Georgia Tech

#POLIS1

POLIS

A CIVIC TECH & SMART CITIES SPEAKER SERIES

Smart Cities and Inclusive Innovation: @GTSCII
Center for Urban Innovation: @GTCUI

Thomas Lodato
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thomaslodato.info

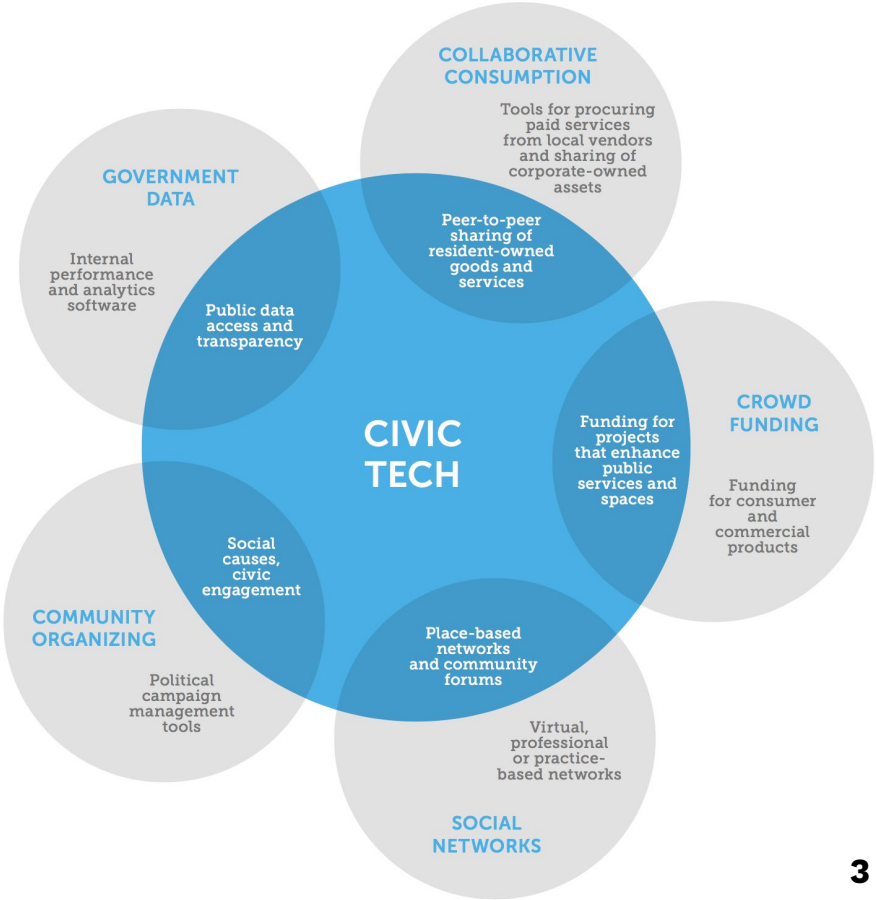
To be political, to live in a polis, meant that everything was decided through words and persuasion and not through force and violence.

Hannah Arendt, “The Human Condition” (p.46)

What is Civic Tech?

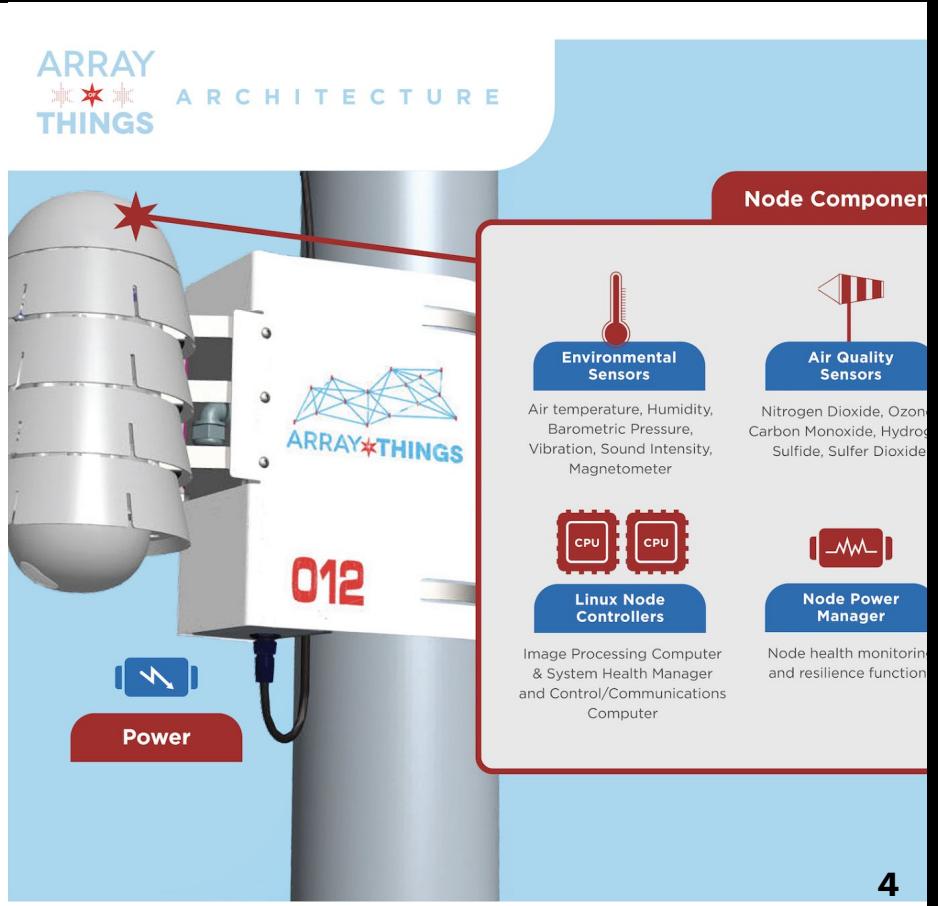
“the nexus of technology, civic innovation, open government, and resident engagement”

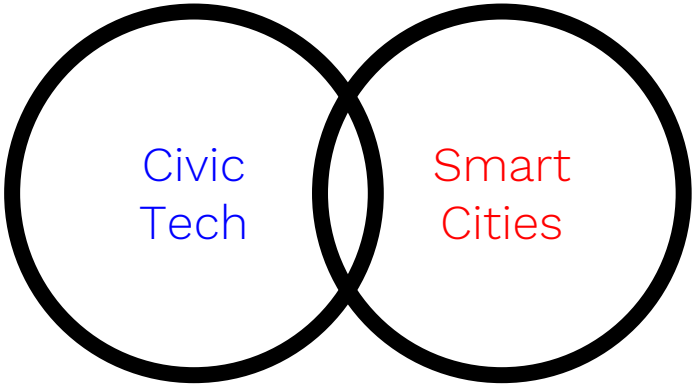
https://www.knightfoundation.org/features/civictech



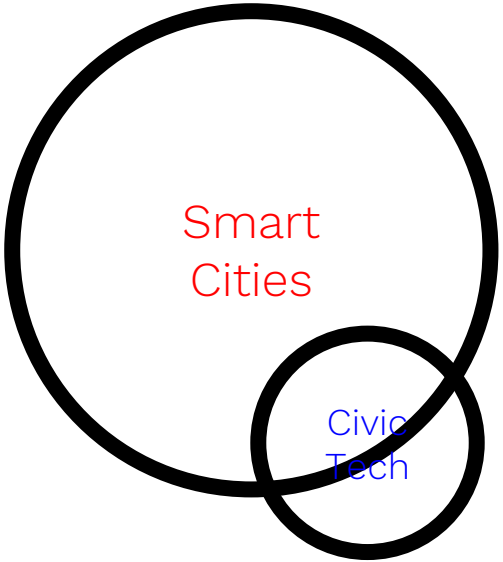
What is a Smart City?

Urban ecosystem of infrastructures, data, policies, partnerships, etc. fostered by computing technologies




Civic
Tech
Smart
Cities

OR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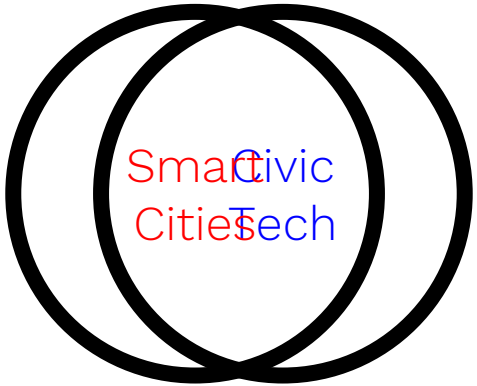

Smart
Cities
Civic
Tech

2016: $342.4 billion

2021: $774.8 billion

http://www.digitaljournal.com/tech-and-science/technology/smart-city-market-is-fastest-growing-segment-of-government/article/500081

Too Few People, Data, Strategies.

Tonight: Sustaining the Hack

Tonight’s speakers

Luigi Ray-Montanez

Co-organizer, Code for Atlanta

Lead Engineer at Vox Media

Shawn Taylor

Co-organizer, Code for Atlanta

Mark Noonan

Program Manager, People Making Progress

questions/comments
tweet #polis1
-or-
dm thomas_lodato

The Long View of Civic Hacking

Luigi Ray-Montanez
luigi@codeforatlanta.org

About Me

Software Developer (2009-2012)
Sunlight Foundation

Co-Founder & Co-Organizer
Code for Atlanta

National Advisory Council
Code for America

Senior Engineer (2016-Current)
Vox Media

Different Names for Similar Things

2006: Open Data & Open Government
2009: Gov 2.0
2013: Civic Tech
2014: Digital Services
2016: Smart Cities

I like “Civic Hacking”.

Civic hacking is people working together quickly and creatively to make where they live better.

CODE *for* AMERICA

Code for America Brigades

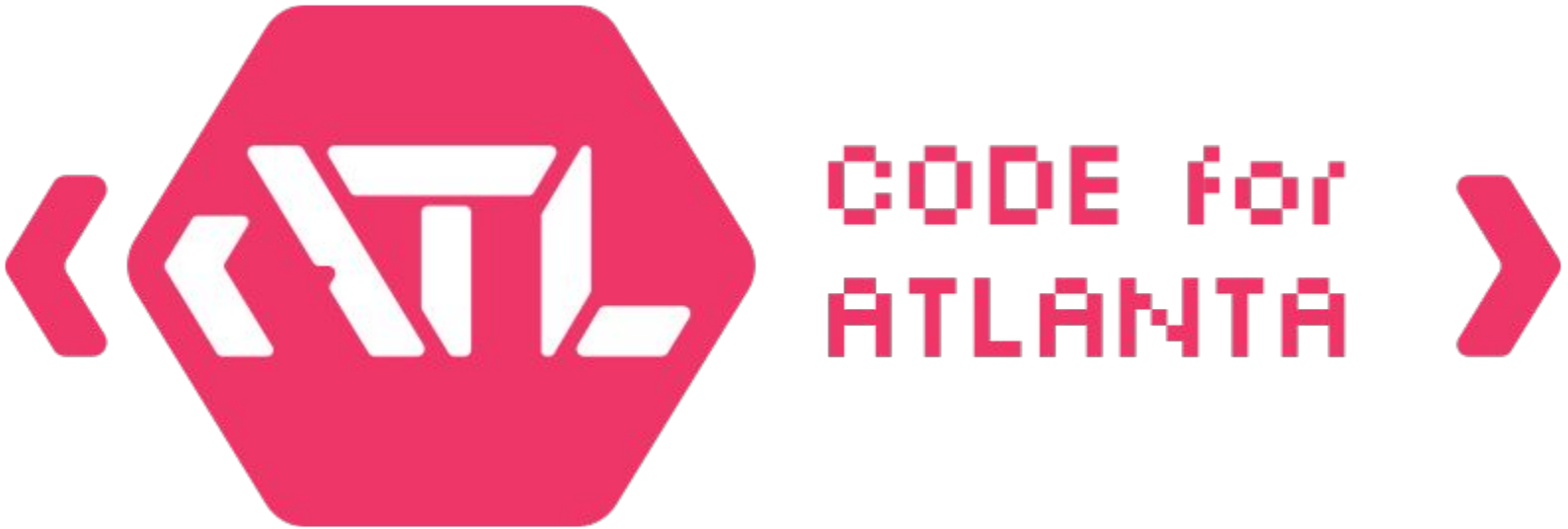
“We’re a national network of community organizers and technologists who are putting technology to work for the benefit of our local communities.”

Principles of the Brigade Network

Change Starts Locally

The People == All People

We Learn From One Another



meetup.com/codeforatlanta

The Civic Hack Night

1. Connect people who wouldn't otherwise meet
2. Provide a safe space for trying new things
3. Are dependable
4. Are sustainable

Credit: Michelle Thong
https://medium.com/code-for-america/hack-nights-are-a-civic-good-86986cc7f0d3

Sustainability Challenges

Leadership Burnout

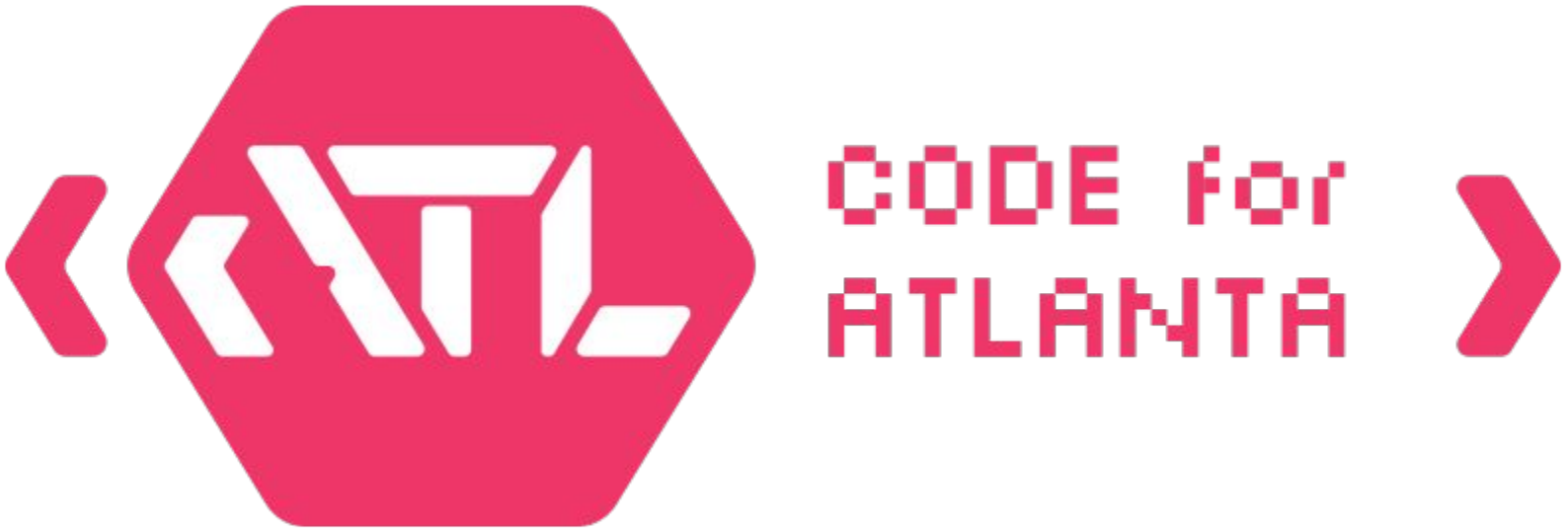
- Partnerships
- Events
- Fundraising

Project Durability

- High participant turnover
- Varying levels of experience

Create a core team

Identify champions



meetup.com/codeforatlanta

marta

HACKATHON

SEPTEMBER 8-9

Create the future of Atlanta transit:
MARTAHackathon.org

Sustaining Hack Night Projects

Shawn Taylor
shawn@codeforatlanta.org

My Background

- 2013: (Re)started programming & civic hacking
- 2015: Became co-organizer of Code for Atlanta
- Now: Stil co-organizer; also front-end developer at Cybraics

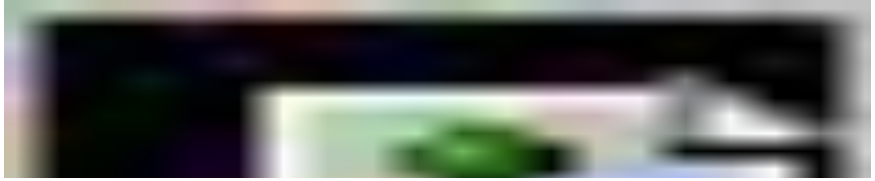
Structure of a Hack Night

- Socializing & introductions
- Pitch time
- Work Time
- Continuation
- Slack

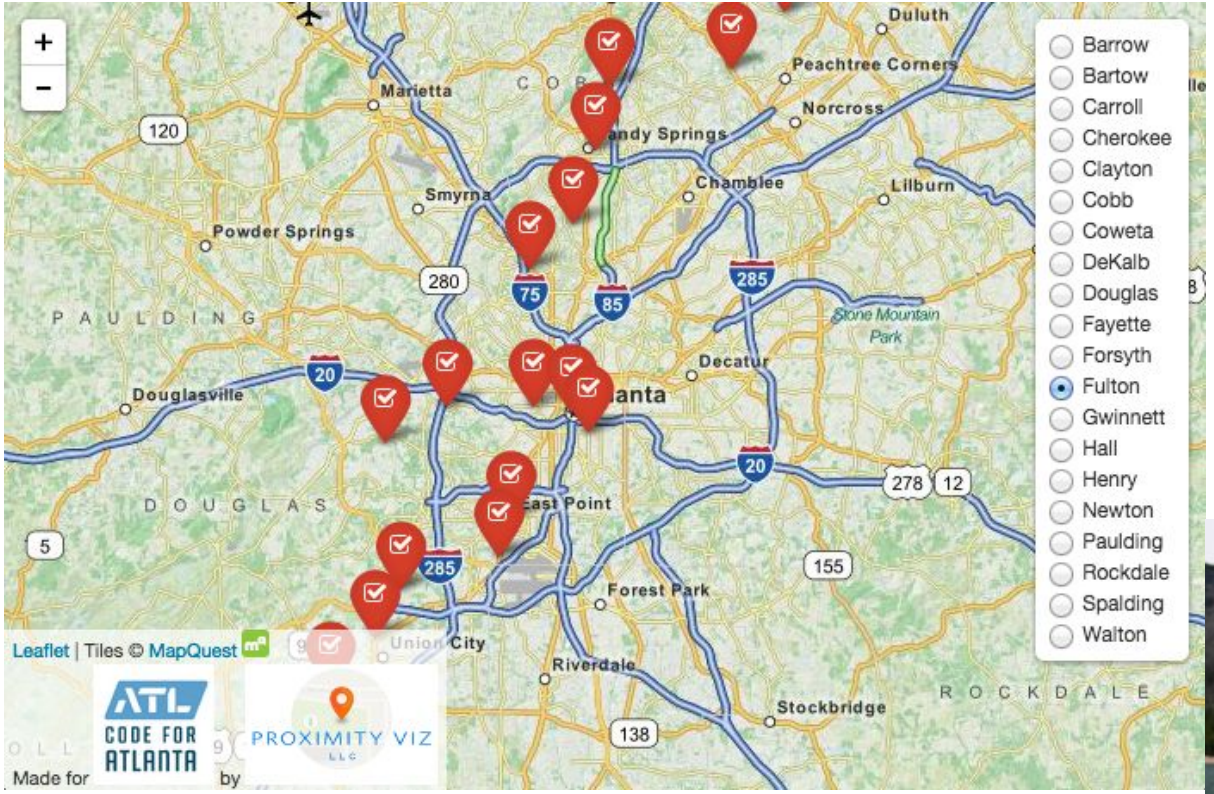
Hack Nights Aren’t Just about Hacking

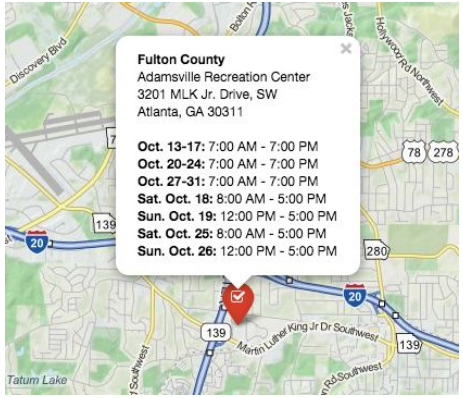
Other good objectives:

- Writing copy
- Designing logos
- Brainstorming new features
- Planning how to get the word out
- Writing and assigning tickets for dev tasks to be completed outside the hack nights
- Getting feedback; user testing

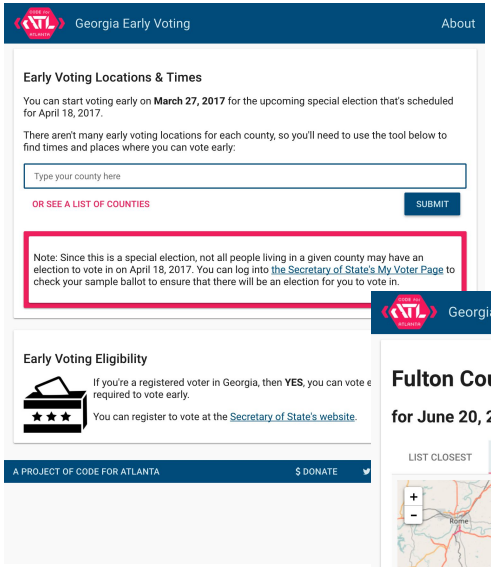


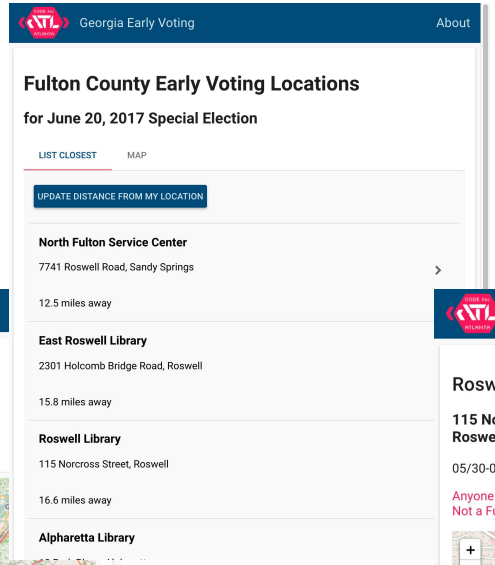
3 locations
10 records
No map

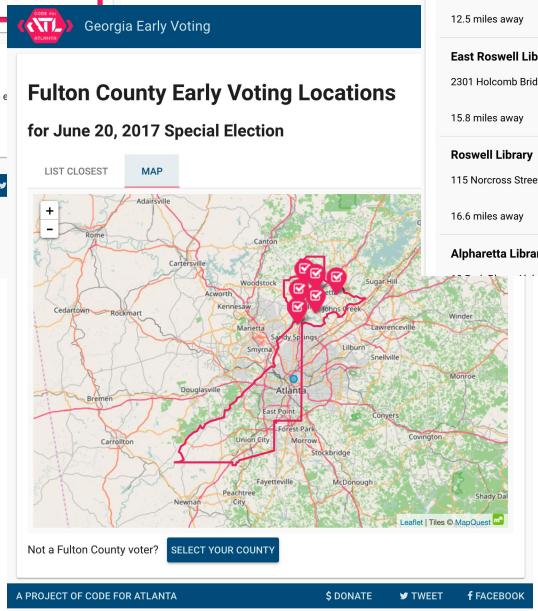

Barrow
Bartow
Carroll
Cherokee
Clayton
Cobb
Coweta
DeKalb
Douglas
Fayette
Forsyth
Fulton
Gwinnett
Hall
Henry
Newton
Paulding
Rockdale
Spalding
Walton
Leaflet | Tiles © MapQuest
Made for
CODE FOR ATLANTA
PROXIMITY VIZ LLC
Marietta
Smyrna
Powder Springs
Douglasville
Duluth
Peachtree Corners
Norcross
Chamblee
Lilburn
Decatur
East Point
Forest Park
Riverdale
Stockbridge
Stone Mountain Park
PAULDING
DOUGLAS
ROCKDALE

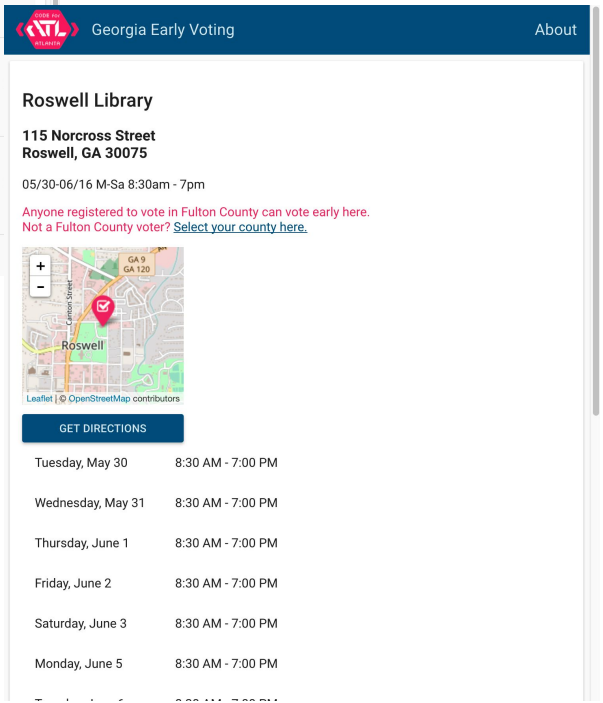

Fulton County
Adamsville Recreation Center
3201 MLK Jr. Drive, SW
Atlanta, GA 30311
Oct. 13-17: 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Oct. 20-24: 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Oct. 27-31: 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Sat. Oct. 18: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sun. Oct. 19: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Sat. Oct. 25: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sun. Oct. 26: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Tatum Lake

ship it!
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC









earlyvoting.codeforatlanta.org

Project Champion as Project Manager

- Pitching is tough!
- Keep your team (and yourself) on target
- Consider working outside of hack nights
- It’s important for the project champion to feel they have ownership of the project
- Iterate: Small projects or bite-sized releases
- It’s rewarding!

MARTA Mobility ETA

Mark Noonan, People Making Progress
MarkThomasNoonan@gmail.com
@MarkTNoonan

Problem

Calling on the phone to get the ETA of your Mobility bus is THE WORST.

Solution

Anything else at all would be fine 👍 — we're starting with a web app.

How our project happened.

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- Oct 2016
  MARTA Hackathon #1

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- Nov 2016 - Jan 2017
  Civic Hack Nights 🍕

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- **Feb 2017**
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  Marta Hackathon #2
- Mar 2017 - Jun 2017
  Start Pilot!
- **Jul 2017**
  C3 Atlanta Competition
- **Aug 2017**
  Integrate with MARTA

MARTA Mobility ETA

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