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Participedia launches new, open source website

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA — JUNE 3, 2019 — We are pleased to announce the launch of our new open-source, open-edit website [Participedia.net](https://participedia.net).

Participedia is a collaborative effort to identify, document, and learn from the hundreds of thousands of new channels of citizen involvement occurring in governments, communities, and organizations throughout the world. Our crowdsourcing platform gives everyone the ability to share knowledge and information about these processes. The resulting catalogue will provide the information necessary for scholars, practitioners, and members of the public to understand the development of citizen engagement and its contribution to democracy and governance.

Participedia is made possible by a Partnership Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The project was founded by principal investigator Dr Mark Warren of the University of British Columbia and co-investigator Dr Archon Fung of Harvard University's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation. Recalling its beginnings as "little more than a piece of software," Fung recently expressed gratification that the Participedia project has since developed into "a community of people interested in improving participatory governance who realize that they can do that work a lot better when they know what's going on all over the world."

Nearly 2000 entries have been published on Participedia.net, collectively written and edited by close to 3000 users, and accessed by hundreds of thousands of people all over the world. The research project has grown into a global network of over fifty co-investigators and collaborators from partner institutions spanning six continents.

The new Participedia website was designed by the project's Design & Technology Team, led by Amber Frid-Jimenez, Canada Research Chair in art and design technology and director of the Studio for Extensive Aesthetics at Emily Carr University of Art + Design. Sitting member of Participedia's Executive Committee and co-investigator on the SSHRC Partnership Grant, Frid-Jimenez sees great potential for Participedia to make a wide, and lasting impact: "From its use as a teaching resource to its ability to quickly mobilize knowledge about emergent participatory initiatives in real time, Participedia has the potential to change the way we practice and learn about participatory democracy."

The new website is open-source (github.com/participedia); informed by participatory design research, iterative testing, and feedback. Participedia.net is optimized for mobile devices, and includes a "quick submit" feature that gives anyone, anywhere, the ability to contribute content

easily. Known as ‘the Wikipedia of public participation’, Participedia content is created, edited, and accessed by anyone on the internet as part of the Creative Commons.

Participedia is a resource for anyone interested in the new forms of civic engagement and democratic innovation being developed around the world. From academics, to practitioners and engaged citizens, Participedia’s community shares a common goal: to document and understand new forms of governance and community-empowerment in all places and at all scales. On Participedia, anyone can collaboratively document and share cases, methods, and organizations related to public participation.

Visit Participedia.net to discover knowledge and stories of public participation, and share your own!

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