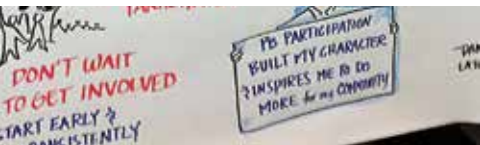




PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN NORTH AMERICA 2014-2015: A Year of Growth



..... About the Participatory Budgeting Project What is Participatory Budgeting?

Our Mission

The Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP) empowers people to decide together how to spend public money. We create and support participatory budgeting processes that deepen democracy, build stronger communities, and make public budgets more equitable and effective.

PBP has empowered more than 100,000 people in 10 cities to directly decide how to spend more than \$98 million in public funds on 440 community projects.

Participatory budgeting gives people real power over real money.

PBP’s Work

Our main program areas are:

1. Technical Assistance and Training

We help governments, institutions, and organizations to implement participatory budgeting processes and campaigns.

- Advise, design, and implement PB processes
- Advise and support advocacy, organizing, and educational campaigns to launch and expand PB processes

2. Participation Lab

We research and develop new tools and practices to make participatory budgeting and democracy work better.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| • Games and exercises | • Materials | • Trainings |
| • Videos | • Tech tools | |

3. Network Building

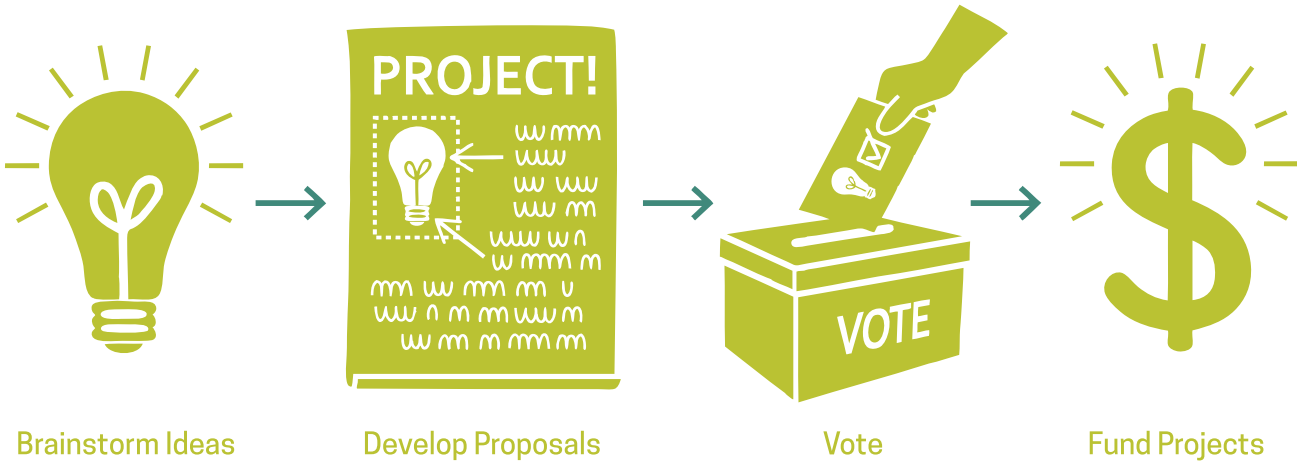
We bring together policy practitioners and community organizers to help participatory budgeting grow.

- Conferences
- Building and supporting networks of practitioners, organizers, officials and researchers
- Talks, articles and other public education that expands PB networks and interest

Our approach has been recognized by the White House as a model for civic engagement, and we have been awarded Penn State’s Brown Democracy Medal as the top innovation in advancing democracy around the world.

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a different way to manage public money. It is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend part of a public budget.

Local communities make budget decisions through an annual cycle of meetings and voting. Most PB experiences follow a basic process: residents brainstorm spending ideas, volunteer budget delegates develop proposals based on these ideas, residents vote on proposals, and government officials fund the top projects. After funding, the process starts again, and PB becomes part of how government works.



..... History of Participatory Budgeting

The Brazilian city of Porto Alegre started the first full participatory budgeting process in 1989. Since then, PB has spread to over 3,000 cities around the world, and been used for counties, states, housing authorities, schools, universities, and other institutions.

The Participatory Budgeting Project was founded in 2009 to support the growth of PB in North America. In 2009 we launched the first PB process in the US, with Chicago Alderman Joe Moore. In 2011 we launched PB in New York City, North America’s largest PB process. We have since grown to 13 staff in four cities, including offices in Brooklyn and Oakland.

..... Impacts

Participatory budgeting transforms people, communities, and government. It helps them learn about the needs of their larger community and work towards a greater common good. They learn to find common priorities and value perspectives and experiences of people with different life situations and in different cultural environments. PBP helps communities build the civic infrastructure necessary for deepening democracy. Major impacts of our work include:

More Civic Engagement

Participatory budgeting has increased participation in political and community organizations, community boards, school boards, and block associations.

In Chicago, the majority of active participants reported no previous involvement or low levels of previous involvement in civic activities and organizations.

In NYC, a third of active participants reported participating more in local organizations after PB.

Broader Political Participation

Each PB process supported by PBP has decided to expand voter eligibility to make participation more inclusive, enabling youth as young as 12, non-citizens, and the formerly incarcerated to vote.

PB engages young people in the democratic process. The voting age for PB in Boston and Cambridge is 12. In Dieppe, Canada, anyone in 6th grade and up can vote.

In NYC, 39% of voters in 2014’s PB cycle were low-income residents, while only 21% of low-income residents voted in the 2013 local elections.

New Community Leaders and More Active Citizens

PBP’s assistance develops residents’ civic skills, knowledge, and attitudes. We promote PB as a school of democracy and citizenship, as participants go through months of deliberation and decision-making.

PB participants overall report significant increases in skills such as public speaking, negotiating, building agreement, and contacting officials – and those with low incomes and less education learn the most.

Stronger Relationships Between Government, Organizations, and Residents

PBP connects officials with constituents, enabling them to work together and build trust. We also forge new relationships between organizations focused on different issues and communities.

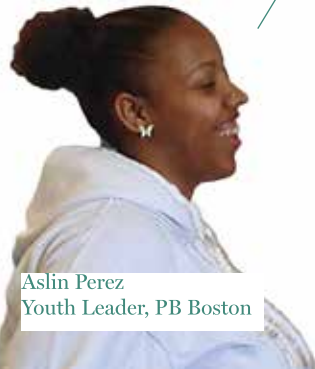
In Vallejo, the majority of active participants said their view of city government improved after PB. Most residents whose project ideas did not win funding were still satisfied with the process and wanted to participate again.

Fairer and More Effective Spending

PBP connects local knowledge with technical expertise, leading to more informed and responsive spending decisions. High participation by underrepresented groups helps direct resources to communities with the greatest needs. There are fewer opportunities for corruption, waste, or public backlash, and more pressure to dedicate resources to public priorities.

PB brings in additional funding beyond the money directly allocated through the process. In Chicago, more than \$1.6 million in additional funding was leveraged for community projects identified through PB.

PB means actually having my friends and family members believe that they have a choice in government. Politics are not only built to be in the hands of politicians or government officials but to be in the hands of the people. And we are the people.



Aslin Perez
Youth Leader, PB Boston

The biggest impact was the way PB brought the people together to engage and make group decisions. PB encourages people to drop their biases and say, if we want to have a voice and make a change, we have to come together for a common good. This has impacted me tremendously because I never thought that this was possible for neighborhoods like mine.



Damilola Iroko
Facilitator, PB NYC

Throughout the PB process, I had a strong feeling that I was making a difference and that my opinion counts.



Kellie Morris
Steering Committee, PB Long Beach

Our research has demonstrated the importance of building the PB process around existing community assets and civic infrastructure; as well as how critical traditional community organizing is for engaging more marginalized populations. When PB incorporates these existing networks into the process it simultaneously strengthens the PB process and the fabric of the community overall.



Thea Crum
Researcher, PB Chicago

PB has helped me to flourish in my love of participation with life, improved my confidence level when speaking publicly and to capitalize on the need to be ready at all times and all places. For you never know when you will be called upon to “shine,” and I am still “shining.”



Lynda Daniels
Steering Committee, PB Vallejo

Usually, in an alderman’s office, people contact us to fix an isolated problem. Through the PB process, we discussed not just what needed to be fixed but what we wanted our community to be.



Owen Brugh
45th Ward Staff, PB Chicago

SUPPORTERS 2014/2015

Foundations

Lily Auchincloss Foundation
The California Endowment
Chicago Community Trust*
Robert Sterling Clark Foundation*
The Crown Family*

Nathan Cummings Foundation*
Democracy Fund
Fund for Democratic Communities
Robert R. McCormick Foundation*
New York Community Trust*

New York Foundation
New York Women's Foundation
North Star Fund
Rockefeller Foundation*
Sherman Foundation*
*Funding received via partner organization

Government & Institutions

City of Boston, MA
City of Cambridge, MA
Clean Air Coalition, Buffalo
Google
Hamilton, ON Councillor Farr
City of New York, NY

New York City Council Speaker Mark-Viverito
New York City Council Member Kallos
New York City Council Member Lander
New York City Council Member Levin
New York City Council Member Levine
New York City Council Member Menchaca
New York City Council Member Richards

New York City Council Member Rodriguez
New York City Council Member Torres
New York City Council Member Ulrich
New York City Council Member Williams
New York City Council Member Weprin
City of Seattle, WA
City of Vallejo, CA

Individuals

Champions (\$500 and above)

Anonymous
Ken Browne
George Choriatus

Gerard Delgrippe
Will Fan
David Giordano

William Jennings
Brad Lander
Michael Lerner

Joe Moore
David Smiley & Lauren Kogood
Ny Whitaker

Christopher Wilson

Leaders (\$100-to \$499)

Melody Allen
David Antieau
Alderman John Arena
Hala Audi
Steven Ausbury
William Back
Eve Baron
Gene Beasley
Vitorio Benedetti
Arla Berman
Molly Biklen
Deanna Bitetti
Justin Blinder
Andrea Bonilla
Marti Brown
Douglas Carolus
Alina Chatterjee
John Chin

Ana Maria Cruz
John De La Torre
Meghan Faux
Will Friedman
David Gepner
Ari Gershman
Rhonda Giovannitti
Benjamin Goldfrank
Joshua Goodman
Dmitriy Goykhman
Vishal Gujadhur
Benjamin Haas
Jill Hamberg
Mamnunul Haq
Frank Hebbert
Joseph Holtz
Patricia Jerido
Robin Kantor

Ethan Kent
Janette Kim
Andrew King
Richard Kochl
Rachel Laforest
Josh Lerner
Susan Lerner
Robert Loring
Renate Lunn
R. Fredrick Lunn
Lloyd Lynford
Sara Manaugh
Kanitha Matoury
Alyzza May
Michael Menser
Katy Miessner
Gretta Mogel
Abigail Moriah

Larry & Claire Morse
Shaila Mulji
Brandon Nelson
Lenore Paladino
Sonal Patel
Gustav Peebles
Randy Peers
Erica Quigley
Nick Rizzo
David J. Rosenberg
Erin Sanborn
Anne Schaeffer
Patrick Scully
Josh Silverstein
Sharon Simpson
Benjamin Solotaire
Andrew Starr-Bochicchio
Michael Steib

Jay Sterenberg
Celina Su
Rachel Swaner
Frank Toner
Allen Townsend
Keri Tyler
Ethany Uttech
Iakovos Vasilou
Ana Paula Pimentel Walker
Brian Wampler
Rachel Weber
Cheyenna Weber
Jeremy Wells
Sandra Witt
Nancy Worman
Christopher Worrall
Erik Wright
Ayse Yonder
Sondra Youldeman

Supporters (\$20-\$99)

Anonymous
Rachel Amar
Tracy Anderson
Benjamin Antieau
Caron Atlas
Jen Barkan
Nicholas Barry
David Beasley
Sarah Berman
Mathias Black
Clara Bois
Regan Brashear
Ralph Brooks
Ginny Browne
Chris Bui
Marjorie Busching Self
Jonathan Busky
Evan Casper-Futerman
Ginny Christensen
Gabriel Cohn
Emanuela Costa
Janette Daniel-Whitney
Alison Dell
Jeffrey Dobrinsky

Karen Dolan
Kristin Eberhard
Kwabena Kenneth Edusei
Harvey Epstein
Alison Fairbrother
Alix Fellman
Jonathan Field
Reese Forbes
Julia Foulkes
Michael Freedman-Schnapp
Josephine Freeman
Jennifer Godzeno
Lily Goodspeed
Carol Gould
Dave Graham-Squire
Matthew Green
Maryam Gunja
Maria Hadden
Carolyn Hagelskamp
Matthew Harvey
Ron Hayduk
Gabriel Hetland
Haruka Horiuchi
Issac Jabola-Carolus

Lee Jennings
Amelia Jevicki
Christopher Kocher
Karen Kube
Valyrie Laedlein
Joey Lake
Stephanie Lane Pavon
Steve Larosiliere
Dan LaTorre
Jennifer Laurin
Jennifer Lav
Barbara Lee
Mary Lehmann
Iris Loughran
Laurel Lucia
Isabel Luciano
Ron Malec
Stephanie McNulty
Lewis Michaelson
Marika Milas
Jane Mizrahi
Jim Morrison
Aseem Mulji
Maryam Nabavi

Brandon Nelson
Robert Newman
Rita Ormsby
Brian Paul
Rob Paul
Janice Peterson
Will Petrik
Meredith Phillips Almeida
David Plotke
Diane Postoian
Luc Rabouin
Peter Ranis
Norma Rantisi
Debra Rice
Luc Richard
Jennifer Ritter
Juscha Robinson
Vincent Russell
Gabriel Sayegh
David Schechter
Allan & Kitsa Schindle
Linda Schmidt
Tom Schmidt
Larry Schooler

Daniel Schugurensky
Natalya Scimeca
Donata Secondo
Melissa Sepe
Shreya Shankar
Sarah Snider
Santa Soriano
Alex Sparrow
Solaire Spellen
Matthew St Clair
Kenneth Swaner
Lacey Tauber
Mark Torrey
Natalia Vera
Leonardo Vilchis
D.C. Vito
Megan Wade
Pia Wallgren
Jennifer Witte
Lai-Wan Wong
Nick Yulman
Wendy Yun
and others



**PARTICIPATORY
BUDGETING PROJECT**

33 FLATBUSH AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR BROOKLYN, NY 11217
1611 TELEGRAPH AVENUE, SUITE 1008 OAKLAND, CA 94612
WWW.PARTICIPATORYBUDGETING.ORG | TWITTER: @PBProject