



June 17, 2014

Mike Caprio  
433 Graham Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11211

To the Judges of the Open Government Awards,

As one of the founding organizers for the Space Apps local site in New York City, I wish to relate what I have seen happen as direct results from our events here since April 2012:

- the growth of a 400 member community of space enthusiasts from every discipline and all walks of life
- the startup of a brand new space tech company in New York, **Gotham Laboratories**
- dozens of high school students and younger children inspired by wonderful interactions with astronauts Ron Garan and Doug Wheelock and other NASA experts and officials
- scores of passionate participants motivated to create amazing, innovative technologies *simply because they have been given the opportunity to work directly with NASA*

All of us who have participated in the International Space Apps Challenge know that humanity's future ultimately lies in space, and we want to do our part to ensure that future. I feel incredibly privileged and proud to be taking part in an event that inspires thousands of people from all corners of the globe to work together to make life better for everyone on Earth and in space. And I have seen firsthand that NASA's openness in making their technological and data resources available genuinely succeeds at cultivating new grassroots innovations, and makes Space Apps a truly historic collaboration between a government agency and the citizens of our world.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Caprio".

Mike Caprio

**Community Organizer, StartupBus**

StartupBus.com: Empowering the people who can disrupt the status quo for a higher quality of life for us all