

Source: MIT Sloan Review

Organizing Crowdsourcing Activities

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Outline

- Introduction
- Clarify contest roles and responsibilities
- Clarify contest purpose
- Steering Committee
- Call for contributions
- Prize structure
- Examples



Source: Shutterstock

Introduction

- Now you have settled on crowdsourcing
- Who to include as partners?
- How to organize either as research or as a program?
- How to plan the next steps?
- How to bring along diverse community groups and individuals?



SESH hackathon, May 2019. Guangzhou, China

THE SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO SPUR HEALTH PROJECT HACKATHON

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RECRUITMENT

2 PREPARATION PERIOD

72 HOURS HACKING

PRODUCT PRESENTATIONS

DISSEMINATION

WWW.SESHGLOBAL.ORG

Roles and responsibilities

Group	Roles and responsibilities	
Host	1.	Identify partner organizations;
organization	2.	Identify potential steering committee members;
	3.	Create a first draft call for contributions
		(including prize structure)
	4.	Have some communications capacity
	5.	Administrative and logical aspects of contest
Partner	1.	Identify potential steering committee members;
organizations	2.	Disseminate a call for contributions
Steering or	1.	Provide leadership and guidance for the
Advisory		contest;
committee	2.	Clarify the purpose of the contest and
		determine the structure of the contest;
	3.	Provide feedback on the call for contributions;
	4.	Finalize the prize structure

Clarify Contest Purpose

- *Outcome-oriented:* high innovation, fewer prizes of high value
- *Process-oriented:* high engagement, more prizes of less value
- What is your single most important goal? (broad engagement, a single powerful intervention, policy change)



Finalists in hackathon to be interns at gay tech company, Blued Source: Reuters

Create a Steering or Advisory Committee

- Key stakeholders who have interest
- Civil society, doctors, government officials, private sector
- Multiple fields and disciplines
- Think about gender, geographic representation, underrepresented groups
- Network leaders and influencers
- Include people with the disease



SESH Hackathon Advisor, Dapeng Zhang (Blued) Expertise in tech, gay community organizing, HIV

Steering Committee Function

- High-level advising and guidance
- Promote the contest
- Serve as judges (optional) or help find judges
- Meet every 1-2 months for a 60minute teleconference
- Volunteer basis
- Reality check



Teleconference Source: Zoom

Committee Reviews Call for Contributions

- Call to action should be clear
- Start with a simple question
- Tell a story / share a quote
- Provide rules, purpose, timeline
- Specify judging criteria clearly
- Describe prizes generally to excite, but allow for some flexibility
- FAQs, partner organizations



SESH hackathon call for submissions Shenzhen, China (courtesy Bolin Cao)

Call for Contributions

Research Mentorship **Challenge Contest**

DEADLINE: 01 DECEMBER 2019

www.seshglobal.org/TDRmentorshipcontest



Establish a prize structure

- Official commendations
- Generally avoid cash (unless teams)
- Mentorship often highly valued
- Provide some flexibility
- Demonstrate that you care and pay attention to the details



Award winning quilt. Source: Pixabay

Handwritten note

Avoid Giving Examples

- Examples of strong ideas often contribute to cognitive fixation
- Fine to provide context, but avoid giving examples
- Include statements like "be creative" in the call for submissions



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