

New Ventures Foundation PIT-UN Smart Cities Grant End of Project Report

1. Narrative Report

a. Goals and objectives, with results achieved

The goal of the Grant under the title “Experiential Learning Opportunity- “Leading Smart Communities: Professional Certificate” was to offer current early- to mid-career local government leaders (elected and staff) important training in the latest ways technology can make their governing institutions more transparent, inclusive, and responsive to their residents.

The objective of the project was to engage local government leaders with leading practitioners to learn the latest trends in government technology. This grant proposal was intended to support the development and offering of three “beta test” sessions of this training toward the goal of creating a self-sustaining/funded training seminar.

The Certificate Program was delivered virtually three times at the writing of the report, with a fourth offering scheduled for fall 2021. The first offering was delivered in fall 2020 with 8 participants, the second offering was delivered in Winter 2021 with 23 participants, and the third offering was delivered in Spring 2021 with 14 participants. In each offering, participants attended two and a half hour sessions weekly for five weeks. Prior to each session, participants were asked to complete readings relevant to the upcoming topic. Each session included a lecture by the rotating presenter, time to workshop a group project with pre-determined teams, and an opportunity for questions. Following each session, participants were asked to submit a 100-200 journal entry reflecting on the content of the session. During the last session of the program, participants presented their collaborative group projects to the cohort. The five sessions in each offering were as follows:

- Certificate Introduction
- Cyber Security & Risk: Fundamentals for developing a risk based approach for smart cities
- Digital Communications Strategy: What public administrators can learn from Silicon Valley
- Basic Analytics and AI for Managers
- Building smarter and more sustainable communities in the 21st century and sharing of group projects/City Manager Reports.

Upon completion of the program, participants were mailed a physical certificate acknowledging their participation in the program. Participants also received a copy of the text *Smart Cities for Dummies* by Jonathan Reichental. Following the program, participants were invited to a closed LinkedIn group for program

alumni to collaborate and continue peer learning. The participants remained engaged in the LinkedIn group and in resharing the offering on social media. The certificate program is only self-sustaining if offered virtually and at a higher fee than the \$750 that was charged per participant. We believe that offering the certificate program virtually is actually a better structure for this program and has allowed for a much broader audience.

b. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We also translated the in-person tangible content like information packets and resources online, providing that content via Google Drive. The participants benefited from having all the resources available digitally and the ability to access recordings. The online program offering, spread over the course of five weeks, gave us the opportunity to provide readings which served to frame the upcoming content sessions. In turn, participants had a week to immerse themselves in content related to the upcoming topic. The weekly journal entries presented an opportunity for Dr. Jonathan Reichental to provide valuable feedback to our participants.

The transition to a virtual offering presented an opportunity to take the offering to the next step and add multiple dimensions to the content. Some examples, as listed above, include weekly readings, journal entries, and the group project.

After each offering, we invited participants to take part in an anonymous evaluation of the course with a section for suggestions. A sample of the course evaluation form and summaries of responses from both cohorts to date are attached for reference.

Following the evaluation, we reconvened the program developers to evaluate the suggestions and make necessary adjustments. For example, the feedback from the first virtual offering was a request for more time. In response, we changed our session length from two hours to two and a half hours. Another point of feedback we received was having time to work on group projects during the sessions; we incorporated that as well in future offerings.

c. Publications generated as a result of the project

<https://catalyst.independent.org/2021/01/01/technolog-public-engagement/>
<https://www.publicceo.com/2021/04/the-inevitability-of-smart-communities/>

- 2. All Pepperdine University activities were and are consistent with charitable purposes under Section 501(c)(3) and 509(a) (1), (2) or (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and Pepperdine University complied with all provisions and restrictions contained in this Agreement, including, for example and without limitation, those provisions related to lobbying and political activity.**
- 3. The financial report detailing the final accounting for all grant funding is attached.**
- 4. Intellectual property and assets created with the Grant**

Intellectual property that was created within the Grant includes 5 presentation slide decks, owned by each presenter in the Certificate Program.

- Certificate Introduction by Dr. Jonathan Reichental
- Cyber Security & Risk: Fundamentals for developing a risk based approach for smart cities by Dr. Charla Griffy-Brown
- Digital Communications Strategy: What public administrators can learn from Silicon Valley by Alex Kouts
- Basic Analytics and AI for Managers led by Kamran Bakhitiari.
- Building smarter and more sustainable communities in the 21st century by Dr. Jonathan Reichental.

Intellectual property also includes the group project design and implementation reports created by the individual groups, referred to as the City Manager Report.