Handout - Hackathon

Activity Overview
In small groups you and your colleagues are going to:

- Discuss a community problem.
- Your groups will select one problem that you would like to develop an app to help alleviate that problem.
- As a group discuss how an app could help alleviate the problem and the features that the app would have in order to be successful.
- On chart paper describe:
  - The problem
  - The app
  - The app features
- When done put the chart paper on the wall designated by the activity facilitator.

Sample Community Problems and App Solutions

- Limited access to devices in low socio-economic communities. An app that could help solve that problem would focus on libraries as repositories for no longer needed devices. Community members donate their old devices to the library. The device is then entered into the app and those who need a device are able to locate what they need by searching the app.

- Lack of pathways for youth to take part in scaffolded learning experiences across a community. Youth take part in a variety of afterschool learning experiences but they are often scattered in terms of content and community organizations don’t provide opportunities for young people to search for the “next” class to take on a topic of interest. An app that would help alleviate this would enable youth to put in a class that they have taken and then find out what is available that would take them to the next level in that learning. For example, if a young person learned beginning HTML and CSS they might then find that a more advanced class is sponsored by a specific organization in the community.

- Reliable housing for families is often a challenge. An app that brings together unstably housed families and community members with space that the family can use would help to alleviate the problem. Community members would be “approved” by local officials and offer services based on the community’s specific need. Unstably housed families would also be “approved” by local officials and would be able to use the app to find short-term housing based on a specific set of criteria.