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INTELLIGENT COMMUNITY FORUM

**2018 Theme Questions**

Each year, ICF selects a theme to guide its Awards program and annual Summit. The theme of the 2018 program is “**Humanizing Data**.” It provides your community with an opportunity to report on its achievements in Big Data and Open Data, as described below. After reading the theme description, please complete the three questions that follow and **return this form** **with the Smart21 Questionnaire** to [awards@intelligentcommunity.org](mailto:awards@intelligentcommunity.org).

**Humanizing Data**

Data has become the heartbeat of the new economy and the lifeblood of smart public policy in the 21st Century.

Two words born in the mid-1990s still shape our understanding of data’s central role. Engineers at Silicon Graphics, an early tech innovator, began talking about “Big Data” at about the same time the words “Open Data” first appeared in a report, which advocated for the free exchange of scientific information.

Two decades later, Big Data describes the high-speed collection, processing and availability of huge volumes of information. What once required days, weeks or months of computer time can now be processed and displayed in real time. Greater processing capacity has encouraged us to add sensors to objects, animals and even to ourselves, and to “scrape”the digital streams of the Internet to generate an even greater flood of data. By getting us answers sooner, Big Data delivers greater value. It also reveals patterns we might never have suspected were there, but which alter our decisions, investments and our well-being. The impact on businesses and institutions already mounts into the billions, measured by cost-savings, convenience, operational improvements and new forms of economic activity.

If data is Big, however, does it only belong to Big companies and Big institutions? Where do individuals and communities fit in a data-driven future?

That’s where Big meets Open. The global Open Data movement has driven municipal, state, provincial and national governments to publish data sets from the vast store of information they collect. Researchers, hackathons and entrepreneurs explore the spread of disease and crime, create real-time transit schedules and develop quality audits for everything from hospitals to restaurants, instantly available on smartphones. New companies spring up to make money from this release of “the peoples’ property,” including such firms as the real estate website Zillow and Garmin, a US$7 billion maker of navigation software and hardware. Governments save money by attracting more bidders for contracts and delivering useful up-to-the-minute information online rather than through call centers. Where governments are committed to transparency, Open Data is shrinking the shadows where corruption flourishes.

As data has become a matter of public policy, its quality, use and interpretation have become the stuff of debate. Data touches issues from privacy and security to economic inequality, and from the right to claim an individual identity to the “right to be forgotten.” Technologists complain about a lack of standards that force them to devote countless hours to preparing government data for use. Open Data advocates demand that information be free – while most governments reserve the right to determine what citizens need to know.

Whether big, open or both, data has become the beating heart of business and government. By fueling a better-informed society, it supports human hopes and human potential. It is valuable when it contributes to prosperity, knowledge, safety, cultural richness and greater collaboration, and it is threatening when directed to lesser goals. In the 2018 Intelligent Community Awards and Summit, we celebrate the people, the communities and the innovators who are humanizing data for the economic, social and cultural benefit of the community. We will identify and honor those whose technical accomplishments lead to less poverty, greater health, higher hopes and longer and richer lives, beginning in the first and most important place of all: the place called home.

**Theme Questions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Community | |
| State/Province | Country: |

1. Health, Welfare and Safety. Provide up to two examples of open data programs in your community that the health, welfare and safety of residents. Explain how government collaborated with third parties to enable useful applications to be created from government data sets, and what results have been achieved.

EXAMPLE 1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **Description** |  |
| **Collaboration** |  |
| **Results** |  |

EXAMPLE 2

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **Description** |  |
| **Collaboration** |  |
| **Results** |  |

1. Economic Development. Provide up to two examples of open data programs that have led to business opportunities for individual entrepreneurs or established companies in your community and explain the collaboration that made it possible and the results achieved.

EXAMPLE 1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **Description** |  |
| **Collaboration** |  |
| **Results** |  |

EXAMPLE 2

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **Description** |  |
| **Collaboration** |  |
| **Results** |  |

1. Attracting Opportunity. Provide up to two examples of open data programs that have served to attract inward opportunity to your community, whether tourists and visitors, employers seeking to locate there, or financial investment. Explain the collaboration that made it possible and the results achieved.

EXAMPLE 1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **Description** |  |
| **Collaboration** |  |
| **Results** |  |

EXAMPLE 2

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **Description** |  |
| **Collaboration** |  |
| **Results** |  |

**Ownership of Information**

By submitting this information, the above-named community attests and acknowledges that:

* All information provided is accurate and fairly represents the past and current condition of the community to the best knowledge of the individual submitting the information.
* All information submitted to the ICF in connection with its international awards program becomes the property of the Intelligent Community Forum and will be used for the purposes of research, analysis and publication in pursuit of its global mission.