**IGNITE SHOWCASE**

Wednesday morning, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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

**Harvesting Online Housing Ads for Local Rent Surveys**

Conducting a local rent survey has historically been a costly and time-consuming undertaking. Today, we have combined online tools with simple programming techniques to harvest large volumes of online housing advertisements at a very low cost. These ads can be used to create point-in-time snapshots of rents at small-level geographies; and because the process is automated, rental ads are continuously harvested, allowing for sophisticated time-series analysis down the road. We’ve only scratched the surface of what can be done with this exciting new data.

*Rob Pitingolo, The Urban Institute*

**Charlotte’s Quality of Life Report: Connecting Community to Data**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Quality of Life Study is an ongoing neighborhood benchmarking initiative that began in 1993.  The 2012 update greatly enhanced its utility, taking a printed version of 20 variables covering 173 neighborhoods to a robust web based format to track 80 variables in 8 dimensions for 464 neighborhoods in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.   It is now open sourced for data analysis, links to additional resources, and links to additional information.  This ignite session will give a quick overview of the product.  http://maps.co.mecklenburg.nc.us/qoldashboard/.

*Tom Warshauer, City of Charlotte*

**The Clumper: Finding Needles in a Property Haystack**

Parcels in the inventory or heading to the inventory of a public entity such as a municipal or county land bank are often clustered in large aggregations also known as “clumps.” Decades of demolition and landbanking in the City of Cleveland have created opportunities for redevelopment, urban agriculture, storm water management, etc. However, the “clumps” that exist in land banks do not have a single boundary. Instead, they are made up of dozens of typical small residential lots. The “Clumper” is a tool that allows users to identify land aggregations that suit their size requirements that are in land bank control and on the way to a land bank. This tool is also being used to grow land aggregations by identify parcels landbank eligible (tax delinquent) that are adjacent to existing “clumps”.

*Mike Schramm, Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development*

**Responding to Superstorm Sandy: Finding Underrepresented Vulnerable Communities**

As the first tranche of CDBG Disaster Relief funding was allocated following Superstorm Sandy, we noticed that New Jersey’s plan was seemingly undercounting rental households affected by the storm. Fair Share Housing New Jersey asked the Furman Center to reach slightly outside of our geographic comfort zone and help them use data to make a case for allocating more of the recovery funding to rental housing. Using our analysis, HUD required that New Jersey shift $75 million from owner-occupied housing to rental housing. This is the story of how we made that case to HUD.

*Max Weselcouch, Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy*

**Using Data to Help With Organizational Planning**

Many times the data collected for administrative and statistical purposes does not make it to the community-based and grass-roots organizations that could benefit from the insight it provides. These organizations make strategic and tactical decisions, often with a less than optimal set of information. In this presentation we detail several examples of local initiatives in North Texas aimed at help organizations with data-driven decision making.

*Tim Bray, Institute for Urban Policy Research*

**Private Market Rental Data: The Final Frontier?**

For many of us there have long been data just outside of our grasp. In the Twin Cities, requests for data and analysis on rental markets were a near impossibility until now. Working with a local non-profit affordable housing intermediary and data partner, we now receive quarterly rental listings by type, size, and cost, for the entire metro. Where do these data come from? What attributes are included? And how are they used? Come find out as we boldly go where no local researchers have gone before...

*Jeff Matson, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs*

**Do Suburbs Have Neighborhoods?**

Do suburbs have neighborhoods? What are neighborhoods, anyway? And how would we know if suburbs had them? Hartford, Connecticut is a small (and shrinking) city, linked with a network of suburbs that range from small cities to rural hamlets. An increasingly small share of our region’s population lives in the city, and poverty has been increasing in inner-ring suburbs. Both the labor market and the education system are regional in nature – workers, parents and students all travel between city and suburbs. If our unit of analysis for urban issues is ‘the neighborhood,’ how can we bring that same analysis to other towns that may share historically urban issues? In this presentation we will review how the Hartford region has changed over time, what it means to be a neighborhood and how different perspectives define neighborhoods in our region.

*Scott Gaul, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving*

**Decision Making with Data: Using GPP Indicators in Public Policy Decision Making**

Greater Portland Pulse is a regional indicators project designed to give policy makers access to quality data, tracked over time. Concerned that some policy makers are unsure of how to use GPP, we are designing a Policy User’s Manual and a series of trainings. The manual and trainings will provide a brief overview of what GPP delivers for users by way of consistent, reliable and current data sources. It will also include case studies and instructions for using the Pulse in policy processes.

*Liza Morehead, Greater Portland Pulse*

**The Digital Atlas of American Religion**

The Digital Atlas of American Religion (DAAR) is a GIS website of historical religion and census data allowing users to visualize the data in many different formats including maps, charts, treemaps, cartograms, and Google motion charts.  Religion and census years cover 1890 – 2010 creating the ability to study changes in religion and demographics over time.  Maps of the entire U.S. by state and county can be created showing predominant religion and counts of adherents/members/congregations of religious families or specific denominations.

DAAR is a product of the Virtual Center for Spatial Humanities, a collaboration among The Polis Center at Indiana University Purdue University-Indianapolis (IUPUI), Florida State University, and West Virginia University.

*Jay Colbert*, *The Polis Center*