URA ANNOUNCES 2017 STEEL CITY CODEFEST NEWS
The week-long event builds apps for real-world challenges
Registration is now open

PITTSBURGH (March 2, 2017) The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) announced today that the fifth annual Steel City Codefest (Codefest) will be a week-long event, with optional evening work sessions during the City of Pittsburgh's Inclusive Innovation Week. Codefest begins with a kickoff event from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, March 31, at Alloy 26, located at 100 South Commons, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. It concludes with an event celebrating inclusive tech advancements, guest speakers, and awards from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, April 7, at the Ace Hotel, 120 S. Whitfield St, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

"Steel City Codefest is a great event that helps to bring talented developers and other technology practitioners together with government agencies and nonprofits to address real world operational challenges," said Lee Haller, City of Pittsburgh acting director of innovation and performance. "Whether it's developing an application to notify city residents about upcoming waste and recycling pickups or a solution to streamline paper based intake processes for Community Human Services, Codefest participants have an opportunity to create innovative solutions to address current community needs. We're proud to include Codefest in the upcoming Inclusive Innovation Week activities."

Registration is now open and tickets can be obtained through Showclix. Registration is $10 per person and includes admission to the kickoff event, food during work nights, and a T-shirt. Due to space constraints, participation is limited to the first 100 people. Each team member must register for a ticket.

"Steel City Codefest connects innovators with Pittsburgh nonprofits to use coding and technology to solve operational problems and in turn enable the benefiting nonprofits to better serve Pittsburgh," said Tom Link, director of the URA's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. "Steel City Codefest is part of the URA's strategy to connect innovation with community. Over the past four years, Steel City Codefest has helped create solutions that have had a positive impact on Pittsburgh's citizens and neighborhoods alike."

Now in its fifth year, Codefest has had more than 350 participants with each team creating apps based upon individually sourced challenges from the nonprofit, public, and social good sector. To date, $173,000 has been raised, through sponsorships and foundation grants helping to pay for the execution of the events and the build out of nine software applications. Past years' grantees include Involvemint, Homewood Children's Village, the Children's Museum, Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania, Pgh.st, 412 Food Rescue, The Salvation Army, Neighborhood Legal Services, and Rebuilding Together. These organizations, along with the people they serve, are the true winners of Codefest.

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Unlike most hackathons, Steel City Codefest focuses on building viable solutions for the community here in Pittsburgh and is unique in providing funding opportunities post event for taking the apps from prototypes to the streets.

"We're thrilled to be a supporting sponsor of Codefest," said Kate Dewey, president of The Forbes Funds, which provides management assistance and capacity-building support to nonprofits. The Forbes Funds will fund the completion of successful apps. "Our support provides a unique opportunity to go the extra mile and get new technology into the hands of those who need it most: community nonprofits."

Codefest is coordinated by Sara Innamorato, owner of Innamo Co. and currently contracted through the URA. Planning partners include the URA, The Forbes Funds, City of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR), University Library System-University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, MAYA Design, Code for Pittsburgh and Work Hard Pittsburgh. Key allies and sponsors include American Eagle Outfitters, Bakery Square, BNY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania, the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University, Five Star Development, Google, Innovation Works, NetApp, PNC, ShowClix, Wall-to-Wall Studios, and UPMC Enterprises.

*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.*