HORTUS AI MAKES ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ACCOUNTABLE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hortus AI has released a whitepaper, **AI Of, By, and For the People**, that outlines its vision to empower local communities to integrate AI technologies on their own terms. Founded by Thomas Krendl Gilbert, Hortus AI is built to respond directly to citizens' fears and desires about future technologies, based on a decade of research at the frontier of AI development.

"We have never been more technically connected yet socially isolated than we are now," says **Thomas Krendl Gilbert, Hortus AI Founder and CEO**. "What Hortus does is simple: work with local governments to integrate what constituents want into AI-driven public services."

With a local-first business model, Hortus brings scalable assessment solutions to the table, and prioritizes regional AI integration over the development of ever-larger models. Hortus has partnered with the City of Boston, is a registered vendor with San Jose's GovAI Coalition, and is rapidly scaling to additional clients across the country.

"Hortus has worked with us to help refine its product on use cases that matter for public-facing web applications," said **James Duffy, Digital Content Manager and Strategist at Boston Digital Service**. "We have enjoyed the collaboration and look forward to what Hortus is building."

Co-signed by the New York Academy of Sciences and RethinkAI, a multi-partner initiative housed at New America, the Hortus whitepaper outlines what is toxic about AI today–prioritizing business objectives over quality of life and impacts on communities–and how it could be built differently. Hortus solves this by providing tools to build AI for active citizens, in partnership with local institutions.

"The New York Academy of Sciences has as its primary mission the use of science and technology for the public good. What is too often missing from debates over the benefits and dangers of AI is the full participation of the public in evaluating and directing its development," said **Nicholas Dirks, president and CEO of the New York Academy of Sciences**. "The Academy is pleased to co-sign Hortus's vision for a future of AI deployment that elevates public perspectives and voices."

Hortus has developed state-of-the-art products that let everyday Americans provide active input into how AI should work for them. Any community that seeks to integrate AI into its public services (paying a parking ticket, registering to vote, finding out when the next trash pickup day is) can partner with Hortus to find out more about what residents need, how to meet their needs, and make adjustments based on their real-time feedback. By partnering with constituents and community leaders, Hortus aims to rebuild AI with populism at its foundations–rule by the people, not elites.

"AI may be able to write your emails, but it can also make your energy bills go up, redline your neighborhood, and addict your kids to social media," says **Anthony Townsend, cofounder of RethinkAI**. "AI can't just make cities smarter. It has to reflect the interests of flesh-and-blood communities, on their terms. Hortus fills the gap between what the people want and what local government can support."

Hortus is making AI locally responsible and responsive through the development of new metrics, interfaces, and mechanisms. More announcements on its offerings are coming soon.

Hortus AI
AI integration, by and for the people.
https://hortus.ai/

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