

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 2015 STEEL CITY CODEFEST NEWS

***Steel City Codefest almost sold out; limited tickets available  
All Sunday events are open to the public  
Cash prizes to be awarded***

**PITTSBURGH, PA (Feb. 3, 2015)** The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) announced today that a limited number of tickets are still available for the third annual [Steel City Codefest](#) (Codefest). The event takes place from 8:30 a.m. on Sat., Feb. 21 through 3:30 p.m. on Sun., Feb. 22 at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Main, located at 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Steel City Codefest is a civic software application (app) development competition designed to grow the City's innovation and technology community through the creation of technology infrastructure. Participants in this popular 24-hour hackathon will tackle specific challenges with an emphasis on community engagement sourced from local non-profits. Teams will also receive available relevant data.

Participants with backgrounds in coding and design are especially suited for this event as each collective team will be expected to successfully build an app. Teams stay overnight in the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main (Oakland) in designated areas to work on their apps. Apps will be judged in-part on their potential for near-term civic impact.

Teams may include three to six members and each member must purchase a ticket. Tickets are still [available through ShowClix](#) for \$10. New this year are cash prizes – each member on the winning team will be awarded \$200.

Also new this year - events taking place on Sun., Feb. 22, will be open to the public, including Codefest, Jr., the Codefest Civic Tech Fair, and the Final Presentations.

[Codefest, Jr.](#), organized by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, was created to get children excited about and familiar with coding. Open to children in grades K-5 and 6-12, Codefest, Jr. will expose future coders to basic coding on Sun., Feb. 22, noon–1 p.m., at the Main Library in Oakland (4400 Forbes Avenue, 15213). All skill sets are welcome and no pre-registration is required. [Click here](#) for more about Codefest, Jr. programming.

[The Codefest Civic Tech Fair](#) will also be held on Sun., Feb. 22, noon–1 p.m., in the First Floor Gallery of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Main (4400 Forbes Avenue, 15213). Attendees will learn how others in the community are building and using civic technology to make Pittsburgh a better place. Representatives from Code for America Pittsburgh, Open Pittsburgh, and the Regional Data Resource Center at the University of Pittsburgh will be in attendance. No pre-registration is required.

Following both events, the public is encouraged to stay and see who will take home the Codefest crown. The final four Codefest teams will present their apps, and Debra Lam, the City's chief innovation and performance officer,

will hand out awards and bragging rights during the **Final Presentations** on Sun., Feb. 22, 1-3:30 p.m., in the Carnegie Museum of Art Theater (4400 Forbes Avenue, 15213). The event is free but [registration is encouraged](#).

The Codefest event is just the beginning of the community impact. In order to further develop many of the apps initiated at Codefest, a grant pool has been established with the help of The Forbes Funds and BNY Mellon Foundation. The grant pool will allow participating organizations to apply for funding along with a team to finish the app started at the competition.

Steel City Codefest is coordinated by Jennifer Wilhelm, the URA's innovation and entrepreneurship strategist. Planning partners include the URA, The Forbes Funds, American Eagle Outfitters, PowerUp Pittsburgh, City of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR), Tagalong Tour, The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, MAYA Design, and Hack Pittsburgh. Key allies and sponsors include The Forbes Funds, BNY Mellon Foundation, Google, Mylan, NetApp, PNC, Remake Learning, Bakery Square, Branding Brand, Innovation Works, ShowClix, Jones Day, and UPMC Technology Development Center.

*[The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh](#) (URA) is the City of Pittsburgh's economic development agency, committed to creating jobs, expanding the City's tax base and improving the vitality of businesses and neighborhoods. The URA achieves this mission by assembling, preparing and conveying sites for major mixed-use developments; and by providing a portfolio of programs that include financing for business location, relocation and expansion, housing construction and rehabilitation, and home purchases and improvements.*

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