An aerial photograph of a mountainous landscape, likely in the Colorado Rockies, showing rugged terrain, forests, and a winding river. A diagonal white line runs from the top right to the bottom left, bisecting the image. The text is positioned on the white background.

UR  
Boulder

October 23 - 25, 2015

**Understanding Risk Forum**

# UR Boulder Vision

Understanding Risk (UR) Boulder is two-day event that convenes the talent and expertise of our region's communities, scientists, technologists, and government to develop shared understanding of the challenges we face in building long-term resilience to natural hazards; the impacts of climate change; and develop innovative solutions to meet them.

UR Boulder will host 12 sessions to highlight key themes in Boulder and provide a forum where experts and non-experts can share information and develop strategies about the issues that matter most to them.

## Global UR Community

Understanding Risk (UR) is an open and global community of 3,300+ experts and practitioners interested and active in disaster risk identification. UR community members consist of experts and practitioners in disaster risk identification ranging from representatives of government agencies, multilateral organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, academia, community-based organizations, and civil society. It is an open community and anyone can join.

UR is the preeminent platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and innovation in identifying and assessing disaster risk. The community meets every two years at UR Forums – five-day events that highlight best practices, facilitate nontraditional partnerships and showcase the latest technical know-how in disaster risk identification.



# UR Boulder Tech Challenge

**When:** Up to two members of each of the finalist team are invited to pitch the idea to a panel of judges on October 24th, 2015. The pitching event will be held at the Kitteridge Hall on the CU campus from 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. A presentation to the UR Boulder community by the winning team will then take place Sunday, October 25th, 11:00a.m. - 12:30p.m.

**What:** The UR Boulder Tech Challenge is looking for great ideas about how to use open source technology to improve resilience in Boulder or strengthen citizen engagement. Our goal is to improve resilience in Boulder or strengthen citizen engagement through open-source technology. Urban Resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience. The Tech Challenge is funded by Ushahidi and is part of the 100 Resilient Cities challenge. Selected finalists from this round will have an opportunity to win a contract of up to \$20,000 to implement their solutions.

**Key Themes include:**

Lowering the barriers to volunteer registration and improving volunteer coordination,

Information management within and across organizations,

Community Capacity and Preparedness: what is the best way to share information about community resilience needs and existing resources to meet them? What is the best way to share information during a disaster?

Community and citizen feedback for government,

Tools or analytic methods to support monitoring and evaluating effects of Human Service policies.

Engage on Twitter: @USBoulder





*10. 23. 2015*



NCAR Mesa Lab

5:30

Registration

6:00 - 6:30

Welcome and Keynote

6:30 - 7:30

Ignite Talks from Session Leads

7:30 - 9:00

Opening Reception, hosted by Mapbox

*10. 24. 2015*



Kittredge Central

8:00 AM

Registration

9:00 - 10:30 AM

Keynote and Community Ignites

**10:30 - 11:00 AM**

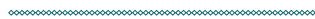
**Coffee Break**

11:00 - 12:30 PM

Risk of Absence: Local Volunteerism and Social Capital

***Session Lead: Tiernan Doyle, BoCo Strong***

This session uses presentations and discussion to examine the effects of local volunteerism and social engagement. The goal of the panel is to advance the conversation on methods for empowering community capacity and building local connections to promote innovative and collaborative solutions for disaster response and risk management.



Joan Cernich, American Red Cross

Nnenia Campbell, University of Colorado Natural Hazards Center

Jordon Daniel, Team Rubicon

Rich Lopez, Community Foundation Serving Boulder County

Jorge De Santiago, El Centro Amistad



11:00 - 12:30 PM

A 50% Chance of An Effective Forecast

***Session Lead: Julie DeMuth, NCAR***

What do and don't we really understand about weather, the risks it poses, and how people perceive and respond to them? This session will include discussion of these topics from the perspective of practitioners who assess and communicate weather risk information to the public, government, and other users, and from researchers who study the weather and weather risk communication.

.....  
Daniel Nietfeld, National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Prediction Center, NWS Omaha

Kelly Mahoney, NOAA Earth System Research Lab and CU Cooperative Institute for Research in the Environmental Sciences (CIRES)

Russ Schumacher, Colorado State University

11:00 - 12:30 PM

Boulder's Economic Resilience

***Session Lead: Jennifer Pinsonneault, City of Boulder***

It is well known that communities with strong, diverse economies and well prepared businesses preceding a disaster are measurably better equipped to recover more quickly. How diverse is Boulder's economy and how prepared are its businesses? What steps can be taken to increase economic resilience and mitigate the economic impact of natural disasters?

.....  
Mike Chard, Boulder Office of Emergency Management

Clif Harald, Boulder Economic Council

Sharon King, Boulder Small Business Development Center

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Lunch

1:30 - 3:00 PM

Mapping Hazard and Risk

***Session Lead: Graeme Aggett, Lynker Technologies***

This session will highlight the essential role of spatial hazard, exposure and vulnerability data and modeling tools/techniques in understanding risk and making informed decisions to build resilience.

1:30 - 3:00 PM

Building Resilience Around the World

***Session Lead: Chris Allan, ISET***

This session will situate Boulder's efforts to build resilience within this broader context and showcase innovative approaches from other cities to inform and inspire the UR Boulder community.

Paty Romero Lankao, UCAR

Ken MacClune, ISET

Chris Allan, ISET

1:30 - 3:00 PM

At The Edge: Looking Beyond Trauma and Resilience for Emerging Perspectives in Disaster Mental Health

***Session Lead: Heather Cook, Healing Among Chaos***

Disasters are complex. The human psyche is even more complex. An individual's experience of a disaster is personal, collective and nuanced. Psychological well-being in the disaster world is often described using two key words: trauma and resilience. This session will examine sociological and psychological factors that influence these juxtaposed concepts, as well as the topics of vulnerability and uncertainty.

3:00 - 3:30 PM

Coffee Break

3:30 - 5:00 PM

Thresholds and Tipping Points

***Session Lead: Marcus Moench, ISET***

Often in disasters, there is not one point of failure, but rather a threshold that is reached resulting in disaster. Where is the level of tolerance? How does uncertainty play a role? Find out in this session.

Karen MacClune, ISET

James Newcomb, Rocky Mountain Institute

Bruce Goldstein, University of Colorado

Marcus Moench, ISET



3:30 - 5:00 PM

Local Food Security

***Session Lead: Brian Coppom, Boulder County Farmer's Market***

Expanding local food production is often lauded as the solution to vulnerabilities in the global food system. With its open space program and entrepreneurial population, Boulder County is home to many of the country's leading efforts in this area. An open question, however, is whether expanding local production is feasible relative to economics, infrastructure, policy, and market dynamics. This panel explores this question with those who live and work within the local food system.

Adrian Card, CSU Extension for Boulder County

Jason Condon, Isabele Farms

Dave Asbury, Full Circle Farms

Deb Trevor, District Manager BVSD Food Services

Claris Ritter, former Produce Director for Alfalfas Market.

3:30 - 5:00 PM

UR Boulder Tech Challenge

***Session Lead: Shadrock Roberts, Ushahidi***

The UR Boulder Innovation Competition helps area technologists, coders, and analysts fill technology gaps within local organizations. The competition works with nonprofits, city government, and grassroots community groups to improve resilience in Boulder or strengthen citizen engagement through open-source technology. Challenge finalists will pitch their ideas live to a jury during the Understanding Risk Boulder for a chance to win up to 20k in seed funding.

6:00 - 9:00 PM

BoCo Strong Meetup

SATURDAY





*10. 25. 2015*



Kittredge Central

9:00 - 10:30 AM

Keynotes

Community Ignite Presentations

**10:30 - 11:00 AM**

**Coffee Break**

11:00 - 12:30 PM

Re-view Flood Risk in Boulder

***Session Lead: Leah Sprain, University of Colorado***

This interactive session will engage participants in a conversation about flood risk in Boulder by working with maps and models developed with data from the 2013 Boulder flood. We'll consider how individual homeowners understand risk, including what is revealed and concealed by flood maps and building damage models. \*This session will be audio and video recorded as part of ongoing research at CU-Boulder.\*



Leysia Palen, University of Colorado

Shideh Dashti, University of Colorado

Amy Javernick-Will, University of Colorado

Erin Arneson, University of Colorado

Claire Chase, University of Colorado

SUNDAY



11:00 - 12:30 PM

Citizen Science

***Session Lead: Keith Porter***

Public-private exchanges of data and ideas can yield new and inventive solutions to entrenched problems. Come learn about open data, crowdsourcing, tech challenges, and meetup groups that tap the expertise and enthusiasm of private citizens to help their communities and governments.

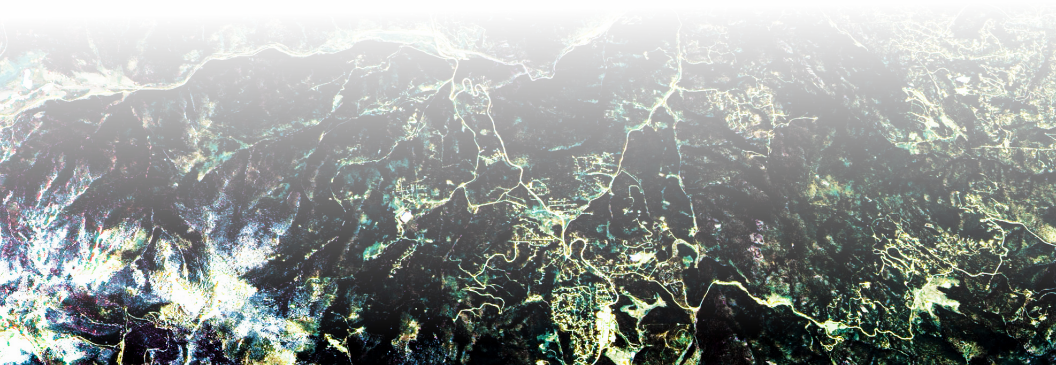
11:00 - 12:30 PM

UR Boulder Tech Challenge Awards

***Session Lead: Shadrock Roberts, Ushahidi***

The UR Boulder Innovation Competition helps area technologists, coders, and analysts fill technology gaps within local organizations. The competition works with nonprofits, city government, and grassroots community groups to improve resilience in Boulder or strengthen citizen engagement through open-source technology. Challenge finalists will pitch their ideas live to a jury during the Understanding Risk Boulder for a chance to win up to 20k in seed funding.







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NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH



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