

Learning Data Science Through Engagement With Civic Open Data

Oded Nov, Camillia Matuk and Graham Dove, New York University

NSF AISL Pilots and Feasibility Studies #2005890

INITIAL FINDINGS

1. *Learning about data science is important to helping people answer questions. Learning about civics is important to helping people know what questions to ask.*
2. *Access to people with skills and knowledge that translate concerns and issues into questions and analysis protocols may be a key step to overcoming barriers to entry.*

Digitized government services create a need for diverse communities to access skills to respond to data driven policy and resource allocation.

New York City is a leader in Open Data initiatives, and has a large and diverse population. This project studies informal data science learning at workshops and trainings associated with NYC's open data ecosystem.

ACTIVITIES



Stakeholder Interviews

9 participants
7 practitioners

Open Data Week



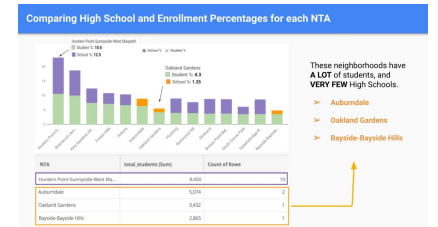
Virtual Town Hall



Ethnographic Observation

BetaNYC

Civic Innovation Fellows Program



Broader Impacts

Addressing a need for data science skills and knowledge to be more widely accessible.

Understanding how infrastructures for supporting community engagement with open data can scale up.

Empowering participants in activities to engage more fully with local issues.



Next Steps

Synthesize knowledge about existing best practices
Investigate barriers to accessing and learning data science skills and knowledge

Develop assessment framework for informal data science learning with civic open data