Civic Technology and Community Engagement

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Engagement Lab

Publics can effectively interface with institutions in an age of increasing mistrust.

Our Methods:

Applied Research and Design

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Our Knowledge Outcomes:

Technology, Workshops, Journals, Games, etc

Catherine D’Ignazio
Lab Fellow
Principal Investigator and Associate Professor

Eric Gordon
Founder and Executive Director
Principal Investigator and Professor

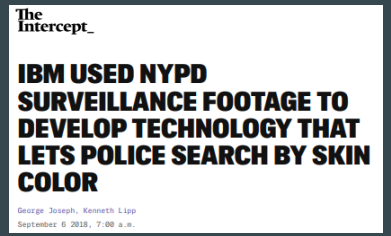
Paul Mihailidis
Graduate Program Director
Principal Investigator and Associate Professor

Who is the Engagement Lab?

Technology and the “Smart” City

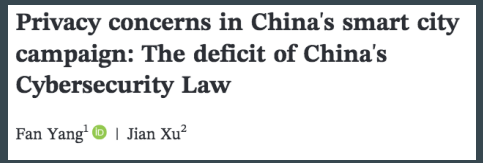
Challenge 1

New “smart” city technology: can communities impact it?


The Intercept_

IBM USED NYPD SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE TO DEVELOP TECHNOLOGY THAT LETS POLICE SEARCH BY SKIN COLOR

George Joseph, Kenneth Lipp
September 6 2018, 7:00 a.m.


Privacy concerns in China's smart city campaign: The deficit of China's Cybersecurity Law

Fan Yang[1] | Jian Xu[2]

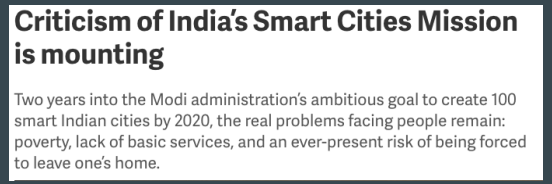
Challenge 2

Are community needs actually being heard and addressed?

DEAR FUTURE | By Kaleigh Rogers | Nov 16 2017, 10:50am

Ignored By Big Telecom, Detroit's Marginalized Communities Are Building Their Own Internet

40 percent of Detroit residents don't have any access to internet at all.


Criticism of India’s Smart Cities Mission is mounting

Two years into the Modi administration’s ambitious goal to create 100 smart Indian cities by 2020, the real problems facing people remain: poverty, lack of basic services, and an ever-present risk of being forced to leave one’s home.

Making a Civic Smart City

civicsmart.city

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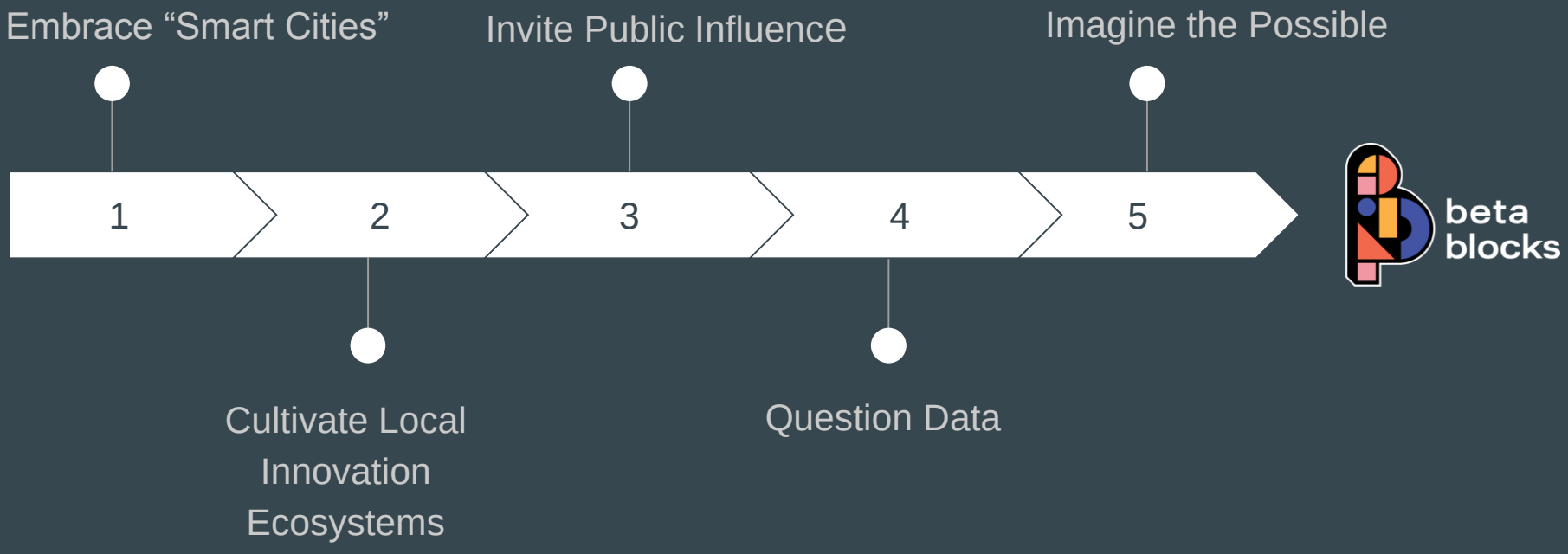
“What are the best ways of involving publics in decision-making about smart digital infrastructure and tools in their city?”

The Five Plays

#1. Embrace “Smart Cities”
#2. Cultivate Local Innovation Ecosystems
#3. Invite Public Influence
#4. Question Data
#5. Imagine the Possible

CivicSmart.City

The CivicSmart.City

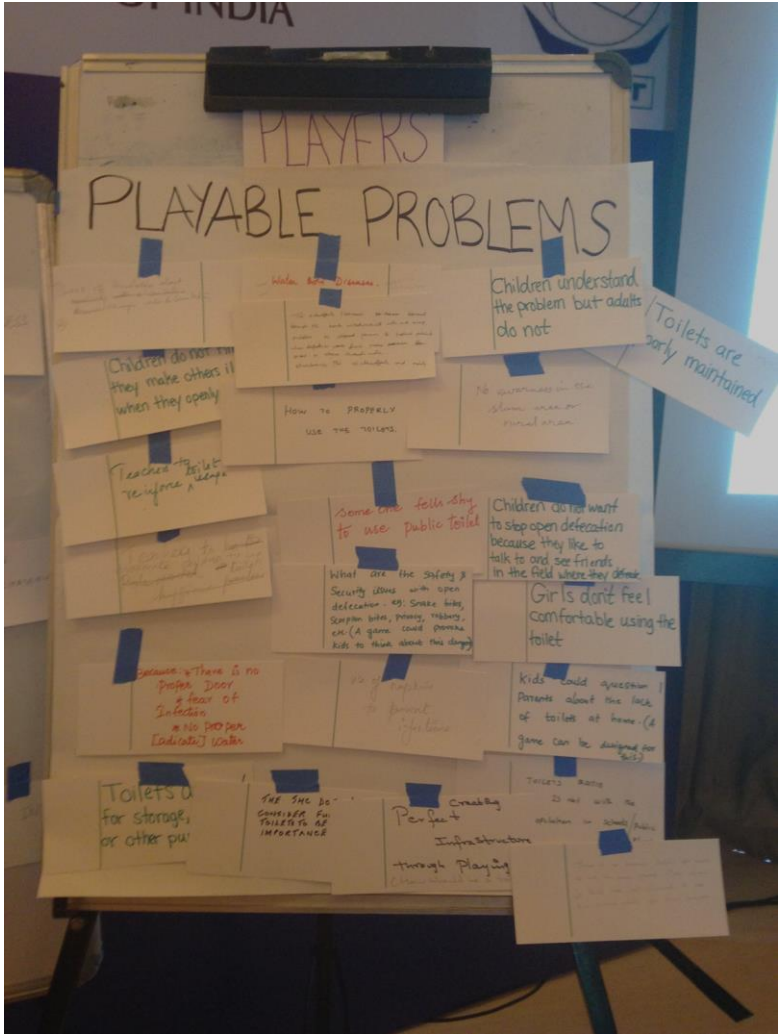


beta blocks

A block-level experimentation zone that encourages publics to invent, adopt, and adapt technologies to improve their quality of life.

Beta Blocks will...

Engage citizens.

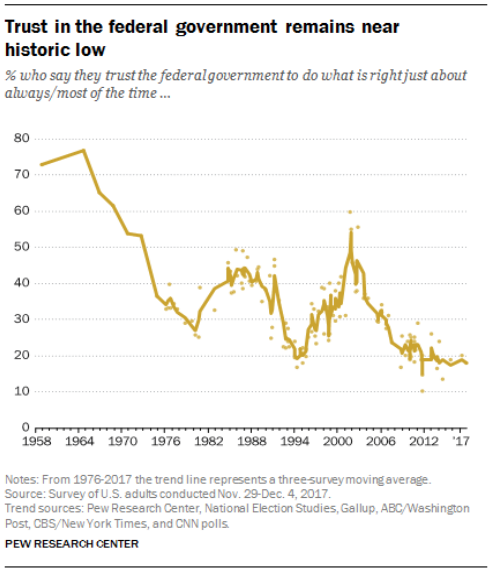


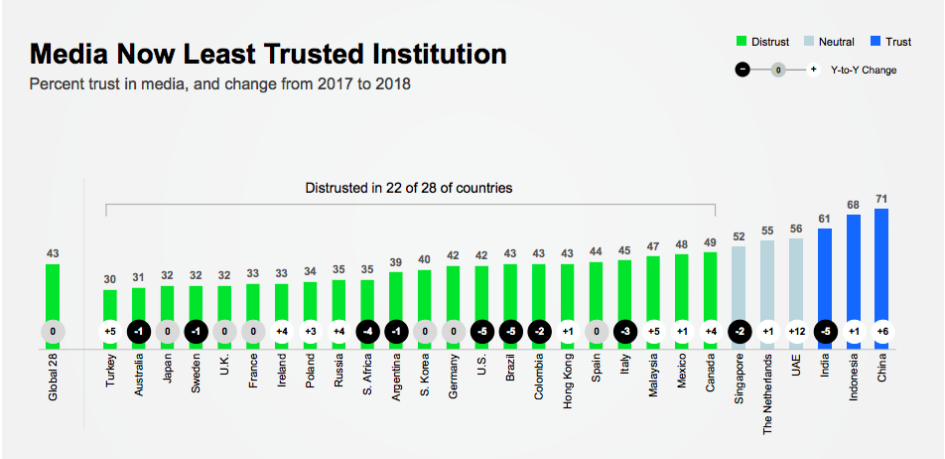
Beta Blocks will…

Encourage participation.

Beta Blocks will...

Increase co-creation.

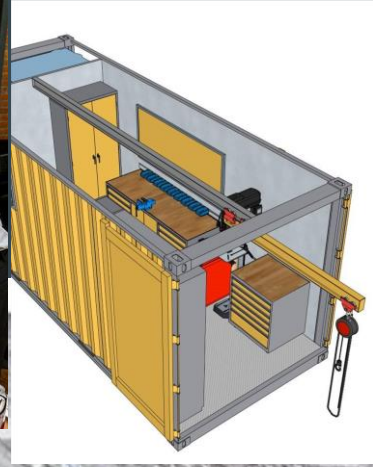


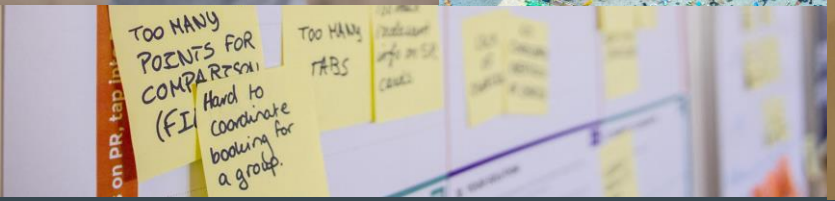


Beta Blocks will NOT...

Be top-down technology.

We want tech to be used by people, not tech to use people.





The Physical Presence

The Beta Blocks Flow

Questions

Tinkering

Ongoing Programming

Tech Partner

Specific Problem

Prototype and Evaluate

Documentation

Advocacy

Zoning

Sustainability

Permitting

Outcomes

Replicable process
Useful data
Co-created technology

Effects

Increased trust
Alter the smart cities conversation

Civicsmart.city is our roadmap for an equitable urban future

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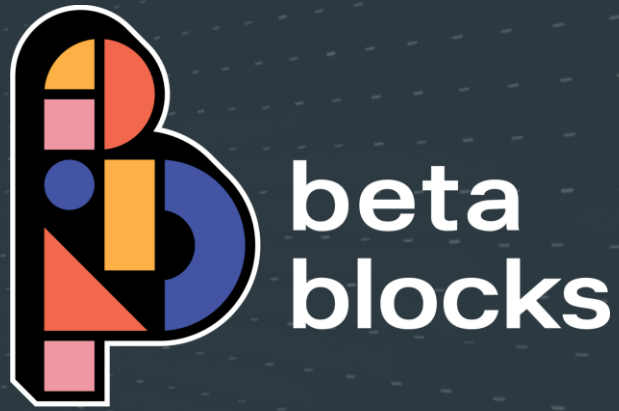

Thank You

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Photo credits available upon request