

Notes from Geospatial/GIS Meetup

November 10, 2020

via Zoom

Attendees: Janet Reyes, facilitator;

Via Zoom: Ademide Adelusi-Adeluyi, Adrian Monges Rodriguez, Ahmed Eldawy, Brooke Rose, Candice Mays, Canserina Kurnia, Chris Barr, Deidre Reyes, Diana Dittimore, Elizabeth Perez, Florian Gorgeon, Gideon Kinzie Hawver, Hoori Ajami, Jenny Chen, Jonathan Young, Joseph Farago-Spencer, Katherine Rodriguez, Laura Chansavang, Lynn Sweet, Maxine Wu, Michelle Bush, Mike Cohen, Orchida Fayez, Pengchi Xiao, Rey Umali, Salvador Olguin, Shanon Langlie, Steve Hemmady, Steve Ries

Announcements

This meeting was recorded; video is available [here](#). The access passcode to view is R?JLQrZ5

Janet is giving a new **workshop** on Thursday, November 12 at 2:00 pm: [Introduction to ArcGIS Online](#).

On Friday November 20 at noon, the UCR Library [Digital Scholarship meetup](#) series will focus on open tools for creating online maps.

This year, most UC campuses (including UCR) are collaborating on [UC GIS Week](#) to be held November 17-19. The programming will include posters, lightning talks, presentations, panel discussions, and “mappy lunch hours.” UCR will have five presenters and is a leader among the campuses in terms of registered participants!

Canserina congratulated the UC system for putting UC GIS Week together. Esri is busy preparing for GIS Day; Canserina will share some resources with us, including a message from Jack Dangermond (president of Esri).

The next Esri [Lunchtime Chats on GIS Education](#), on December 1 at 9:00 am, will focus on [Business Analyst](#) for the web. Recordings and resources are made available after each monthly chat.

The [2020 ArcGIS StoryMaps Competition](#) is open now through November 25. The theme is sustainable development goals (SDGs). Anyone with a story map that touches on any of the 17 SDGs (which include subjects such as hunger, poverty and equality) is encouraged to enter.

Janet will send out a poll in the next few weeks for scheduling the **meetups** in Winter 2021. Three presenter slots are available in the remainder of the academic year; please contact Janet if you are interested in presenting or have a suggestion for a presentation or discussion. (In the chat, Deirdre indicated she is interested in presenting in Winter 2021.)

Gideon shared that the **R’Geospatial Club** meets on Fridays from 5:30 to 6:30. They started last Friday on a course to prepare for ArcGIS Desktop certification. Guest presenters for club meetings are

welcome. Any undergrads or grad students who are interested or have questions about the club can contact him gkinz001@ucr.edu or Jonathan Young jyoun049@ucr.edu.

Hoori announced that in Winter 2021 she is teaching **ENSC 175 Spatial Analysis and Remote Sensing**. Registration is open and seats are limited. Statistics is one of the prerequisites; students can contact her so she can evaluate their statistics competency.

First-time Attendees

First-time attendees were asked to put their information in the chat.

Brooke Rose is a second year PhD student in Botany and Plant Sciences and has a Master's in Geography.

Deirdre Reyes is a 4th year Public Policy Scholar.

Jenny Chen is a second year Master in Public Policy student at the School of Public Policy.

Laura Chansavang is a second year Sociology student with an interest in urban planning/design.

Orchida Fayez is a novice digital humanities researcher and is planning a project titled "Maps of Literacy," with a group of colleagues.

For the other first-time attendees: welcome, and we hope you'll return in the future!

Presentation

Candice Mays is the project manager of [Mapping Black California](#), which is a [Black Voice News](#) GIS initiative. The initiative's objective is to increase sustainability, expand capacity, and modernize journalistic techniques to improve the delivery of accurate information to the community. It combines the advocacy journalism of the Black press and the data visualization capabilities of GIS to enhance community news and storytelling. (Black Voice News, a legacy newspaper, is now owned by [Voice Media Ventures](#).)

Candice shared her journey from being an English major to teaching literacy in New York City to earning an MFA in creative writing. She was interested in telling the story of what gets lost in a culture when large numbers of people from that culture move to a new region - in her case, the migration of Louisiana Creole family members to California a few generations ago. Candice sought maps that told the story of the [Great Migration](#) more completely. More broadly, she wants to see maps that tell the story of the Black experience in its entirety, not just the tragedies and misfortunes.

Candice spoke of visiting a cultural museum in New Orleans, in a structure in the yard of a Mardi Gras Indian. His question "Who better to tell my history than myself?" has stuck with her, including as she's experienced feeling out of place while entering the GIS field in order to create the kind of maps she's seeking.

The projects undertaken by Mapping Black California include:

- A story map for the [Footsteps to Freedom](#) teacher education tour, featuring sites on the Underground Railroad.
- A story map on [Segregation by the Sea](#), regarding historically segregated beaches in Southern California.
- The [Hate Kills](#) story map on hate crimes against Black people.
- A look at the impact of COVID-19 on the Southern California African-American community. They created a [story map](#) that compares this pandemic to the 1918 influenza pandemic.
- A [story map](#) on the probable impact of the coronavirus on the Census count in California's Black communities.
- Meeting with newspapers in historically Black areas to provide technical assistance in updating their operations, including learning to use GIS.
- Producing a [Black hard-to-count map](#) for Census 2020.
- Creating a participatory Black at Work map during COVID-19 (not yet public-facing).
- Partnering with the [Kellylab](#) at UC Berkeley in data collection.

Some of the challenges Mapping Black California faces:

- The need for more cartographers
- The need for data disaggregated by race
- Black newspapers' lack of capacity to learn new technology, including the use of social media

Their hope is to evolve into a fully functioning geo-journalism website, which would supply others, particularly Black news outlets, with data and maps and be "the resource" for this type of data.

The Q&A touched on:

- ➔ The need to look at how culture changes a place, and how place impacts culture
- ➔ They are always looking for interns and partners of various types
- ➔ The MBC website will soon be updated, and a newsletter will be launched
- ➔ They see a need to start looking at data from other cultures to study what the variance is
- ➔ They anticipate expanding to cover more of California

To contact Candice: candice@voicemediaventures.com

Discussion

We looked at a [map](#) of cities with the highest and lowest vehicle ownership. Cities in the Inland Empire were prominent among the highest vehicle ownership.

In the chat, Katheryn shared this [story map](#) regarding environmental justice in the Salton Sea area. It was produced by the Center for Health Disparities Research at UCR.

In the chat, Shannon mentioned the Purple States of America map - perhaps it was [this](#)?