

# AUSTIN FORUM

---

ON TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY

*Connect. Collaborate. Contribute.*™

***Welcome to the  
Austin Forum on Technology & Society  
on Zoom!***

***Thank you for joining our community  
online!***

**#TechForGood**



Jessica Sager  
Austin Forum



Justin Murrill  
AMD



Dr. Steve Kramer  
KUNGFU.AI

## How Technology Companies & Techies Can Create Even More Social Good

*December 1, 2020  
Online (Zoom)*



Ryan-Alexander Thomas  
Umanity



Nehemiah Pitts III  
Community Technology &  
Telecommunications Commission, COA

**AUSTIN FORUM**

ON TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY

@AustinForum  
#TechForGood

# Our Annual Partners Make This Possible!





Navira Abbasi  
*Galvanize*



Craig Aumann  
*CVEX*



Fares Bagh  
*Arm*



Kirsten Billhardt  
*Dell Technologies*



Charlie Burgoyne  
*Valkyrie*



Kirk Cesari  
*SetterRoche, LLP*



Kuan Collins  
*SAIC*



Brad Englert  
*Brad Englert  
Advisory*



Mike Ignatowski  
*AMD*



Harold Ingersoll  
*Atchley &  
Associates*



Mitch Jacobson  
*Austin  
Technology Incubator*



Hugh Forrest  
*SXSW*



Sherri Greenberg  
*UT LBJ School*



Amber Gunst  
*Austin Technology  
Council*



Janice Omadeke  
*The Mentor  
Method*



Karl Popham  
*Austin Energy*



Elizabeth Quintanilla  
*Marketing  
Gunslingers*



Matt Sanchez  
*CognitiveScale*



Marie Todd  
*Slalom Consulting*



Michael Ward Jr.  
*Austin Urban  
Technology  
Movement*



Jay Williams  
*Quantum  
Materials Corp*

# Awesome AF Advisory Board!

# Austin Forum Events: Expert Presentations to Inform & Inspire

*We bring leaders, thinkers, builders, creators, and learners together to [connect, collaborate, contribute!](#)*



6:00-6:15 attendees can connect to Zoom session

**6:15-7:30 presentation**


7:30-8:00ish Q&A and discussion!



# What technology that you want us to cover in 2021?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 

# More Great Content: Austin Forum Upload & Austin Forum Update!



<https://medium.com/@AustinForum>



# Join the AF Slack Workspace

## AustinForum.org/Slack



- Continue and deepen the conversation after Austin Forum events
- Find new opportunities for collaboration, mentoring, working, and more
- Promote local events and relevant Tech & Society opportunities

**Interested in moderating a channel on our Slack workspace?** Email us at [info@austinforum.org](mailto:info@austinforum.org)



*Help us share the Austin Forum goodness with everyone!*

Remember to tweet!  
**#TechForGood @AustinForum**

Questions for speakers?  
Use **Q&A in the Zoom** client  
(not the Chat—use that for self-intros, adding information, etc.)

# And now, our featured presentation...

Please:

- ✓ Ask questions via **Zoom Q&A button** (and please be respectful of our speakers and audience)
- ✓ Share key points via Twitter using our hashtag & handle: **#TechForGood @AustinForum**
- ✓ Learn, think, enjoy!

**#TechForGood**



Jessica Sager  
Austin Forum



Justin Murrill  
AMD



Dr. Steve Kramer  
KUNGFU.AI

## How Technology Companies & Techies Can Create Even More Social Good

*December 1, 2020  
Online (Zoom)*



Ryan-Alexander Thomas  
Umanity



Nehemiah Pitts III  
Community Technology &  
Telecommunications Commission, COA





**AUSTIN FORUM**

ON TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY

@AustinForum  
#TechForGood

# By the numbers...



In 2019

US Tech industry  
had 12.1 million  
employees

Economic impact of  
the tech industry is  
\$1.9 billion

Tech Republic

# It's not all good...

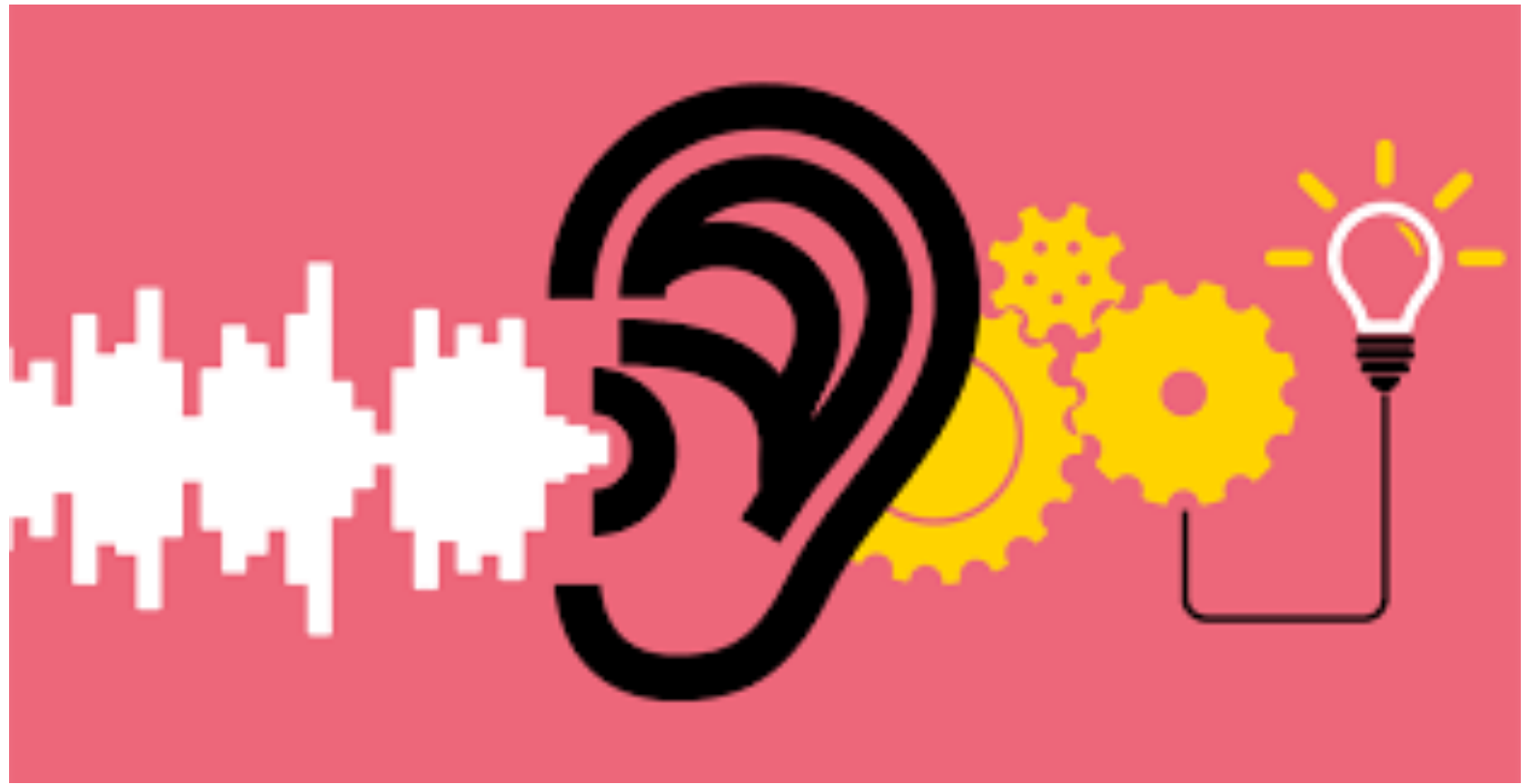






DISTANCE LEARNING





What is your *potential*?

What is the impact you  
\*could\* be making?



*What Legacy  
Will You Leave  
Behind?*



THE DAILY POSITIVE.COM

**AUSTIN FORUM**

ON TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY

@AustinForum  
#TechForGood



CORPORATE  
**AMD**  
SUMMARY

# PEOPLE PLANET PURPOSE

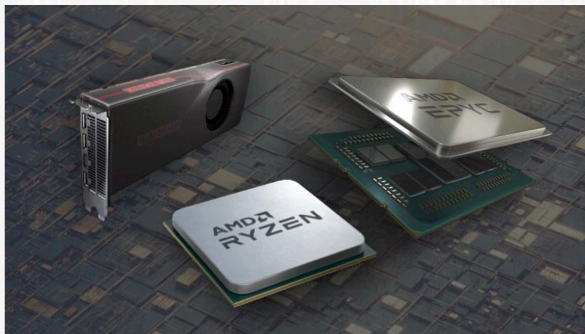
2020 AUSTIN FORUM  
ON TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY

# AMD IS A LEADING TECHNOLOGY COMPANY



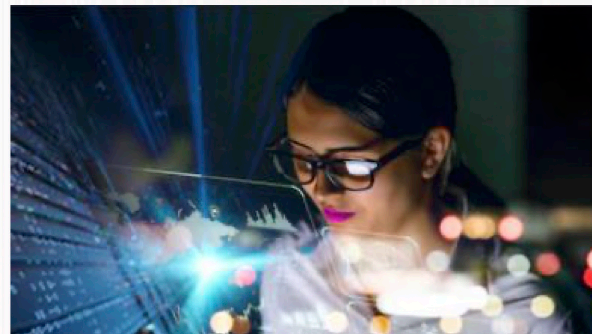
## 12,000+ Employees

Working around the world,  
headquartered in  
Santa Clara, California



## Building the Best

Developing high-performance compute  
technologies that move us forward



## Transforming the World

Non-stop innovation for the world's  
creators, researchers, inventors and  
explorers

# CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

We believe that companies must operate with society in mind. We view our role through the lens of PEOPLE, PLANET and PURPOSE.

## PEOPLE

We strive to ensure that working conditions throughout our supply chain are safe and dignified, and we nurture an inclusive work environment where employees bring their unique perspectives and passions to work every day.

## PLANET

We are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from our operations, developing energy-efficient processors, and contributing to our local communities through company-sponsored volunteer events.

## PURPOSE

We believe that immersive and instinctive computing will transform our lives, and we are inspired by how digital technology has improved our world - from helping students learn to creating innovative new therapies for veterans to mapping the universe we live in.





# PEOPLE

## THE POWER BEHIND INNOVATION

Our goal is to deliver high-quality products while ensuring that working conditions in our supply chain are safe, and that workers are treated with respect and dignity. We actively participate in the Responsible Business Alliance to advance human rights in the supply chain.

We also strive to be an employer of choice, with passionate, innovative, fully engaged employees. Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) and volunteerism are examples of how we build a strong culture that reaches across all aspects of our business.



### 2019 GLOBAL VOLUNTEER RESULTS

3,098

VOLUNTEERS

15,193

VOLUNTEER HOURS

160

SERVICE PROJECTS

17,250

SEEDLINGS PLANTING

15,193

MEALS PACKED, COOKED,  
SERVED

16,454

EDUCATIONAL PACKETS  
ASSEMBLED

\$61,800

RAISED FOR CHARITY

LEARN MORE AT [AMD.COM/COMMUNITY](https://amd.com/community)





# PLANET

## OUR COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

We focus on environmental excellence in our operations, communities, supply chain and product design.

AMD Austin employees contribute in several ways, including:

- Designing energy efficient microprocessors;
- Organizing Green Team volunteer initiatives;
- Commuting via sustainable transportation (i.e., cycling, driving electric vehicles, ridesharing); and
- Installing discounted home solar panels.

### AMD GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- 23% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, 10% savings in water use and 41% less waste generation globally (2014-2019);
- 31.7x more energy efficiency in our mobile processors (2014-2020); and
- 42 million kwh of renewable energy sourced in 2019, enough to power over 5,000 US homes.



# PURPOSE

## TECHNOLOGY ENABLING A BETTER WORLD

Creating high-performance computing that bolsters scientific research, improves medical imaging and advances STEM education are examples of how AMD engineers help tackle global challenges.

The AMD High Performance Compute (HPC) Fund includes \$15 million worth of AMD technology to research institutions working on COVID-19, including the University of Texas, Rice University and Texas State.



“AMD and our technology partners are proud to provide researchers around the world with these new systems that will increase the computing capability available to fight COVID-19 and support future medical research.”

Dr. Lisa Su  
President and CEO

# POWER TO FIGHT A PANDEMIC

AMD COVID-19 HPC  
FUND HELPS POWER  
WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH



**HPC** | High Performance  
Compute Fund

# AMD IN AUSTIN

## Philanthropy & Volunteerism

- Grants provided to local nonprofit groups each year
- Annual Day of Service and year-round volunteering – employees volunteered over 3,000 hours in 2019
- In 2020, AMD locally matched employee donations 2:1 to the Central Texas Food Bank and American Red Cross, and made other financial and in-kind donations

## STEM Education

- Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders state of the art computer lab for engineering and computer science curriculum
- Virtual Career Exploration events with students from Breakthrough Central Texas, Kipp Schools, Girlstart
- UT Austin internships, advisory boards



# THANK YOU

Learn more at  
[AMD.com/CorporateResponsibility](https://www.amd.com/corporateresponsibility)



©2020 Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. All rights reserved. AMD, the AMD Arrow logo, Ryzen, Ryzen Threadripper, EPYC, Radeon, Athlon, and combinations thereof are trademarks of Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. PID# 20408343-A





**KUNGFU.AI**

#AIforGood Initiatives at KUNGFU.AI

Steve Kramer, Ph.D., Chief Scientist

Austin Forum for Technology & Society #TechforGood Session

December 2020

# #AIforGood Initiatives at KUNGFU.AI

1 Vision, Mission, and Values

---

2 External Outreach Efforts

---

3 AI & Ethics Initiatives

---

4 Disinformation Research

---

5 Volunteering Opportunities!



# Vision, Mission, and Values

KUNGFU.AI is a small AI consultancy based in Austin. Our #AIforGood initiatives are rooted in our vision, mission, and values.

**VISION:** Elevate the best parts of humanity.

**MISSION:** Deliver the thoughtful, creative, and scientific application of AI that works.

**VALUES:** People, Inventiveness, Trust / Integrity / Trustworthiness, Learning, Inclusivity / Openness / Equity / Democratization





# External Outreach Efforts

- Monthly #AIforGood Office Hours
  - For those seeking help and for volunteers who wish to help. Reach out via <https://www.kungfu.ai/contact-us/>
- Ongoing pro-bono collaborations
  - [Rainforest Connection non-profit](#): Supervised and self-supervised audio modeling for gunshot detection in the rainforest
  - [MEASURE Austin non-profit](#): MEASURE's goal: "We use data and education to mobilize communities to eliminate social disparities."
  - [Huston-Tillotson University](#)



# MEASURE and KUNGFU.AI

- Early stages of ongoing partnership
  - Original connection came from a meeting at an Austin Forum event where Meme Styles presented her work
- Initial efforts focused on:
  - Data consolidation from new non-profit consultations
  - Fundraising
- Filmed a [call-to-action video](#) to communicate MEASURE's goals and needs to the community at large. Please consider watching and/or sharing within your network!



# Huston-Tillotson Outreach Efforts

- Collaboration with Dr. Masino:
  - Research methods seminar module on AI algorithmic bias with case studies by Jeffrey Gleason
- Five-part entrepreneurship series coordinated by Stephen Straus, KUNGFU.AI's Managing Director
- Recruiting for machine learning engineering interns



# AI & Ethics Initiatives

- Internal ethics review process for whether to accept potential AI projects
- [Safe Face Pledge](#) to avoid any facial recognition projects
- Algorithmic auditing framework for AI projects
  - [“Closing the AI Accountability Gap: Defining an End-to-End Framework for Internal Algorithmic Auditing”](#) by Inioluwa Deborah Raji *et al.* (Jan. 2020) [researchers from the Partnership for AI and Google]



# Algorithmic Auditing Framework

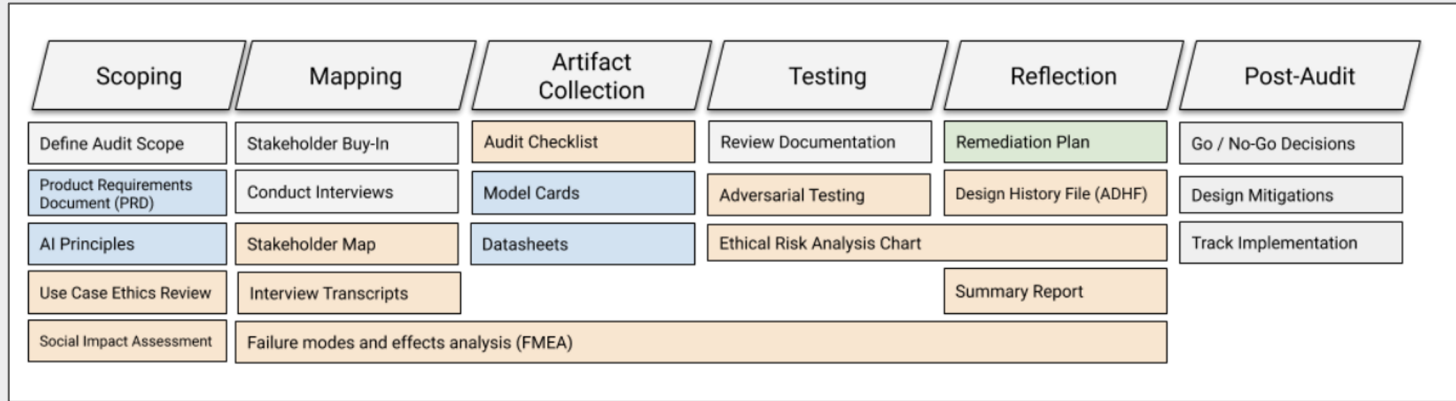


Figure: I. D. Raji et al. [“Closing the AI Accountability Gap: Defining an End-to-End Framework for Internal Algorithmic Auditing”](#) (Jan. 2020)

Gray = a process

Orange = documents produced by auditors

Blue = documents produced by engineering/product teams

Green = documents developed jointly



# Initial Rollout at KUNGFU.AI

- **Model Cards** - information about how the model was built; what assumptions were; what type of model behavior might be experienced by different cultural, demographic, etc., groups.
- **Datasheets** - analogous to electronics hardware industry. Key questions: How was data collected? Was an ethical review process conducted? Do the data sets relate to people?



# Datasheet for Health Data from Ethiopia

- KUNGFU.AI is a subcontractor to Uncharted Software for DARPA's D3M program. Focus areas:
  - Remote sensing research: locust detection (food security), damage assessment for natural disasters and climate change, etc.
  - Time series forecasting: disease prediction

- [Datasheet for PHEM dataset](#)

**Data Sheet** - contains answers to questions from template on pages 7-8 in Gebru, Timnit, et al. "Datasheets for datasets." arXiv preprint arXiv:1803.09010 (2018).

**Motivation for Dataset Creation**

- This data contains a sample of the data provided by Ethiopian Public Health Institute (PHEM). It contains weekly reported cases of malnutrition in Oromia, Ethiopia for the years 2017 to 2019.
- Could also be used to identify regions where there are insufficient providers/clinics (depending on quality of sample)
- AFAIK, it has not been used for other tasks.
- Presumably, PHEM funded creation of the dataset.

**Dataset Composition**

- The instances contain the number of reported cases of various illnesses (e.g. malaria, meningitis, dysentery) in specific zones/woredas in the Oromia region, aggregated at a weekly frequency.
- The geographic relationship between zones and woredas is not made explicit for those without knowledge of Oromia's geography.
- There are 2400 unique observations (1 observation = 1 point in time for 1 location)



# Twitter Disinformation Research

- Dr. Steve Kramer's research approaches
  - Network graph analysis
  - Complexity theory (information entropy)
  - Natural language processing
- Focus areas during 2020
  - COVID-19
  - Black Lives Matter
  - Election 2020
- ODSC Talk: "Identifying Viral Bots and Cyborgs"
  - [Video](#) and [Slides](#)





# Key COVID-19 Disinformation Findings

- Groups among 5K+ highly automated accounts:
  - Accounts claiming that the Coronavirus is fake news or a hoax
  - Accounts linking primarily to Russian websites
  - Retweeters of mainstream news websites
  - Accounts promoting online services or products
- There are also groups of automated accounts focused on specific topics or people
  - Pro- and anti-Tedros accounts
  - Pro- and anti-Fauci accounts



# Pro- and Anti-Tedros Automated Accounts

- Out of the initial set of 4562 automated COVID accounts, we found
  - 92 accounts supportive of Dr. Tedros and the W.H.O.
  - 160 accounts critical of Dr. Tedros and the W.H.O.
- Examples:

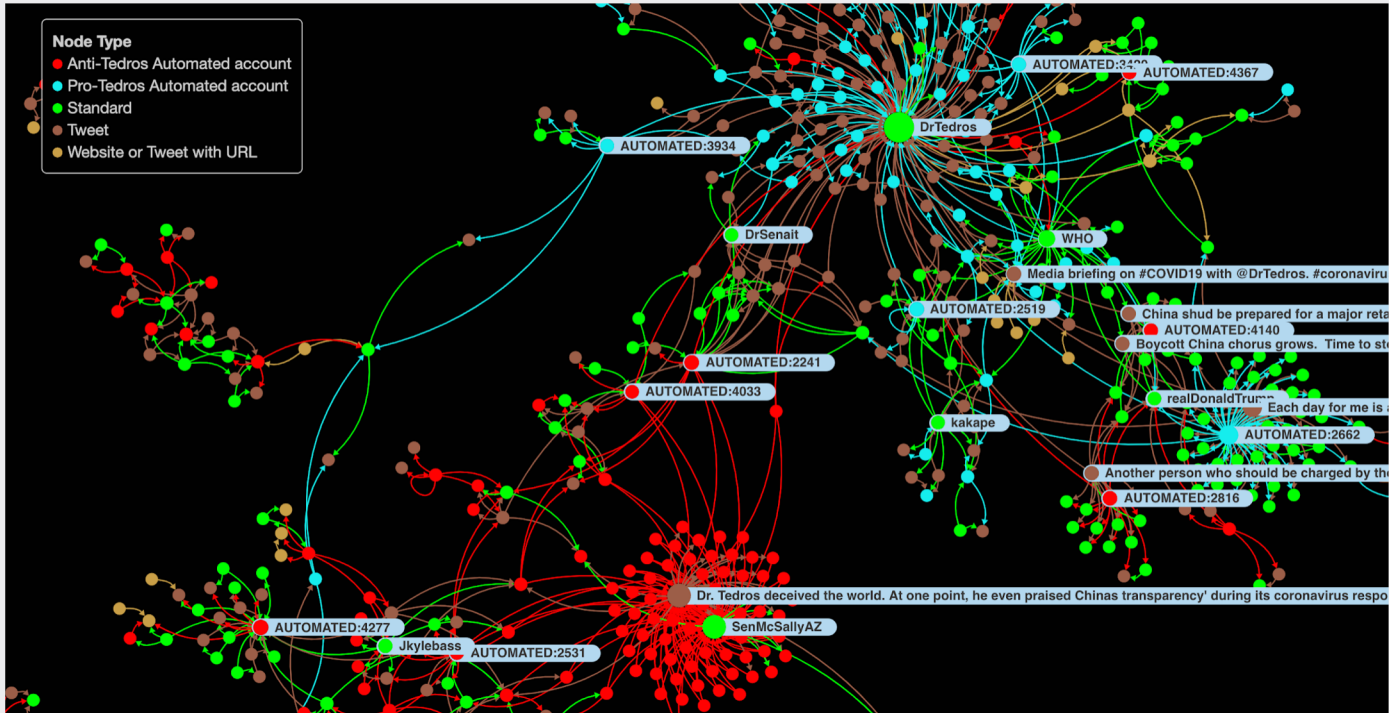
- Pro-Tedros:



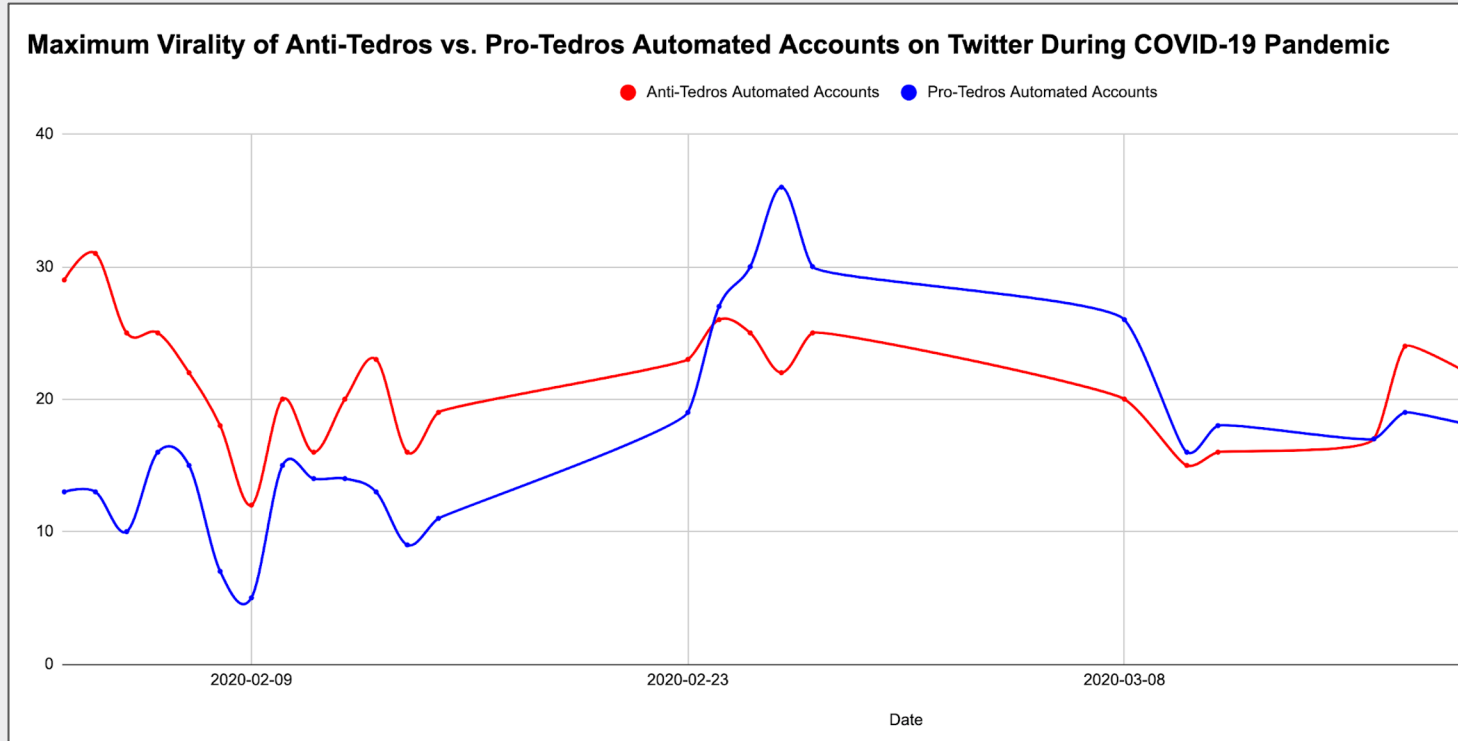
- Anti-Tedros:



# Tedros-Related Twitter Network

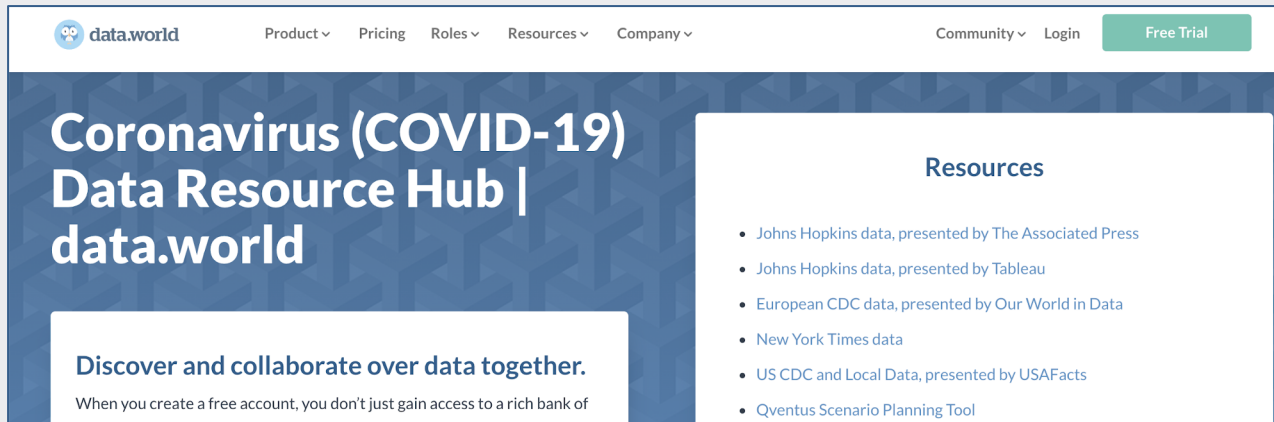


# Battle for Dominance Between Opposing Sides



# Research Collaboration on data.world

- We have shared a subset of our analysis results in a [data project](#) on data.world.
- The data.world team has also curated a comprehensive set of COVID-19 research resources: <https://data.world/resources/coronavirus/>



The screenshot shows the data.world website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the data.world logo, menu items for Product, Pricing, Roles, Resources, and Company, and buttons for Community, Login, and a Free Trial. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text "Coronavirus (COVID-19) Data Resource Hub | data.world". Below this banner, there is a white box with the text "Discover and collaborate over data together." and a sub-headline "Resources". To the right of this box, there is a list of resources:

- Johns Hopkins data, presented by The Associated Press
- Johns Hopkins data, presented by Tableau
- European CDC data, presented by Our World in Data
- New York Times data
- US CDC and Local Data, presented by USAFacts
- Qventus Scenario Planning Tool



# Open Invitation for Volunteers

- Please join one or more of our #AIforGood initiatives!
- Multiple opportunities:
  - Twitter disinformation research on data.world
  - COVID-19 research and analysis on data.world
  - Rainforest Connection:
    - Machine learning volunteers needed for KUNGFU.AI project!
    - [Kaggle competition](#)
  - Measure Austin
  - Huston-Tillotson University
- Sign up for #AIforGood office hours for get or provide help.
- Reach out to [info@kungfu.ai](mailto:info@kungfu.ai).





**KUNGFU.AI**

Thank You



## The Social Marketplace

Umanity is a marketplace for organizing and mobilizing community building.



 **Who**

 **Why**

 **What**

 **How**



EXPERIENCE

BEY GOOD

SUPERH

bread of life INC.

CHN ANALYTICS

CLIENTS

MAYO CLINIC

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Nationwide

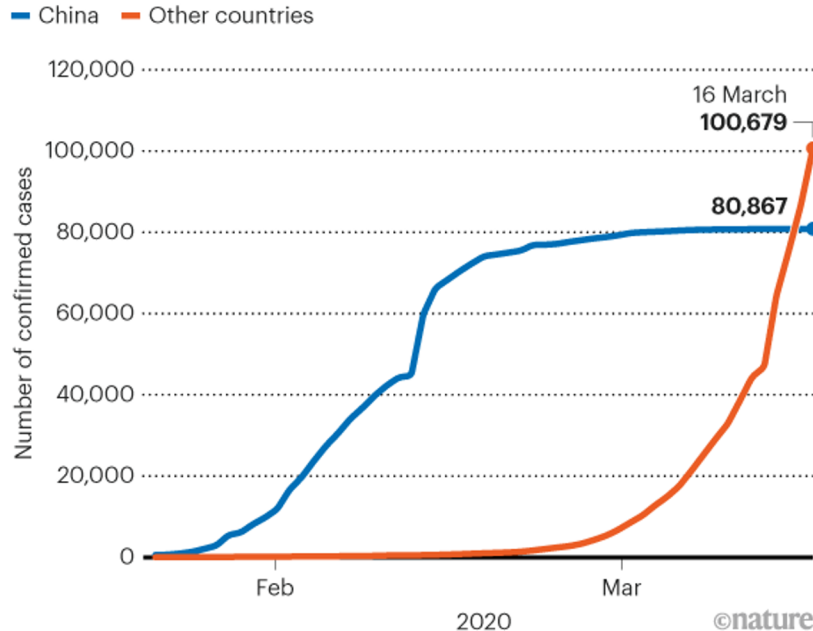
**Over 15 years of Rapid Prototyping, Data Analytics, and Community Engagement Technology Experience**

**Ryan Thomas** CEO  
**Alec Daling** CTO

# March 2020

## RAPID SPREAD

The new coronavirus has infected more than 180,000 people globally. The number of cases outside China continues to escalate.



### COVID-19 SPREADS EASILY IN GROUP GATHERINGS

PRIMARY CASES	CHURCH CASES	COMMUNITY
<p>2 symptomatic people attended church events March 6-8, later tested positive for COVID-19</p> <p>CDC.GOV</p>	<p>At least 35 of 92 attendees acquired COVID-19, 3 deaths</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/MMWR051920">bit.ly/MMWR051920</a></p>	<p>From contact with church cases, at least 26 additional cases were confirmed, 1 death</p> <p>MMWR</p>

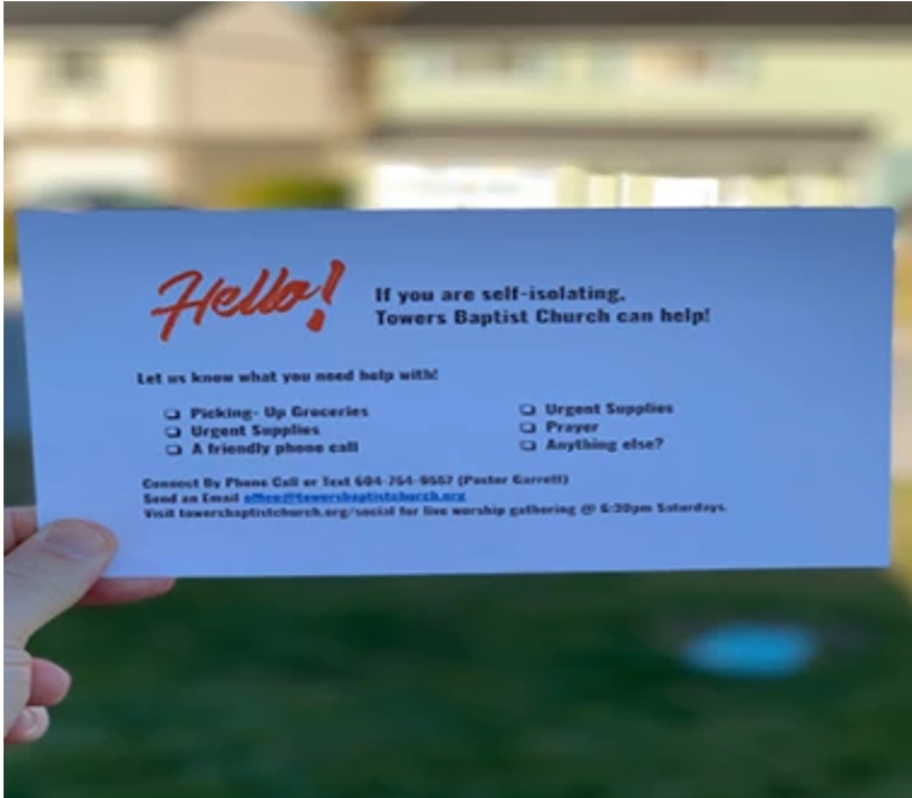


Have you ever played a game of telephone with classmates?



Imagine 400 nonprofits coordinating in response to an emergency...

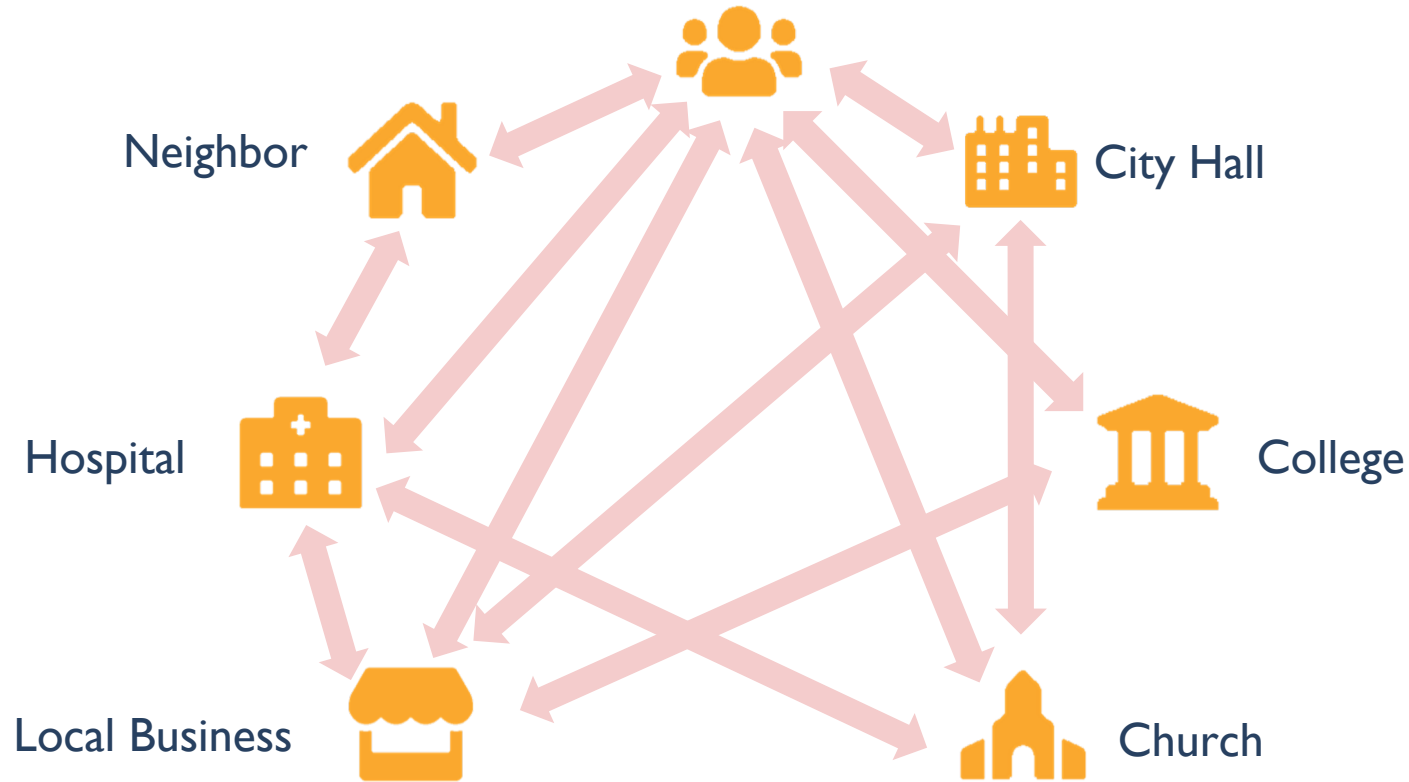
# Community Response



- Groceries / Meals
- Toiletries / Hygiene
- Diapers
- Medicine
- Unemployment
- Rent Assistance

# Efficient Silos





**90% of community coordination is made via phone call or email.  
Half of in-kind donations go to waste as a result.**



**Solution: a platform for community building**



**Centralize all  
needs and  
resources**



**Automated  
coordination**



**Real-time  
actionable  
insights**



**Centralized Data Optimizes Communication, Coordination, and Productivity**



## Community Details

82,321 Members

Businesses welcome

Public

Neighborhood-based

No application

Donations welcome

Share

## Featured Resources

[View All](#)



Toiletries Available



Rent Assistance



Hot Meals



**Community Leader: Mayor Sandra Hines**

*Joined in March 2020*

4 Resources

Identity verified

Response rate: 100%

Response time: within an hour

As of 2007 Sandra Massie-Hines is the honorary mayor of Sunnyside

### Contact

I'm available 24/7 through Umanity's messaging system.

[Send Message](#)

*To protect yourself, exercise caution when communicating outside of the Umanity website or app.*

**Sunnyside, TX**  
Type: Neighborhood

Status: Community Leader  
Joined: 8/11/2020

**My Current Community**

42 unsatisfied needs

87 of 100 resources available

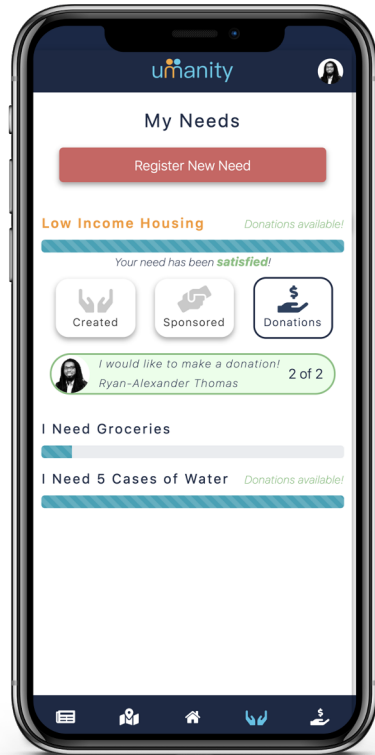
[View Needs](#)

[Dashboard](#)

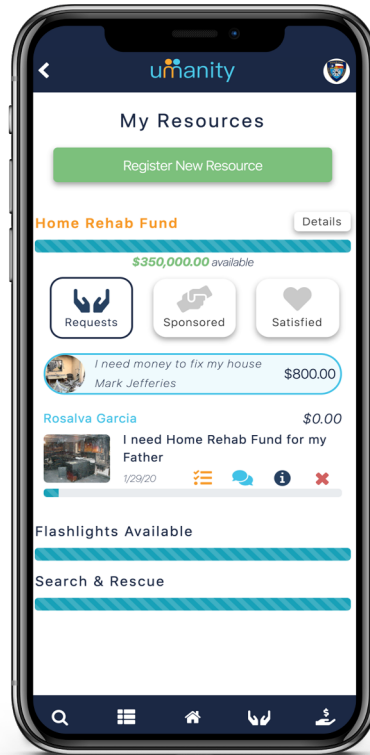
[Donate](#)

# 1. Sign up as a resident or organization and create/join your communities.

## Our Community Managers



**2. Track what needs to be done**



**3. Assign tasks and satisfy needs**

Increase the rate of residents receiving relevant products & services by **2,000%**



# Community Onboarding





Sponsored by:



### Umanity App - COVID-19 Resource



Umanity is a mobile app that is working with the office of Mayor Pro Tem Martin. The app is designed to connect community needs with community resources in real-time, to help communities and the City of Houston efficiently organize their response to the COVID-19 crisis. It enables a response while still maintaining social distancing and quarantine guidelines.

Umanity needs your help to populate what resources and needs exist in Houston during this crisis. Do you have extra toiletries, clothes, or food? Do you need anything? Are you able to volunteer? Getting started with Umanity costs nothing and only takes less than a minute. Sign up via [umanity.app](https://umanity.app) or download the app for either iOS or Android today!



## Mayor Hollingsworth's Letter to Hyattsville, MD

Good morning,

First, thank you for all of the awesome ways you are supporting each other and this community in the face of all that is uncertain. I cannot thank you enough for that.

Tomorrow, in partnership with the guys at Umanity, we'll be releasing to the general public an app/website that will help residents identify local businesses that they can support, community organizations that have resources, and where any user (business, community group, or resident) can request assistance or offer assistance.

## Pilot Communities



**COVID-19**

**Bread of Life Inc.  
sponsored by  
BeyGood  
Start Small LLC**



**HURRICANE RELIEF**

**Harris County Office of  
Emergency Management  
Evacuteer (New Orleans, LA)**



**INTEREST GROUPS**

**Biomimicry Design Alliance  
United Methodist Church  
Little Rock School District**



## Press

“

The centralized platform shows a complete picture of who needs help and who can help all on the same platform

**Innovation Map**

“

They are helping connect supplies and resources with the organizations and individuals that need it most during the crisis

**Insperty**

“

Umanity is the epitome of doing well while doing good

**The Ion Smart Cities Accelerator**



**A team of data scientists, community organizers, and educators.**

**Building community resilience is insanely difficult.**

**Umanity is a marketplace for organizing and mobilizing community building.**

**Consider how your business can lend itself towards community resilience through digitizing inefficient pipelines. Think “can there be an app for that?”**



# um<sup>oo</sup>an<sup>oo</sup>ity

The Social Marketplace.



Download on the  
**App Store**



GET IT ON  
**Google Play**

**um<sup>oo</sup>an<sup>oo</sup>ity.io**

**+1 (833) UMANITY**

**info@um<sup>oo</sup>an<sup>oo</sup>ity.io**

*Umanity Inc. is a Public Benefit Corporation*



# The Importance of Digital Inclusion & Equity

Nehemiah Pitts III, Commission Chair  
Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission, City of Austin

# It's personal...

3 of my 4 Grandparents attended the segregated campus of the then named...

Austin School for the Deaf, Dumb & Blind

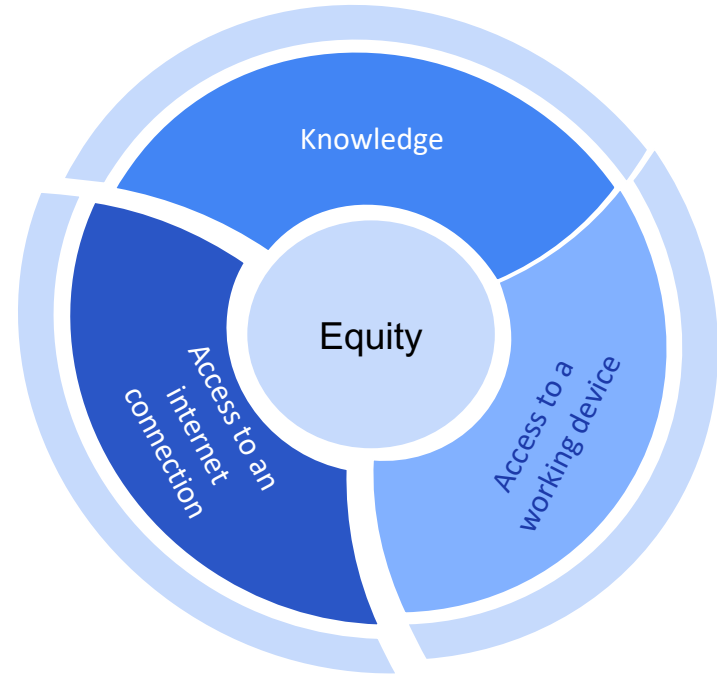


# What is Digital Inclusion and Equity?

*Digital Inclusion is a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy.*

*Digital Inclusion is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services.*

*--National Digital Inclusion Alliance*



# DECA 2020 Poster Design Competition Winner

Mira Patel (12) - First Place

Kealing Middle School

“To me, digital equity means tech adapted to fit different types of peoples needs. Equity is different than giving everyone the same thing because everyone is different.”



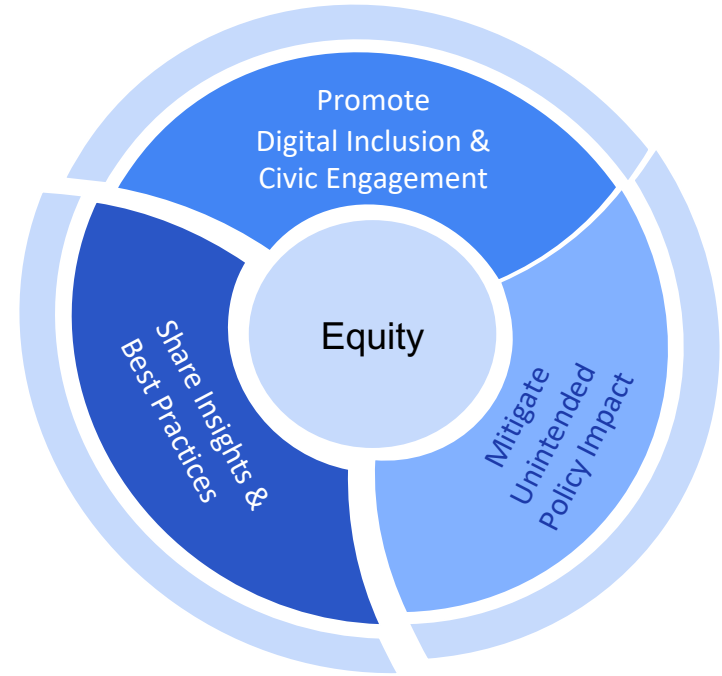


# Digital Inclusion in Austin

# Why are we **MUST** collaborate to achieve Digital Inclusion and Equity?

Intentional collaboration, partnerships, and strategic alignment with “stakeholders” for Digital Inclusion and Equity can do three key things:

- **Promote/Enable Digital Inclusion & Civic Engagement**
- **Mitigate Unintended Policy Impact**
- **Facilitate Best Practices & Insight Sharing**



**“Getting EVERYONE to the table”**



# Commission Special Conversation on Digital Equity Recap

The Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission (CTTC) has a dedicated focus on Digital Inclusion and Civic Engagement, with inclusion for all and “Equity” as our defined strategic outcome for disaffected and underserved populations. This dedication is reflected in the yearly administration of the City of Austin Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) by the Telecommunications and Regulatory Affairs (TARA) Office in coordination with the CTTC.

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission (CTTC) convened a Special Called Meeting focused on Digital Equity. This meeting included a variety of Austin residents receiving services, policymakers, and the community leaders of local nonprofits. **Serving as a culminating portion of Digital Inclusion Week 2020 programming and part of our CTTC 2018 - 2019 Work Plan to convene a Digital Inclusion Stakeholder Summit.** The global COVID-19 pandemic has necessarily elevated the importance of such conversations.

# Special Conversation on Digital Equity - Recap Continued

The purpose of the convening was to allow Austin citizens the opportunity to directly communicate their lived experiences and persistent challenges with accessing internet-enabled devices and equitable broadband internet. The Austin resident accounts provide “challenge data points” for cataloguing and potential resolution.

Some of the data points include:

- No universal screen reader standard
- Digital skills training for parents and working student families
- Insufficient hotspot bandwidth for common share wi-fi access scenarios
- Lack of culturally competent device training and resources (ESL, deaf, visually impaired, etc)
- Lack of relevancy and trust in internet or tech companies
- Lack of geographically equitable broadband

The findings of this Special Called [Meeting](#) were discussed at the subsequent Regular [Meeting](#) of the commission on November 19th available in the Special Report on Digital Equity linked [here](#). A consensus was reached that a working group should be formed to explore the next steps in responding to the above points. This working group will be comprised of CTTC members and representatives from the Digital Empowerment Community of Austin.

# Special Conversation on Digital Equity Speakers

## Community Entities w/Staff & Clients

### **Texas School for the Deaf**

David Coco - Outreach Specialist

### **Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired**

Daniel Wheeler -

Instructional Technology Coordinator

### **United Way of Greater Austin**

Paola Silvestre - Director of Family

Pathways

Delfy Morales - Client

Marie Lord Ntetakou Youmbi - Client

Mary de la Luz Reveles - Client

### **Housing Authority of the City of Austin & Austin**

**Pathways**

Catherine Crago - Head of Strategic Initiatives

Brianna Sterling - Smart City Ambassador & Team  
Lead

Josh Banks - IDADS Program Manager

Chester Martell - IDADS Ambassador

### **Austin Urban Technology Movement (AUTM)**

Michael Ward - Executive Director/Founder

# Special Conversation on Digital Equity City Participants

## CTTC Commissioners

- Sophie Gairo - Mayoral Appointee
- Nehemiah Pitts III, Commission Chair - District #1
- Malcolm Yeatts - District #3
- David Alexander - Vice Chair - District #4
- Nicole Thompson Beavers - District #9
- Sumit DasGupta - District #10

## Elected Officials/Staff

- Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison - District #1
- Eric Bird - Chief of Staff - District #1
- Jennifer Stroble - Communications Director - District #1
- Nicole Golden - Communications & Outreach Coordinator - District #9

## City of Austin Staff

- Brion Oaks - Chief Equity Officer
- John Spiers - Program Director
- Jesse Rodriguez - Staff Liaison
- Francisco Gallegos - Program Coordinator
- Anilya Krishnan - Community Technology VISTA

# Austin's Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan

## Digital Inclusion Vision

The City of Austin Vision is for every Austin resident to be fully engaged in digital society, accessing and using digital and communications technology.

## Digital Inclusion Goals

- Increase internet usage
- Reduce barriers to digital access
- Support digital literacy training
- Promote access to technology devices
- Promote accommodations for non-english speakers and persons with disabilities
- Develop relevant digital inclusion programming and advocate for continued community support



# Digital Inclusion Services

## Grant for Technology Opportunities Program [www.gtops.org](http://www.gtops.org)

- \$400,000 per year in grant funding to local Austin nonprofit groups

## Community PC Program

- Provides access for local Austin nonprofit groups to apply for refurbished computers with low-cost software installed.

## Public Access Labs/Digital Literacy Training

- Contract with Austin Free-Net
- Provides public access computer labs throughout the City:  
*Conley Guerrero Senior Activity Center*
- Provides free digital literacy training services

## Digital Empowerment Community of Austin (DECA)

- Facilitate and convene DECA community of practice and working groups



# Social Isolation Task Force focused on Older Adults

## Convened in response to COVID-19 Pandemic

- Aging Services Council of Central Texas
- Older Adult Technology Services (OATS)
- Austin Free-Net
- Community Tech Network
- University of Texas Aging and Longevity Center
- Austin Up

## Key Elements

- Increase access to Wi-Fi Hotspots
- Training on how to use devices

## Outcomes

- Increase access to telehealth options
- Improve social and recreational activities
- Long-Term plan to develop system for Digital Inclusion of Older Adults





# DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT COMMUNITY OF AUSTIN

**The Digital Empowerment Community of Austin (DECA) Video Call convenes** (every other Wednesday 2pm to 3pm) via this link: <https://meet.google.com/ayk-zfuo-xzw>, or call in at: +1 (716) 262-8670 (PIN: 198144825)

Participating organizations:

- Share any updates related to their work or areas for potential collaboration with other orgs
- Avoid duplication of efforts while being comprehensive in their actions
- Check in with each other

**DECA COVID-19 Resources Webpage** for residents with links to digital learning tools, Internet Service Provider COVID-19 information pages, and digital literacy curriculum resources.

- <https://cityofaustin.gitbook.io/decatx/deca-covid-19-community-resources>
- Digital Literacy Curriculum Standards for Organizations Moving to Digital Service Delivery, and for first time home computer users.



# Recent DECA Initiatives

- Providing devices such as computers and hotspots to those without home access
- Offering basic digital literacy training from a distance
- Assisting members of the workforce working remotely for the first time
- Collaborating with the Austin Independent School District and other local ISDs to address the needs of teachers and students alike
- COVID-19 Community Resources

## DECA COVID-19 Community Resources

---

This resource list serves to share City & Partner Digital Inclusion information for the Austin community amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The DECA COVID-19 Community Resource list is organized into four categories: General Resources, Internet Service Provider Information, Computer Access, and Using the Internet and Online Learning Resources.

### **You Can Provide Your Organization's Updates Too!**

Please add your DECA COVID-19 DECA resource sharing & updates [here](#). This form is intended to serve as a clearinghouse for the Digital Empowerment Community of Austin (DECA) efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Feel free to fill it out as often as you may need, to ask for and offer help, and simply to share an update on your organization's efforts.

# How YOU CAN HELP?

- Mindshift Towards Persistent Work To Address Challenges - Equitable Outcome & Not Event Focused
- Elevate Voices of the Affected - Stand-In OR Bring Them To The Table
- Get Plugged In - [Join Bi-Weekly DECA Community Calls](#) - NEXT CALL - Tomorrow, Dec. 2nd at 2pm
- Become a [GTOPs Grant Review Volunteer](#)
- [Help Generate & Share Resources for Austin to Aid w/Digital Service Delivery](#)

For more information:  
[austintexas.gov/digitalinclusion](https://austintexas.gov/digitalinclusion)

Nehemiah Pitts III, Commission Chair  
Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission  
City of Austin  
[bc-nehemiah.pitts@austintexas.gov](mailto:bc-nehemiah.pitts@austintexas.gov)

# Join Us for More Great Events

- **The Future of Gaming Technologies & Applications** – December 15
- **Tech Trends for 2021 (& Beyond)** – January 5, 2021
- **Tech & Relationships** – February 2, 2021
- **Tech & Food** – February 16, 2021
- **Fair & Transparent AI** – March 3, 2021



# Join the Austin Forum Slack Workspace

1. Go to: [www.austinforum.org/slack](http://www.austinforum.org/slack)
2. Click “Join the Slack channel”
3. Enter your email address
4. Check your email to confirm Slack invitation
5. Enter your name and click “Create Account”
6. You’re in!



# Our Annual Partners Make This Possible!



# Help Others Get Connected during COVID-19: Donate Your Devices to **Austin Pathways!**



*Our residents need these devices to learn, work and be well remotely!*

Therefore we can pick them up **SAFELY** from you, safely refurbish and deliver to residents

All you need to do is call **512-767-7832** or email **[info@austinpathways.org](mailto:info@austinpathways.org)**



# Join us to learn, share, discuss!!



*Please share the upcoming events with your friends and colleagues!*



What was the most useful thing you  
learned/heard tonight?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 

Grab a drink, take quick break, and  
them come back for live Q&A and  
discussion in 3 minutes!

**#TechForGood**



*Q&A  
for*

**How Technology Companies & Techies Can  
Create Even More Social Good**



Jessica Sager  
Austin Forum



Justin Murrill  
AMD



Dr. Steve Kramer  
KUNGFU.AI



Ryan-Alexander Thomas  
Umanity



Nehemiah Pitts III  
Community Technology &  
Telecommunications Commission, COA

# AUSTIN FORUM

---

ON TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY

*Connect. Collaborate. Contribute.*™