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Media Brief:

Innovate Oakland (InOak), Oakland Local and Code for America Present 'Code for Oakland' Government Data App Brainstorming Event

Bar Camp Planned for Saturday, June 4th, 2011

Oakland, CA – June 1, 2011 – On June 4, 2011, [Innovate Oakland](#) (InOak), [Oakland Local](#) and [Code for America](#) will be conducting a day of brainstorming to work on mobile and web-based app concepts for the [Knight/FCC Apps for Communities](#) competition. See: [appsforcommunities.challenge.gov](#). This is the first time that the City of Oakland, Alameda County, and the Urban Strategies Council have teamed up to make city and regional data so widely available for use by developers.

This low-cost, one-day Bar Camp will bring government officials, developers, designers and interested parties together for a day that will be devoted to looking at local datasets of use to people in Oakland and give teams a chance to talk through, brainstorm and prototype their ideas before the competition closes on July 11.

The Knight Foundation and the FCC [came to Oakland, CA](#) in April 2011 to announce a major new tech competition called Apps for Communities that will award \$100,000 in prizes to reward mobile and web-based applications that use government and public data to "deliver personalized, actionable information to people that are least likely to be online."

Over \$2,500 in potential awards to help support building an application to submit to Apps for Communities will be offered.

Code for Oakland Bar Camp sessions will include things like:

- What are datasets that can serve low-income people and local communities of color?
- Finding open government data: catalogues, registries and metadata
- Working with data: technical aspects of opening up government data
- Working with mobile: mobile highlights to know
- Developer speed-dating: find others to work with on your project

Projected outputs include:

- Prototypes of ideas for Apps for Communities
- Formation of teams to work on projects for competition
- Documentation of interesting projects and ideas



"The CBDs are happy to be a sponsor and coordinator of this event that both spotlights the strong and growing tech community in Oakland and exemplifies the abundant opportunity for creative, effective public-private enterprise," said Deborah Boyer, President, Lake Merritt/Uptown Association.

If you are the owner of, or have access to, public data sets with Oakland/East Bay relevant information and would like to propose a session for the morning, please contact: codeforoakland@oaklandlocal.com

Code for Oakland: A one day data camp is being organized by a committee of Oakland-based business and organizations led by InOak (Innovate Oakland), Oakland Local, Code for America and The Urban Strategies Council. In addition, the event is being supported by Lake Merritt/Uptown Association, The City of Oakland, Code for America, Comcast, Pandora, Skytide, Oakland Digital (ODALC), Tech Liminal, Spot.us, Stamen Design, Kollektive Mobile and others.

Funders include Lake Merritt/Uptown Association, Ramsell Corporation, Pandora, Full Court Communications, The Kapor Foundation, Urban Strategies Council, Winning Strategies, Citizen Space, The Swig Company, The City of Oakland, Mozilla--and maybe you? Code for Oakland is still seeking sponsorship companies -- contact Susan Mernit at susan@oaklandlocal.com or Patrick Hurley at phurley@skytide.com for info. Contributions are tax-deductible.

There will be a Q&A Session on Friday, June 3 for community organizations who wish to offer ideas and input. To sign up for community listening sessions, visit:

<http://cofpresession.eventbrite.com/>

June 3, 3pm-6pm, City Hall, hearing room 3

Further information on this event can be found at: <http://codeforoakland.org>. Sign up at <http://codeforoakland.eventbrite.com/>

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The Downtown Oakland and Lake Merritt/Uptown District Association were formed in February 2009. Property owners in both Downtown Oakland and the Lake Merritt/Uptown Districts voted by a margin of almost 8 to 1 to support a voluntary property tax to fund services that would improve the quality of life in their respective communities. The associations meet and function jointly. Services funded by these Districts include maintaining cleanliness and order in the public rights of way, improving district identity and advocating on behalf of the area's property owners, business owners and resident.