

How Does Open Data Create Social Impact?

Emily Shaw, National Policy Manager



Problems are everywhere – and solutions are too

- The internet empowers deterritorialized, loosely-coupled human cooperation
- Ideas can come from anywhere – the more potential cooperating partners, the better
- Open data – data available to everyone, for free - provides the building blocks for solving vexing problems through loosely-coupled cooperation

Data is the 21st Century's Navigable Waters

Treating data as a **public good** means asking:
What happens if we provide everyone free
access to data?

For Comparison: Public Trust Doctrine

- Principle: water and land up to the tideline are public and must be publicly maintained
- Challenges: public expense, value of privatizing resource
- Public benefits: navigation, recreation, research, wildlife protection, economic development

New Public Good, New Things to Figure Out:

How do we make the best use of this resource?

How do we ensure it has the largest possible positive impact?

Communicate, communicate, communicate.

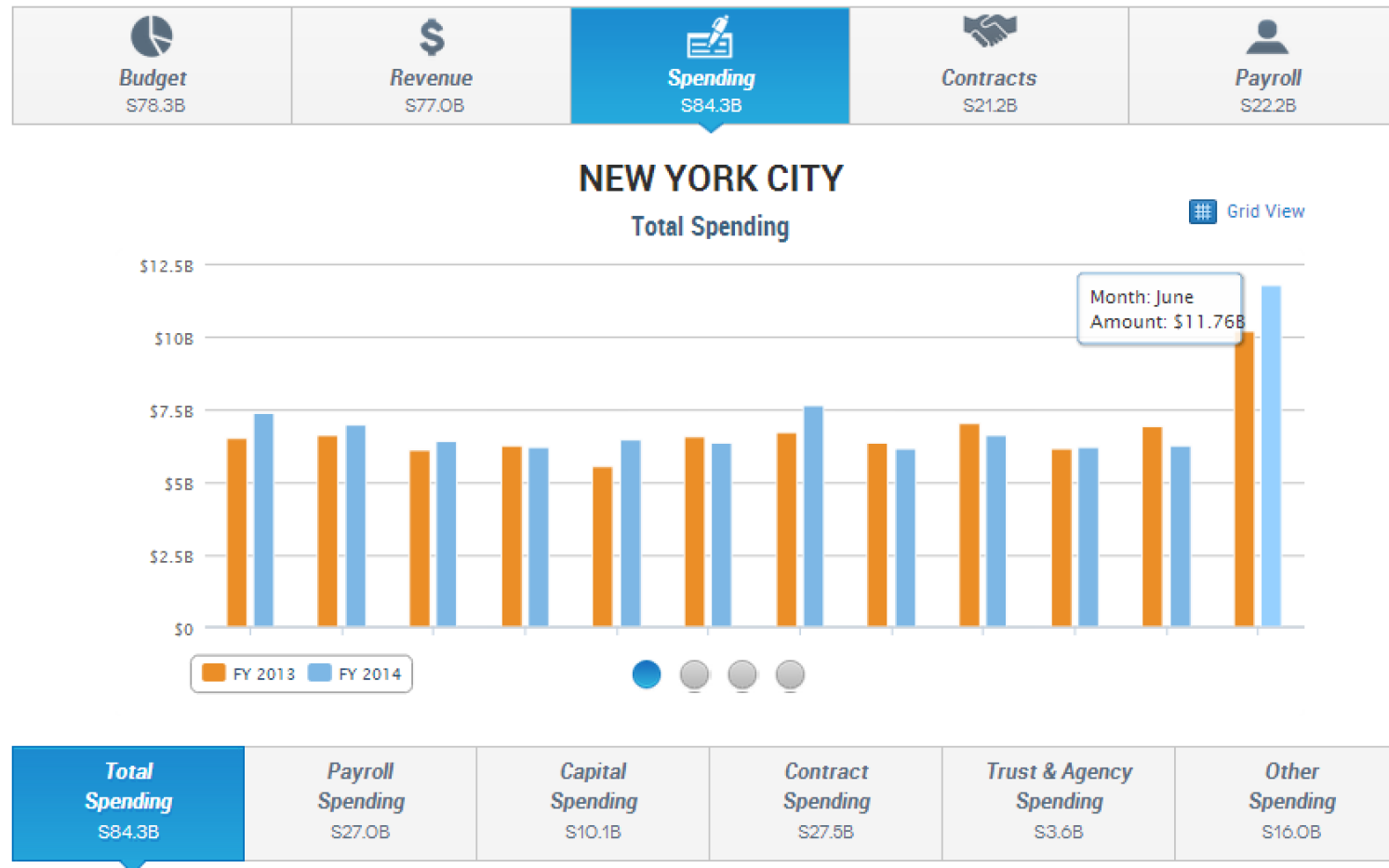
1. Communicate about successes.

- Sunlight Foundation's "Impacts of Open Data" explores some of the kinds of problem-solving cooperation enabled by open data



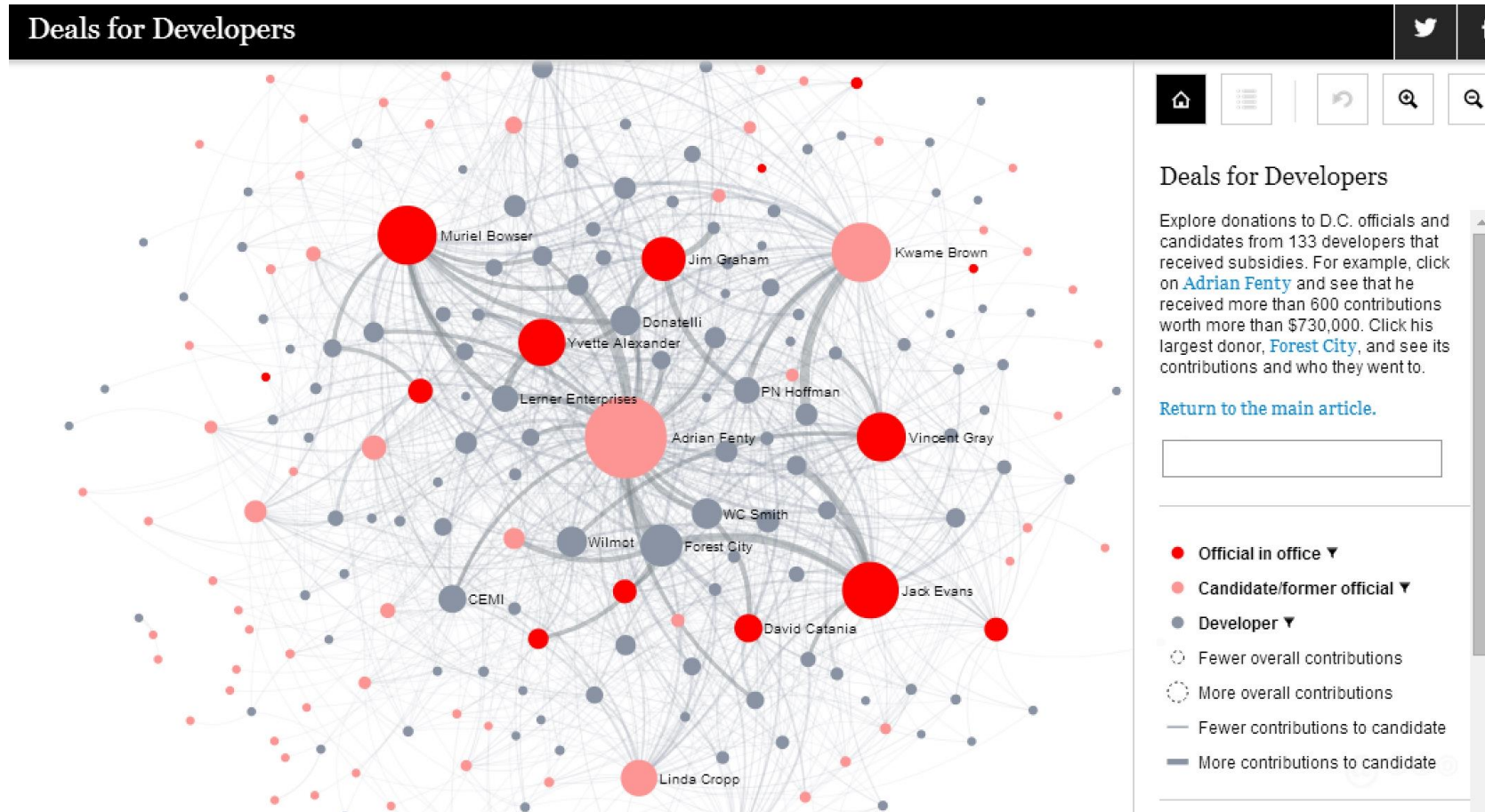
Creating Transparency

NYC Checkbook 2.0



Empowering Accountability

WAMU Deals for Developers story



Improving Governmental Efficiency

Using Data To Shine a Light on the Impact of City Services

Data Science for Social Good

People

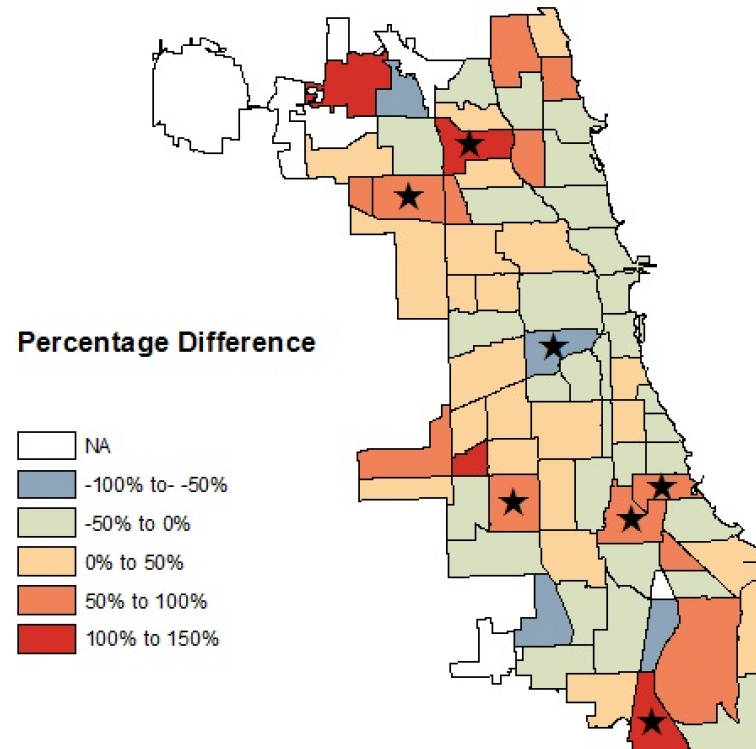
Projects

Events

Get involved

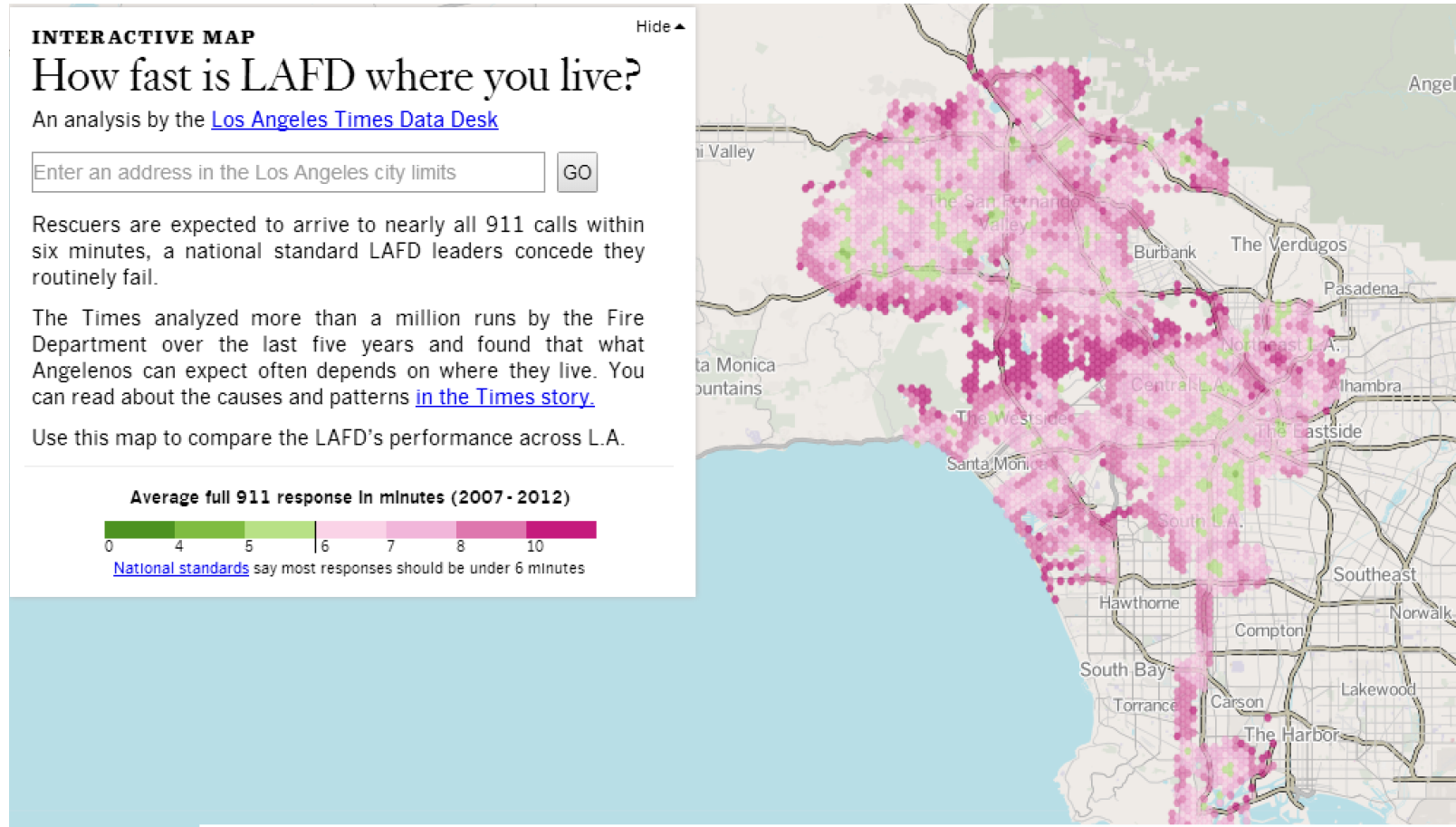
Blog

Media




Improving Governmental Effectiveness

Los Angeles Times: “How Fast is LAFD Where You Live?”




Increase Public Participation

South Bend, Indiana's CityVoice

 CITYVOICE

ACTIVITY


ALL MESSAGES

 LEARN

To learn more about getting involved in South Bend's vacant and abandoned property initiative, including:


- Indiana's Good Samaritan law
- How to acquire an abandoned property
- Property reuse options

[Click here to read the city's "Helpful Information" guide.](#)

 CALL


Is this information inaccurate? Have a plan for a property? Share your thoughts and knowledge.

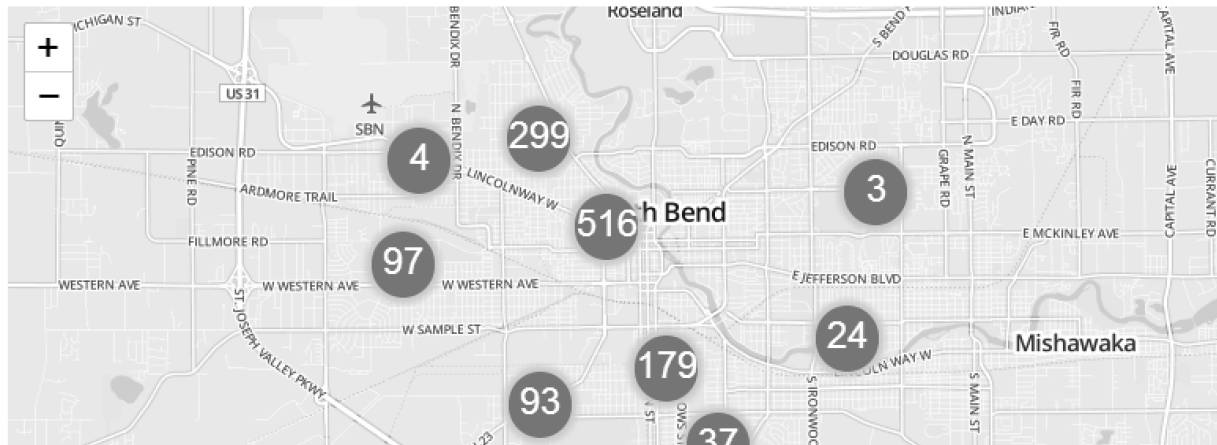
- [Find a property's call-in code on this website](#)
- [Call \(574\) 584-2969](#)

 LISTEN

CityVoice is about having a conversation. Click on an audio link to hear what your neighbors have to say.


Message: Shubhada Kambli, Director of Code Enforcement






RECENT MESSAGES


707 Rex 2014-07-18



1241 Fremont 2014-07-14



707 Rex 2014-07-12

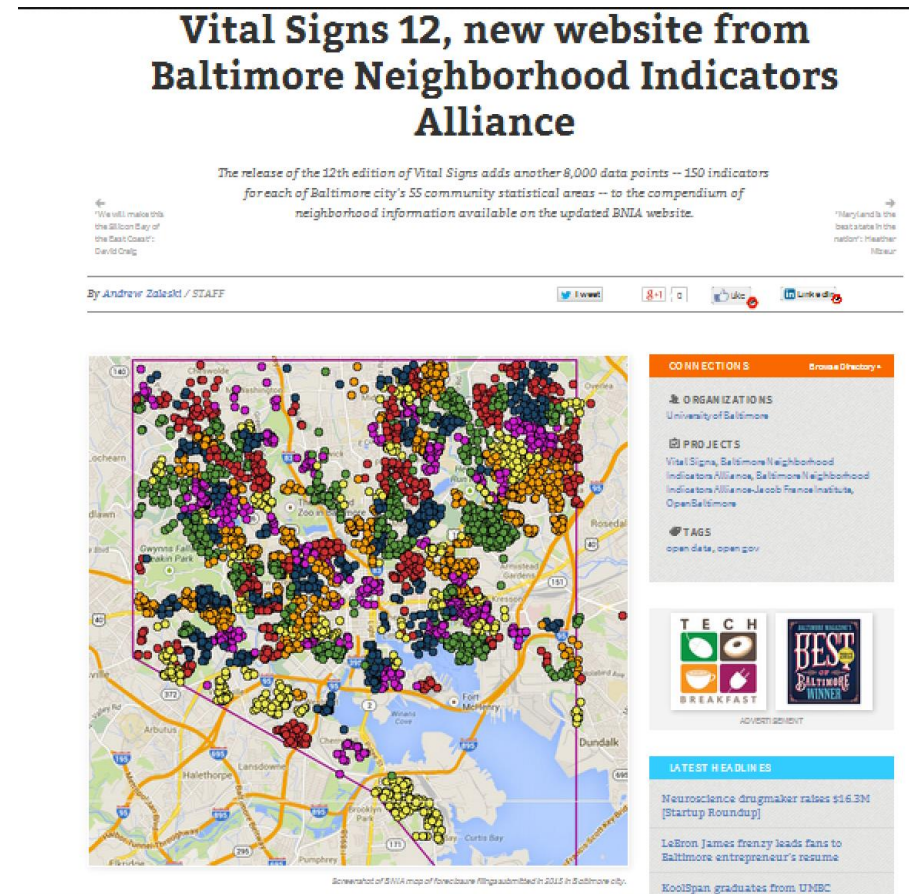


2. Communicate About Shared Goals

- Health Care example: Ubiquity of “the Triple Aim” among health care researchers and advocates facilitates self-organizing cooperation.
- When a group of disconnected individuals all agree on a common definition of problems and set of goals to achieve, collective progress doesn’t require traditional organization.

3. Communicate about the data you want.

- Asking for specific datasets from governments lets them know what data is worth extra effort to release.
- Community organizations are increasingly working with governments to collect and cooperatively release data.



4. Communicate about data problems.

- Data quality concerns
- Cost of transition to open data
- Protecting individual privacy
- Restrictive public-private contracts
- Dealing with licensing and proprietary information

5. Communicate With Someone New!

- We are in the early days of a new concept in governance, and so Open Data needs you to talk about it!
- Does someone you know have a problem that could be solved with more data?
- Tell them to:
 - Ask for it by name!
 - Collect and share it freely!
 - Get in touch with open data advocates to find partners!