

## >ENGINEERING HOPE\_

*is a collaborative that empowers technical students **to scope, build, and scale products** in technologically under-resourced social justice arenas.*

### **Hacking Injustice**

is a Boston-based “Hackathon” to explore the intersections of local movements and technology. *Hacking Injustice* is modeled after MIT CSAIL’s [HackDisability](#), which paired teams of students with an area of disability, encouraging student pairs to uncover applications for AI to advance access under a given disability.

*Hacking Injustice* would reframe this model, partnering with local advocates in various social justice arenas to explore how students can build technology that bolsters their advocacy. Sample arenas include:

- Housing justice (affordability crisis & homelessness)
- Environmental justice
- Climate policy
- Racial justice
- Criminal justice

Interested students would apply to Hackathon (alone or otherwise) to be matched with other teammates and an issue area. The Hackathon would take place over a weekend, where they would spend the Saturday learning about the issue area and scoping their technology. On Sunday, students would build their tech and, ultimately, present to a panel of judges. The best-adjudicated projects would receive pilot funding for the students to deploy their technology with local advocates.

### **Why a Hackathon?**

Student technologists are wary about exerting themselves in social justice advocacy, meaning two-day sprints like Hackathons are short-term opportunities to introduce students to social impact tech. Recently, HackHarvard’s Hack4Impact used the veneer of social impact to [greenwash](#) Saudi Aramco—student technologists otherwise receive biased, technocratic definitions of social impact. By running a Hackathon that centers community voices and leaders, Boston student technologists can

1. Give back to the local community (to which they are indebted)
2. Explore a movement-centric definition of social impact
3. Employ their skillset in spaces technologically under-resourced sectors
4. Begin meeting other students interested in these intersections