SAFETY TECH

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

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Contents.

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Overview.

The Community of Practice (CoP) workshops are an open platform for stakeholders from across safety-related fields to come together and engage with one another. They are a place for discussion, knowledge sharing and learning centred around a common concern and passion for screen-related activities.

The CoPs are part of the DASH-Tech project run by the Department of Economic Development & Tourism (DEDAT). Their main purpose is to build trust and relationships between various stakeholders.

To date, participants have included representatives from government, academia, civil society, the private sector, large corporations, startups and small businesses.

What is SafetyTech?

SafetyTech is one of a series of workstreams put together by DEDAT focused on building connections between the various tech and non-tech players in the Western Cape safety ecosystem.

We briefly spoke of the proposed definition in the last session and it was collectively agreed that the broad definition was something we could all identify with and that SafetyTech incorporates all technology, participants and processes, hardware and software, that contribute to the creation of an environment where adverse incidents are minimized both proactively and reactively and participants are free to lead personal lives free from personal harm or asset loss.

The key definition brought into our discussion the emphasis on contributing to the need to interact and the need to work together and acknowledge that safety tech is much more interdependent than all the other works streams. Conclusions were made that some participants are proactive while others fall into the reactive aspect, and it is essential to articulate the two streams and being aware of where participants fall in either one.

Challenges & Opportunities.

In the first CoP we identified key challenges and opportunities, which were further discussed in the second CoP. At the same time, the second CoP focused on community building by providing an opportunity for everyone to get to know each other better, with the aim of strengthening relationships within the community.

From here, Community members were asked to clarify which challenges and opportunities they considered foremost priorities for the sector. In addition, they were asked to find ways to prioritize the work they want to accomplish and to start thinking about how they can work effectively together.

In addition to this, there were key challenges and opportunities as a community we felt we could leverage together.

Challenges

- Lack integration/ collaboration between stakeholders and communities
- Access to inclusive markets
- Skills development
- Feedback: How could tech be improved/ adopted
- Lack of resources (data, electricity, tech)
- Resource sharing
- Regulatory Challenges
- Cost of tech is expensive
- Transformation and diversity in sector

Opportunities

- Capability of Software to address to solve various problems and showcase new tech
- Identifying key facts of what is happening within the industry and communities, and from there start building and developing the capabilities to support the industry
- Networking opportunities
- Knowledge sharing
- Learn/ share our technologies and guidance on legislation
- Opportunity to build high-quality innovative solutions
- Combining ground innovation with development innovation
- Funding and support opportunities
- Utilizing the available skills and connecting with relevant stakeholders to further develop new skills and capabilities
- Collective bargaining and collaboration
- Platform of engagement and shared knowledge through Community of Practice
- Advocacy and policy support
- Inclusivity that allows accessibility for all communities

In deciding on the focus and work of the Community, a survey has been sent to Community members which asks them to highlight their top two challenges and opportunities. Once adequate responses have been received, we will feedback to the Community and begin discussions on how to best address these concerns.

Additional Takeaway Points.

As part of the Community Building discussions, there were a series of four questions asked to gain an overview of participants' thoughts and suggestions regarding the SafetyTech ecosystem in the Western Cape.

The Western Cape tech ecosystem is rife with boundless opportunities to progressively grow tech across varying sectors, and one of the key benefits of these Communities of Practice is the versatility of our participants, from industry experts with 25 years of experience to new emerging tech experts within the ecosystem that are maximizing the power of innovative technology and building new avenues to address the challenges that plague the safety of communities in the Western Cape and beyond.

Towards achieving safe and cohesive communities, the WCG aims to:

1. Drive effective policing and law enforcement
2. Reduce violence by and against youth and children
3. Foster social cohesion and safe public spaces

To drive effective policing, the WCG wishes to adopt the use of data and technology to understand violent crime patterns, to inform the deployment of law enforcement resources and investigators, which are hampered by limited capacity and resourced.

This forms part of its Evidence-based Policing practice, which seeks to use data to check whether assumptions on "what works" in policing to reduce violent crime are correct or not, and then adapt policing practices based on those research findings.

Closing Remarks: Next Steps

To guide group efforts, we ask that Community members complete the survey found here.

A LinkedIn group has been decided to be the most convenient way to continue these conversations and interacting outside of the CoPs. However, we will continue to investigate alternative means of engaging at the behest of the Community.

The LinkedIn CoP group is a platform for everyone to build relationships and network outside of the formal groups. Ideally if there any ideas participants want to share, discussion points to share or things to flag, this is the platform to do it.

The other important next step to consider is signing up for the project newsletter on the Silicon Cape website, which will provide Community members with updates on upcoming ScreenTech events.

If there are any networks, people, or organisations that you feel will be vital inputs to the ScreenTech initiative, please send an email to engage@siliconcape.com.