From: Code for Asheville <code4asheville=gmail.com@mail214.atl61.mcsv.net>
Sent: 6/12/2017 10:48:22 AM
To: ejackson@ashevillenc.gov
Cc:
Subject: [Test] 6/8 Community Night: MS + Moving forward

News, updates, and announcements from Code for Asheville

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Code for America Executive Director Jen Pahlka Joins Us on 7/13!

Jen Pahlka, the founder and executive director of Code for America, will be joining us for our July 13 Community Night! In addition to her role at Code for America, Jen recently served as the U.S. Deputy Chief Technology Officer in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where she architected and helped found the United States Digital Service.

Jen is visiting us to talk with **you**. She told us she would love to "hear about any projects, and [would] love to talk to people in Code for Asheville about what motivates them and what we should be doing to help all volunteers."

Please RSVP for this one so we can make sure we have enough space and pizza for everyone.

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Check out the rest of what's happening below, including an update from our last Community Night, an opportunity to help set the direction of Code for Asheville in the future, and our latest appearance in national media!

Upcoming events

Monthly Planning Meetup
Our next brigade planning meeting is on Tuesday, June 20, at 5:30pm at the Battery Park Book Exchange. RSVP here.

Monthly Community Meetup
Our next monthly community meetup will be at 5:30pm on July 13th at TBD. We'll post details on Meetup as soon as they are available. RSVP on Meetup.

6/8 Community Night Report

Middle School Inventors

The evening kicked off with a demo of the MIT App Inventor platform that our presenter, Kathryn Bradley, uses to teach computer science at Clyde A. Erwin Middle School. The platform lets students quickly build apps and test them in real time on Android tablets, but also lets them deliver the final product for download on other devices.

But the kids are learning more than how to program - they are learning how to develop solutions using software. In each 9-week section, students learn to brainstorm app ideas, do user research, formulate user stories, do the app design, and plan and execute agile sprints on their way to final product. The program is currently active in 5 middle schools in Buncombe County.

After the demo, the group discussed ways that Code for Asheville members might support the kids in these programs, from providing speakers and field trip destinations, to having kids teach community members how to develop apps on the platform, to including kids in Code for Asheville hackathons and perhaps producing a student-only hackathon opportunity next year. A few attendees agreed to work with Kathryn on this - if you are interested, email us at code4asheville@gmail.com.

The MIT App Inventor projectâ€™s mission is â€œto democratize software development by empowering all people, especially young people, to transition from being consumers of technology to becoming creators of it.â€ If you are interested in learning more, check out the website and these tutorials.

Evolving Code for Asheville

The second half of the meeting was devoted to a conversation about the leadership model of Code for Asheville. From its inception in 2012, Code for Asheville has operated under a model that places the two co-captains at the center of both the decision-making and the organizing work. While we are proud of what weâ€™ve achieved in the last five years, we also feel strongly that the entire community would benefit from a more inclusive and collaborative model.

You can find notes on the discussion here. We decided to gather a small team to help lead the process of figuring out our future and we would like you to be a part of it. If you are interested, please sign up here.

News from the network

Report from the National Advisory Council
The National Advisory Council (NAC) was formed late last year to represent the Code for America brigades and to be a focal point for building resources that can be shared across the network. The NAC met face-to-face in Baltimore last month and shared highlights from the meeting in this post. You can find more detail on the forming and purpose of the NC here.

CfA In The News

Tackling Homelessness with Technology

Asheville joins 5 other U.S. locales in a GovTech article on using technology to aid in addressing homelessness (the five are Bergen County, NJ; Aurora, CO; Seattle; New York City; and San Francisco). Asheville stands out from the crowd for the way our volunteer efforts supplement government action.

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Join the CfA Discussion on Slack

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