

Parallactic Consulting is a Chicago, IL development and web hosting company offering Ruby on Rails programming and custom technology solutions. We're currently looking for new clients, either remotely or in Chicago!

Too Many Spreadsheets?

Let us convert your data into a modern, flexible database system and help you view and use it.

We'll design and build a database and produce the best interface for your needs, whether it's plotting locations on a map, graphing sales data in a real-time interactive view, displaying search results from an academic catalog, or showing upcoming events on a calendar.

PARALLACTIC CONSULTING

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We Can:

Build, host, maintain, or upgrade your Rails application:

Whether it's something we've built for you or a Ruby on Rails application you already have, we provide ongoing hosting as well as hourly availability of our programmers for upkeep or enhancements to your website. Our developers each have over a decade of experience working with Ruby on Rails and can easily drop in to your existing application on an hourly basis, saving you the overhead of a full developer hire for a short-term project.

Friends of the Chicago River: This nonprofit had an outdated Rails application powering their frequently-used informational website; Parallactic updated the application to the latest Rails version, made requested feature changes, and continues to provide ongoing hosting and maintenance for the publicly available site at <https://chicagoriver.org>.

Better Scientific Software: This research group needed an application built from scratch to enable them to use GitHub and Markdown files to manage a large collection of informational articles. We created a custom Ruby on Rails application that processes these Markdown files, applies custom formatting, and translates them into a searchable public website with a clean interface; we continue to provide hosting and maintenance for the publicly available site at <https://bssw.io>.

Build a Minimum Viable Product for your startup:

We work with early-stage startups that aren't ready to hire a full-time technical team; we can cost-effectively build a minimal version of your project that you can use to demo or seek funding.

BallotReady: We built the initial MVP for this voting education product; with our prototype as a proof-of-concept, they won first place and a first round of funding through the Social New Venture Challenge. They have since hired a full-time technical team and continue to be publicly available at <https://ballotready.org>.

LendSquare: This platform for crowdfunded lending used the prototype Rails application that we built for their beta-launch in Chicago.

Build a database and interface for your academic project:

We've worked extensively with academic and museum clients to create robust, web-accessible databases that enable collaboration between researchers and public display of data. Additionally, we have experience working with these types of clients on the technical part of their grant applications, helping them secure funding by formatting and presenting the technology needs and our pricing to comply with the terms of the grant.

Dioptrice: We built the Dioptrice telescope database initially for the Adler planetarium, converting an old Mac database of historical telescope data into a web-accessible, collaborative platform. We continued to work with the Corning Museum of Glass on this project, storing searchable technical data, photos, provenance, and more for over 1500 telescopes. This project remains publicly accessible at <https://dioptrice.org>.

The Post-Soviet Public Sphere: In a grant-funded project for an NYU researcher, we built a web-based digital humanities platform that enabled researchers to digitize media artifacts, and students and teachers to search and view text, images, and metadata.

Build and maintain a tool to support your small business:

Small businesses often have specific repeated tasks that could benefit from automation; information that needs to be shared between multiple separate tools; or potentially useful data that's hard to view. We work with your business to build custom tools that use what you already have and do what you already need.

Fly Over the City: For the Boston and NYC-based bike messenger service Fly Over the City, we built a dispatch board enabling admins to easily see hundreds of incoming jobs each day, assign them to messengers, and view status changes.

Open Produce: For the small Chicago grocery store Open Produce, we built an online ordering system that integrates with their existing point-of-sale. Our system dynamically displays available products via the store's real-time inventory data, and enables customers to shop and securely pay via the website (publicly available at <https://shop.openproduce.org>).