



Overview

The goal of the Digital Inclusion Working Group is to address challenges faced by the digital empowerment community. The Working Group is the working arm of the Digital Empowerment Community of Austin (DECA) and is represented by City staff, nonprofit programs and other stakeholders working to support public access to technology and training. The Digital Inclusion Workgroup will focus on collaboratively addressing challenges and opportunities across the digital empowerment community.

Working Group Objectives

- Develop common objectives across the digital empowerment community that addresses client needs, while recognizing the independent nature and unique contributions of digital literacy service providers.
- Assess and create an inventory of community assets that can be leveraged in meeting stated objectives.
- Utilize a web-based tool, DigitalATX.org, to maintain and develop asset inventory.
- Improve the quality of computer skills instruction across digital literacy providers to better serve vulnerable populations.
- Leverage blogging and other communication platforms including DigitalATX.org to tell the story of digital inclusion in Austin.

Working Group Benefits

The success of this program will depend on the participation of interested stakeholders. We invite all public and private programs working to provide public access to technology and training to participate. Benefits of participating include:

- Collectively addressing challenges faced by the digital inclusion service communities by learning from other organizations' successes.
- Giving your organization a voice in the development of program services standards.
- Strengthening collaborative program development to better position your organization to secure funding opportunities like GTOPs.

The goals and objectives of the Working Group will be managed by **Austin Free-Net**, an organization that provides technology training and access in Austin.

The next meeting of the Digital Inclusion Working Group will take place on **Dec. 11th, 2015**. For more information about the Digital Inclusion Working Group, please contact the City of Austin Digital Inclusion team at digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov.



austinfreenet.net



DigitalATX.org

DigitalATX.org is a web-based tool for knowledge sharing and creating an inventory of assets for digital inclusion programming in Austin. It is the a community-based resource for documenting programs and site locations within the Digital Empowerment Community of Austin.

Knowledge-Sharing: How Does It Work?

The knowledge-sharing portion of DigitalATX.org is key resource for tracking public access computer labs, private labs that may be available for programming, and digital literacy training programs in Austin. Navigate to the **Lab Profiles** tab to view documented *Lab Profiles* detailing public computer labs, libraries, schools and more. Information captured for each *Lab Profile* includes number of computers available for use, assistive technology, availability of on-site trainers and more. *Programs* operating at specific sites can be added to each *Lab Profile* to track which nonprofit organizations or leveraging which locations in Austin for digital inclusion programming.

Knowledge-Sharing: How Can I Help?

This inventory of programs and site locations in Austin is only as strong as the collective knowledge within the Digital Empowerment Community of Austin. Numerous organizations are currently providing programming throughout the city, but more work is needed to ensure all Austin residents have access to the resources and training needed to build digital skills. Creating a comprehensive and living inventory of resources will help all organizations in Austin improve and potentially expand their service delivery. But to accomplish this, we need all organizations to ensure their knowledge is captured.

From the **Lab Profiles** Inventory page, click **Add a Location** to fill out a web-form about **all site locations and programs** you are aware of in Austin. Make sure to *Edit* any information that becomes out of date.

What's Next?

The **Digital Inclusion Working Group** will serve as beta-testers for DigitalATX.org as further development is completed. Ideas, suggestions and feedback are encouraged and can be shared with digital.inclusion@austintexas.gov. Your feedback will help us to make usability improvements to the knowledge-sharing portion of the site.

As more sites are added to the location inventory, we have plans to **visualize this inventory using a map** that compares these assets with key data metrics from the Austin Digital Assessment. Also stay tuned for future additions to DigitalATX.org including a **blogging** feature via the *Storytelling* tab that will allow you to tell stories and update the community about the great work you're doing in Austin.

DigitalATX.org is a civic hacking project that began at the 2015 ATX Hack for Change.