2020 Highlights

WE CREATED AND CELEBRATED COLLECTIVE VISIONS FOR JUSTICE
Through the end of summer and into the fall, PBP hosted a series of six public webinars called Visions for Justice with over 250 attendees and over 1,750 views on how participatory practices bring us closer to radically different and just realities.

WE INVITED PARTNERS TO JOIN DEMOCRACY BEYOND ELECTIONS
We launched democracybeyondelections.org, a new home for the Democracy Beyond Elections — our collaborative campaign for community-led decision making power that is equitable, accessible, and significant. The new resource helped us recruit new coalition partners and spread awareness about the power and potential of participatory democracy.

WE JOINED PARTNERS IN DEMANDING PROTECTION & JUSTICE FOR BLACK LIVES
We mourned the lives of Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Sean Reed and other countless Black lives and stood alongside our partners demanding real community control. This year, we encouraged our community to lift up local and national call-to-actions, while doubling down on our own commitment to support partners demanding real power over public budgets. PBP is currently supporting over 20 cities in their Divest/Invest efforts.

OUR PARTNERS IN PHOENIX ARE REIMAGINING SCHOOL SAFETY
Phoenix Union High School District (PXU) committed to community driven solutions to school safety. In July 2020 that announced that they would not renew their contract with the City of Phoenix for School Resource Officers (school police) and would instead reinvest funds to launch the largest school PB initiative in the country.

OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SHARI DAVIS, GAVE A MAINSTAGE TED TALK!
PBP's Executive Director, Shari Davis, delivered a TED Talk on how PB can transform the relationship between governments and the communities that they serve, and act as a roadmap for reimagining what true participatory democracy could look like in the U.S. The video garnered over 1.5 million views and offers an incisive critique of our current political processes, and a path towards collective reimagining of those systems.
To our community,

I didn't know what our team would be up against when this year started, but we knew investing in radical imagination would help us get to what's next.

As I reflect on this past year, I recognize that our team, our broader community, and the entire country has held so much. It doesn't go unnoticed.

While we honor the grief felt by thousands of people impacted by the COVID pandemic, we also hold space for the resilience and indispensable grit from communities across the country demanding new models of safety.

This past year has shown us that we don't have to limit our imagination to what we have experienced — and that dreaming big and bold is necessary to build an inclusive democracy now that extends into the future.

Our team brings a revived sense of humility, focus, and commitment into 2021 that we are excited to share with you. I'm proud to invite you on a journey of what we accomplished this past year, alongside so many of our incredible partners and into where we can go next together.

Elevate,

Shari
What’s next

As we look ahead, we are excited to co-build the next iteration of our work. Here’s how we are investing in what’s next with our partners:

- New strategic vision with an equity lens
- New models of shared leadership
- Participatory pilots that will transform how governments work
- More PB and community decision-making at the local, state, and federal level
Direction 1
Expand public power over larger budgets and decisions, to increase civic engagement and equity.

Success is:
• New and existing PB processes increase the amount of money and issues that residents can decide.
• Large-scale equitable PB processes raise the bar for civic engagement, inspiring governments to open up bigger decisions to residents.
• More prominent officials, organizations, and funders focused on equity and democracy support PB and win commitments for participatory democracy programs.

Direction 2
Spread participatory budgeting in schools, to inspire a new generation of leaders to grow participatory and equitable democracy in the long term.

Success is:
• High profile school PB programs are successful and equitable models that inspire similar processes elsewhere.
• More school district leaders learn about, become interested in, and launch PB processes.

Direction 3
Improve the design and technology of participatory budgeting and democracy, to enable equitable and empowering civic engagement to spread more widely.

Success is:
• Government officials and staff can run more equitable, empowering, and streamlined civic engagement processes.
• PBP’s technical assistance and resources deliver more value to government officials, staff, advocates, and community members.

Direction 4
Build a sustainable organization that models our values, to attract and retain amazing staff and board members.

Success is:
• We have a healthy reserve that supports financial stability.
• We sustain a supportive organizational culture and management that reflect our values.

Instructions:
Start on whichever question you would like, looking at the measures for success. Move around the circle to each direction to see whether it potentially supports more than one strategic direction.

Key - # of times you answered Yes:
0 This might not be the project for PBP.
1-2 This a viable thing.
3 We should definitely pursue this.
4 This is going to revolutionize PB!
Thank you to our partners

This work is made possible through deep and meaningful partnerships from organizations and individuals from around the country. Thank you for dreaming, ideating, and building together.

**Partners**

- Arts & Democracy
- Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams
- Building Healthy Communities Merced
- Building Stronger Families Providence
- Center for Court Innovation
- Center for Popular Democracy
- Center for the Future of Arizona
- City of Eau Claire WI
- City of Vancouver BC
- Civic Engagement Commission PB Advisory Committee
- Civic Hall
- Coro NY Leadership Center
- Creative New Jersey
- Drug Policy Alliance
- Generation Citizen
- Ideas42 NYC Behavioral Design Center
- Jefferson Center
- Katal Center for Health, Equity, and Justice
- Kounkuey Design Initiative
- Long Beach Forward
- New Jersey Policy Perspective
- New York City Council
- New York City Department of Education Civics for All
- New York State Education Department Office of Accountability
- NYC Civic Engagement Commission
- NYC Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice Neighborhood-Stat
- PBNYC Citywide Committee
- People’s Action Institute
- Sustainable Jersey
- TakeRoot Justice
- The Nonprofit Partnership
- Theatre of the Oppressed NYC

**Funders**

- American Council of Learned Societies
- Brooklyn Community Foundation
- Butler Family Fund
- Democracy Fund
- Ford Foundation
- Mertz Gilmore Foundation
- New York Community Trust
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society
- TD Charitable Foundation
- The California Endowment
- The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
- The James Irvine Foundation
- The JPB Foundation

**Advisory Board Committee**

- David Beasley | Auburn Seminar
- Alina Chatterjee | Scadding Court Community Centre
- Jez Hall | PB Partners, UK
- Alexander Kolokotronis | Yale University
- Stephen Lafume | City of Boston
- Matt Leighninger | Public Agenda
- Aseem Mulji | University of California Berkeley
- Whitney Quesenbery | Center for Civic Design
- Erin Sanborn
- Celina Su | City University of New York
Financials
January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020 (unaudited financials)

Total Expenses: $1,170,962.16