

Open Data For All

2016 Progress Report



The City of New York
Mayor Bill de Blasio

Anthony Shorris
First Deputy Mayor

NYC[®]

Open Data for All

On July 15, 2015, the Mayor's Office of Data Analytics (MODA) and the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunication (DoITT) rolled out *Open Data for All*, a document that reflected a shift toward a more inclusive vision for Open Data. In the twelve months since, we have met with faces both familiar and new to the open data conversation. Their feedback helped set our priorities and redouble our focus on one number: 8.4 million, the total number of New Yorkers.

We've put together a list of recent milestones to both take stock of our progress and guide our engagements moving forward.

COMMISSIONER ANNE ROEST
Department of Information
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Chief Analytics Officer
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**Open Data
For All**

At the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications we work to deliver IT solutions for the people of the greatest city in the world. Few of our initiatives hold the transformative potential of open data - not only to make City government more transparent, but to empower New Yorkers to use open data - their data - to improve their lives.

We've seen this in action. From the 120 City data sets DoITT opened for the inaugural NYC BigApps competition in 2009 to the more than 1,300 available today, a thriving ecosystem has grown up around the City's efforts - students, journalists, businesses and others use City data daily for projects of their own. With our City Council partners we passed the City's Open Data Law, codifying these gains - and committing to build upon them - for future generations of New Yorkers. This law, and the spirit of collaboration that led to it, continues to inspire our efforts.

Open Data For All represents the next phase in this movement. True engagement, equitable engagement, isn't only about releasing data, it's about expanding opportunities for collaboration to all corners of the five boroughs, and providing the public - the tech savvy and the layperson alike - with and know how to fully participate in a data informed City.

While I was a student at Brooklyn Tech, I majored in computer science. My love for the subject and my ability to succeed in the field were due to the unusual opportunities afforded to me - opportunities not typically extended to folks in my community. My mother introduced me and my siblings to technology early. She was a HR manager at an IBM plant in Brooklyn and had access to the first ever IBM personal computer. Additionally, when I started high school, my mother invested in internet access. Having dial up service at home was a big deal in the late 1990s. With access to a personal computer and the internet, I was able to engage my curiosity and grow my capabilities in computer science.

These investments opened up a new world to me. As the Chief Analytics Officer and Director of the Mayor's Office of Data Analytics, I want to help open up new worlds to all New Yorkers. With Open Data for All, we are introducing our vision for Open Data and how it can shape the City and the lives of New Yorkers.

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NOTABLE DATA RELEASES

NYPD Seven Major Felonies

In 2015, the New York Police Department published incident-level data on the major felonies committed in the city that year. Due to significant public interest, NYPD has since expanded the data to include records dating back to 2006. The dataset features an interactive map that makes incidents searchable by category, location, timeframe, and other variables, and has been used by NYPD to ease the processes of initiating external research partnerships and sharing data across City agencies.

311 Call Center Inquiries

311 is often the first point of contact the public has with City services. Though the phone is just one of many ways New Yorkers interact with 311, call center agents answered over 7 million calls this year. Building on lessons learned from the automation of 311 service request data, 311 officials joined BetaNYC at Civic Hall this spring to announce the public release of all data on agent-answered calls dating back to 2011.

TLC Trip Records

Last August, the Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) published records on every ride taken in green and yellow taxis between January 2009 and June 2015. Previously, the Commission would respond to over 75 annual requests for information on green and yellow taxi trips by laboriously loading millions of data records onto physical hard drives. Putting this data on the Portal has cut down on the time and resources it takes to fill these one-off requests, while also spurring overall usage. In addition, TLC's datasets of active drivers and active vehicles – which include data on all For Hire Vehicles, including livery, limousine, and app-based services like Uber, in addition to taxis – are now among the most popular on the Portal.

Searchable Open Budget

In May 2016, New York City's \$82 billion budget was made available on the Open Data Portal. What previously existed only in print or as lengthy PDFs is now machine readable and searchable. Now taxpayers can easily see the breakdown of how their money is being spent.

City Record Online

Maintained by the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), the City Record is the official newspaper for all NYC municipal business. Last August, DCAS unveiled the newly expanded City Record Online (CROL), which makes all notices in the newspaper fully searchable not only as an Open Data dataset, but also through a new online navigation tool that makes it easier than ever to access information about public hearings, personnel changes, and opportunities to contract with the City.

NYCHA Energy Data

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is voluntarily joining the Open Data movement and leveraging the Open Data Portal for its first public release. As part of its NextGeneration NYCHA Sustainability Agenda published in April 2016, NYCHA has committed to releasing energy consumption and cost data on all of its buildings later this month.

Shelter Repair Scorecard

As part of the effort to improve conditions in homeless shelters, Mayor de Blasio created the Shelter Repair Scorecard to report publicly on the conditions of homeless shelter facilities and track progress made by the expanded repair program to address sub-standard conditions. Data shows that increased inspections have been finding more violations than ever before, and that City and shelter providers have cleared more than 28,000 violations over the last two years. This data is shared both on the Mayor's Office of Operations website and on the Open Data Portal.

EVENTS

Citywide Engagement Tour

MODA met with New Yorkers throughout the city to spread the word to those unfamiliar with Open Data. Their thoughts and questions provided valuable feedback; this fall, MODA staff will begin holding in-person office hours continue the conversation.

NYC School of Data

On March 5, 2016, as part of International Open Data Day and Code for America's Code Across America, elected officials and civic tech groups convened at Civic Hall to celebrate and discuss the future of Open Data. MODA gave a presentation on the way Open Data powers analytics projects and supports information sharing across the city. In addition, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer announced the formation of a task force with a mandate to explore digital literacy and data science for high school students across the city.

NYC Parks TreesCount! 2015

In 2015, NYC Parks launched a participatory mapping campaign to better understand our urban forest, collecting a citywide inventory of street trees in New York City. Parks worked with more than 2,300 volunteers and more than 60 local neighborhood and community-based organizations to conduct the TreesCount! street tree census, enabling everyday New Yorkers to create Open Data for the city. On June 4, 2016, Parks teamed with MODA, the Mayor's Office of Technology and Innovation (MOTI), and BetaNYC to host the "TreesCount! Data Jam" where the community groups that collected data joined Parks to present five of their most pressing challenges to civic hackers. The event also included a workshop for Parks' volunteers and Open Data newcomers to develop skills to analyze TreesCount! data themselves – linking data stewardship with Parks' long history of tree stewardship.

PARTNERSHIPS

NYU CUSP Capstone

MODA is partnering with the academic community to examine where Open Data is reaching New Yorkers... and where it's not. A capstone at the NYU Center for Urban Science + Progress (CUSP) is measuring "data poverty" across the city. Data poverty refers to a condition in which communities or people lack access to, use of, or representation within data that is nevertheless used to inform decisions that may affect them. This analysis, the first of its kind for any city, will be released publicly later this summer.

Columbia SIPA Capstone

MODA also worked with the Columbia University School of International & Public Affairs (SIPA) to assess existing and future opportunities for Open Data to advance the goals of the city's many Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). Although municipal data is in high demand, CBOs pointed to several pain points in accessing and operationalizing Open Data. These results are informing conversations on ways to improve user experience on the Portal. Going forward, more datasets will include data dictionaries defining the attributes (and clarifying the usability) of their contents.

neighborhoods.nyc

Last fall, MOTI partnered with the local startup Vizalytics to unveil neighborhoods.nyc. With nearly 400 neighborhood-specific hubs, this platform centralizes some of the most in-demand information on Open Data – including alternate side parking information and 311 requests – in a web template available for licensing by local community groups.