

Arlington County Open Data Advisory Group

Background

The Arlington County Board vision states that Arlington strives “to be a diverse and inclusive world-class community.” County Manager Mark Schwartz has defined three major priority areas – economic development, service delivery/open government and long-range strategic planning – to help realize this vision. The County Manager is committed to improving service and making more data easily available to the public. “My overarching goal is to increase government transparency and make it easier and more satisfying for people to interact with County government,” Schwartz said. “I want to push more useful information out to the people who really need it, and to streamline our business practices to make it easier to do business with the County.”

“Technology continues to improve our ability to share data and streamline processes for a more interactive and inclusive government,” said Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz. At the direction of the County Manager, in 2016 the County launched its Open Data Program to make County Government more transparent through increased availability of data and greater accessibility to decision-making. As part of this program, the Open Data Portal is a website that provides access to more than 100 datasets including such topics as Public Safety, Health and Food Inspections, Demographics, Economic Indicators, Transportation and more. The Open Data Program is an on-going initiative to maintain and expand the County data made available to the public and to increase the accessibility and usability of that information through the provision of metadata for all published datasets.

Arlington County Data Program

The Open Data Program is part of a broader Data Program. The vision for Arlington’s Data Program is to maximize value and minimize risk through the coordinated management, sharing and analysis of data to optimize County operations and decisions. Initial efforts of the Data Program are focused in three areas – Governance, Data Management and Data Analytics.

- Governance is an advisory and communications function. The Data Steering Committee is a representative body of County staff who are tasked with helping to craft and gain approval for an evolving Data Analytics vision, strategy, goals, objectives and performance metrics, as well as provide input and direction on broader data issues across the County. They will serve as Data Stewards for their agencies and as data champions across the enterprise. The Open Data Advisory Group is comprised of County constituents and external partners who will share

ideas on innovative ways to promote transparency and engage the public in agency decision-making, as well as provide input and recommendations on the datasets to be published.

- Data Management is primarily a technical function comprised of the common framework and rules for finding and sharing data. Existing Data Management efforts to support the ongoing work with open data and application integration needs will continue. In addition, Data Management activities will expand to incorporate metadata indexing of current and new datasets and a projected increase in the volume of new datasets to support expanded data analytics offerings.
- Data Analytics is the realized value of the County's data. Data Analytics will appropriately use and enable use of the County's existing data in new and improved ways and drive the increase in the number of available data sets available for such use. The Data Analytics team will also develop external partnerships to expand the breadth and depth of available analytics services. The County can use these analyses to measure the return on investment of programs and services and improve citizen outcomes by being more data driven and evidenced based in policy and decision making.

Open Data Advisory Group

To help guide the County's Data Program efforts, County Manager Mark Schwartz has assembled the Arlington County Open Data Advisory Group (ODAG). The ODAG provides expert guidance and insight to the County's data leadership, covering a wide range of pressing issues in data and technology:

1. Provide a public forum for receiving input on the goals of Open Data, including input from information technology entities, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions and individuals that use government data.
2. Provide a forum for sharing best practices and innovative ideas to promote transparency and collaboration and for engaging the public in County decision-making.
3. Identify and prioritize datasets to be published according to standards that ensure the data is accurate, complete, timely and published in accordance with security policies and privacy laws.
4. Provide recommendations on industry standard best practices to ensure the accessibility and usability of the published datasets.
5. Recommend methods to enhance communication and collaboration between stakeholders and the County on data access and use, including the development of joint data products and services.

Schedule

The Arlington County Open Data Advisory Group is an on-going initiative without an end date. Meetings are held up to four times per year. Members of the public may observe the proceedings in person.

Proposed Members

Membership is comprised of Advisory Group Members from the community and Liaison Members from County Government and Schools departments. Advisory Group Members will serve 2-year terms.

Name	Representative of	Advisory/ Liaison
Jason Thomas, Chair		Advisory
Scott McGeary		Advisory
Edith Wilson		Advisory
Dennis Whitehead		Advisory
David K Bain		Advisory
Duke Banks	Civic Federation	Advisory
Lisa Sturtevant		Advisory
Sarah Holland		Advisory
Nate Gould	Parks and Recreation Commission	Advisory
David Husband	Information Technology Advisory Committee	Advisory
Christopher Hedrick	Code for NoVA	Advisory
Alyssa Doom	Sunlight Foundation	Advisory
Vadim Sokolov	George Mason University	Advisory
Aaron Schroeder	Virginia Tech SDAL	Advisory
Girish Rajput	APS – Enterprise Solutions	Liaison
Alexandra Fox	ACG – Libraries	Liaison
Dharmesh Jain	ACG – DES	Liaison
Jaime Lees, Staff Liaison	ACG – DTS	Liaison
David Mota	ACG – DTS	Liaison
Sanmeet Sidhu	ACG – DTS	Liaison
Katie Pegoraro	ACG – DTS	Liaison
Jack Belcher	ACG – DTS	Liaison
Jim Schwartz	ACG – CMO	Liaison
Bryna Helfer	ACG – CMO	Liaison