

PBC Interactive Wins National Government Achievement Award

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Contact: Steve Bordelon, 355-2394

PBC Interactive, Palm Beach County's state-of-the-art, Web-based application for economic development research, has been named the winner of a 2014 Digital Government Achievement Award from the Center for Digital Government and Digital Communities Program in the Government-to-Business category. This recognition of excellence distinguishes Palm Beach County from among the thousands of state, county and city governments throughout the United States.

The national award follows a state achievement award presented in July by the Florida Local Government Information Systems Association recognizing *PBC Interactive* for "Innovative Use of Technology to Serve the Public." *PBC Interactive* has now received both statewide and national awards honoring the two key agencies that conceived and built this application – the Department of Economic Sustainability and Information Systems Services.

PBC Interactive offers accurate, real-time, parcel-based information to facilitate economic development using the geographic information systems (GIS) format. It was designed to increase the efficiency of the county's responsiveness to local and non-local businesses needing information on business-related matters and to assist the general public with information relative to land development issues that may affect their neighborhood.

Through collaboration with Planning, Zoning & Building and the Property Appraiser's Office, data was integrated to deploy multiple search layers showing parcel ownership and valuation; existing and future land uses; enterprise zones; census data; traffic analysis zones; and identification of businesses based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The site was developed solely by in-house staff using Microsoft's .NET platform, thereby avoiding any external costs to the county.

Users can easily generate reports on the results of their research, and the site is being upgraded regularly to expand research capabilities. New additions include advanced pictometry, layers for county-assisted residential and non-residential projects, and tracking of industries moving in and out of the county.

Since its launch in 2011, *PBC Interactive* has been featured at the annual South Florida GIS Expo, and in 2012, project team members received a Golden Palm Award, representing the highest level of recognition for accomplishment by county employees.