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News, updates, and announcements from Code for Asheville

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**Code for NC Meeting 12/9/2017**

Are you interested in helping shape the ways that North Carolina brigades collaborate and support both each other and communities without brigades?

Representatives from brigades across the state will gather in Greensboro on Saturday, December 9, from 10am to 3pm. I will be going and would love to have other Code for Asheville members accompany me. I'm happy to share transportation. If interested, email me at [Eric.Jackson@DemocracyApps.org](mailto:Eric.Jackson@DemocracyApps.org).

**StoryTell Asheville - Latest Update**

We first outlined the idea behind our new stories collection platform in our [September 26 newsletter](#). Since then Jesse Michel has built a minimal version of the project that we can try out for our first couple projects.

The project, which we are tentatively calling *StoryTell Asheville*, is an experimental one, and we are still exploring how we can use the platform for ourselves and or other communities.

*StoryTell Asheville* is a site for collections of stories about and by communities, with a focus on the voices of those who have traditionally not been heard and of those who are working to empower them. Our hope is that it will serve as a platform for celebrating Asheville's delightful diversity, bringing attention and action to community needs, and helping break down the walls that separate us from one another.

The structure of the site is quite simple, consisting of stories and projects, presented in a professional, presentation-ready format.

A story is a narrative contribution to a project from a single person in the form of text or video, just like a Facebook or blog post. No registration is required to post a story, but every story will be reviewed before posting to ensure that it aligns with the purpose of the project and obeys our community code of conduct.

A project is a set of stories that is collected by a community or organization for some purpose, represented by a call to action on the main project page. Projects may be used for a variety of purposes - we are deliberately leaving this open for now to allow exploration. Our only requirement is that projects align with the basic principles above. Here are a few examples that illustrate the range of possible uses:

- Collect interviews with local homeless individuals to put human faces on an otherwise abstract problem
- Prepare for a hackathon to introduce participants to the stories of people they will be helping.
- Capture stories from participants from an event like a hackathon or a protest.
- Collect stories from two distinct communities in conflict as a way of humanizing one another.
- Use stories as a way for a community to collectively come to an understanding of the issues they face.

To test out the platform before making it available to other communities, we will use it to collect and display stories about Code for Asheville participants. Our plan is to feature them on the Code for Asheville website to give potential new members and partners a sense of who we are and how they might fit in. Please join us at our [December 14 Community Night](#) to start collecting stories.

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## News From the Network

### Datapalooza Winner - CivicRise

[NC Datapalooza](#) is a competition designed to catalyze positive community and economic impact through the use of open data. This year's competition kicked off at CityCampNC in September, where Code for Asheville members contributed to that day's prizewinner project, *Are We Represented?* That project made it to the final round on November 13, but was edged out by *CivicRise*, a smartphone app that supports collective civic action.

Check out the details of the competition finale [here](#).

And if you are interested in helping with ongoing work with the *Are We Represented?*, a project to shed light on how well local and state elected bodies reflect the demographics of the communities they represent, reach out to [Eric](#) - a cross-brigade team will be continuing the project after the holiday.

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### Have a Story to Share?

We'd love to have your contribution. You can write something up about a Code for Asheville event or share something else going on in the civic tech world. Email us at [code4asheville@gmail.com](mailto:code4asheville@gmail.com).

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## Upcoming events

### 12/14 Monthly Community Meetup

Our next Community Night will be on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 5:30pm. We'll be working on StoryTell Asheville. The meeting will probably be at the Dr. Wesley Grant Sr. Center, but we still have to confirm that. Details will be in the next newsletter and on [meetup](#).

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

### 12/12 Brigade Planning Meeting

Our next regular planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 12 at 5:30pm at the Battery Park Book Exchange. RSVP [here](#) or just stop by.

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