

# Open Data Opportunities for Arlington County

## Information Technology Advisory Commission

April 22, 2015

### *Examples and Points for Discussion*

#### **New York City**

BetaNYC (a civic hacking group in NY) is working with the Department of Citywide Services to **publish the City Record as open, clean and structured data**. At the same time, they are unlocking decades of historical information and making it accessible to all, at no charge. Their goal is to optimize the utility of City Record content by making accessible and structuring the data; **addresses, dates, persons, subjects, agencies, contract types and more are parsed and made available as individual objects**. This way, residents, organizations and small and large businesses alike will be able to access, interact and stay informed, whether through notifications, visualizations or other easy-to-use **community tools**.

[More information here](#)

<https://github.com/CityOfNewYork/CROL-Parsing>

#### **Tulsa**

Tulsa Fire Department Dispatch helps the Tulsa Fire Department save critical time by publishing **dispatch information on a mobile web app**, and to email and text messages. It was created at the 2012 Startup Weekend Tulsa, utilizes **data from the Oklahoma Boundary Service** and is supported by developers from Code for Tulsa and Tulsa Web Devs.

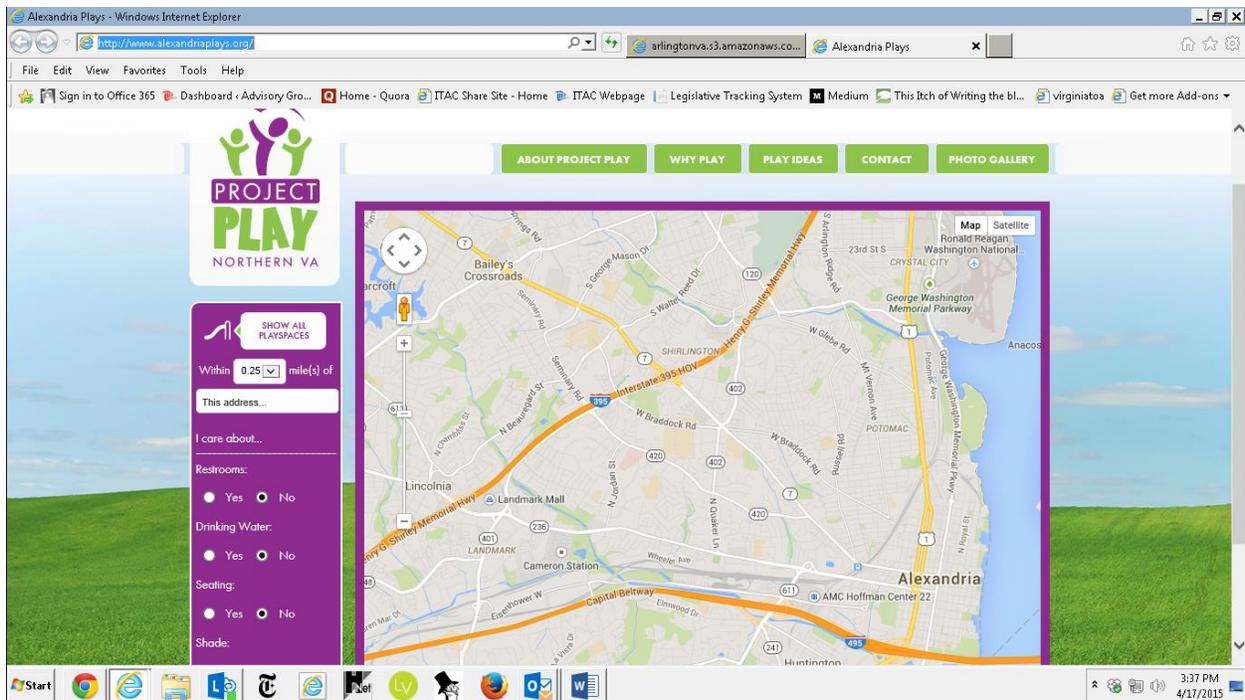
#### **Boston**

Boston Green is a **map promoting green spaces in the Metro Boston Area**. Features include: 1) Discover green spaces in a neighborhood 2) Find green spaces for an activity 3) See how to get to green spaces by foot, bike or transit. Live map is - <http://bostongreenmap.org/> Github page [here](#):

<https://github.com/codeforboston/bostongreenmap>

#### **Code for NoVA**

Locally, there has been work on the [Alexandria Plays](#) app for over a year. It launched summer of last year, and they're constantly iterating and improving upon it. <http://www.alexandriaplays.org/>



**Project Play** is part of the Alexandria Childhood Obesity Action Network (ACOAN), working to improve play opportunities for children in the City of Alexandria, Virginia. We are your neighbors, early childhood and healthy living activists, folks from the Parks and Recreation and Health Departments, and other City offices and organizations who want to improve and enhance play spaces for kids in Alexandria.

We work to improve play opportunities for children in Alexandria by:

- promoting higher quality play spaces throughout the City,
- advocating for fairer distribution of play spaces across Alexandria,
- providing easy-to-find information about play spaces
- generating interest in play and offering ideas for play

## Code for America Projects

**Adopt-a-hydrant** allows citizens to claim responsibility for shoveling out fire hydrants after heavy snowfall.

SOFTWARE: Ruby on Rails with Postgres database. Use the code in the [Github repository](#) or [DOBT's hosted Adopta](#).

- **ArchiveSocial** enables organizations to embrace social media by minimizing risk and eliminating compliance barriers. Specifically, it solves the challenge of retaining Gov 2.0 communications for compliance with FOIA and other public records laws. It currently automates business-grade record keeping of communications on networks such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Moving forward, ArchiveSocial will help further enforce social media policy and protect the organizational brand.

DEPLOYS commercially-available cloud software [with tiered subscription plans](#).

- **Aunt Bertha** helps users find food, health, housing and employment programs based on their postal code. Aunt Bertha picks up where Uncle Sam left off by simplifying the search and application process for social services. The app collects information on federal, state, county, city, neighborhood and nonprofit programs and puts it all in one place. In just a few seconds, users can enter basic information and find programs relevant to their needs.

DEPLOYS Centrally-managed directory; contact Aunt Bertha [to add your city](#).

- **Development FastPass** combines parcel data, land use, zoning, building occupancy, and business incentives to help business owners research the best options to locate their businesses within Las Vegas. Built by 2013 Las Vegas fellows Lou Huang and Ryan Closner, the app utilizes the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) as one of its data points. Originally used by the Census Bureau to assess the state of North America's economy, NAICS is a six-digit classification with each digit corresponding to a specific economic sector, industry group or nation (in this case US, Canada and Mexico).

SOFTWARE: ExpressJS + NodeJS.

## Ideas for Arlington:

- Calls to 911 or Police about an incident when a location, address, or name of a business is given **Incident data are used in Special Exception Use Permit** reviews. Over the years, many people feel that the data from Police about incidents do not accurately reflect all incidents.
- Another idea is to add **Site Plan Conditions and Special Exception Use Permit Conditions to the listing in the Real Estate database.** Applicant and public awareness of Conditions fades over time.
- Crime statistics files that are posted. As posted, it would require a program to convert the files from date files to address files. I believe all the data is there but it would need some code to strip it out and **put it into address and crime fields to create a useable data set.**

## Policy Considerations

Adopt a set of principles or values, such as Code for America's values for instance:

- Code for America believes that a healthy democracy is one where government and people work together to improve their community.
- This requires trust between government and residents. That trust is built when interactions between government and residents are **transparent, inclusive, and respectful.**
- While trust in government is at an all-time low in the United States, **we believe things can be different.** And we believe this starts at the local level where government most directly touches our everyday lives.
- Through our work with dozens of local governments since 2011, we've seen how local governments that practice a [new way of working](#) can better serve residents and address the [important problems](#) facing our communities.
- This is why we believe government can work **for the people, by the people, in the 21st century.** We're working to make it so, one step at a time.

- **County Digital Privacy Policy ??**