OPEN DATA IN DENTON

Council Committee for Citizen Engagement
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WHAT IS OPEN DATA?

Making data that belongs to the public broadly accessible and usable by humans and machines, free of any constraints.

"The goal of open data is to take this valuable resource out of government database silos where it sits idle, or at best underutilized, and put it into the hands of people who can unlock its value."

WHAT MAKES IT DIFFERENT FROM TYPICAL OPEN GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS OR INITIATIVES?

OPEN GOVERNMENT	OPEN DATA (of Gov 2.0)
• Xerox creates the modern day copier in 1959. The US passed the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in 1966.	• The powers and possibilities in the computer age has created new avenues for using government data and information.
• Information provided via copy or PDF obtained after going through prescribed procedures.	• Direct access to real-time data sets at any time through the government website.
• Focus is on government transparency and accountability	• Focus is on collaboration, solving big problems.
• "Tell" citizens what is going on.	• Put government in the people's hands.
• Government: "Here is what we are doing."	• Government: "We want to be the enabler and vehicle for coordinating the collective actions of cities."

EXAMPLES OF FAMOUS GOVERNMENT OPEN DATA PROJECTS WE ALL BENEFIT FROM:

- Global Positioning System (GPS)
- Street Maps, Satellite images
- National Weather Service
- Crime Data
- Public Transportation
- What other cities are doing…

HOW CAN OPEN DATA BENEFIT DENTON?

- **MEETS NEW EXPECTATIONS:** We have a changing 21st century citizenship with new expectations about access to information.
- **FUELS INNOVATION:** citizens both inside and outside government have better tools to develop innovative solutions to recurring civic problems.
- **MAKES A BETTER DEMOCRACY:** Improved citizen experience, better relationship with local government.
- **CREATE A STRONGER ECONOMY:**
  - Directly, by providing entrepreneurial opportunities, new businesses, new jobs.
  - Indirectly, by making Denton the type of city smart citizens and smart companies want to invest in.
- **STRENTHEN PARTNERSHIPS and LEVERAGE COMMUNITY ASSETS:** Opportunities for increased collaboration with universities, nonprofits, governmental agencies, and other local institutions.
- **ENCOURAGES BETTER POLICIES:** policy makers and the citizens who elected them have greater access to information to help create data-driven policies.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	COST
IDENTIFY EXISTING OPEN DATA	What do we already have available and open? Let's market that better…	FREE
IDENTIFY EXISTING DATA THAT COULD BE MADE OPEN	What do we have that is already in a format that could make opening it easy?	FREE
IDENTIFY DATA THAT COULD BE BENEFICIAL IF OPEN	- What are some projects/initiatives of the city where getting free outside help could be beneficial? - Identify data sets of interest to the community	FREE
DEVELOP AN OPEN DATA POLICY	Many examples from other cities and organizations to help with this. For instance: http://sunlightfoundation.com/opendataguidelines/	FREE
DISCOVER OR CREATE AN OPEN DATA PLATFORM	What platform is needed to host the open data?	$1000-1500/month
EXAMPLE PROJECTS	Work with local programmers, coders, designers, university profs and students to find civic problems ripe for a technological solution.	FREE