

**From:** Code for Asheville <code4asheville@gmail.com@mail15.suw15.mcsv.net>  
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News, updates, and announcements from Code for Asheville

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## Computer Lab Opening & 7/13 Agenda

In this issue, Jim March reports on the official opening of the BeLoved Computer Lab and we share the agenda for this Thursday's Community Night with Jen Pahlka, Executive Director of Code for America and a key national leader of our movement.

Don't forget to check out upcoming events below as well.

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## BeLoved Computer Lab Opens!

On Tuesday, June 27th, the BeLoved Computer Lab officially opened! We had four clients, with questions as diverse as "How do I do research on tiny homes?", "How do I fix my computer DVD drive?", to "How do I set up my own domain name?"

Deep thanks to our fellow Code for Asheville member, Sabrah n'haRaven, and the staff at BeLoved, as well as all the donors and volunteers who tested and prepared the computers. The lab has four PC's and one Apple Mac, all running browsers connected to the Internet.

Thank you, too, to Code for Asheville member Sylvia Landis, who is helping research how other cities are using technology to help the homeless. I've put her collection of articles on [this web page](#) for reference. We will be contacting about 10 computer labs for the homeless to learn what is working, and what isn't.

Anybody else want to join in the fun? We could use your help, even if it's only an hour or two searching the Internet for ideas.

By Jim March

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Have a story to share? Email us at [code4asheville@gmail.com](mailto:code4asheville@gmail.com).

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## Community Night 7/13 Agenda

Here's the agenda for Thursday evening's event. Hope to see you there!

- Welcome & Introductions  
Be prepared to tell us your name and 1-2 sentences about what brought you here tonight and what you hope to leave with.
- Project Showcase  
5-minute overviews of current Code for Asheville projects.
- Talk by Jen Pahlka, Executive Director of Code for America
- Questions & Discussion  
After time for questions following the talk, we'll have a broader discussion of civic tech in Asheville. What makes Asheville unique? How that has shaped the brigade and its efforts? What are the specific challenges and opportunities we can focus on in Asheville? What can we learn from other brigades that can inform our efforts?
- Wrap-Up  
Brief wrap-up to identify any major take-aways or action items.

## Upcoming events

### Monthly Community Meetup

[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."

The event will be held at 5:30pm on July 13th at the Burton Street Community Center. Please [RSVP for this one](#) so we can make sure we have enough space and pizza for everyone.

Community nights occur on the second Thursday of each month. The location rotates around the different Asheville community centers.

### Reentry Project Work Session

We and Code for Greensboro are planning a session to work on the new reentry resources hub project on Saturday, July 22. We'll work locally but stay connected with the CfG folks through Google Hangouts. Tentative time is 11am-3pm - follow the event [on meetup](#) for final times and details.

### Monthly Planning Meetup

Our next brigade planning meeting is on Tuesday, July 25, at 5:30pm at the Battery Park Book Exchange. RSVP [here](#). These planning meetings take place on the second Tuesday after each community night.

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## Help CfA Rethink How We Work

Code for Asheville has operated under a captain-centric model since our founding in 2012. It is time to rethink that and to create a more inclusive, collaborative leadership structure.

We are gathering a small team to help lead this effort and we would like you to be a part of it. Our job will not be to decide on the leadership structure, but to facilitate a process that engages all the members of our community in creating a better model.

If you are interested in participating, please sign up [here](#).

Help Us Reimagine Code for Asheville's Leadership

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## News from the network

### Represent NYC: Probing Open Data to Solve NYC's Problems

For the last two years, [BetaNYC](#) has partnered with Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer to create the Civic Innovation Fellowship. This program has created the City's first open data and civic technology curriculum, performed a gap analysis on Manhattan Community Board's capacity to use civic technology, and is currently producing three new tools to help Community Boards better use data and technology. Watch [this video](#) and learn what we've been doing for the last two years.

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Sign up for this newsletter

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Join the CfA Discussion on Slack

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Code for Asheville

PO Box 17391

Asheville, NC 28816

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