Strengthening the Future of Open Government - A USG and Civil Society Collaboration Event
Monday, February 5th, 2024   -   10:00am – 12:30pm ET   -   **Hybrid**

Meeting Overview

Agenda:

The agenda for the session is as follows:

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Greetings, Introductions, and Purpose
10:15 AM - 10:35 AM	Ice Breaker
10:35 AM - 11:00 AM	News from GSA
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Improving the Co-Creation Process - Miro Board
11:30 AM - 11:40 AM	BREAK
11:40 AM - 12:00 PM	Improving the Co-Creation Process - Miro Recap
12:00 PM - 12:20 PM	How to Engage the Public Now - Miro Board
12:20 PM - 12:30 PM	Closing Remarks & Announcements

Speakers:

- Dan York - Director of The Open Government Secretariat, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration
- Avis Ryan - Open Government Secretariat, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration
- Alexis Masterson - Open Government Secretariat, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration
- Laura Szakmary - Open Government Secretariat, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration
- Daniel Schuman - Governance Director, POPVOX Foundation
- Alex Howard - Open Government and Civil Society Advocate

Key Resources:

- Open Government Secretariat email box - opengovernmentsecretariat@gsa.gov
- To access the Miro Board please use the following link: https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVNytHJak=/?share_link_id=470719355651

News From GSA:

- Discussion on what goes into a successful multi-stakeholder forum (MSF).
- GSA's Open Government Secretariat is working on standing up a body, leaving the investigation phase, and moving into participant recruitment.
- We created an "alternative analysis" and "decision paper" for the GSA administrator to review and approve around MSF options.

- ○ GSA recommended the creation of a new federal advisory committee.
- Trying to establish two listservs
  - ○ One government only – need a dot.gov or dot.mil
  - ○ For outside the government, we will be establishing a public listserv. GSA will be sending out that info in a few days.
- Q: Alex asks for info behind the multi-stakeholder process recs – will the paper to the administrator be released?
  - ○ The Open Government Secretariat is getting it approved through comms, and it will then be released publicly.
- Q: There's a longstanding dot-gov listserv and a longstanding Google group. Can you explain more about how the Google group will be used?
  - ○ We will continue to use the same government-only listserv – all that's new is that we're opening up a dedicated listserv for the public. This gives GSA more control and allows GSA to actually email and access the listserv. GSA could not access the Google group using government computers.
  - ○ Civil society can continue using the Google group to the extent they wish to.
- On Jan 30th, the open government community of practice was held. We had about 40 people on the line. We want these meetings to occur bi-monthly. Also, we will have joint meetings with civil society in the future.
- Open.usa.gov Migration:
  - ○ It is being migrated to GSA's main platform to make it easier for people to use.
  - ○ The website – 1st version – will include current open gov resources, links to past NAPs, a reimagined commitment tracker, and much more.
- NAP 5 commitment tracker:
  - ○ GSA is working to update the 35 commitments which are made of 70 Sub-Commitments with their current status.
- NAP 6 timeline:
  - ○ Launch and planning: October 2023 - March 2024
  - ○ Idea generation: April 2024 - September 2024
  - ○ Drafting: October 2024 - March 2025
  - ○ Publication: April 2025 - September 2025
  - ○ Close-out: October 2025 - December 2025
  - ○ October 2024 to March 2025 drafting
- Summit for Democracy – set for March 2024 – 3 day program in Seoul, South Korea.
- Rationale for the FACA based MSF:
  - ○ There is a need to comply with the U.S. regulatory process and the OGP IRM criteria. The FAC is the only option that fully meets both.

- We considered setting up a subcommittee under an existing FACA to start gathering as much information as possible, but that's not a sustained body. So we want our own FAC because it can be here institutionally for a long time.

Miro Board Themes:

- Processes
  1. More transparency around WHY agencies are involved / what their level of commitment is to ensure agencies involved are fully engaged and making meaningful commitments.
  2. Increase incentives for agencies.
  3. Propose statutory and institutional changes to ensure the process endures .
  4. Propose funding streams to give gov ppl opportunity to do the engagement and substantive work.
  5. Instead of expiring NAP 5, create a NAP 5.5 that can be implemented b/w now and end of next year.
  6. What can be replicated from the '09 era (Golden Age).

- Transparent Feedback Loop
  1. Online platform that is monitored for feedback.
  2. Publicly track which civic soc orgs relate to which commitments.
  3. Post opportunities to comment online (plain language/plain text) and promote using social media and other communication vehicles.
  4. Host public Q&A sessions where accountable officials explain why priorities or recommendations were or were not included.
  5. Online platform to track all issues, discussions and comments, See all topics separately and contribute asynchronously (like GitHub).
  6. Listserv change is great.
  7. Make each commitment a wiki, with accountable officials & a field for civil society to give feedback on activity. Have concrete commitments and resources in wikis, where there are edit trails.
  8. Make this important with White House buy in so that everyone knows that there will be real action.
  9. Proactive and effective disclosure of information, particularly policy changes.
  10. Release of MSF Alternative Analysis brief.
  11. Can a structure be created so agencies can safely provide feedback and have conversations with the public? For example a playbook for agency lawyers and agency communication teams on how to say yes.
  12. Have a feedback loop to figure out why content on the new Open site is/isn't popular.

- Engagement Strategies
  1. Put accountability on participants to do action items between meetings.
  2. Follow up on input with surveys, after summarizing themes, allowing individuals to add input and collaborate with OMB on their lessons learned.
  3. Ensure the White House amplifies importance and gets agencies to participate. Use GSA as a good institutional backstop when opengov leadership is absent elsewhere, but the goal should be to put the onus back on WH and to elevate leadership where it exists at agencies.
  4. Review previous NAPs for actionable recommendations and reach out to agencies for input.
  5. Place PSAs during popular events and have an online presence to avoid spam.
  6. Advertise on LinkedIn and use discussion platforms like Slack or LinkedIn.
  7. Use text messaging, billboards, and QR codes to ensure offline communities are aware and can participate.
  8. Partner with tech companies to show opportunities to participate at the top of feeds.
  9. Tap into existing gatherings and networks of state, city, and local governments.
  10. Have small, hybrid group engagements, as much as possible. Suggest quarterly engagement meetings with civil society.
  11. Put out a formal call for feedback to key stakeholders identified in the mapping   (thematic area).
  12. Use storytelling to pull in those unconnected to the community and share success stories.
  13. Have agencies partner with civil society groups to hold forums and encourage rapid feedback. Pair agencies with stakeholders in parallel processes, meetings, and informal opportunities that humanize engagement.
  14. Use neutral spaces for some meetings in addition to government hosted meetings.
  15. Have more input from historically underserved communities and reach out to groups representing these communities.
  16. Consider how to hear from voices outside of DC.
  17. Use NAP 5 as a template for more engagement and have it point to groups of stakeholders to talk to.
  18. Continue to use tools like this meeting to get input from the community.
  19. Establish a universal collaboration platform with access management.

- Evaluation Metrics
  1. KPIs for co-created commitments: What does success look like? Is it awareness or moving the needle on something? How can the government

collect feedback and measure the impact of collaborative efforts and measure the impact of collaborative efforts and commitments?

2. Establish an accountability process with a clear timeline, defining what success looks like. Introduce a formal system of accountability so that civic society can hold the process accountable for wasting everyone's time.

3. Public accountability sessions (each 3 months) to explain and discuss progress on each milestone.

4. Create a strategy for dealing with roadblocks and for evaluating them after progress has been made.

5. SMART commitments: Make sure commitments are SMART to begin with. Have action items and goals.

6. Show that commitments in NAPs are made with civil society commitment/priorities in mind.

7. Improve public trust in government.

8. Increased public belief that the government is more transparent and accountable.

9. A points system to sort actions by ease, importance, and agency.

10. Explicit goal of X meetings; X communications per month/quarter. Set and stick to it.

11. Have lots of surveys and evaluations around commitments and the process itself.

12. A solid dashboard showing all commitments with specific milestones defined under each commitment. (similar to FAC at NARA).

13. Reduction in fraud, waste, abuse, and outright corruption through more transparent procurement and service delivery.

14. Reduction in the FOIA backlog and reduction in FOIA processing times.

15. Follow up on previous commitments, for example, published reactions/responses to FOIA SelfAssessment toolkit if they don't already exist.

16. Ask agencies and co creation team to look for external indicators that can be linked or related to the success of the commitments (e.g. Corruption Perception Index).

17. Ongoing use of the Commitment Tracker to show progress.

18. Ongoing compilation of all NAP Commitments to show progress that the US has made towards a more open government with the presence from agency staff working on implementation.

19. Novelty or import/comprehensiveness of reform proposal: evaluation of a) novelty of recommendation or b) import/comprehensiveness of reform proposal.

20. Share what you received on the front end and what's still being brought up to identify ongoing issues to be addressed.

- Inclusive Decision Making
    1. Empower participants to invite others and make judgments about who needs to be "in the room" . Have a pitch/toolkit for civil society to use.
    2. Need to tap into the ecosystem of groups.
    3. Find net promoters who can bring in other groups.
    4. Don't solely rely on online comments/meetings. Broadband access issues mean some info gathering should be done offline.
    5. Look at startups (esp. in DC) for excited and innovative people.
    6. Be intentional about reaching out to marginalized communities. Set specific targets/goals.
    7. Using open data platforms to use public data sources to find groups for participation.

Full Attendee List:

Virtual:

Name	Organization
Alex Howard	Governing Digital
Alexis Masterson	U.S. General Services Administration
Alina Semo	U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
Ari Hershowitz	Govable.ai
Beverly Ingle	U.S. General Services Administration
Bobby Talebian	U.S. Department of Justice
Courtney Anderson	U.S. General Services Administration
Daniel York	U.S. General Services Administration
Faith Williams	Project On Government Oversight
Joshua Tauberer	GovTrack.us
Kimberlee Ried	U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
Laura Neuman	The Carter Center
Laura Szakmary	U.S. General Services Administration

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Name	Organization
Lauren Harper	National Security Archive
Lauren Jacobs	U.S. General Services Administration
Nick Roefaro	None
Pamela Wright	U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
Patrice McDermott	Government Information Watch
Pepe García	Open Government Partnership
Pragyansmita Nayak	Hitachi Vantara Federal
Ryan Mulvey	Americans for Prosperity
Ryan Parker	Congress.wiki
Samantha Feinstein	Government Accountability Project

In Person:

Name	Organization
Alexander Howard	The Digital Democracy Project
Alexis Masterson	U.S. General Services Administration
Alonso Verastegui	Open Government Partnership
Annalise Burkhart	Transparency International U.S.
Avis Ryan	U.S. General Services Administration
Chris Raleigh	The Center for Election Science
Courtney Anderson	U.S. General Services Administration
Craig Grunwald	Adapt
Daniel Nicotera	U.S. General Services Administration
Daniel Schuman	POPVOX Foundation
Daniel York	U.S. General Services Administration
Gabriella Cantor	Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington
Jonathan Ferguson	Hitachi Vantara Federal

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Juan Collazos	Open Government Partnership
Kathrin Frauscher	Open Contracting Partnership
Kiril Jakimovski	U.S. Department of State
Laura Szakmary	U.S. General Services Administration
Nick Hart	Data Foundation
Nina Taylor	Center for Election Science
Susan Harley	Public Citizen
Tony Rodriguez	Open Gov Hub
Virginia Canter	Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington
Yvette Gibson	U.S. General Services Administration