Abstract Descriptions

GIS for the People

Primary Presenter
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Abstract: Community-based organizations collect a myriad of localized data about the people they serve, as well as the housing and the neighborhoods in which they live. But GIS tools have remained out of reach for most organizations, due to their cost, complexity, and a lack of understanding on how they can serve as a tool to improve the quality of community life.

The GIS for the People project of The Jones Payne Group and WhoData aims to demonstrate that GIS services can be sustainably provided to community based organizations at modest cost and low complexity, while still enabling the integration of both internally collected data (from WeaverPRM) as well as relevant external datasets.

This workshop will provide an overview of WeaverPRM, a highly scalable cloud-based database application that integrates workflow, dwelling, and homeowner information to organize and manage parcel and property-based activities for cities, towns, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations engaged in housing development and management.

This workshop will provide an overview of proof of concept projects in New Orleans, LA, Madison, WI, and Boston, MA demonstrating low-cost and low-complexity approaches to utilizing cloud-based GIS services to map internal and external data for community-based organizations.

The presenters will provide an overview of the underlying concepts of this effort, a description of demonstration projects in New Orleans, LA, Roxbury, MA, and Madison, WI, as well as indications for future initiatives.