Tech4America
using technology to increase civic participation
and improve government

The Problem

Our country faces big challenges that require innovation--and some common sense--to overcome. However, the politics of today aren't always innovating or employing common sense. Too often, it is only focusing on the problem of the day, the latest partisan fight, and the immediate media scandal.

The Solution

Now is the time to come to the table and start an organized and sustained two-way discussion on opportunities to improve the way we do things and to tackle difficult issues for a positive impact. When partnerships are developed between the best in the private and public sectors, disruptive thinking and solutions can be applied to the issues we face.

Tech4America (T4A) has already seen this happen: during the 2012 campaign, Tech4Obama convened eight substantive hour-long Roundtables with President Barack Obama, each with 20 of the brightest minds in tech. Prior to the Roundtables, we did not mandate any specific outcomes except to leave each group more committed to increased participation. We believed by virtue of who the participants were that positive outcomes would unfold. Indeed they did: one of those meetings helped spark the creation of the Presidential Innovation Fellows Program. The T4A Convened Roundtables will continue the 20-person paradigm as proven settings and will change how all participants think about service, citizenship and working with government.

At a Glance

We bring the Technology community to-gether to increase civic participation and improve government.

The T4A Model
- We convene leaders from tech and government in an organized and sustained way
- Our Members realize increased voice share on important issues
- We convene to spark action--we are not a lobbyist organization
- We are non-partisan
- We are organized as a 501(c)(4)

Launch Plan
- Announce January 2013 (First event to be held at the inauguration in Washington, D.C.)
- Fully funded February 2013
- First T4A Convened Roundtable March 2013

The Market

We view our market on two fronts: tech and government. On the tech side, there is a strong desire to use innovative thinking to improve our world, but not enough knowledge of the political system to fully understand the different challenges of governing. From the government side, there is a need for some innovative thinking. Simply put, tech can learn from government and government can learn from tech.

- Our Board will be limited to 20 people.
- We commit to building 20 T4A Convened Roundtables in our initial year (2013), along with an annual conference/ retreat.

While we are steadfastly committed to staying fluid and not limiting the scope of our discussions, common threads consistently come up in our community and will likely be addressed. These include (but are not limited to): STEM education, vocational training, H1B Visa Program, agribusiness policies, climate change/energy. Our guests at the Roundtables will be government officials and elected representatives who are willing to engage in substantive

Tech4America
using technology to increase civic participation
and improve government

conversation about how to make government work better, which will help encourage more civic participation on a scalable level.

Our Differentiation

T4A grows out of the successful campaign affinity group, Technology for Obama. The same leaders who founded and led Tech4Obama will lead this new organization. Highlights of T4O: raised >$26 million, grew membership of >10k people, brought together the most distinguished entrepreneurs and tech leaders in America. Deep roots of experience in both politics and the technology industry are necessary; this team carries these credentials along with strong relationships with the current Administration and other elected officials. Layering past success with a disciplined and systemic approach to building the organization and convening actionable dialogue uniquely positions T4A.

Team

Jim Green
Co-Founder and Executive Director

Sam Kaspick
Staff Director

Selected but not yet public
Political/Development Director

Selected but not yet public
Washington, DC Director

Convening Board (in formation)

Marc Benioff (Co-Founder)
Engaged Citizen

Shelby Bonnie (Co-Founder)
Engaged Citizen

Shervin Pishevar (Co-Founder)
Engaged Citizen

Rusty Rueff (Co-Founder)
Engaged Citizen

Jon Kaplan
Engaged Citizen