

Narrative Report

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TAX ID Number:

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Grantee ID: 66006762

SRF ID: 16397



Open Gov West 2011, May 13th & 14th, Portland, Oregon

Link: <http://OpenGovWest.org>

Conference Wiki: <http://lanyrd.com/2011/ogw11/>

News Coverage:

The Oregonian (statewide newspaper): <http://bit.ly/gumtBA>

Silicon Florist (Portland, OR): <http://bit.ly/oyUNvm>

GovFresh (National): <http://bit.ly/ecPSC8>

Event

Open Gov West 2011 (OGW) was an event to bring together governments, nonprofits, technology companies, and citizens around the issues of open government, transparency, and civic engagement. Organized by Knowledge As Power (KAP), a 501c3 organization, OGW had 220 attendees from across the western US and Canada, and a surprising number of attendees from the Midwest and East Coast of the US. The two-day event was broken into a structured conference day on March 13th and an unconference day on the 14th with a codeathon.

March 13th's agenda featured keynote three speeches, Alan Rosenblatt (government social media expert at Center for American Progress), Tiago Piexoto (internationally recognized leader on participatory budgeting), and Wally Rodgers (built the nation's largest collection of open data, from the State of Oregon) and Marcus Estes (open source advisor to Oregon). Over 60 speakers presented on just day one, with over 30 presentations and discussions on day two of Open Gov West.

Examples of Content:

Tiago Piexoto, of World Bank, who brought home to governments the concept of participatory budgeting, resulting in local to state governments considering ways to make portions of their budget allocatable by public vote.

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Alan Rosenblatt left the audience reconsidering how they, as governments, could re-imagine their practices of communicating with citizens, opening their processes and bring citizen's ideas into government.

Marcus Estes and Wally Rogers inspired civic developers, governments, and technology companies to open up vast sets of government information for public consumption. They proved that doing so can be affordable for government and create great services for citizens.

The OGW "cross-gov codeathon" had six state and provincial governments participating, over 30 coders, and produced fantastic apps for citizens which work across government jurisdictions. Read more here: <http://bit.ly/mT46OV>

Attendees & Scholarships

OGW 2011 had 220 attendees, 4 with a 50% discount and 51 attendees on full scholarship. These attendees represented 20 different governments and 10 different open government nonprofits who work with government. They ranged from the California state legislature, to New York City, the State Department, Portland, Oregon, City of Seattle, Des Moines, Iowa, Native American Affairs at the IRS, a city council member from Bainbridge Island, WA, to an incoming Mayor of Langley, Washington. OGW was promoted at the same time as every government in our region was making massive cutbacks, Washington State, for example, sliced \$500 million from programs for the poor, elderly, and disabled. While many governments and nonprofits wanted to attend, even OGW's low ticket price (\$136, which included four meals and two snacks), was prohibitive. Without scholarships, over a quarter of our attendees would not have been able to attend.

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Feedback from OGW scholarship attendees:

"I am very grateful for the sponsorship from the Ford Foundation to come to OGW. This was my first time as a conference speaker, and it gave me the chance to participate in two panels. I felt like the audience got something out of the panels, and I know I learned a lot."

"Highlights of the conference included the diversity of age, experience, and background of the attendees and presenters. It was very inspiring to see so many willing to help transform and make government more transparent and engaging. It was fascinating to watch the tech programmers create live applications during the conference in the "How to Build a Better App Contest."

"The experience and sessions reinforced my perspectives with respect to accountability, transparency and constituent engagement. The session on Participatory Budgeting has inspired me to think about how to apply the concept to resourcing our own investment into our technology portfolio."

"I had attended OGW 2010, and also a range of related conference (Personal Democracy Forum, TransparencyCamp, etc.). OGW 11 was among the very best due to its emphasis on PLACE-- the issues and opportunities of open government in the Pacific Northwest, and also the strong blend of local Portland culture with the conference technical content. Washington DC open government conferences all blend together after a while, but I never forget an OGW conference."

Ford Foundation's impact as a scholarship provider"

"Due to severe budget constraints I would have been unable to attend the conference without the generous scholarship and conference ticket. All out-of-state travel is on hold -I paid for much of my own travel costs to attend."

"I would not have been able to attend... OGW. The council stipend is minimal. Our city has not budget for travel or training. Our budgets have been cut to the bare bones. And the amount of time council work takes has actually affected my personal business. I went to quarter time so that I could fulfill my council responsibilities."

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Wrap Up

The Ford Foundation's support of \$5,000 was critical to Knowledge As Power being able to provide access to a growing list of governments, nonprofits, and civic groups facing budget cuts. Our attendees left Open Gov West 2011 with an enhanced skill set and network, enabling them to implement more open government and civic engagement work across the western US and Canada, and across the United States. Feedback on OGW 2011 was overwhelmingly positive, with requests for Knowledge As Power to expand Open Gov West to other states and regions. We're so thankful to Ford for enabling our work at Open Gov West, and for supporting open government work cross the West!

Total Scholarships Provided

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
OGW Ticket Scholarship	51	\$ 136.00	\$ 6,936.00
OGW Ticket Subsidy	4	\$ 68.00	\$ 272.00
Travel Reimbursement	7	\$100-\$250	\$ 1,250.00
Amtrak (OGW negotiated rate was \$100 below cost)	6	\$ 55.00	\$ 330.00
Hotel	9	\$150-\$250	\$ 1,750.00
Airfare	2	\$ 450.00	\$ 900.00
		Subtotal	\$ 11,438.00
		Tax 0.00%	\$ 0.00
		Total	\$ 11,438.00