

Systems Change in Phoenix

In 2016, communities across the greater Phoenix area faced seemingly insurmountable challenges in population growth, water shortages, and budget shortfall. However, leaders also saw opportunities to collaborate on projects for responsible re-urbanization, optimization of roads for autonomous vehicles pilots, and improvement of city services in line with citizen expectations. With community assets that included major universities, engaged local and county governments, and a wealth of technology-driven companies, innovators, and entrepreneurs, Phoenix needed a new plan to create and accelerate their development as a smart region. They sought a new collaboration partner that would drive technology-enhanced, regional economic development.



The Intervention

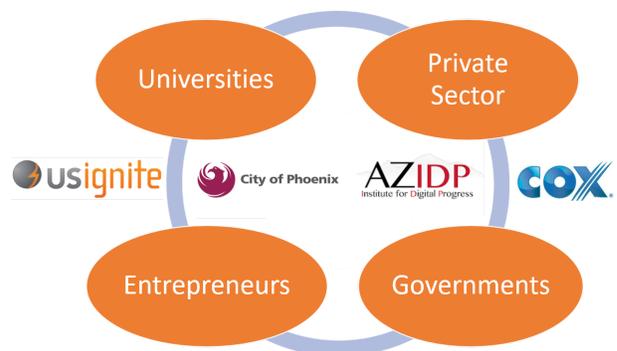
US Ignite partnered with municipal, corporate, and higher education partners across Phoenix to identify and empower a local organization that would deliver a new community model through the following steps:

- **Partner Identification:** US Ignite worked closely with the city of Phoenix to define the requirements for a local intermediary, selected the Institute for Digital Progress (AZiDP) as a new partner through a competitive proposal process, and supported the organization in becoming a high functioning, locally collaborative technology organization.
- **Community-Wide Engagement:** US Ignite partnered with local leaders to establish a steering group that included local government CIOs, mayors, university researchers, and leading technology companies. This group created organizational alignment and drove commitment to smart city initiatives including the Smart City Hack, smart Workforce Development, and Urban iLabs.
- **Community Network Infrastructure Enhancement:** Partnership with a national cable provider ensured deployment of gigabit infrastructure at local innovation hubs and local innovation community centers.
- **Innovation Ecosystem:** While partners fostered the development of new applications and services to drive innovation and startups, US Ignite facilitated the sharing of previously developed applications and services from other US Ignite Smart Gigabit Communities (SGCs) and led panel discussions at local events.

The Results

As a result of this US Ignite intervention, AZiDP spearheads the world's first Smart Region consortium; a public-private innovation partnership forming a web of interconnected cities, tech companies, large universities, startups, innovators, and citizens. The actions of this consortium have produced the following results:

- **Innovation Ecosystem/Job Creation:** Leveraging hackathons, partners in Phoenix have empowered innovators and developers to create products and applications to tackle waste management, decrease vehicle congestion, expand the use of voice-activated assistants, and support the sharing economy.
- **Model Practices:** Leveraging insights from US Ignite's Smart City Playbooks, iDP developed a smart community plan and that has expanded to surrounding cities and towns.



For a complete list of Smart Gigabit Communities, head over to us-ignite.org.

“US Ignite and the SGC program played a pivotal role in catalyzing the Greater Phoenix regional ecosystem providing necessary thought leadership to understand that what makes us “smart” is not a single project, but rather a continual process of utilizing technology to improve government efficiency, enhance individual well-being and solve complex problems. - *Dom Papa, Executive Director, iDP.*

The Outcomes

Since 2015, municipal, corporate, and innovation partners across Phoenix have delivered the following:

- **Funding Support:** Local agencies secured a \$6 million DOT grant to address congestion management.
- **Regional Expansion:** Locally, Phoenix’s smart city effort has expanded to include 22 regional communities with an emphasis on transportation, collaboration, and the development of advanced applications and services that work across jurisdictional boundaries to benefit residents and visitors of all 22 regional communities.
- **University Engagement:** iDP established a mutually-beneficial collaborative partnership with Arizona State University, leading to the establishment of the Center for Smart Cities and Regions (CenSCR) and enhancement of city and university infrastructure.

Related links

- [Phoenix Smart City Hack](#) (2017 Event)
- [Greater Phoenix Smart Region Initiative Unifies Stakeholders To Create Digital Roadmap](#)
- [GovTech: Phoenix Partnership Promises to Further Regional Smart Cities Work](#)
- [Smart Cities Dive: Greater Phoenix Smart Region promises collaboration, workforce development](#)

Partners

- [Cox Business](#)
- [AZiDP](#)
- [Arizona State University](#)

About Us

US Ignite Smart Gigabit Communities are leveraging the benefits of advanced networking technologies and data-driven strategies to solve modern-day dilemmas, develop their own innovation ecosystems, create a catalog of applications and services, and define solutions to address smart city and IoT challenges.

Benefits to Becoming an SGC Community:

- Become part of an ecosystem of connected communities, innovators, and applications
- Gain technical and community-building assistance plus notice of funding opportunities
- Leverage expert assistance in developing advanced applications and services to drive continuous economic development
- Achieve national visibility at the annual US Ignite Application Summit
- Take advantage of US Ignite’s ability to facilitate access to high-capacity, low-latency network infrastructure with local edge computing and storage capabilities

For more information about the menu of services and resources provided, contact SGC at info@us-ignite.org