

Venture Café x City of Phoenix Office of Innovation Innovate PHX Challenge | RECAP

May 15, 2025 at Venture Café Phoenix

Addressing urban challenges through innovative solutions.

Event Overview

The Office of Innovation collaborates with Venture Café Phoenix to organize biannual Innovate PHX Challenge hackathons where participants from diverse backgrounds work in teams to address top City priorities. The teams then pitch their innovative solutions to a panel of judges for a chance to win a cash prize and potentially partner with the City to prototype ideas.

Event Turnout



150

Attendees



29

Participants



6

Teams

CHALLENGE

Participants were asked to design solutions for **Smart Cities for Phoenix** with a focus on **Accessibility, Active Transportation, and Public Spaces**. Smart Cities solutions seamlessly blend with the natural and built environments to improve quality of life for residents and visitors.

PITCHES

Teams of residents, community leaders, researchers, technologists, and others collaborated for 6 hours to present innovative Smart Cities solutions. The finalized pitches included suggestions for, among others, improved lane-guidance technologies, live ridership monitoring, community feedback platforms for active transit users, and the use of shade mapping for increased safety and accessibility in navigation.

Topics Covered



Data-Driven
Solutions



New and Existing
Technologies



Community
Feedback



Cross-Sector
Collaboration

WINNERS

1

Team Three

\$ \$575 per person

Enhance public transit with a Bluetooth-enabled Smart Community Card app that offers real-time ridership monitoring and dynamic route optimization.

2

Team Six

\$ \$250 per person

Improve public safety and accessibility through CoolPath, a shade-aware navigation system that delivers personalized walking and biking routes that prioritize shaded pathways and access to public drinking water.

