

Community Technology Advisory Board, Year 2021 Accomplishments

Thank you to CTAB members René Peters, Camille Malonzo, Leah Shin, David Kirichenko, Nicole Espy, Femi Adebayo, John Krull, Brandon Lindsey, Lassana Magassa, and Tyrone Grandison and to all of our subcommittee leaders and volunteers for their time and efforts invested with CTAB in 2021. Huge thanks to Vinh Tang, Cass Magnuski, and David Keyes for facilitating CTAB's priorities and meetings. Finally, a thank you to our engaged community members who have attended CTAB meetings this year. Below is a summary of our events, priorities, and accomplishments as a board in 2021.

Hopefully you will see we have met the goals and more from our initial letter to the Mayor and City Council sent at the beginning of the year.

- City of Seattle was recognized as Digital Inclusion Trailblazers by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance. Was the only city in the country to be awarded on all 6 qualifying criteria¹ marking Seattle a leader amongst leaders in municipal digital inclusion programming.
- Achieved 10 out of 10 occupied board seats by completing the last remaining mayoral appointment.
- Reviewed and provided recommendations for 2021 Technology Matching Fund grants amounting to \$650,000 of city funds, supplemented by \$25,000 from Verizon Foundation, and to be matched by \$346,000 of community matching.
 - 55 individual applications were reviewed, requesting over \$1,288,000 in funding.
- Initial funding round awarded to 15 community organizations throughout the city (all city districts represented), amounting to \$320,000 of city funds, supplemented by \$25,000 from Verizon Foundation and matched by \$346,000 of community matching. See [announcement](#). These projects were expected to reach 2,100 Seattle residents with creative solutions for accessing technology devices, internet connectivity and digital literacy training. Greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, many digital equity providers had to rapidly change their service delivery models to continue providing much needed services and classes in a safe and virtual manner.
 - Funded organizations: Boys and Girls Club of King County; East African Community Services Equity in Education Coalition, Kin On Health Care Center; Literacy Source; Multimedia Resources and Training Institute; Path With Art; Renaissance 21; Senior Center of West Seattle; Simulated Immersive Experimental Realities; Somali Family Safety Task Force; Sound Generation; The Vera Project; Wa Na Wari; and Windz of Change Alliance.
- Fifteen (15) additional community organizations were awarded a total of \$330,000 thanks to City Council approving use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal grant funds (Council Bill #120093). See [announcement](#). Funds expected to impact 2,000+ residents, including 1,800

¹ <https://www.digitalinclusion.org/blog/2021/07/06/congratulations-2021-trailblazers/>

BIPOC, 180 disabled residents, 261 homeless/housing insecure, 513 unemployed, 621 youth, and 396 elderly.

- TMF Review Panel: 18 members, each reviewing 13 applications. Torgie Madison, Rene Peters, Brandon Lindsey, Nicole Espy, Kathleen Carson, Ciarra Choe, Dorene Cornwell, David Kirichenko, James Moore, Kai NeanderMary Christensen, Leah Shin, Lassana Magassa, Tyler Wuebkenberg, Carina Weyer, Sean McClellan, Delia Burke, Vicky Yuki, and David Keyes.

Throughout the year, CTAB hosted speakers throughout the tech ecosystem that provided its membership with timely and relevant information about the current state of tech issues:

- Saad Bashir (Seattle CTO) – Seattle IT Update
- Saad Bashir (Seattle CTO) – Seattle IT Objective Key Results & performance session
- Steve Wimmer (Director of Technology, Harborview Health) – Vaccine Distribution & COVID Tech Response talk
- David Keyes (Digital Equity Manager) – Digital Equity & Inclusion 101 session
- Review Surveillance Ordinance Schedule 2 Technologies in Surveillance Impact Report (SIR)
- Mark Cockerill (Director, Key Peninsula Community Council) – Economics of rural broadband
- Emily Shallman (Program Director, Path with Art) – Technology Matching Fund Feature: Path With Art
- Ricky Graboski (Executive Director, The Vera Project) – Technology Matching Fund Feature: The Vera Project
- Alice Lawson (Cable Franchise Analyst, City of Seattle) – Broadband 101 presentation
- Dr. Julian St. Clair (President, Renaissance 21) – Technology Matching Fund Feature: Renaissance 21
- Assaye Abunie (Exec. Director, Multimedia Resource Training Institute) – Technology Matching Fund Feature: MRTI
- Jim Loter (Interim CTO, City of Seattle) – Welcome Address and Introduction
- Prof. Ryan Calo (Director, Tech Policy Lab, University of Washington) – Law & Cybersecurity session
- Alex Pedersen (Councilmember, City of Seattle, District 4) – Update on Seattle Surveillance Ordinance & ‘Internet for All’ Resolution
- Jeanne Kohl-Welles (Councilwoman, King County, District 4) & Jennifer Lee (Technology & Liberty manager, ACLU) – King County Facial Recognition Ban Walkthrough & Update
- Greg Smith (Chief Information Security Officer, City of Seattle) – Cybersecurity in the City of Seattle
- Alex Salazar Jr. (Cyber Intelligence Analyst, Office of the CISO) – Presentation on Personal Cybersecurity Hygiene

Through its three committees, CTAB aligned its efforts with the City’s Digital Equity Plan, and previously established Mayoral and City Council areas of shared interest, to focus on the following three areas:

1. **Privacy & Cybersecurity** — In a year marked with increasing security and privacy challenges, it is especially important that CTAB supports digital equity by helping the community understand privacy and security within technology use. In 2021, the committee finalized and distributed a memo regarding the Internet for All effort, which expressed concerns and suggested additions/changes to the city

documentation. The committee also delivered a memo for the Surveillance Ordinance Group 4a technologies (Callyo for SPD, Audio Recording City Systems for SPD, I2 (IBM product for SPD), and Maltego for SPD). The committee also invited subject matter experts in security and privacy from the University of Washington and the City to speak on these important topics. (For more details, see standalone Privacy & Cybersecurity summary appendix sent with this report.)

2. **Digital Equity** — DEI maintains the core of CTAB's 24-year vision of ensuring all Seattle residents have access to broadband, devices and technology, and the digital literacy to use those tools for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services. The COVID-19 pandemic made inequities inflicted upon underserved populations more visible to the general public and supplied an urgency to DEI's work. In 2021, DEI put effort into expanding the committee and finishing the work around telehealth equity. (For more details, see standalone DEI summary appendix sent with this report.)

In closing, we hope this provides you a general overview of where CTAB has spent its energy in 2021, where it plans to continue momentum in 2022, and displays clear alignment with the City's Digital Equity Plan.

We kindly request a meeting with you and your staff at your earliest convenience to garner your input and discuss further details regarding partnership and strategy, specifically around areas you might find helpful as well as digital skills training, affordable connectivity, and access to technology devices for underserved communities. We look forward to your collaboration.

Sincerely,

CTAB Members

René Peters, CTAB Chair

Femi Adebayo, Member

Dr. Tyrone Grandison, Member

John Krull, Member

Lassana Magassa, Education Member

Camille Malonzo, CTAB Vice Chair

Nicole Espy, Member

David Kirichenko, Get Engaged Member

Brandon Lindsey, Public Access Member

Leah Shin, Member

Appendix 1: Digital Equity Committee Year End Review

Over the course of the year, the digital equity and inclusion (DEI) committee has approached a variety of issues and topics while working towards equitable solutions in technology and providing perspective on these issues for the benefit of the broader CTAB and the city of Seattle. The DEI committee supported the TMF grant process, which demonstrated huge community need, with the city awarding 15 grants totaling \$343,000 in April and additional \$330,000 in pandemic relief funding that was directed to the program later in the year. The committee also wrapped up its work around digital equity for seniors early in the year, delivering a letter of support to local community organization, Sound Generations, in support of a federal grant funding the digital equity portion of a proposed fall prevention program for local seniors. The committee also provided written commentary and perspective on digital equity for the city's IFA report early in the year.

As the 2022 budget season approached, the committee penned a letter of support for digital equity funding in the 2022 city of Seattle budget, supporting the Black Brilliance Project's proposal for an increase in digital equity funding. As we enter the new year, the committee has setup a community telecom forum for February in which representatives from the three major telecom providers in the Seattle area will discuss their digital equity programs and answer questions from the community about how their business operations serve the broader community. The DEI committee will continue to foster and promote digital equity within Seattle and strive to provide a in depth perspective to all relevant stakeholders in the new year.

Coleman Entringer, Digital Equity Committee Co-Chair
Harte Daniels, Digital Equity Committee Co-Chair

Appendix 2: Privacy & Cybersecurity Committee Year End Review

In 2021, the CTAB Privacy and Cybersecurity Sub-Committee (CTAB Privacy) attempted to address the local bans on the use of facial recognition technologies, the security of the City's critical infrastructure after the cyber attack on the Colonial Pipeline 2021, and the essential need for Seattle policies and procedures to protect residents' digital privacy.

In April, CTAB Privacy submitted to the Seattle CTO a review of the Internet for All Report, calling attention to the need to address privacy risks of the suggested programming and the need to integrate cybersecurity education in all services.

In June, CTAB Privacy reviewed surveillance technologies used by SPD detailed in the Surveillance Ordinance's Surveillance Technologies Under Review Group 4a. CTAB Privacy submitted a memo questioning the data governance practices of the software vendors, the quality of the data gathered by these methods, and in SPD training to appropriately evaluate the data gathered by these technologies and understand the risks.

In early 2021, the CTO requested CTAB's insights on artificial intelligence, as this method is increasingly being used in systems and software employed by the City. In August, CTAB Privacy invited Professor Ryan Calo from the University of Washington Tech Policy Lab to speak on his research on federal laws regarding hacking, how manipulation of systems using artificial intelligence is not addressed by these existing laws.

In November, CTAB Privacy invited Seattle Chief Information Security Officer Greg Smith to discuss the city's procedures for ensuring the security of City electronic systems and critical infrastructure. We also invited University of Washington Cyber Intelligence Analyst Alexander Salazar Jr. to present to CTAB personal cybersecurity risks and tips.

The speakers we've invited have prompted CTAB Privacy to make cybersecurity education and outreach to Seattle residents a new priority for 2022.

Nicole Espy, Privacy & Cybersecurity Committee Co-Chair

Camille Malonzo, Privacy & Cybersecurity Committee Co-Chair