What is MetroLab?

- MetroLab is an international peer network of academics and policymakers focused on *civic research & innovation*.

- MetroLab drives partnerships between local governments and universities, poised to help the public sector adapt to rapid technology change.

- MetroLab activates this network of stakeholders through convening, collaboration, and programming.

30+ Members committed to new membership model, as of September 2019
Why Local Gov’t x University Partnerships?

- Partnerships between local governments and universities are compelling mechanisms to quickly target and deploy research on high-need priorities that manifest at local level.
- Faculty and students research and deploy “living lab” approaches to societal priorities, enabling rich exploration of social and technical sciences.
- Meanwhile, they bring capacity and creativity to local government and help enable digital and technological transformation and evidence-based, research-informed policy.

How are these Partnerships Supported?

There has been an emergence of “urban science” programs at universities in the US and globally. These programs are supported by a range of private donors, federal research grants, and corporate and philanthropic support. A number of programs have developed masters degrees specifically focused on “urban science” or related fields. At the federal level, the National Science Foundation created their “Smart & Connected Communities” program in 2016 and has dedicated $20-$40 million annually to the program. MetroLab is working with NSF and the funder community on new ways to support these types of activities.
MetroLab History

Launch
- Launch in October as part of White House Smart Cities Initiative, housed during initial phase within Carnegie Mellon University

Expansion
- Membership grew to more than 30 city-university partnerships around the country

Programming
- Launch of Data Science and Human Services work, supported by Annie E. Casey and Kresge Foundations

Federal Partnership
- Start of Partnership with NSF on Design of Civic Innovation Challenge
- Consulting work on civic innovation for the Gates Foundation

Institutionalization
- Spinout from CMU into independent organization
- Announcement of membership dues model
- Inclusion of international members

High Impact
- Launch of Civic Innovation Challenge, a project in partnership with NSF
- Implementation of membership dues model and new programs and services for members
Why MetroLab?

● Tap into the value of an international network of peers working on civic research and innovation
  ○ Leverage MetroLab’s platform to learn from best practices that have emerged from city-university partnerships across the country, like data-sharing templates, civic research agendas, and urban science curricula.
  ○ Connect with collaborators from across the network to test and scale technologies and approaches that have emerged locally between your city and university.

● MetroLab serves as a bridge to the civic ecosystem, consisting of philanthropies, federal agencies, non-profits, and local gov’t associations
  ○ Benefit from new programs that MetroLab helps design and scale, like the Civic Innovation Challenge, a forthcoming “research and action” competition led by NSF in partnership with MetroLab.
  ○ Opportunities for faculty and students to share projects, speak on panels, and participate in capacity building and career development opportunities in the civic research and innovation domain.
Testimonials

“What you have with MetroLab is a network of city-university pairs that really navigate their relationship not in terms of what are you doing to my housing market and do we have to bust your parties, but how to apply the substance of the work that is going on at your institution and use it to make the lives of our community better and in so doing also make the people at your institution better off.”

“Pete Buttigieg
Mayor of South Bend, IN

“There is great opportunity for cities to leverage real-time data to create more engaged, equitable communities. By partnering cities with universities, MetroLab is building a model that can give communities the capacity and expertise to make this a reality.”

“Lilian Coral
Knight Foundation
Director of National Strategy & Technology Innovation

“I have led data transformations at the state and local level. MetroLab introduces a model that brings data science, analytics, and creativity to critical priorities facing our cities and communities.”

“Martin O’Malley
61st Governor of Maryland
47th Mayor of Baltimore
Chair, MetroLab Advisory Council
MetroLab’s Membership Model

- In 2018, MetroLab introduced a membership dues model that would go into effect for 2020, with annual membership dues applying to member universities.

- The dues model coincided with MetroLab’s spin-out as an independent nonprofit organization, and reflected a priority to align its core priorities with its funding model.

- The dues model will enable MetroLab to take on a set of priorities that will advance the work underway among its city and university members:
  - Enabling Data & Technology Transformation and Driving Evidence-Based, Research-Informed Policy
  - Transformative Programming with Federal, Philanthropic, and Corporate Partners
  - Peer-to-Peer Network
  - Faculty, Student, and Policymaker Engagement
  - Project Support, Partnership
  - By Redefining the City-University Partnership, Through
What Will Membership Dues Support?

*Dues will be leveraged to support a portfolio of new activities and services.*

**RESEARCH FUNDING FOR URBAN- & COMMUNITY-FOCUS SCIENCE**

- Forge federal and philanthropic partnerships, like the recently announced Civic Innovation Challenge, a partnership between MetroLab and the National Science Foundation to organize a research and action competition in the “Smart & Connected Communities” domain, with anticipated support from NSF and other stakeholders
- Create a program for philanthropic and corporate funders to support research that can be competed across MetroLab sites – and connected to promotion, media, and collaborators across MetroLab’s platform

**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT & JOB PLACEMENT**

- Create internship and fellowship programs that place students in public sector tech, data, and innovation roles
- Organize treks for students to connect with counterparts in other city governments, nonprofits, and urban tech-focused companies

**FOCUS / TIME COMMITMENT**

- **Research Funding** 60%
- **Student Engagement** 15%
- Dues will be leveraged to support a portfolio of new activities and services.
What Will Membership Dues Support? (cont)

**KNOWLEDGE & RESOURCES**

- Develop a *resource library* that will include data sharing templates, sample memorandum of understanding, and other materials that will help enable partnerships between universities and cities
- Develop a *curriculum exchange* that aggregates resources for the emerging, cross-disciplinary field of urban science / urban informatics / smart cities
- Establish a *service and partnership platform* that connects researchers with specific interests and capabilities to collaborators in cities, non-profit, and industry

**INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

- Welcome *international partners*, that will forge partnerships between North American city-university partnerships with global counterparts
- Organize inbound and outbound *international treks* for faculty, students, and local government officials to learn and share their work across the globe

**MEDIA & THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**

- Continue the *Innovation of the Month* partnership with GovTech magazine, highlighting leading city-university collaborations
- Leverage the expertise from its network and outside partners to develop reports and white papers on emerging topics, like its report on the *Ethical Use of Predictive Analytics in Human Services* and *Technology for Civic Data Integration*
How Does Membership Work?

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

University members are responsible for annual dues of $9,975

We encourage our members to leverage their participation in MetroLab to be regional leaders in civic research and innovation. Membership in MetroLab can offer an outlet for university personnel to integrate a range of local city and county policymakers into MetroLab’s ecosystem.

**LOCAL GOV’T PARTNERS**

As part of membership, universities can bring along as many local government partners as they choose.

**FUNDING THE DUES**

Most MetroLab members have secured resources at the program and/or administrative level to fund their membership. Some have shared the cost with their local gov’t partners or relied on external non-profits and philanthropies.

**REGIONAL COLLABORATION**

In an effort to encourage regional collaboration among universities, membership dues are discounted when 2 or more universities in a region join:

- 2 universities: $7,975 each
- 3+ universities: $6,975 each

*Dues level outlined here are for U.S. members. International members dues differ.*
Highlighting Our Work: Civic Innovation Challenge

Initial discussions with NSF about possibilities for a “challenge” competition focused on partnerships between local governments and universities

Jun 2018

MetroLab announces effort to scope the Civic Innovation Challenge and launches Ideas Competition, open to local gov’t-university teams to submit problem statements to shape the competition

Oct 2018

MetroLab awarded EAGER grant from NSF to design and scope a research competition in the Smart & Connected Communities domain

Spring 2018

MetroLab hosts Ideas Festival at NSF’s headquarters that includes teams from top 30 submissions to the Ideas Festival and is focused on finding common themes and priorities across the different submissions

Aug 2019

MetroLab signs cooperative agreement with NSF to support the Civic Innovation Challenge, focused on outreach, capacity building, support and programming for finalists and winners, and joint-funder engagement

2020

Anticipated launch of Civic Innovation Challenge, with support from NSF along with other funders from other federal agencies and philanthropies

The Civic Innovation Challenge demonstrates how MetroLab can leverage its expertise and positioning to bring new programs and funding to the table to support activity underway between local governments and universities.

Click here to learn more about the Civic Innovation Challenge
Highlighting Our Work: Innovation of the Month

The Innovation of the Month partnership with GovTech allows our members to tell their stories about projects that are transforming the built and natural environment, service delivery, and civic engagement in their communities.

2019 WINNERS

SEPT 2019: CHATTANOOGA SMART CORRIDOR HOT BED FOR REAL-TIME ANALYTICS

A collaboration among the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, the city and other partners drives work behind the HiA Smart Corridor, used to test new technologies and generate data-driven outcomes.

AUG 2019: DATA-DRIVEN HEALTH CARE BENEFITS UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

A program from the University of Florida and Gainesville Fire Rescue tracks patient metrics and allows for real-time communication between emergency workers and hospitals, reducing costs of frequent EMS users.

JULY 2019: KC TAKES DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH TO ADDRESSING BLIGHT

The Abandoned to图标 project, a collaboration between the city and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, uses open data to map abandoned houses and give potential buyers a sense of the surrounding neighborhood.

JUNE 2019: EPIC-N ENGAGES STUDENTS ON CITY ISSUES

The Educational Partnership for Innovation in Communities-Net is a nonprofit that brings diploma programs at universities across the country and their work with their communities to generate high-tech solutions.

MAY 2019: DATA DRIVES DOWN NASHVILLE’S EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIMES

Together with the Foodbank Initiative for Smart Cities Operations and Research, the Nashville Fire Department and the city IT agency created a tool that uses predictive modeling to forecast emergency response times.

APRIL 2019: HOUSTON WORKS TOWARD DATA-DRIVEN DISASTER RESPONSE

Together with Rice University and other local institutions, the Texas city is collaborating with residents and stakeholders to plan for future flood mitigation given the devastation seen during Hurricane Harvey.

Click here to explore the Innovation of the Month Winners
We leverage our network and create opportunities for members to highlight their projects and perspectives in reports that address high-priority areas - past report and have focused on predictive analytics in human services, technology for data integration, and an exploration of civic innovation activities across the U.S.

Click here to read our reports on predictive analytics and data integration.
Highlighting Our Work: Annual Summit

The MetroLab Summit brings a community of leaders from across the civic ecosystem that is leveraging technology, analytics, and innovation to address a range of priorities, from urban planning, to data privacy, to sustainability, to social service delivery. The event is unique: unlike many corporate conferences, the MetroLab Summit is oriented around workshops and discussions that elevate projects underway across the country, explore issues at the frontier of civic research and innovation, and cultivate an international community of peers.
2020 Priorities: Member Services and Activities

**ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM**
Robust member engagement platform that allows for member-to-member interaction, outreach, and communication

**RESOURCE LIBRARY**
Resource library that brings together tools and document templates that advance city-university partnership, project development, and data-sharing

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**
Engagement with philanthropic and corporate entities to identify opportunities for project and partnership support for city-university activities across MetroLab

**CONVENING & WORKSHOPS**
Targeted convening activities that bring together members on topics of mutual interest, like the “urban science as an academic field” and “development of masters programs in urban informatics”
Get in Touch

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