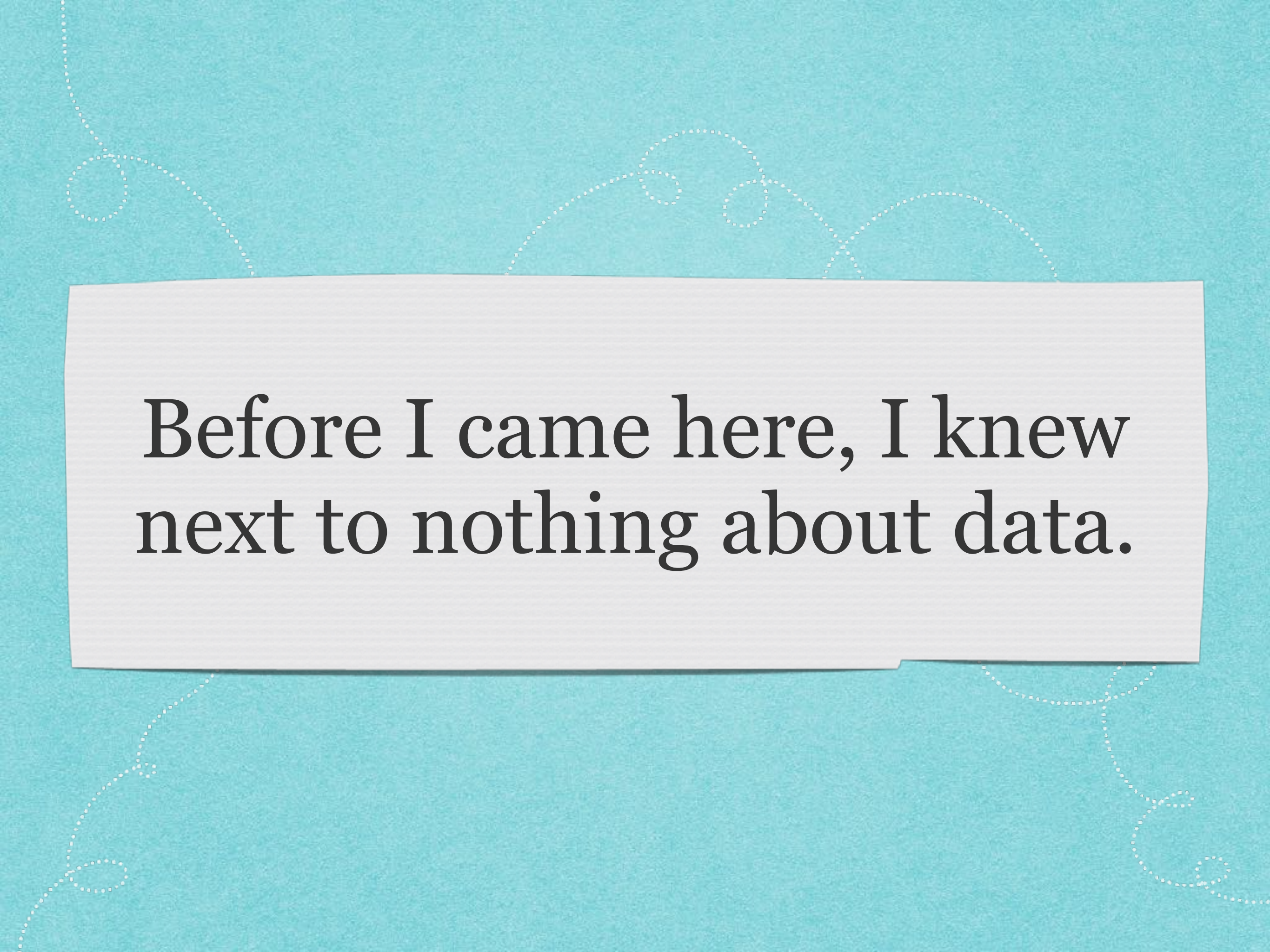


# What I Learned at the ProPublica Data Institute

*April Joyner*





Before I came here, I knew  
next to nothing about data.

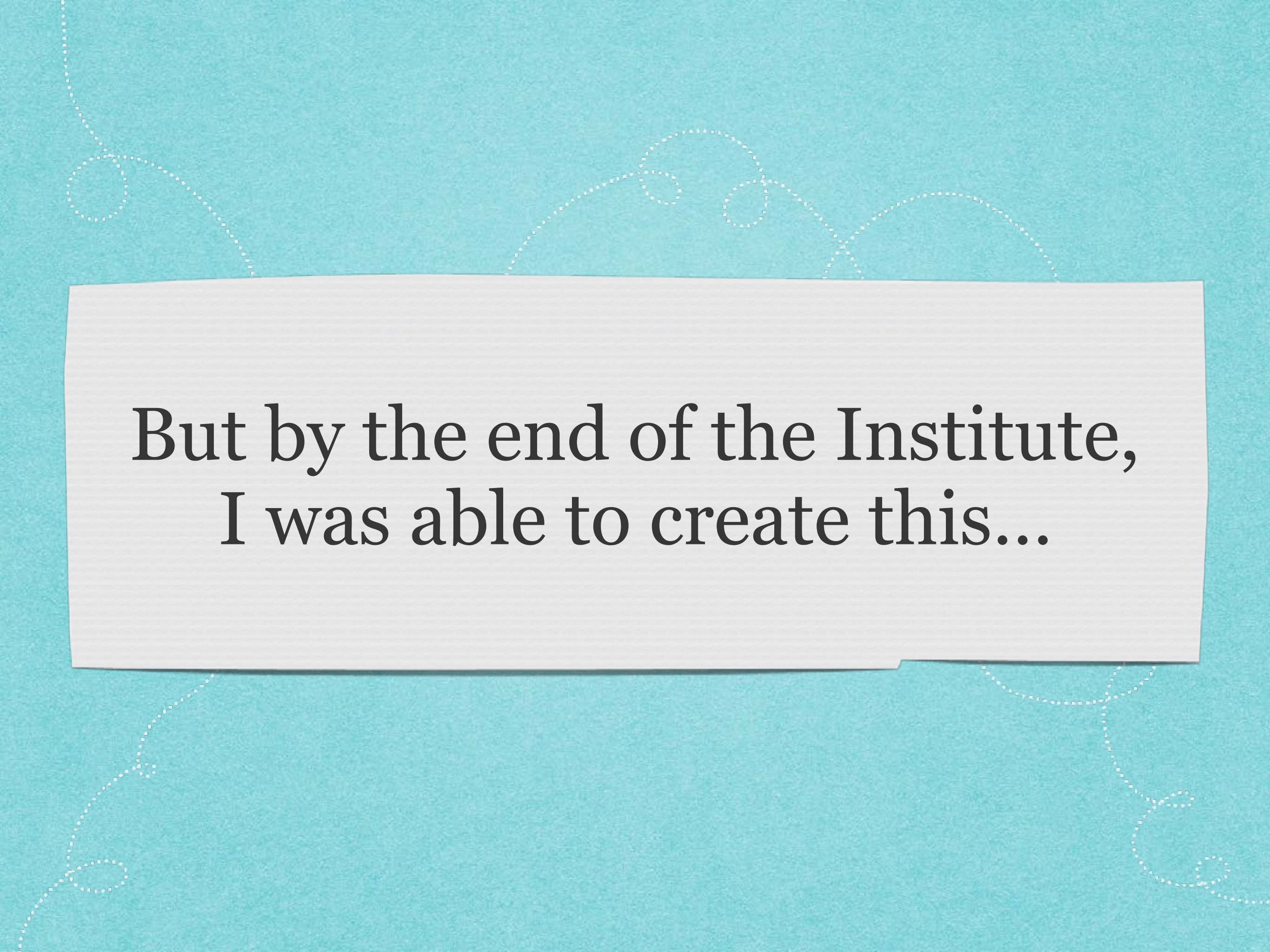


we're all tech savvy millennials until  
it's time to use Excel



(me before the Data Institute)



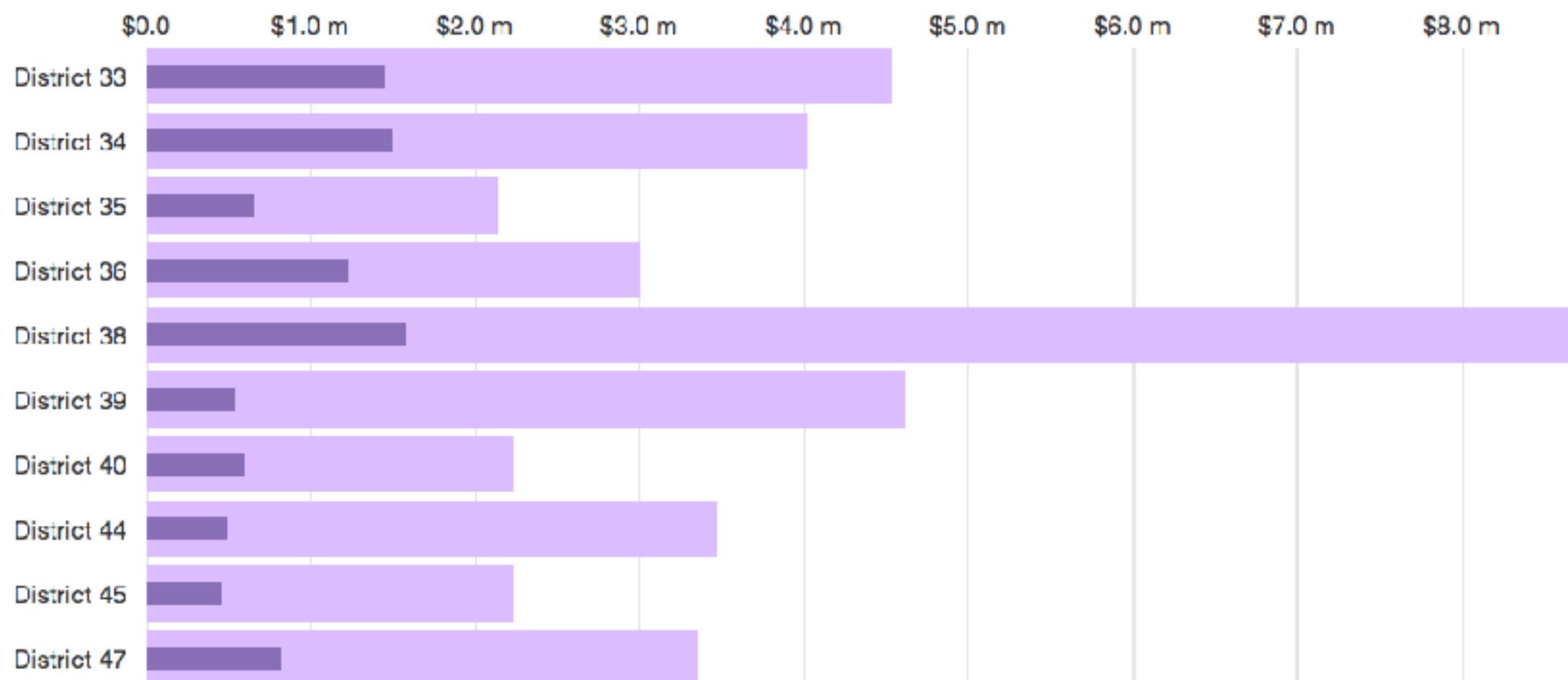


But by the end of the Institute,  
I was able to create this...



## Participatory Budget Allocation in Brooklyn for Tech, 2015–2017

Amount allocated for tech projects in relation to total projects, by New York City Council district



*The thick, light bar indicates total project funding; the thinner, darker bar indicates tech project funding.*

Source: [New York City Council](#) • [Get the data](#)

Created with [Datawrapper](#)



# Open Data for All New Yorkers

Where can you find public Wi-Fi in your neighborhood? What kind of tree is in front of your office? Learn about where you live, work, eat, shop and play using NYC Open Data.

Search Open Data for things like 311, Buildings, Crime



...using a data set from  
NYC Open Data.



The hardest part was  
cleaning the data.

*(And yes, Olga, I kept a data diary!)*





I didn't expect to make any mind-  
blowing discoveries from this data...



...but it actually prompted some questions that could be useful for future reporting.




We were told at the beginning that  
our final project would be  
a portfolio website.





Before coming here, I already had a website...but I didn't make it from scratch!





So creating a portfolio all on  
my own was a fun challenge!



# April Joyner

[clips](#)  
[resume](#)

## About Me

I'm a writer and editor fascinated by the intersection of business, technology, and culture. I write regularly for [Technically Brooklyn](#) and have also contributed to *Fast Company*, *Marie Claire*, *The New Yorker*, *OZY*, and *The Week*. Before I began freelancing, I was a senior reporter at *Inc.* While I was there, in 2013, *Inc.* won a National Magazine Award for general excellence.

Among my current work interests are blockchain, algorithmic bias, and technological inclusion. Outside of work, I like discovering new music, playing the violin, making stationery, and watching football, tennis, and soapy TV dramas. I live in Brooklyn, New York, but I will always remain a true Virginian at heart.



Photo: Dayton Evan Ogden/Den of Oak Photography

## Clips



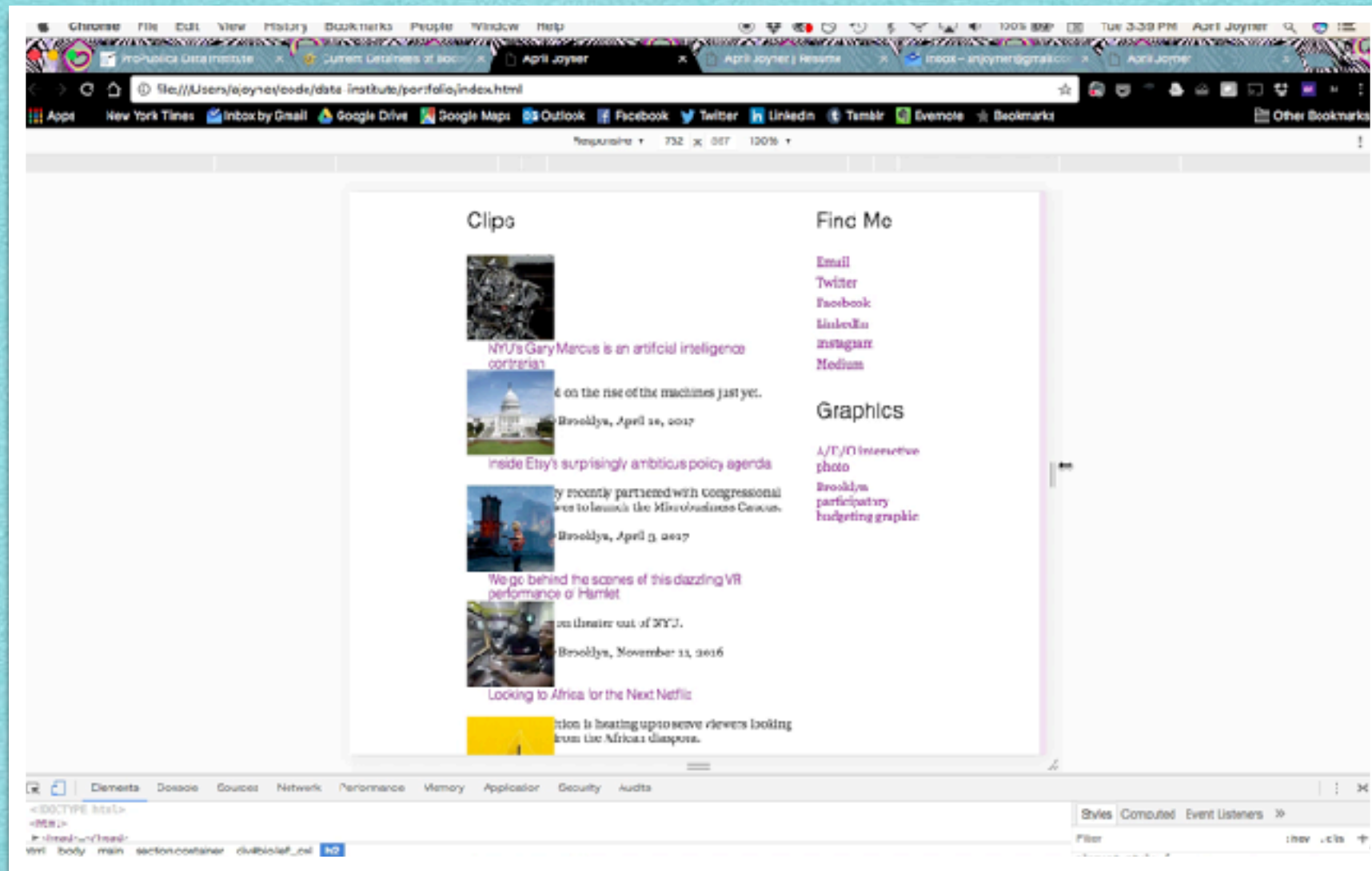
NYU's Gary Marcus is an artificial intelligence contrarian

## Find Me

[Email](#)  
[Twitter](#)

In a few days, I had a website I was pretty satisfied with...





...but I found out it looked terrible on mobile devices.

*(Thanks, Kasha!)*



So that's one thing I'll be working  
on after the Data Institute.

*Lena gave me good tips for responsive design!*



# Other things on my agenda....

- ▶ Experimenting with JavaScript
- ▶ Trying my hand at making my own web scraper
- ▶ And most important: coming up with strategies to find data related to my beats.



Before the Data Institute, I knew  
a little about programming.

*(Shoutout to Girl Develop It!)*



But I had no idea how those skills  
really applied to my day-to-day  
work. **Now I do!**