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## **Posner Center Throws Hackathon for Global Poverty July 15-17 in Denver**

*Register now to join teams tackling three poverty challenges*

Denver, CO. - June 30, 2015 - The [Posner Center for International Development](#) today announced it is hosting the "Posner Poverty Hack" July 15-17 in collaboration with the [Biennial of the Americas](#). The hackathon at the Posner Center, 1031 33rd St. in Denver, will tackle tangible issues in international development by bringing together dozens of practitioners in a friendly competition to create the best solution to challenges faced by three Posner Center tenants. Participants will include additional Posner Center tenants and members, Biennial attendees, makers, product designers, individuals from other shared space communities, and experts in technology and development.

Registration is now open for about 100 spots on 15 hackathon teams working over two and a half days to create solutions to the three challenges. They include:

- identifying innovative financing models for a revolutionary new solar water pump created by International Development Enterprises ([iDE](#)) and partners;
- seeking better solutions to issues faced by vulnerable post-disaster housing communities in Los Cabos, Mexico, for [Grassroots Global Development Foundation](#) (GGDF); and,
- ideas for better communication between health practitioners and patients along the Peruvian Amazon by creating novel mobile technology for [CU Peru](#).

A jury made up of representatives from [Colorado's Office of Economic Development & International Trade](#) (OEDIT), [Galvanize](#), [aWhere](#), [iTriage](#), [The Denver Post](#), the [Northeast Denver Housing Center](#), and [CauseLabs](#) will review final presentations and determine a winner. CauseLabs will also facilitate a human-centered design lesson on opening night and help facilitate collaboration during event work sessions.

"CauseLabs is excited to spark solutions to these specific poverty challenges by maximizing the hackathon model," said T.J. Cook, CEO of the Denver-based company that builds tools to impact people. "We've wanted to collaborate on an event like this for a long time."

The organization with the winning team will receive grant funding from a primary sponsor to turn the idea into reality and create actual impact in the field.

"We are thrilled to participate in this unique event that brings together teams from diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise," said Craig Nason of Grassroots Global Development Foundation. "It is shaping up to be a great few days with the potential to inform our work in a very tangible way."

Additional guest speakers include:

- Paul Polak, founder of iDE and author who was named along with Barack Obama and Steve Jobs as one of the world's "Brave Thinkers" in 2009 by The Atlantic Monthly. He will speak at the opening night happy hour on how companies design, price, market and distribute products to benefit the 2.7 billion customers who live on less than \$2 a day.
- Chad Dear, an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellow on the Prize Team in USAID's Global Development Lab. He will speak about engaging the Lab, primarily through the Development Innovation Ventures program.

Innovator Sponsor, Quick Left—the Boulder-based tech company—will provide one of its design or development consultants to the winning organization for a week, a \$7,000 value. This coaching could help take the winning solution to the finish line in either developing an app or raising financing with a Quick Left MVP. Additional current Posner Poverty Hack sponsors include the Biennial of the Americas, CauseLabs, iTriage, Peak Creative, the Global Accelerator Network, MillerCoors, Wedgies.com, KIND Snacks, Lyft, Denver B-Cycle, King Soopers, Justin's, 34 Degrees, Marley Coffee, Coyote Gold Margaritas, and Pekoe Sip House.

Individuals unable to participate in the full 2.5 days are invited to the July 15 opening night kick-off happy hour with guest speaker Paul Polak from 7-10 p.m. At the happy hour, attendees can mingle with hackathon participants, individuals from the City of Denver and State of Colorado offices, members of the press, and additional Posner Center staff, board members, tenants and members.

Full event tickets (including opening night happy hour) are \$20 for Posner Center tenants and members, and \$30 for the general public. Tickets are \$12 to attend only the happy hour.

For registration and event information, visit [povertyhack.posnercenter.org](http://povertyhack.posnercenter.org).

#### **ABOUT POSNER**

*The Posner Center for International Development is building a community of innovators who grow lasting solutions to global poverty with a goal to be the leader of collaborative international development. To accomplish this, the Center brings together 50+ international development-oriented organizations and businesses in a 25,000 square-foot shared space in Denver's Curtis Park neighborhood. Learn more about our space and community at [www.posnercenter.org](http://www.posnercenter.org).*

#### **ABOUT THE BIENNIAL OF THE AMERICAS**

*The Biennial of the Americas connects business, art, culture and civic leaders from throughout the Americas by building lasting relationships, addressing shared issues and inspiring action. Beginning July 14, 2015 with opening week events, and continuing through August 30, 2015, the Biennial of the Americas will feature groundbreaking art installations, engaging conversations, live performances and free festivals and programs that celebrate our shared cultural heritage and rich connection to the world around us. The most inspiring artists, innovators and experts will explore the theme "NOW!," examining today's exceptional times in the Western Hemisphere. These events supplement the additional programs available at [www.biennialoftheamericas.org](http://www.biennialoftheamericas.org) of art exhibits, symposium panels and clinics produced by the Biennial of the Americas.*

#### **ABOUT CAUSELABS**

*CauseLabs is a Denver-based B Corp that builds tools to impact people. Since 2003, the tech-loving, passion-driven, expert team at CauseLabs has helped social-good organizations solve problems and embrace opportunities quickly and affordably through web and mobile technologies that enhance and accelerate impact in underserved communities. CauseLabs' workshops kickstart solutions that help launch sustainable breakthroughs and aim to measure results for a better world. Learn more at [CauseLabs.com](http://CauseLabs.com).*

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