

Networking

3.1	Launchpad Day Latino	Jan. 29, 2016	1	14
3.2	Path to Success: Women Techmakers	Mar. 24, 2016	1	77
3.3	Google I/O Extended Bronx	May 27, 2016	1	100
3.4	DevFest 2016 Bronx	Oct. 29, 2016	1	86
3.5	Next '17 Extended Bronx	Mar. 10, 2017	1	74

1. Social Networking (Jan. 29, 2016 - present)

Many people feel uncomfortable about social networking and find it challenging for several reasons. Typically, they are unsure of how to start a conversation with people they have just met and fear rejection. Members of minority groups face an even higher challenge due to the lack of professional networking opportunities. We set out to foster an environment where we celebrate diversity in technology while at the same time providing networking opportunities. The mission was to conquer fear and teach the benefits of networking. With the help of Google Developer Groups, O'Reilly book publishing, and other technical organizations in the community the Innovation Lab hosted several networking events. Four tech-oriented networking events were organized. In all, over 350 people have attended and fully participated in those networking 4 events. A "group field trip" on 18th March 2016 to an external networking event, the Launchpad Day Latino, was hosted at Google's NYC offices.

At each of these events, we instill the benefits of meeting and interacting with like-minded individuals. Each event was unique and had its own focus and agenda. The opportunity to learn from or work with others, create meaningful relationships as well as grow personally and professionally was at the core objective of all the networking events.

Networking events:

[Exert from Tech Initiatives Report – Feb 2017]

- Launchpad Day Latino: Google's Latin America team came to New York and invited us to be part of their first Latin tech community event.
- The Path to Success - Women Techmakers: In honor of International Women's Day.
- Google I/O Extended - Bronx: Celebrating the annual developer conference held in California.
- DevFest: community event to bring people together and talk about emerging technologies.
- Cloud Next: community gathering for inspiration and hands on experience with tools, technologies and services born in the cloud.

3.1 Launchpad Day Latino (Jan. 29, 2016)

This event marked the first attempt to bring together the Latino tech community of New York. It was organized by Google's Latin American team in charge of bringing the community together. Innovation Lab was invited to participate and took the opportunity to organize a group from our community to attend and represent the Bronx together.

One hundred people participated in this valuable networking event which included a series of talks by consummate professionals.

I. **Sample agenda:**

- 5:00 pm- Registry
- 5:50 pm- Welcome & Google Developers Ecosystem - Intro by Paco Solsona
- 6:35 pm- JavaScript: the State of the Union & the JS Engineer by Juan Pablo Buriticá
- 7:00 pm- Break
- 7:45 pm- Android Workshop by Hendrix Tavaréz
- 8:30 pm- Firebase Workshop by Adrián Catalán
- 9:00 pm- Panel Discussion - Tech Leadership & Culture Sebastian Delmont & Juan Pablo Buriticá, Moderated by Dan Feld

- 9:45pm- Networking

II. Goals

The main goal of participating in this event was to meet other like-minded individuals outside of our local community.

III. Participants

We had 14 participants commute together from the Bronx. The group consisted mostly of tech professionals, college students, aspiring techies. In all the event was attended by over 100 people.

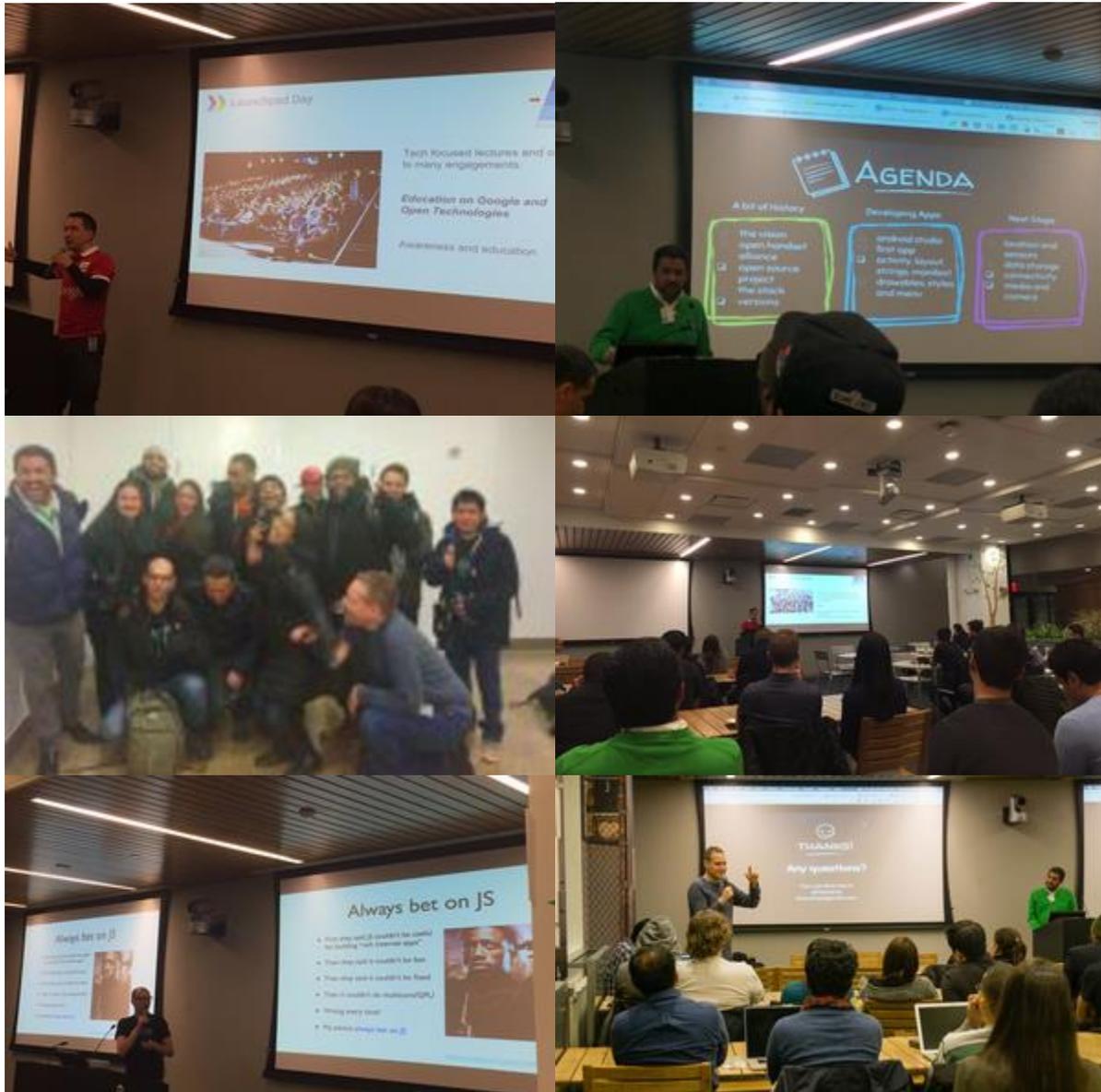
IV. Feedback

The feedback received for the group trip to Launchpad Day Latino was extremely positive. The participants were happy they were included, thought it was an amazing experience, learned a lot and really enjoyed themselves. An exact quote that many others agreed with was, "This was an amazing experience. I really enjoyed myself and learned a lot. I'm so glad that I was able to be a part of this". People gained hope and realized they could make their dreams a reality as well when they saw others like them succeeding. One participant said, "Great to see people with similar background be so successful in technology" Participants were impressed and able to walk away with some questions answered. One participant said, "Truly great event. Got even help for app I am building."

V. Outcomes

We had a successful networking experience. The Bronx contingent (14 participants) were engaged and at least, 3 people maintained contact with people they met at the event. Participants were introduced to tools they could use for development and how they worked so they could determine if they fit their needs. They also sought and received advice on their "Pitch Night" ideas from more experienced entrepreneurs at the event. Participants gained insight into the road ahead and were able to find out firsthand how others handled challenges in their own startup.

Launchpad Day Latino (Jan. 29, 2016) in Pictures



3.2 Path to Success - Women Techmakers (Mar. 24, 2016)

This event was made possible through collaboration and partnership with BronxTech, Google, Bronx Business Bridge and other organizations. This event provided visibility, community, acknowledgement and resources for women in technology.

I. Sample agenda:

- 5:00pm Doors Open - Check In
- 5:20pm Announcements & Talks by
 - Milton Santiago - Lehman College, VP for Workforce Development
 - & Cont. Ed.
 - Jimmy Vacca - Council Member, District 13 Bronx
 - Majora Carter - Urban Revitalization Strategist
 - Ruchi Mahindru - IBM, Senior Software Engineer
 - Aurora Koch-Pongsema - Creator of Papers
 - Carol Gonzalez - Founder of HoodGuardian
 - Georgie-Ann Getton - Founder of Illicit Mind
 - Jennifer Martinez - Founder of Pet Connect
- 7:00pm Food & Networking Break
- 7:30pm Q&A Panel Discussion
- 8:15pm Closing Statements
- 8:25pm Networking
- 8:45pm Wrap Up

II. Goals

The main goal of this event was to highlight women's accomplishments and successes in technology by providing a place to celebrate diversity and empower other women seeking a career in tech.

III. Participants

There were 77 participants (including many men) for a women's focused technical event. We also had the pleasure to have welcoming remarks from the Honorable Council Member, Jimmy Vacca, and Lehman College, VP for Workforce Development & Continuing Education, Milton Santiago. The attendees were mostly local Bronx residents, college students, tech professionals and aspiring techies.

IV. Feedback

The feedback received for the "Path to Success - Women Techmakers" event was positive. Participants were surprised to see such a diverse range of participants in a Women Techmakers event. They also enjoyed the panel of women speakers that shared their stories and empowered the community. One of the women said, "So nice to see a smattering of men." Another woman said, "This is a stupendous opportunity to tip the scales to our favor in tech. I plan to take part enthusiastically. Dee" Multiple people said "Great event. Amazing women".

V. Outcomes

The event's outcome was beyond expectations. Full coverage by the local television station and news. Support and participation of the Honorable Council Member, Jimmy Vacca was absolutely a great achievement. Six women shared their career and life stories. To top it off, the event was listed as one of the best things to do in NYC. The event completed with people having a stronger sense of self and feeling empowered to go after their goals.

Here is the link to the entry posted on the list of best things to do in NYC.

<http://www.thefarmsoho.com/blog/2016/3/24/the-best-things-to-do-in-nyc>

Here is the link to the video of the event coverage by BRONXNET.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VesFzbuNekM&t=78s>

VI. Path to Success - Women Techmakers (Mar. 24, 2016) in Pictures



3.3 Google I/O Extended - Bronx (May 27, 2016)

Google I/O brought together developers from around the globe for 3-day festival in California. Communities from all over the world join the celebration via streaming video, content and workshops provided by Google. Innovation lab joined the streaming and creates an event for Bronx residence.

I. Sample agenda:

- 2:00pm Registration Open
- 2:20pm Welcome announcements
- 2:30pm Keynote streaming
- 3:30pm Networking Break
- 4:00pm Firebase Overview
- 5:00pm Progressive Web Apps codelab
- 6:00pm Closing remarks and raffle
- 6:30pm Doors close

II. Goals

The main goal was to bring the local community together to talk about existing and emerging technologies, as well as explore through a guided hands on tutorial. The aim was to provide a warm, fun environment where everyone feels welcome and comfortable.

III. Participants

One hundred people participated in this event. The attendees were mostly local Bronx residents, college students, tech professionals and aspiring techies. There were participants from other boroughs and even the Tri-State area of New Jersey and Connecticut. The majority of the participants had a technical background but there were a few non-technical entrepreneurs interested in building their technical skills. There were also some entrepreneurs and recruiters interested in connecting with technical people.

IV. Feedback

The feedback received for the Google I/O Extended event was very positive. People enjoyed the event and left looking forward to the next event. They enjoyed the atmosphere, the information shared and the hands on workshops. A newcomer to the community said, “It was my first time here. Everything was good and friendly atmosphere. I’ll try to join to next events” Another person said, “I enjoyed the workshop portion.” A third person said, “I loved this event it was very refreshing with all the information provided”

V. Outcomes

It was a full house. A separate room was needed to accommodate everyone. All participants were collaborating during the workshops and networking during the breaks. Local TV coverage was available which was exceptional. As always a warm and friendly environment was instilled that encouraged networking, fun, and learning. By the end of the event people had made connections with other like-minded individuals, learned about the latest tech announcements and completed a hands on tutorial to create a beginner level progressive web app.

Here is the link to the video of the event coverage by BRONXNET.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qzZB3B3yak&t=8s>

VI. Google I/O Extended - Bronx (May 27, 2016) in Pictures



3.4 DevFest 2016 - Bronx (Oct. 29, 2016)

DevFest are inspired by the shared belief that when people come together to exchange ideas, amazing things can happen.

I. Sample agenda:

- 9:30am Registration Opens
- 10:00am Keynote - From Newbies to Ninjas: Our Stories
- 11:00am Progressive Web Apps: What, Why and How
- 12:00pm Transforming a single page app into a progressive web app
- 12:45pm Lunch
- 1:15pm Firebase Overview
- 2:00pm Using Firebase to track users
- 2:45pm Break
- 3:00pm What's the latest on machine learning
- 3:30pm Closing remarks
- 4:00pm Doors Close

II. Goals

The main goal for this event was to create an environment to collaborate and exchange ideas with peers while learning about existing and emerging tools and technologies.

III. Participants

We had 86 participants in this event. The attendees were mostly tech professionals, college students, local Bronx residents, and aspiring techies. There were participants from other boroughs and even the Tri-State area of New Jersey and Connecticut. Nearly the entire audience had some technical background.

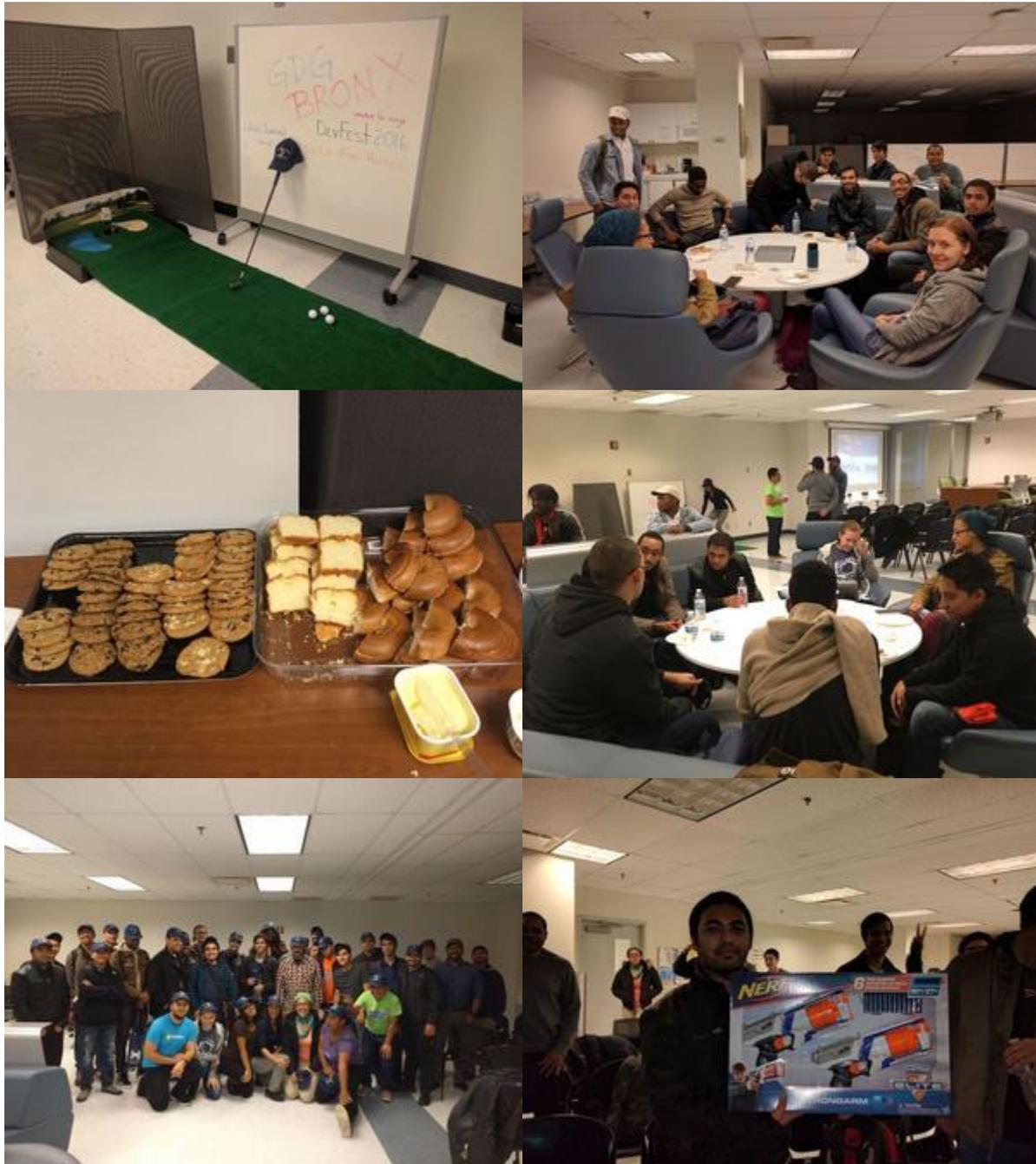
IV. Feedback

The DevFest participants found the event informative and helpful. They enjoyed seeing what other like-minded people were working on. One of the participants said, “Today's talk was very informative. It was also nice to see what the others are up to” Another person said, and others agreed with the statement, “It was positive. Very informative view on the different technologies that could help me execute my projects and help me progress as a developer. Absolutely wonderful and terrific!!!”

V. Outcomes

Participants were guided through and built a progressive web app. Small teams formed to share ideas about best uses of firebase, machine learning, and development of modern mobile web applications. The day ended with people leaving inspired and planning their next project.

VI. DevFest 2016 - Bronx (Oct. 29, 2016) in Pictures



3.5 Next '17 Extended Bronx (Mar. 10, 2017)

Cloud Next is an event that brings together engineers for inspiration and hands on experience with tools, technologies and services born in the cloud. The Bronx community learned about to cloud computing and relevant technologies at this event, which was hosted at the innovation lab.

I. Sample agenda:

- 6:00pm Doors Open
- 6:10pm Pizza and Networking
- 6:30pm Big Announcements
 - Summary of Day 1 Keynote: Opening Keynote
 - Diane Greene, Sundar Pichai, Eric Schmidt, and Fei-Fei Li
- 7:00pm Talks (One of the following)
 - Zero to App: Live coding an app with Firebase and GCP
 - Introduction to Google Cloud Machine Learning
 - Using Google Apps Script to automate G Suite
- 7:45pm Codelabs
- 8:45pm Raffles/Swags
- 9:00pm Doors Close

II. Goals

The goal for this event was to network and share ideas about how cloud technologies are influencing the latest trends in tech.

III. Participants

We had 74 participants in this event. The attendees were mostly local Bronx residents, college students, tech professionals and aspiring techies.

Approximately three quarters of the participants had a technological background and wanted to learn about the new technologies and how to use them in their current or upcoming projects.

IV. Feedback

The feedback for Next '17 Extended was uniformly positive. People found the event informative and helpful. One user said, "It was a very cool event, the members are very friendly and the talks are very helpful" Another said, "Great -- very informative and easy to follow. Learned a lot." Multiple people said "Positive. Event was very enlightening and useful. "

V. Outcomes

A number of people shared ideas about best uses of cloud computing and the event ended with people planning how they would use their newly acquired knowledge for their next project, and how they could incorporate what they learned in their existing projects.

VI. Next '17 Extended Bronx (Mar. 10, 2017) in Pictures

