San Antonio
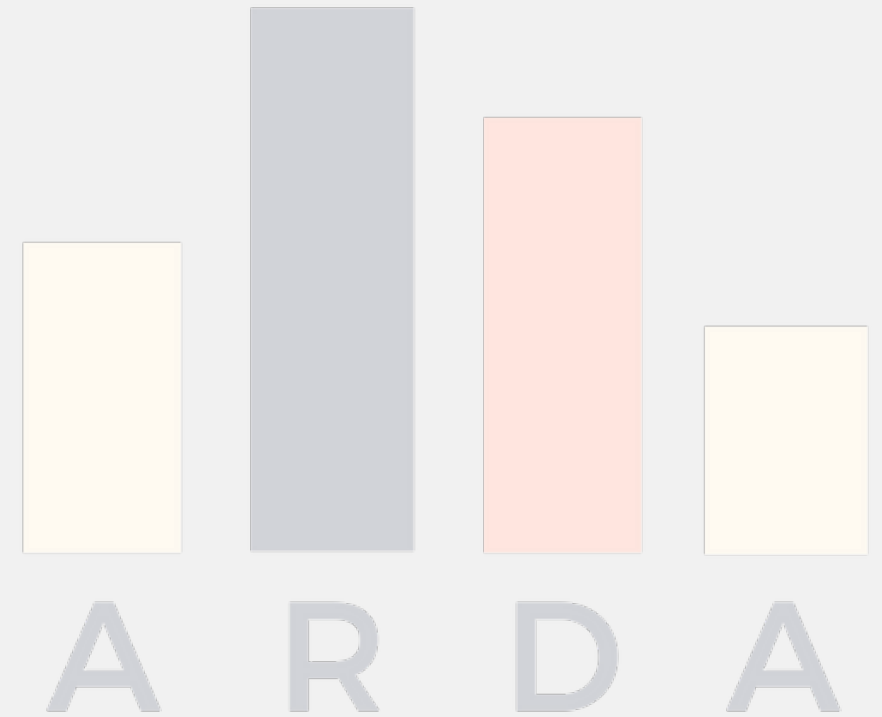
Civic Tech & Data Collaborative

November 2017

ARDA

Community Information Now
Local data that's trustworthy, neutral, and timely

Alamo Regional Data Alliance milestones

- Late 1990s: AACIS (now CI:Now) formed
- Feb 2016: Then-mayor's office convened "Data Nirvana" brainstorming
- Aug 2016: "Small group" convened to draft a plan; became Interim Steering Committee
- Mar 2017: Vision Convening to vet purpose, goals; i.d. wins
- May 2017: Community Strategy revised
- Aug 2017: alamodata.org launch; membership drive started
- Oct 2017: Steering Committee elected; partnership drive started
- Nov 2017 and forward: save the world?

How ARDA engages people

- Governing/steering ("small group", Interim SC, Steering Committee)
- Individual memberships (snowball)
- Organizational partnerships (snowball)
- Agile scrum: submit user story, participate in or host sprint demo
- Large convenings
- General communications (alamodata.org, CI:Now newsletter)
- Informal in-person conversations
- Future:
  - Standing workgroups (e.g., data privacy & security; engagement)
  - Ad-hoc workgroups (e.g., education IDS)

How we build trust

- (Excessive) transparency and (absurd levels of) communication
- Collaborative infrastructure and process with mutual accountability
  - Elected governing body with CI:Now in non-voting support role
  - Every decision's made by consensus and/or voting
- Formal policies and procedures posted publicly
  - ISC and SC Charters
  - Project Prioritization Process & Criteria
- How we treat each other
  - Be very, very serious about not steamrolling people or reinventing the wheel
  - Check your ego at the door
  - Genuinely value what different people bring
  - Plan for and deal with turf issues

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Alamo Regional Data Alliance's guiding principles represent the shared values that drive all organizational behaviors and actions. Staying true to these guiding principles ensures ARDA stays committed to its mission and realizing its vision.

COMMUNITY

ARDA IS COMMUNITY-DRIVEN AND DRIVEN BY THE COMMUNITY.

COLLABORATION

ARDA BELIEVES COLLABORATION AND INCLUSIVITY CULTIVATE INNOVATION AND ACTION.

TRUST

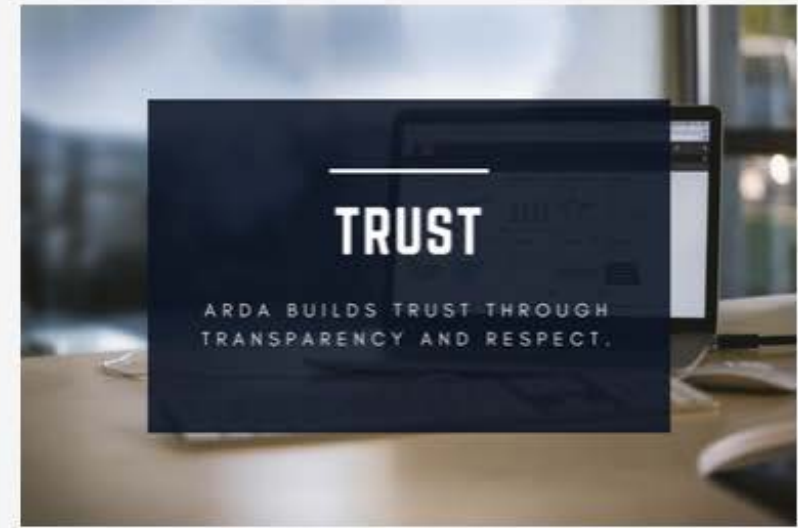ARDA BUILDS TRUST THROUGH TRANSPARENCY AND RESPECT.

COMMUNITY

ARDA has a positive impact on the community as a whole, not a select few; is responsive to local emergent issues and needs; and is led by a diverse group of representatives elected by the community.

COLLABORATION

ARDA is connecting disparate groups to uncover common needs, foster creative solutions, and maximize impact; and has balanced representation among membership, leadership, and stakeholders.

TRUST

ARDA is open and public in membership and process; and is respectful of and sees the value in all contributions, past and present.
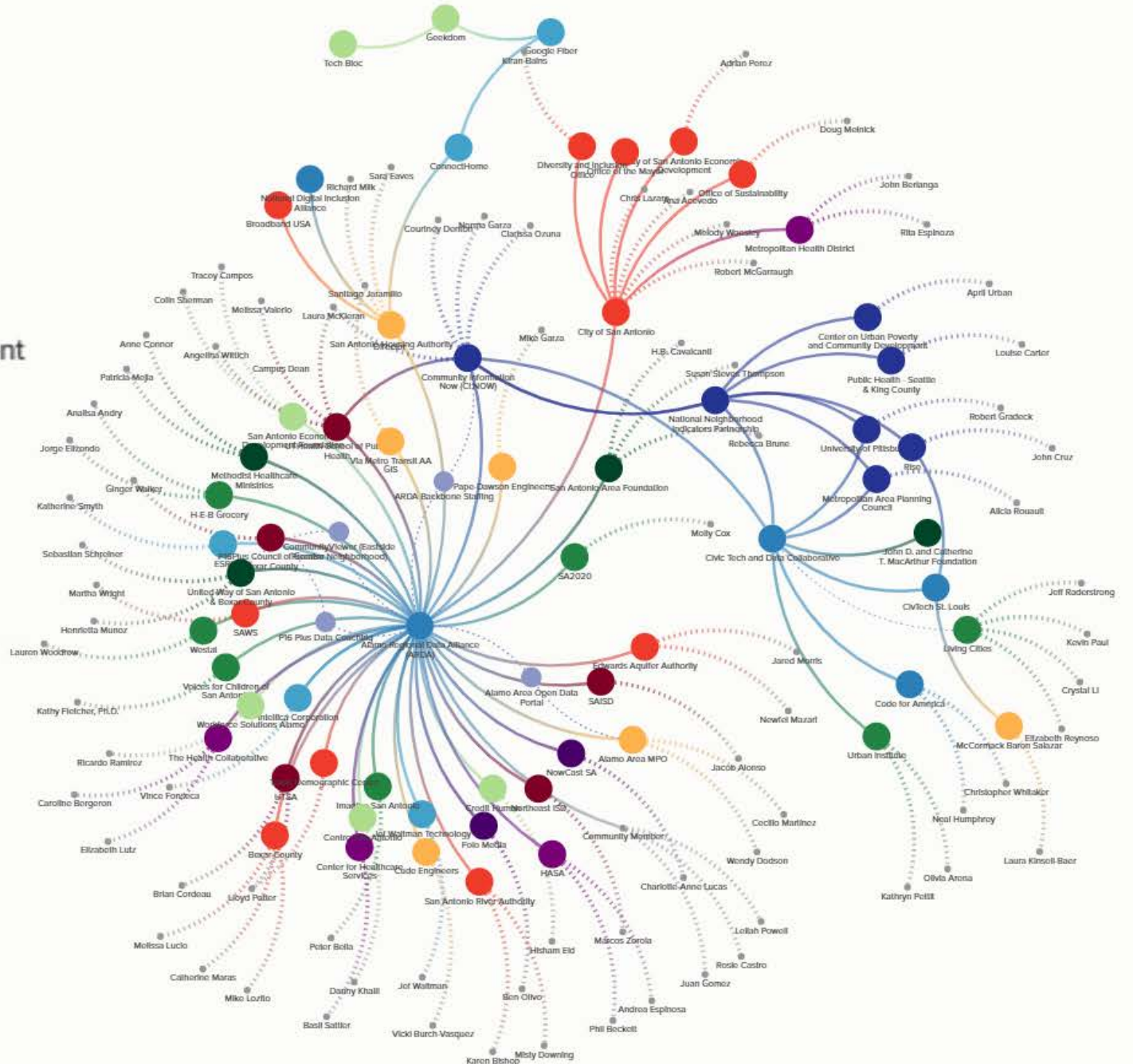
Steering Committee: six categories, 17 seats, staggered terms

Category (seats)	Community Represented	Example Organizations
Local government and utilities (4)	Elected officials and staff of local city and county governments; Public and quasi-governmental organizations that maintain or manage infrastructure/utilities for a public service	COSA, Bexar County, other local governing bodies; CPS, SAWS, VIA
Service providers (4)	Organizations with a primary focus on direct provision of health, human, or education services	SAHA, Metro Health, CHCS, school districts, Goodwill, Families Empowered
Planning and advocacy (2)	Public and nonprofit organizations with a primary focus on planning, civic engagement, community development, or advocacy	The Health Collaborative, SA2020, P16Plus, Alamo MPO, AACOG, SARA
Philanthropy (2)	Foundations and nonprofits whose principal purpose is to aid in activities serving the public good	United Way, Kronkosky Charitable Foundation, San Antonio Area Foundation
Other organizations (4)	Other for-profit enterprises and associations representing private business; Public and private higher education, research agencies, and technology-focused organizations	H-E-B, Chamber of Commerce, UIW, UTSA, SWRI, HASA, Google Fiber, Code for SA
Community member (1)	Open representation	Community members

CI:NOW

ARDA

Tech & Data Ecosystem

Data Intermediary

Civic Technology Group

Tech

Project

Philanthropy/Funder

Research, Planning and Advocacy

Economic and Workforce Development

Infrastructure

Government & Utilities

Education

Health

Media

Toughest challenges

- Hard to communicate about; abstract concepts with no established model to point to
  - It's not a new nonprofit
  - It doesn't have a budget (or a money fairy)
  - The difference between and value of ARDA vs. CI:Now
- Balancing ROI for those who prefer careful planning, quick action
- Backbone staffing: funding, efficiency of staffing, project mgmt
  - Backbone staffing Jan-Oct 2017: 1,549 hours
  - Funding: SA Area Fdn: $50K; CI:Now's own operating grants: $85K (if costed out at our hourly rate)