why**

The Lawrenceville New Resident Survey was conducted to provide community leaders with an understanding of the factors driving recent change in Pittsburgh's Lawrenceville neighborhood. Two mail surveys were conducted in the summer of 2011: a survey of those who recently moved to Lawrenceville, and a survey of those who moved away. The survey results are now being used to guide housing and development strategies, and to inform resident attraction and retention efforts in Lawrenceville.

*Bob Gradeck, Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System*

**Capital Bikeshare: An “Open Data” Success Story**

Capital Bikeshare is a bicycle sharing system that operates around the Washington, DC area. Thanks to the efforts of bicyclists and data analysts alike, Capital Bikeshare opened their nearly full set of records to the public. These data files, which comprise millions of records about bicycle trips, have opened up exciting opportunities for analysts to understand the nuances of the Capital Bikeshare system and bicycling in Washington, DC. The release is a success in the broader “open data” movement.

*Rob Pitingolo, The Urban Institute*

**A Map App for Every Occasion**

With all of the cool open source development going on, it is easy to forget that some of ESRI’s proprietary solutions provide critical tools for some situations. One of these solutions- ArcGIS Server with Flexviewer- is particularly robust and not all that hard to implement. This Ignite Talk will chronicle ProvPlan’s successful experience implementing this technology through the Healthy Housing Mapper and other applications.

*Jim Lucht, The Providence Plan*

**Pittsburgh Regional Quality of Life Survey:**

The University Center for Social and Urban Research at the University of Pittsburgh conducted a Quality of Life Survey in the summer-fall 2011. Covering ten domains, including housing and neighborhoods, public safety, transportation, and satisfaction and happiness, this IGNITE session will report on Quality of Life results as linked to indicators in the Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System (PNCIS). Clear differences emerge by race and age of respondent on a number of features of neighborhood conditions and the built environment.

*Sabina Deitrick, Pittsburgh Neighborhood and Community Information System*

**DIY Data: If You Can’t Find What You Need, Collect It Yourself**

Given the inherent limitations of administrative data sets and the cutbacks to the U.S. Census, widely accessible technologies—such as mobile phones—can provide interesting and powerful ways to capture data ourselves.  Urban Strategies Council recently released a report chronicling the rise of speculator activity in the post-foreclosure housing market in Oakland.  Given the absence of property condition data in the city, we determined that the only way to find out what was happening on the ground was to create our own dataset.   We developed a property condition survey for deployment on an Android-based mobile phone using Open Data Kit—an open source suite of tools created for survey design, data collection, and data aggregation.  Research staff at Urban Strategies Council fanned out across Oakland and surveyed over 300 acquisitions of the top two foreclosure investors in Oakland, the results of which formed a key piece of the subsequent analysis and report.

*Steve King, Urban Strategies Council*

**Atlanta’s "Neighborhood Corner"**

Neighborhood Nexus has a new tool and is inviting Atlantans to come hang out in the corner - Neighborhood Corner. Neighborhood Corner is intended to help activists share the story of their community with like-minded individuals, communities and the region at large. Marrying stories with some of the data that is available on the Neighborhood Nexus website brings a sharper focus to the messages we want to convey. It also gives a place for others to learn from the experiences a community has gone through. Whether those experiences are positive (receiving a grant to build a playground), negative (school closing) or just plain fun (community events), Neighborhood Corner helps citizens be heard.

*Tahmida Shamsuddin, Neighborhood Nexus*

**MAPC Data Services Showcase 2012**

Learn about what MAPC has been up to this year…

*Christian Spanring, Metropolitan Area Planning Council*