

Community Technology Advisory Board Year In Review – 2023

Thank you to CTAB members Omari Stringer, Camille Malonzo, Isabel J. Rodriguez, Aishah Bomani, Dei'Marlon Scisney, Dr. Tyrone Grandison, Coleman R. Entringer, Femi Adebayo, Phillip Meng and to all of our subcommittee leaders and volunteers for their time and efforts invested with CTAB in 2023. Huge thanks to Vinh Tang, Cass Magnuski, Jon Morrison Winters, Brenda Tate, David Keyes, and Delia Burke 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 2023.

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.

- Reviewed and provided recommendations for the 2023 Digital Equity Grants, including grants for the Digital Navigator Grant and the Technology Matching Fund (TMF), all in amounting to **\$545,000** in awards¹
 - **48** individual proposals were reviewed, requesting \$1,978,391 in funding.
 - **18** community organizations throughout the city were awarded **\$545,000** of city funds to address projects expected to reach over **3100** city residents in Council districts 1, 2, 3, 4,6, and 7, and in areas especially impacted by digital equity gaps. These projects employ creative solutions for accessing technology devices, internet connectivity, digital literacy training, and digital navigator services..
 - TMF funded organizations: **Adult and Youth Learning Center, Boys & Girls Clubs of King County, Friends of Little Saigon, InterConnection, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging, Orquesta Northwest, Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project, Somali Family Safety Task Force, Villa Comunitaria**
 - Digital Navigator Grant funded organizations: **Beacon Hill Merchants Association doing business as Beacon Business Alliance, Eritrean Association in Greater Seattle, Horn Of Africa Services, Kin On Health Care Center, Multimedia Resources and Training Institute, Sound Generations, The Prison Scholar Fund, Tigrean Community Association**
 - Sponsored by Verizon: **The Friendship Circle of Washington**
 - TMF Review Panel: **13** members. Reviewers: Joyce Abbot, Brandon Lindsey, Coleman Entringer, **Dorene Cornwell**, , **Harte Daniels, Isabel Rodriguez, Joao**

¹ [\\$545,000 in technology grants awarded to community groups to support digital literacy - Tech Talk \(seattle.gov\)](#)

Vilca Soto, Kai Neander, Marisol Tapia Hopper, Liz Gruchala-Gilbert, Phillip Meng, Rene Peters, and Steven Maheshwary.

- Reviewed and provided recommendations for the Seattle IT CTO's Working Group on Generative AI Systems charged with identifying policy implications for city government use of generative AI systems and services, and for delivering a set of recommendations for how the CTO should set forth a City of Seattle policy, and/or adoptive procedures and guidelines to responsible acquisition and use of Generative AI systems by City employees.
 - CTAB members Omari Stringer and Isabel J. Rodriguez

Throughout the year, CTAB hosted speakers throughout the technology ecosystem, with the dual focus on internal board building and on strengthening relationships with stakeholders across the technology sector and within city government. We also invited subject matter experts to share technology best practices across the City:

- Seattle IT Chief Technology Officer Update – Jim Loter (Seattle IT, CTO)
- Regional King County Digital Equity Planning – Darryl Hunt, King County; Priya Singh, The Playback; David Keyes, Digital Equity Advisor
- State Legislative Session Update on Technology Related Bills – Vinh Tang (Seattle IT) and Seattle IT Staff on behalf of Seattle Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR)
- Governing Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) – Jan Whittington, Associate Professor, Tech Policy Lab, University of Washington
- Seattle IT CTO's Policy Advisory Team on Generative AI Systems Progress Update – Sarah Carrier, Privacy Program Manager, Seattle IT; Eleonor Bounds, Data Privacy & Accountability Strategist, Seattle IT
- Broadband Mapping – Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program – Tommy Lee (King County Information Technology)
- Digital Equity Reminders (National Digital Inclusion Week, Internet for All in Washington Public Comment Schedule, etc.) – David Keyes (Seattle IT, Digital Equity Manager)
- Seattle Public Schools: Digital Equity School Operations Updates – Aishah Bomani (Seattle Public Schools, Digital Equity Manager; CTAB Member)
- Telecom Forum: Advancing Access and Digital Equity (Discussion with panelists from AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon to discuss internet speeds, accessibility, and other digital equity issues.) – Representatives from AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon

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** — With the completion of the reviews of the original technologies slated for review under the City's Surveillance Ordinance, the committee member's focused moved to focus on Seattle IT CTO's Working Group on Generative AI Systems leveraging expertise and focus on privacy and cybersecurity. Toward the latter half of the year, the committee took a break on formal meetings in favor of exploring new ways of organizing for the next year.

2. **Digital Equity** — During 2023 the DEI committee was engaged in a range of activities to accelerate and promote digital equity throughout the city, including successfully organizing and conducting its second annual community telecom forum, fostering a constructive environment for residents to propose creative solutions digital equity issues which telecom companies could address. The committee also distributed content and resources from the telecom forum, collaborated with community-based organizations to enhance peer support and collaboration, and developed a 2023 City Council Candidate questionnaire focused on digital equity, which was disseminated to campaigns and voter information groups to increase community engagement while also serving as a template for a two way dialogue on digital equity with the City Council. In addition to these collective accomplishments, four committee members served as TMF grant reviewers, three provided advocacy and comments for Washington State digital equity issues, including comments on federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) funding, two attended digital equity meetings for the City of Baltimore, and individual members served as technical advisors to digital equity projects for the Seattle Housing Authority and attended training from the UW Department of Global Health on equity in healthcare.

3. **Outreach** — In its second year, the Outreach committee has worked on building an infrastructure for generating publicity and building partnerships across the city. We are excited to continue this momentum in the next year by leveraging social media platforms and connecting with strategic organizations.

In closing, we hope this provides you a general overview of where CTAB has spent its energy in 2023, where it plans to continue momentum in 2024, 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

Camille Malonzo, CTAB Chair

Omari Stringer, Member

Dr. Tyrone Grandison, Member

Aishah Bomani, Education Member

Coleman R. Entringer, Member

Femi Adebayo, CTAB Vice Chair

Isabel J. Rodriguez, Member

Dei'Marlon Scisney, Get Engaged Member

Phillip Meng, Public Access Member