



## **ThinkChicago 2018: Lollapalooza Civic Tech Challenge Prompts**

### ***TRANSIT***

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) operates the second largest public transportation system in the U.S., with 1.6 million rides taken on an average weekday, shared between the bus and rail system. It is a regional transit system that serves 35 suburbs and the City of Chicago, with a total service population of 3.5 million individuals. It can get particularly crowded on certain lines or in response to certain events, such as on the red line before or after Cubs games, or on the blue line connecting downtown to O'Hare airport. Given the CTA's high ridership and the broad geographical area it serves, ***how might we improve the user experience for Chicagoans by better forecasting ridership and decreasing bus and rail congestion during high-demand periods?***

### ***SUSTAINABILITY***

From the Chicago Climate Action Plan's broad leadership to the City's targeted energy efficiency investments, Chicago is integrating sustainability in the places residents work, live, learn, and play. Environmental preservation is also a key mission of Lollapalooza, be it by promoting waste diversion on festival grounds (through composting, water refill stations, and the Rock & Recycle program), encouraging fans to use environmentally-friendly transportation, or offsetting carbon emissions. Lollapalooza is Chicago's largest music festival, and presents a unique opportunity to test and measure green practices in an enclosed, high-occupancy space. If successful, such practices could serve as a model for other large-scale City events. ***How might we increase the access to, and use of, environmentally-sustainable transportation (mass transit, bicycles, Divvy bikeshare, walking, etc.) for Lollapalooza festival goers—or for Chicago residents and visitors, particularly throughout underserved neighborhoods?***

### ***HIGHER EDUCATION & FOOD/HOUSING INSECURITY***

City Colleges of Chicago is the largest community colleges system in Illinois and one of the largest in the nation, with more than 4,000 faculty and staff serving more than more than 80,000 students annually at seven colleges and five satellite sites. At any given time, half of City Colleges students in Chicago do not have consistent, reliable access to food or housing. ***How might we anticipate, identify, or address these challenges?***

### ***INFRASTRUCTURE***

As a city with a population of 2.7 million people, Chicago has its fair share of infrastructure opportunities and challenges. Currently, the City has a number of significant capital improvement projects (i.e., projects that help maintain or improve City assets/infrastructure) underway, including the building or upgrading of city streets and alleys, water mains, and parks. These investments are essential elements of providing quality government service, and they create the conditions for a safe and economically viable city. As Chicago's infrastructure ages and as needs change, capital priorities must be adjusted. These infrastructure needs are disproportionately felt in marginalized neighborhoods. ***How might we better forecast where the City should be investing in rehabilitating or rebuilding City infrastructure, and what the infrastructure needs are in those locations?***

### ***CIVIC ENGAGEMENT***

The City of Chicago has a number of avenues through which it engages residents in decision-making and listens to their needs and perspectives, including through Community Conversations and Fireside Chats. However, it still faces challenges in empowering all Chicagoans to feel connected to, and involved with, the City. ***How might we better engage Chicagoans in local government, giving them the opportunity to have their voice heard and to take advantage of all the City has to offer?***