**June 13, 2023 Meeting - Seattle Community Technology Advisory Board**

Topics covered included: Presentation of the 2023 Technology Matching Fund and Digital Navigator Cohort Grant Recommendations; State Legislative Session Update on Technology Related Bills; 2023 CTAB Workplan Session (final review); committee updates

**This meeting was held:** June 13, 2023; 6:00-7:35 p.m., via Webex and in person

**Attending:**

**Board Members:** Camille Malonzo, Femi Adebayo, Phillip Meng, Coleman Entringer, Merrill Miller, Omari Stringer, Aishah Bomani, Lassana Magassa, Isabel Rodriguez

**Public:** Dorene Cornwell, Harte Daniels, Derek Nisbet, Liz Gruchala-Gilbert, Tracey Blackburn, Kai Neander, Seamus Brew

**Staff:** Jim Loter, Trayce Cantrell, David Keyes, Delia Burke, Brenda Tate, Meira Jough, Tara Zaremba, Jon Morrison Winters, Eleonor Bounds, Brenda Tate, Vinh Tang, Cass Magnuski

**28 In Attendance**

**Camille Malonzo:**   Welcome, everyone to the 'Junuary' meeting of CTAB. Glad to see you all in person, and also seeing you all virtually. Today, we have a very exciting meeting. This will be the most exciting meeting of the year, which will include the presentation of this year's Technology Matching Fund and Digital Navigator grants. We will also get a little update from OIR via IT staff on the State legislation, and we will also have a synthesis of our last few working session meetings to provide clarity. First things first, so we will do introductions, room first, and then we'll go down the list to those calling in online.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

**Camille Malonzo:**   I think that's all for introductions. Next up is our approval of the May minutes that were sent out for your review today. Can I please get a motion from a board member to approve?

**Phillip Meng:**   I move to approve.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thanks, Phillip. Can I get a second?

**Coleman Entringer:**   I second.

**Camille Malonzo:**   All those in favor? All those who oppose or abstain? This motion passes. And then, next up, approval of tonight's agenda. It is linked in the chat and also sent earlier to board members. Can I please get a motion from a board member to approve tonight's agenda?

**Isabel Rodriguez:** Motion to approve.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thanks, Isabel. Can I please get a second?

**Femi Adebayo:**   Second.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thanks, Femi. All those in favor? All those who oppose or abstain? Hearing none, this motion passes. Our first agenda item is the implementation of Presentation of the 2023 Technology Matching Fund and Digital Navigator Cohort Grant Recommendations. I'm very excited to hear them. And so, I'll pass it over to Meira Jough.

**PRESENTATION OF THE 2023 TECHNOLOGY MATCHING FUND AND DIGITAL NAVIGATOR COHORT GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Meira Jough:**   Thank you, Camille. Thank you, everyone, for joining us tonight. I'm so happy to see some of our reviewers on the call. I'm here to share the funding recommendations for the 2023 Technology Matching Fund. Vinh, I'll just wait for you to pull up the presentation. Seattle is committed to digital equity. We want to make sure that residents and neighborhoods all of the technology needed for civic and cultural participation, employment, life-long learning, and access to essential services. During the pandemic, the digital inequities were magnified in key demographic groups lacking high speed internet, and devices. So, the City spearheaded the Internet for All initiative in 2020. This is a framework that has served as a roadmap for Seattle to move closer to our goal of universal internet adoption for all residents.

Tech Access and Adoption Study: We are currently at Seattle IT's contacting 20,000 Seattle residents to participate in the City's Tech Access and Adoption Study. Our goal is to better understand the access and use of technolo9gy and internet services, barriers to use, and the support needed to help ensure all residents have the same opportunities. And in the 2018 Tech Access and Adoption Study, the following populations were identified as inequitably impacted, without internet at the home, including low-income residents, people with disabilities, people whose primary language is not English, older adults, and Black and indigenous people of color. This study informs how Seattle IT invests in the community in order to achieve our Internet for All goals.

The Tech Matching Fund program was established in 1997. Over $7 million has been awarded since 1998, and the fund continues its legacy of Bill Wright, a Central District community leader by creating digital equity and opportunities for all. In 2023, the City is investing $545,000 in the community, in partnership with community organizations through a competitive digital equity grant process.

We are fortunate to have Verizon as generously sponsoring one of our projects. They are committed to digital equity as a critical goal to improve educational access and workforce development for all, and they strive to make sure that everyone has access to, and can effectively use digital technology. And their partnership with the City of Seattle increases the opportunity to develop digital skills, so that everyone can thrive. We always welcome partnerships to fund TMF grants. We offer a rigorous grant selection process with the help of our community volunteer reviewers to select high impact, high quality projects.

I want to thank our community TMF grant reviewers and City staff. We had thirteen community volunteer reviewers and six City staff that scored 48 applications requesting $2 million. Applications were ranked based on the average of all reviewers' scores for that project. The top 18 organizations are recommended for funding. We are also recommending that each organization receive a maximum of $35,100 in order to use our City's investment to have a broad reach, and offer programs and services in all digital equity categories, and achieve our north star ISA goals.

You can see on the left a map of the most inequitably impacted neighborhoods in a list in the middle. And on the right is the map of the location of the TMF project. So, we're really excited that those projects are going to be taking place in the neighborhoods that are most impacted by the digital equity gaps.

These are the projects that are recommended for funding; 3,552 residents will be served in the following demographic groups: low income, people with disabilities, English language learners, justice-involved older adults, BIPOC, immigrants, and refugees, people experiencing homelessness, transgender and gender-expansive adults, and then the following nine languages will be served: Amharic, Chinese, English, (unintelligible), Somali, Spanish, Tigrinya, and Vietnamese.

**TECHNOLOGY MATCHING FUND**

These are the organizations that we are recommending for funding by the Technology Matching Fund. These are in alphabetical order.

Ada Developers Academy with the project Laptops for Low Income Students

Boys and Girls Club of King County. The project is Technology Support Youth Corps College Career Readiness

Friends of Little Saigon, Digital Capacity Building

Interconnections, Computers for Community

National Asian Pacific Center on Aging, NAPCA's Digital Training Program

Orquesta  Northwest, LatinX Youth, Music, and Technology Outreach

Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project, Computer Lab

Somali Family Safety Task Force, Somali Family Digital Literacy

Villa Comunitaria, Aula Digital en Accion - ADA

**DIGITAL NAVIGATOR PROJECTS**

Beacon Hill Merchant's Assn. DBA Beacon Business Alliance, Digital Equity Projects in SE Seattle

Eritrean Association in Greater Seattle, Eritrean Association Digital Navigator Project

Horn of Africa Services, HOAS - Digital Navigation Expansion

Kin On Healthcare Center, Senior Resource and Support Center

Multimedia Resources and  Training Institute, MMRTI Digital Navigator Project

Sound Generations, Various Projects

The Friendship Circle of Washington, Teen and Young Adult Life Skills

The Prison Scholar Fund, Sparking Reentry

Tigrean Community Association, Tigray Digital Connect

And I'm going to hand it over to Camille Malonzo.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thank you to all of the grant reviewers. I know this is a huge task. These are amazing organizations. Some we've seen in the past, and we are really excited about them. And also, thank you so much, Meira. Without your incredible dedication and work on these projects, there would not be this incredible impact to our community. So, thank you so much. so, formally, I would love a member of CTAB to make a motion to approve the 2023 Technology Matching Fund and Digital Navigator projects grantee recommendations. Can I get a motion from a board member?

**Isabel Rodriguez:**  I so move.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thank you, Isabel. Can I get a second?

**Femi Adebayo:**   Second.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thank you, Femi. And then, all those in favor? All those who abstain or oppose? I am so excited to say that this motion passes, so we formally recommend these grant recommendations to Jim Loter.

**Jim Loter:**  Thank you, everybody, for making these recommendations. I accept these recommendations and will move them forward into the next phase, which involves Funding and Contracting. As I noted earlier, this is my favorite CTAB meeting of the year. I think this is the 26th TMF. if I am not mistaken, and I think the 7th that I have been involved in, so it's the highlight of the year, if you will. We get to announce our support of the community organizations who are such critical partners in our collective efforts to work to address the various challenges that our community faces to achieve digital inclusion and digital equity. Through the $545,000 of funding that we are going to make available, we are going to help thousands of Seattle residents to get online, develop literacy, and gain access to critical life services. The criticality of those services has been highlighted in the last few years, as Meira Jough mentioned, related to the pandemic. So, I want to thank the board. This is a tremendous amount of work. You have to make very difficult decisions. As you noted, there are four or five times the amount of funds requested than we are able to cover. And I know that we all would love to cover every single dollar that has been requested, but I also want acknowledge that we do have a generous corporate partner, and hopefully, we will be in a position to expand our private sector ability to help us out, and to help out our community with matching grants. so, you've had to make very difficult choices, and you did it. I just want to thank everybody again for your efforts in this, and also to thank City Council for continuing to support this program year after year, and with a view to expand over the last couple of years their support with the development of the Digital Navigator program and the award of additional funding. so, thank you all around. This is fantastic and I'm looking forward to seeing this work flourish around the community.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Do folks have any questions, or want to share their experience as a reviewer? I will open up space for that before the next agenda item.

**Dorene Cornwell:**   I always find it very rewarding to rate the applications, just in appreciation of the kind of work and the level of engagement. I think it's a little bit tough when you write a grant if you get less than you asked for, but I really like the4 idea of making sure you can get more grants. I want to particularly talk about -- there's a community aspect of you have a place to go and you have people in a similar situation. The real strange grant was one where I was actually a big fan of, because people who are not securely housed -- there's also just the aspect of getting together, and I think some of the other grants have a similar impact, where it's not just about the technology, it's about helping people.  As far as geography, it looks like the map -- there are a couple of applications from the Lake city area, and I couldn't tell from the map whether they were represented. I know there is need out there, but I also know that what gets written into a grant can vary. But I want to thank everybody for their participation, and I also want to thank the City, because last year, when I did this grant -- I'm a screen reader user, and assistive technology user -- and last year, I had real problems. And I wrote up my problems, and this year, the problems got fixed enough so that I could do way more on my own than last year. I hope that was also a reduced burden for Meira Jough. So, I don't know what happened, but that was a big improvement, and I appreciate it.

**Meira Jough:** I'm so glad that you were able to participate, Dorene, and have it not be a burden on you. So, thank you.

**Harte Daniels:**   I regret that I was preparing for surgery and wasn't able to review all of the grants that I wanted to. A number of them were very well written, and I was sorrowful to see that people had not learned from past grant writing how to write it. The term that I heard earlier tonight was 'competitive,' and I'm sorrowful to hear that term used for these organizations. I am a big fan of trying to help a lot of grandmothers in the community, who do a lot of work but don't get recognized, and they don't get funded, or these small organizations. And I'm wondering, by seeing so many large nonprofits, whether there is a way that we could create a separate category while waiting for that. And I know it's my fault for not stepping up and finding support for some of these smaller organizations to write grants. I hope to try to do better in future. But I'm also, as I said before, very appreciative of learning about the process this year that SIT has been not only responsive to Dorene, but to the Digital Equity Committee's suggestions over the years. And I see a vast improvement in your assistance and your writing to guide them on how to write a grant, as well as the City's criteria on assessing them has become more and more professional and clear-cut, and I've seen great strides made in the past three years, possibly five, toward that end. I think I commented on that, but it looks very professional, and equitable, in business practices. It just looks like we have to help these smaller groups to be able to communicate better. That falls on us, especially with the word, 'equity.' If the large corporations, nonprofits always get the money, that is something we need to assess against that word, 'equity.'  That's our problem, our fault, our burden to make things better in the future. Thank you.

**Meira Jough:** Thank you, Harte, for engaging so genuinely in the process, and just being part of the process. I really appreciate all of your efforts.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thank you so much for your efforts. I just want to reiterate to everyone in this room and on this call wouldn't be as successful without you, so thank you to the Digital Equity Committee. I really appreciate how it has not only been a great process for the organizations, but also to be a part of it. So, thank you so much. I'm very excited for the next steps, so thank you, Jim Loter, for coming forward, and thank you again to the grant reviewers. As a previous grant reviewer, it is a lot of work, and so I appreciate the conscientiousness and the deep work that is involved in the review of the applications.

Next up is an update on the Olympia State Legislative session from the Office of Intergovernmental Relations via Vinh Tang. So, I'll hand it over to Vinh.

**STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE ON TECHNOLOGY-RELATED BILLS**

**Vinh Tang:**  Thank you, Camille. Let me pull it up here. CTAB members asked for an update on the most recent Olympia legislative session. We asked OIR to give their point of view, so in the City of Seattle we have the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, also known as OIR, and they promote the interests of the City of Seattle, both locally and regionally, tribal, State and at the federal level. In the session, obviously, State representatives and State senators will introduce bills. And one of the interests for us at CTAB is to look at technology-adjacent and related bills that might have local City of Seattle impacts. Just to go through the process, there is usually a bill that is submitted, and then OIR would set a (unintelligible) for us to review the bill and look at what our position is. Do we support it? Do we support it with an amendment, etc.

This is a very quick five-minute presentation. I'll just literally go over the OIR. Unfortunately, we couldn't work out the scheduling for them to be here, so we just got a presentation. I am here to do so on behalf of the OIR. There are just two slides to share. Bills have passed into law, and then bills have not passed. So, in the center of the screen here, the first bill is more environmental than technology, but every piece of technology requires a battery. So, Senate Bill 5144 is very technology-adjacent. I think we can all agree that everybody should recycle their batteries for the environmental impact it has. I'm not a subject matter expert on all of these bills, but what I do know is this makes several requirements where we are in a 15-mile radius of being residents, there needs to be a collection site for batteries, one of the positive things to enable people to recycle batteries. You can just raise your hands and I'll take down questions and kind of circle back to you, just for follow-up.

Senate Bill 5518. There was also positive action by the State. For folks who don't know, the State will soon release their and State and Local Cybersecurity grant program, a grant at the federal level, I think they're finishing up a plan. I believe at the end of this month or early July, cities and other entities can start applying for that grant for a local project at the City level and County level. I've got a few bullet points here, but it establishes a cybersecurity advisory committee, so this legislation is helping all residents in the State of Washington in terms of our cybersecurity posture, and integrating that business into our emergency response, where we handle fires, floods, etc. Cybersecurity is now part of that.

Jim Loter, feel free. I feel like you are more of an expert than me on this one, so feel free to chime in. I'll move on to the next slide if there are no questions.

**Omari Stringer:**   I have a quick question. If I'm wanting to read it and understand, knowing that it will take some time, but will that essentially mean that with those grants, the City of Seattle would be eligible more funding for cybersecurity opportunities, projects, things like that?

**Vinh Tang:**  Yes. The multi-year one is a small pool of money. I think the amount is about $5 million. So the overall entire grant project is $1 billion for states nationwide. I think the State of Washington is a small piece of that. I will follow up with you, Omari, to get the exact amount. I don't have that today.

**Omari Stringer:**   Yes, that would be great. Thank you.

**Jim Loter:**  Vinh is right.  Once you start realizing how large the denominator is on that money, it doesn't look like individual municipalities, even big ones like Seattle, are necessarily going to be able to count on a large amount. And, of course, it's one-time money, which is difficult to spend in a meaningful way. But nevertheless, we are looking at that and working with the State committee that oversees those funds to figure out what might be an appropriate use for those funds for projects that we have in our queue, looking specifically those shovel-ready projects where we just need a couple of hundred thousand dollars to actually get something done, and then incorporate it into our operations and maintenance. We have been participating. Vinh has been part of a weekly, bi-partisan infrastructure law committee that has been looking at this. And there is a State working group that stands to make decisions about it. So, we remain optimistic.

**Vinh Tang:**  Omari Stringer, I've got the numbers for you. Overall, it's $1 billion over five years. This year it's $185 million just for the State of Washington, and the allocation is at $3.66 million.

**Omari Stringer:**   Got it. Thank you.

**Vinh Tang:**  So, the next slide, unfortunately, shows the bills that did not pass. For all of these bills, the City of Seattle did work in support, I think especially for Bill 1392, t he first bullet point; and House Bill 193. I think our support role was very high for those two bills. It doesn't mean that our support level wasn't high for the middle bills. The first one, I think, is known as the Right to Repair. I think that's true across the country. I think this has appeared in the State legislature over the past couple of years, and in this most recent session. David Keyes, I don't want to put you on the spot here, but I think you have been one of our subject matter leads on this. Feel free to chime in if you have anything to add in regard to that bill. And Senate Bill 1793: It is my understanding that this was a new piece of legislation enacting an excise tax on small wireless devices to support a digital equity program. Unfortunately, that did not pass, as well. Mostly likely, what will happen here at the next session at the end of this year most likely the House of Representatives will most likely reintroduce these bills to try to get bipartisan support.

**David Keyes:**  I can go ahead and chime in a little bit more. On the digital electronic equipment, Seattle Public Utilities is pretty active, working with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations on that one. Unfortunately, there is a pretty fair amount of industry lobbying against that one. It got closer this year, so hopefully, that will get passed next year, but there does need to be the additional work on a broader set of advocates kind of pumping against that. So, folks like Interconnection, that does repair, the impact of that could be making more refurbished computers available, and making it less costly for folks to repair stuff. Supporting small businesses in our community being able to do more repair, also. The large companies, the equipment and repair groups, have been against that.

On the broadband map, that one also got quite close this year. In some sense, it's not an essential one, but it would have also helped support some funding for things like the Digital Equity Dashboard that the State is working on, and improvements in the mapping, and synching up with what the Department of Commerce is doing. I think we'll see some things come back on that one, probably next year. On both that one and 1793, part of what we're also seeing is that, in essence, there's a gap in funding that has happened between some of the work that had been started by the State, and some of it funding with Covid relief money, and the federal infrastructure bill dollars have not come in yet, and won't be coming in for a little bit, although they're getting closer. That may be worth another presentation sometime.

And then, on 1793, we worked closely with Rep. Gregerson of the legislature. I think there was a combination of a lot of the anti-taxers coming out. There is some clarification that needed to happen on the use of those funds. And Rep. Gregerson is pulling together, as kind of an ongoing group, talking about what are the mechanisms for sustaining funding for digital equity. So, it's part of this larger picture legislation, to help support that. In part, one challenge against this bill was the perception that the federal funds coming in will take care of all of the digital equity needs in the State. We have Tracey Blackburn, from the National Telecom Information Administration, our State Liaison from the federal NTIA joining us this evening, who can provide more info on the federal grants.

That's certainly one thing, that five years of funding will come in through the infrastructure bill through the NTIA -- that perception that it will take care of all of our needs. And as I said, the other piece is, of course, sort anti-taxing, but looking for the sustainable models of funding is something that there's a continuing need for. And some of what that bill would have done is also -- there was a shortfall in what came through the Governor's budget for digital equity this year. For instance, as a result, part of the implication of that is a cut in the State-funded Digital Navigator programs that's happening at the end of this month that will impact some of the programs in Seattle, as well. So, that's just a little bit about where 1793 is. As we look at that going forward, then, it's a combination of prepping the bills and prepping the allies to the bill. There were quite a number of folks who did testify, including us, about the 1793, and so I think there's some good opportunity there, but there's also a need to have a stronger body of folks coming out about that to get something passed.

**From Chat:** from Harte Daniels to everyone:    6:38 PM

RE: SB 2144, good news! Local companies that had been collecting batteries have dwindled b/c the cost of permitting and legislation burden. Making it more difficult for common resident to recycle.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thank you, Vinh. Tracey, we would love to hear more about the programs.

**Tracey Blackburn:**  Yes, sure! I can take an entire huge amount of time to talk about this. And David Keyes can testify to that. we talk a lot and share a lot of emails. But the two programs that David is talking about and I mentioned in my intro, the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment federal grant fund, that's part of the bipartisan infrastructure law. It's part of delivering Internet for All. And then, there's the Digital Equity funding program as part of the same Internet for All bipartisan infrastructure law. So, just to give a quick here's what it looks like, and why, and what anyone on this call can do to get engaged to hear more about this. The Broadband Equity Access and Deployment -- and David put it well -- I think of it as that infrastructure piece. There are $42.5 billion that that's going to be spread across all 56 state and territories as a formula allocation. The maps that David mentioned are the FCC maps that are listed here under what the State was trying to do. The FCC maps are what is going to determine the number of unserved and underserved locations across the country. And so, based on those numbers, and based on the numbers in Washington, the formula is going to say, 'Washington gets X millions of dollars to prioritize and connect all of these unserved locations in the State. Now, one thing that is very different about this is that the 'E' stands for equity, and 'D' without 'E' is (unintelligible). So, what I mean by that is while we can provide money to people to put shovels in the ground and lay fiber in places to reach every home, if that internet is not affordable, accessible, and adoptable, we have not reached our goal. So, let's say we build, but the person that we build to cannot afford the service, we haven't reached our goal in adoption. And then, there's programs like to ACP program, the Affordable Connectivity Program that helps with that. Then, let's say we have built in means to help someone afford it, but they do not have the hardware, we still have not reached adoption. Right? So, through the Digital Navigator programs, like the program that you were talking about earlier, those things help us to reach that goal. And then, let's say we have build it, someone can afford it, they have the hardware, but they don't have the digital skills. We still haven't reached adoption. In the majority of places that do not have internet access and are unserved today tend to be due to equitable issues. Whether it is tribal lands, whether it is rural locations, whether it is covered populations, low income, aging, veterans -- there is really a succinct list, those are the folks that we are trying to reach with this funding. Now, part and parcel to that has been the digital equity grant funding program, which is different. However, it worked part and parcel with this program. So, the State is going to be the eligible entity, so the State will apply for the funds, and then the State will grant the funds to sub-grantees. I've said a lot three that can be kind of confusing. It can be very hard to parse out how the programs work together. And I don't know if I did it justice just then. But I'll just take a quick pause to see if anyone has any questions real quick, and in the interest of time, I am happy to come back to your next meeting or at any other time, so we can do a presentation and offer a better understanding of how the funding is going to work.

**Camille Malonzo:**   We will follow up on that request. Also also, in the interim, if there were links or more information, an email, where folks could contact and follow up with you, that would be really great.

**From Chat:** from Tracey Blackburn to everyone:    6:45 PM

I'm happy to share information about the Federal Grant programs David just mentioned. @Tracey Blackburn - Yes, please share. Thanks

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/>

[tblackburn@ntia.gov](mailto:tblackburn@ntia.gov) or 202-451-0992

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/washington-statewide-broadband-act/internet-for-all-wa/>

<https://www.internetforall.gov/>

**From Chat:** from Keyes, David to everyone:    6:59 PM

King County's regional broadband and digital equity plan web site: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/fc452f3c1bd2440590d50658a5f19039/page/KC-Regional-Planning/>

**Camille Malonzo:**   I think I see a hand from Dorene.

**Dorene Cornwell:**  Yes, I did have a couple of questions, but I appreciated Tracey's comments. One place that has a lot of information about it, there's a web site called <https://broadbandbreakfast.com/> and they have a weekly webinar, but they also have a ton of links. And I know there's been some topics about this there. I think you said, correctly, that all of these bills are going to get reintroduced. I just wanted to check about that. But the other thing, I think when I was looking at stuff about 1793, I was a little confused because it seemed like there was an anti-tax vibe. I think I read some of the other statements, and slapping a $2 excise tax on everything doesn't seem quite fair to me. I felt like it should more be some kind of a progressive tax or percent.  Okay, like a sales tax. I admit it. But that was just a 'I don't know what the thinking was, and I don't know if that's something that we want to tackle tonight.’ But, maybe before fall when people start working on the legislative stuff again.

**David Keyes:** Yes, that's a good question, Dorene. It is certainly one that was raised in testimony by some, as well. I think the challenge in writing it and rewriting it, and there were only a couple of versions through the legislative process. it should be noted that it was passed by the House, and went on to the Senate. So, that issue was what is the feasibility of an allowance for low income people that don't have to pay it, versus collecting it from everybody, would that be aggressive rather than regressive, and how do you do that functionally? That point came up and will come up again.  Just to clarify, I think that likely these things will be reintroduced. They may be in a somewhat different form, or that could still change before the session.

I did just want to note as a follow up to Tracey that relates to this, too. We've been working on a County, regional digital equity and BEAD plan, Broadband and Digital Equity plan, and our County plan is being submitted tomorrow to the State, and that feeds into helping to inform the State priorities for its application to BEAD and digital equity funds. The BEAD funds are primarily for infrastructure build-out to areas that are unserved, and will have some component that will support workforce development in the telecommunications sector that will be installing broadband. That's where we expect it to go, and digital equity and some of the other elements, like the Tech Matching fund, perhaps. So, that plan is actually going in tomorrow. It's something that we talked about in the last meeting here. There are some organizations that are grantees, and some of them that are here to participate in providing input to that to our County report that is going in. So, that's just an important piece of that. When the State gets money, how does it prioritize and sub-grant, if you will, to get capacity and support out to areas including Seattle and King County, as well as the future digital equity competitive grants that individual organizations, or cities, or libraries, or others, can apply directly to the NTIA for.

**Harte Daniels:**  This is an invitation from the Digital Equity Committee to everyone. The Digital Equity Committee is still working on how we will approach the telecom providers. And we're working on the types of questions to put to them about what is going on in opposition to some of these bills, or an opportunity for funding. How would we phrase those questions to them (unintelligible)...do more of that in our committee report out. It's an open invitation. If we really want to ask these questions, come to the committee or assist the committee members in their work in formulating those questions for that telecom forum later this year. Thank you. Coleman can give you the contact information for our meetings, every fourth Tuesday of the month.

**Vinh Tang:**  Okay, I think we can close this conversation out now. I saw Omari in the chat. It's really a segue to the next agenda item here.  (unintelligible) We're looking at November/December, and how to get engaged with State bills. A couple of weeks ago we participated in the US Conference of Mayors, and they sponsored a resolution supporting the renewal and extension of the Affordable Connectivity Program, and I think that has been a game changer in terms of reducing the price of the internet for folks that need it. It was originally funded at $14 billion, and we need to call on Congress to make sure that program gets extended. And I know, here in the City of Seattle, almost 30,000 households have affordable internet access. So, I just want to make sure. This is more of an educational awareness piece to share with the group.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thanks, Vinh. Thank you so much for giving us this update, and I think it has been very educational. Definitely, we have follow-ups. There's Omari Stringer's question in the chat. We can leverage the interest and energy so that we can think about how we can further engage towards the end of the year as the legislative session starts up again. So, thank you for the presentation.

Before we head into the working plan session, I just want to give folks a few minutes to stretch your legs, use the restroom, get a drink of water, and then we can start back up at 7:05. Oh, and also, thank you so much, Tracey Blackburn and David Keyes, as well for the additional context.

**From Chat:**  from Omari to everyone:    7:00 PM

My question relating to the federal grant money was relating to if the NTIA includes work or projects relating to municipal provided broadband would be eligible or if there is any other federal funding available for exploring that

**From Chat:** from Keyes, David to everyone:    7:02 PM

Link to Mayor Harrell's resolution supporting continuation of Affordable Connectivity Program at US Conference of Mayors: <https://www.usmayors.org/the-conference/resolutions/?category=a0F4N00000S4ulkUAB&meeting=91st%20Annual%20Meeting>

**From Chat:** from Tracey Blackburn to everyone:    7:02 PM

The BEAD program is required to be an open and transparent to providers who will apply to the Washington State Broadband Office. This can be private entities, public entities, municipal providers etc.

**2023 CTAB WORKPLAN SESSION FINAL REVIEW**

**Camille Malonzo:**   Now I can share my screen. Before I do that, I'm going to send the doc. I'm going to give an overview first. I hope folks had a good break.

For the first part of this year, we have had working sessions on figuring out the working plan for CTAB this year, inviting all board members and folks that are involved to bring any questions, ideas on what we should do this year through the last few meetings, as well as just talking one on one with everyone. I've been attending CTAB meetings seven years. I think I have just collated my ideas onto this doc that's linked. I think besides the ideas on specific topics to pursue, one thing that every single person, and also a clear signal from all of the meetings, there was the need for clarity around the *raison d'etre* of the board and the processes of the board, what is the function of the board, and then also a question on the outreach and the function of the board. I just wanted to make that clear through this doc, and I hope that it also outlines some outcomes that I hope to have by the end of this year, and I would really like some feedback on it. And then, ultimately, some partnership to make happen by the end of this year.

One thing that I realized that I wanted to clarify what is CTAB, what CTAB is not, and then also what is the unique role of a CTAB member. So, I wanted to reiterate that CTAB is a public forum to solicit recommendations and feedback on issues related to technology between Seattle residents and the City. For us it is an opportunity for connection, for education and advocacy. And I think tonight's meeting was a really good example of all three, and I think that is what is the heart and soul of CTAB. What it is not is the definitive voice of all Seattle residents on all topics of technology, but rather it is just one opportunity to create these connections with the organizations that are doing the work. Also, we're not necessarily a research arm or a think tank that generates a model of recommendations. We aren't paid to do that. We are a volunteer board, and if anything, I would like us to leverage our experience and things that we just know about in our own careers and work to make those connections, rather than to put the pressure on us to do all of that work on a volunteer basis. I think that I have definitely put that pressure on myself. Rather than put that pressure on others, I just want to make that clear. I hope that also clarifies the role of a CTAB member, which is to invite the community in, and offer the board as a space for discussion, to curate those discussions, to have ideas around topics that would be vehicles to have those discussions with different people and organizations. And then, in so doing, foster those productive relationships to create the connection points between organizations doing the work, and to support advocacy and education between those organizations.

And so, to do that, I think board building is the big topic that I'd like to focus on and I will be personally accountable for till the end of this year. I invite you to participate, as well. When we look at processes, one outcome is updated bylaws. We haven't done that in probably a decade, I think. Also, another outcome is organized materials about CTAB and about that work in a place that is accessible, for not just board members, but others to use. towards that end, also improve knowledge sharing. I have a commitment to actually accelerate social media and outreach, through an email newsletter, which I believe was a recommendation from last meeting from the group, sharing out the work that we have been doing, or important ideas, and to generate discussion and thought. So, I love that idea. Thank you for bringing it forward at the last meeting. Yes, I think it's a good idea.

And then the next few are on outreach. So, definitely foster productive connections with our stakeholders. I really appreciate the partnership with Seattle IT. Also, bring more than just to the chair and vice chair of the meeting in some way. So, I'd love for more folks to be connected to our awesome partners at Seattle IT. And then, tonight, we also saw that we achieved some greater visibility to Olympia, so there was an invitation there to continue that, and to prepare for the next legislative session. And other stakeholders are with the Mayor's Office, and with the chair of the Economic Development Technology City Light Committee through meetings, and I'd like to involve more board members, and given busyness, just put out a memo or something else to at least start building that connection.

A large part of our community, as you saw today, are the incredible CBOS and other kinds of community organizations doing the work on digital equity, civil liberties, privacy and cybersecurity, topic around algorithmic fairness; and also connections with City institutions like Seattle Public Schools, the library, and all of that stuff. And so, I'd love to formalize that a little bit more, potentially with a map or directory of relevant community groups and then continue the work of inviting organizations and folks with lived experiences around technology to our meetings. That was also a great comment from the brainstorming session last month, and so I'd love to continue that. We did that a bit last year with Lassana Magassa's work with formerly incarcerated folks and reentry programs around technology for bridge (unintelligible) and then also with the T3 tribal technology training. And so, I'd love to continue that and invite at least another CBO.

So, then on other topics, our board development. I think we have created more vision between the committees and the board, so we appreciate committee leads and board members for their responsive emails and keeping us involved and building that relationship. They already have a vision for planning a summer social networking event. We talked about a barbecue. We talked about some (unintelligible) events, so we will make that happen this summer to invite folks so we can have that social networking event, maybe even with past board members, as well. The idea is to groom potential members so we can hit the ground running as soon as possible when it comes to just being a part of CTAB.

The rest of these items are from our committees and our working group, and so I don't want to be prescriptive on them. This is just from what folks have told me. Really, I just wanted to show the focus on outreach that has been brought to the surface after all of our sessions. I would love feedback.

**From Chat:**  from Camille Malonzo she her to everyone:    7:05 PM

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Xn84S118y2IUNkEIgtboCPfvC_KNCbq2aFyQewFkKw0/edit?usp=sharing>

**From Chat:**  from Omari to everyone:    7:06 PM

Not to put anyone from ITD on the spot but a question I do have is essentially does the City have a position on municipal broadband? Just curious on how that might inform some of the decisions or recommendations CTAB makes based on their experience with digital equity and funding opportunities

**Isabel Rodriguez:**  I just want to say that I really appreciate this document. I was one of those members who struggled a little bit to really understand. I didn't really understand the scope of this board, and I think this does a really good job about explaining what we are and what we're not. And I think a lot of these process improvements and outcomes that are secure are achievable. I hope that this will be an ongoing process.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thanks so much, Isabel. I also want to thank everyone. You provided a lot. This was really a good doc, so thank you for all of the suggestions and recommendation that went into this.

**Harte Daniels:**  I would just second the previous comment. We have an organization that is actually 27 years old. An organization, sometimes, just goes a little bit on autopilot. It's good, sometimes, to do this type of refresh, and it really takes quite a bit of effort to do that internal work and gathering that you've done, Camille. So, I applaud you on that. You mentioned the concept of lived experience, etc. What I watched over the years is that whoever does the selection of the board committee members, there always seems to be a number of new CTAB members that introduce themselves by saying I just (unintelligible) to the City. I don't have (unintelligible) to worry about the CBOs. What that indicates is that there is a positive, fresh outlook, fresh skills. The negative is they have to learn by getting their feet beneath themselves. It takes a while for you guys, all of you, the hard work that you've done, to accomplish that. This document would help, of course, but there is one item that you may want to consider at some point or another, and that is once all of these new residents gain this knowledge and experience, how do you do successional planning? And how do you share across digital equity. Succession planning: It gets hard to lose you guys when your term is up. That's what I'm trying to say. After watching you grow and learn about the City, this Labyrinth of legislation at the federal and State level, as well as the City level, to then lose you. So, maybe succession planning and how to help give a boost to these people, as well as broaden the base of consideration by the Mayor and the City Council members on selection of CTAB members.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thanks, Harte. I think another outcome, overall a meta outcome, a focus on board development is to create something that is more sustainable so that we have that culture embedded year over year, and is not just dependent on one or two people. And I think a great part of this is that we partner so closely with Seattle IT and the other stakeholders that keep us accountable to what we want CTAB to be. So, thank you for those comments.

**Merrill Miller:**   I just wanted to say well done on the document.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thanks, all. I really appreciate it. And again, I want to say that this is an accumulation of everyone's energies and feedback, and conversations that we've had over the last few months. The next step is definitely implementation. That is where the Outreach Committee will be stepping up with their push for support. I definitely will be individually emailing folks on how to support these ends. So, keep an eye on that. I was pretty nervous about presenting this. This is great that it landed well, so thank you all so much.

Next up, I think we'll go to committee updates. So, if folks from Digital Equity would update us, that would be good.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**DIGITAL EQUITY COMMITTEE**

**Harte Daniels:**   Digital Equity has been interested in what you've been doing, and also, learning primarily about the Outreach Committee and what that means, things of that nature. We had a small quorum for a small committee back at the end of May, but it was extremely fruitful. And we were concentrated not just on our projects for 2023, but what is our definition of equity, and how do we focus on the 'I' in inclusion, instead of just interpreting for other people. We reviewed the difficulties of our volunteer organization, with our members doing such large work, and discussed instead of actual events, we proposed questions. The decision on that was that that might work for a candidate forum, but it would not work for the telecom providers. We want to continue that, as it is actual historical roots of CTAB. But we can to a conclusion that we would like to reverse the agenda that would normally be (unintelligible), and instead we would put personas and user stories in front of the CBOs, in front of the telecoms with case studies. We would then go to question and answers, and then finally, the telecom providers will be able to give their marketing presentations. What does it take to gather that? Emails and preparations we have with the organizations on how to manage such projects are based on using something that (unintelligible)...project management. Omari had talked about what tools you guys could use. So, I gave an outline and Excel spread sheet that involves many of the things they would need in doing that. project. We will be looking at that at the end of this month, the fourth Tuesday (unintelligible).An action item is writing a letter to contact the CBOs to gather and make sure it's their voice, not our interpretation of their voice. We have other projects that we're still considering. The timeline on this, because again being a volunteer organization, as suggested by Phillip Meng, is in the September/October timeframe. If my memory serves, it was a very good meeting, and those were the major decisions. Phillip, do you have anything to add?

**Phillip Meng:**   You're right. It was a pretty busy meeting. I think that you have covered it all in terms of the most important points. It aligns with the points that are on the overview that you shared with us.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thank you. I did receive the email, so I will follow up, especially on outreach questions, to support the work. And also, I saw the comment on the September/October timeframe, so we will all just work together to make sure that that is on the agenda for the CTAB meeting offline.

**Phillip Meng:**   Sounds great. Thanks. And one ongoing question for us, as Harte mentioned, is understanding the role of the Outreach Committee, and how we can work together, so we will definitely want to follow up on that.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Yes. Speaking of that, I want to hand it over to Femi Adebayo to talk about the Outreach Committee.

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

**Femi Adebayo:**  I'm really excited about the updates you have made, Camille. Obviously, I know that we are directing our comments to the Outreach Committee. Over the past couple of meetings, I did not really have a report. I think the only person was Omari Stringer who showed interest. I am happy that we are putting our emphasis on that for the Outreach Committee, so I did set up for a Webex meeting, so hopefully, you can join. I will send out a meeting invite to folks who are interested in joining. I want to have conversations on what we want to do (unintelligible) and share ideas that were proposed and some of the ideas I have. I'm hoping that with this focus that we shared today, we can get some traction in this committee.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Yes. Once we grab the links for the next meeting, I'll take it from you, Femi, and then I'll share it out with all of the board members for when the committee meets so that they have that information, so we can have a pretty good Outreach Committee meeting.

And then, Isabel Rodriguez, if you have any update?

**PRIVACY AND CYBERSECURITY COMMITTEE**

**Isabel Rodriguez:**  We did not have a May meeting. I do remember, from our April meeting, that we believe in outreach and public education and trying to see if there is a way that this committee could support in that way. I think that was something that was really an interest to folks who were at that meeting. I don't really have an update, but Lassana Magassa, you can jump in, as well, if you have any updates. I will be stepping down as co-chair, and so will be able to (unintelligible) transition and really helping to get this committee flying through the rest of the year.

**Lassana Magassa:**  I was trying to figure out what the mic button was. I have reached out to (unintelligible) and Meg Young. We did some work on privacy in Seattle -- to be one of our speakers. I haven't heard back from them. I also have been traveling, so I haven't followed up with them. I promise to follow up with them after this meeting.

**Isabel Rodriguez:**  Thanks, Lassana.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Yes. And thank you, Isabel, for your leadership over this part of the year. It was short but it has been very helpful. thank you so much for that. If folks are interested in that leadership role, let me or Isabel know. We're also having some discussions on what that role could be. So, just email me or Isabel. Before public comment, I just wanted to share about Merrilll. Unfortunately, this will be Merrill's last meeting because she is taking on this really exciting role that is taking her in and out, unfortunately out of Seattle. So, I just wanted to say thank you so much for the short but very sweet contribution to CTAB. I think your feedback and your questions during meetings have been so helpful. It has grounded us, and has also pushed back on assumptions and being devil's advocate sometimes, which is always so helpful. I know sometimes we (unintelligible). I am so appreciative of your time on CTAB. So thank you so much. You will definitely be missed.

**Merrill Miller:**   Thank you, Camille. I blushing right now a little bit. Is it hot in here? Thank you so much. I know that my time here has been really short, and I hope you all consider me a friend of the board for any future ways that I can help. I can't make this commitment the way I intended, regularly, but a one-off, or any other things that come up where help is needed, I'm still living in Seattle, just will be spending significant time outside of it. So, really, I just appreciate my time here, and I thank you for the opportunity.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Yes. Thanks, Merrill. As you saw on the TMF, CTAB members never really leave, but get asked back for TMF or something else. You are definitely invited to the barbecue, Merrill, if you are around in August. So, I'll make sure that those invites go out, because I vaguely remember you saying that you are really good at barbecue and really good at baking.

**Merrill Miller:**   Same general category with barbecue.

**Camille Malonzo:**   Last, but not least on our agenda, is public comment. First off, we're headed over to Vinh Tang. If there is any additional public comment, just raise your hand.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Vinh Tang:**  Thanks, Camille. I want to give a shout-out. I put it in the chat, here. Boards and Commissions (unintelligible) oversee the Surveillance Working Group. Most of you know about that. We have some vacant positions, and if you, or you know someone that is interested, please apply. We've done outreach over the past few months, but it's one of those working groups where we don't have a large pool of applicants. So, hopefully, if you or someone that you know is interested, just click in the link that is printed in this chat, and the application portal for all boards and commissions. he tricky part is that the seven members of the Surveillance Working Group, five out of the seven have to represent equity-based organizations, like ACLU or One America. We don't get a lot of applicants for positions like that, but you would qualify for five out of the seven. If you have any questions, please email me, vinh.tang@seattle.gov or just add it to chat here, and we'll get back to you. Thank you, Camille.

**From Chat:**  from Tang, Vinh to everyone:    7:35 PM

<https://techtalk.seattle.gov/2023/04/03/are-you-interested-in-serving-on-the-city-of-seattles-community-surveillance-working-group/>

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thanks, Vinh. Harte?

**Harte Daniels:**   Just a repeat of the invitation to attend the Digital Equity Committee planning meeting on the fourth Tuesday this month. We really need those fresh ideas and experiences that you have, in guiding an inclusive way of forming questions to the telecom providers. A lot of you have a view on that. We are a small committee and would love your help, even if it just on one tiny, little piece. You don't have to go whole hog. Contact Coleman Entringer. He will send you the link and the invitation to Webex. Again, thank you all for the work. This was a great meeting and I appreciate everything that I've seen tonight, and the other community members outside of Seattle that have kept us in support of the work that we all want to do. Take care.

**From Chat:**   from Coleman Entringer to everyone:    7:38 PM

Feel free to email me at: [coleentringer@gmail.com](mailto:coleentringer@gmail.com)

**Camille Malonzo:**   Thanks, Harte. Last call for public comment? Okay, well thank you all so much for a great June meeting, and we will see you all next month. Have a great June, you all.