Open Data For All
2016 Progress Report

The City of New York
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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.
OPEN GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

Over the last year, Mayor de Blasio signed a package of City Council bills that bolster Local Law 11 of 2012 – the Open Data Law – with requirements to make it easier for New Yorkers to access City data online. These laws, which include stronger requirements on data dictionaries and data retention, response timelines for public requests, and timely updates for certain datasets, help to anchor the city’s many transparency initiatives around Open Data.

PORTAL USAGE

New Yorkers interact with Open Data on a variety of channels – dashboards on agency websites, articles written by data journalists, apps that use our APIs – but at the core of the city’s Open Data ecosystem is the Open Data Portal. Since our last update, traffic on the Open Data Portal has more than doubled. In the past year, the Portal had:

- **Over 5 million hits.** The Department of Building’s Job Applications Filings was the most viewed dataset.

- **More than 150 new datasets.** This brings the total to over 1,500 datasets, which collectively contain more than 750 million rows.

- **More than 100 automated datasets.** This brings the total number of automations to over 200.

- **More than 2,000 user-created views** based on City datasets.

Search Terms

Word size represents search frequency on the Open Data Portal in FY16.
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 yellows 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 to 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.