

**2018  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**



PARTICIPATORY  
BUDGETING PROJECT

**10 YEARS OF  
TRANSFORMING  
DEMOCRACY**



# From our Executive Directors

**We are celebrating 10 years of transforming democracy and are proud to share our incredible victories from 2018 and our first decade of work.**

We can't wait for you to be part of our vision for the future of the Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP). With your support, we can create a more just and equitable democracy together.

**We're increasing the amount of money and decisions that communities can control through PB.** We need even more officials, organizations, and funders to create opportunities for real participation. We're building large-scale equitable PB processes to raise the bar for civic engagement and open up bigger decisions to constituents.

**We're helping school leaders learn about—and launch—PB for school budgets.** Investing in young leaders means investing in the long term health of a more equitable democracy.

**To enable equitable and empowering civic engagement to spread more widely, we're developing tools to make PB easier and better.** As we research and test ways to improve PB's design, we're sharing new resources and learning to support community leaders.

**Our work is powered by incredible staff, board members, and supporters like you.** In order to continue growing our work and our impacts, we must continue to attract and retain these fabulous folks. By living out our values both externally and internally, we will sustain a supportive organization that reflects our core beliefs.

Elevate,



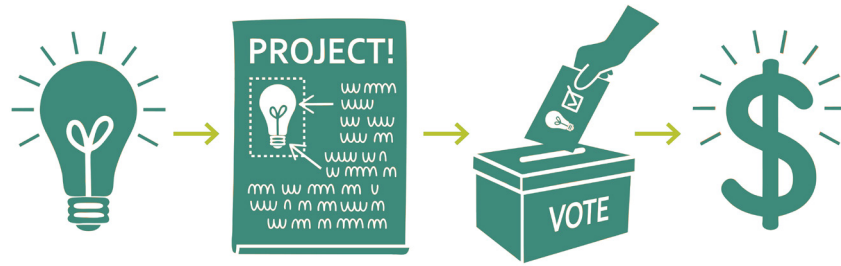
A stylized, handwritten signature of Shari Davis in black ink.

Shari Davis,  
Co-Executive Director



A handwritten signature of Josh Lerner in black ink.

Josh Lerner,  
Co-Executive Director



## OUR MISSION

We empower people to decide together how to spend public money. We create and support participatory budgeting (PB) processes that deepen democracy, build stronger communities, and make public budgets more equitable and effective.

## OUR WORK



### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

We provide direct support to PB processes in order to grow and improve PB. We train governments, schools, organizations, and residents, empowering them to implement high-impact processes.



### PARTICIPATION LAB

We develop and test innovative strategies, design solutions, and civic engagement tools that make PB easier and more effective.



### NETWORK BUILDING

We build relationships with government officials and staff, organizers, and researchers to increase demand and support for PB.



# In 2018,

## We led a movement for participatory democracy

We convened leaders, forged partnerships, and produced and shared powerful content.



**We co-organized an international conference** bringing together leaders from 18 countries and 75 cities to build a more participatory democracy. We hosted 45 sessions on citizen juries, equity and inclusion, civic tech, participatory justice, action civics, and more.



**We partnered with PBS' acclaimed documentary series POV** on the release of Public Money, a stunning film by Meerkat Media Collective. The film follows community members in Brooklyn as they launch PB in their district.



**We supported new research** that shows that people who take part in PB are 7% more likely to vote in elections. These findings confirm what we've been hearing for years: PB inspires folks to get more engaged in the civic life of communities.



**We hosted webinars** on PB in schools, on democratic innovations from around the world, and on a fascinating report on lessons from the first 30 years of PB.

we invested in making PB better and bigger.



## We won BIG for PB in New York City

After eight years of organizing with amazing partners, we won huge victories in NYC, raising the bar for PB around the world.

**CIVICS FOR ALL:** First, Mayor Bill de Blasio included PB in his "Civics for All" initiative, committing to launch PB in all 400+ public high schools across the city.

**CITYWIDE PB:** We then helped lead a campaign that saw NYC voters overwhelmingly approve a charter change to create a Civic Engagement Commission and citywide PB. The new citywide PB process should more than double the amount of money allocated via PB in the US and connect PB to other civic engagement initiatives in the city.



We developed new resources, supported innovative programs, and **expanded what real democracy can be.**

## We grew PB

We served as expert advisor to innovative PB processes, providing training, coaching, and resources to deliver success and grow the field.



### ROCHESTER, NY

We supported the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI) in launching a groundbreaking PB process for New York State's Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative —the first PB with anti-poverty funds!



### PHOENIX & CHANDLER, AZ

We worked with the Center for the Future of Arizona to expand PB across two school districts, supporting the Phoenix Union High School District and the Chandler Unified School District in engaging 14,494 students in PB and registering 2,335 students to vote.



### DENVER, CO

We coached a unique arts-based PB process in Denver, led by “civic health club” Warm Cookies of the Revolution and funded by ArtPlace America.



### MERCED, CA

We helped grow the first PB process in the U.S. for county funds into its second year, engaging more young people and supporting resident volunteers in leading the steering committee.



### VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

We partnered with the City of Vancouver to launch an innovative pilot in the West End neighborhood using PB to allocate parking fee revenues.



## We built award-winning civic tools

Our Participation Lab developed innovative tools to make PB easier and more equitable.

**myPB:** We developed a new data tool to make it easier to track PB projects and outcomes. The “myPB” website maps projects that make it to the ballot and the status of funded projects, helping advocates understand and assert community needs, and revealing how funds are spent differently when the public decides.

**CONSUL:** We piloted CONSUL, an open-source digital tool that connects citizens to governments, to upgrade the design and technology of PB.

**ARTS + PB:** We created an awesome “Arts + PB” guide with Arts & Democracy and the design company Hector. It shares ideas on how to use arts to make your PB process more engaging and meaningful.

## Launching and scaling PB

Since 2009, we have launched dozens of PB processes and grown existing processes to democratize bigger budgets and have greater impacts on communities.

### OUR IMPACTS

**\$337M**

in public funding  
allocated through  
PB

**534K**

PB participants  
across the US &  
Canada.

**2,048+**

community-  
generated winning  
projects.

"PB is truly an educational and mind blowing experience... It's allowing the community to regain its voice and say, this is what's important to us, this is what will matter to us in our everyday lives and the government actually listening to that."

**Fanta Dorely**  
Community Leader | *Greensboro, NC*



"This City has been so eaten up, people feel like so much has been taken from them. Here's something we can give back."

**Marti Brown**  
former City Councilmember | *Vallejo, CA*



# Our work in New York City is an example of growing scale and impact.

After starting PB in four council districts, we have worked with partners to grow it into the largest local civic engagement program in the country, sparking an expansion of civic engagement more broadly.

2011

## LAUNCHED PBNYC

PBP launched Participatory Budgeting in NYC (PBNYC) with City Council Members Mark-Viverito, Lander, Williams, and Ulrich, along with Community Voices Heard, the Community Development Project, and other partners.

2015

## SCALED PBNYC UP TO CITY COUNCIL PROGRAM

We partnered with new City Council Speaker Mark-Viverito to turn PBNYC into a flagship program of the City Council. We helped expand PB to 32 council districts and sustain this growth under the next Speaker, Corey Johnson.

2017

## SUPPORTED A NEW WAVE OF YOUTH LEADERS

PBP partnered with Coro NY Leadership Center to launch a PB Youth Fellowship, training Fellows to engage people as young as 11 in deciding how to spend millions of dollars in their neighborhoods.

2018

## PB SPREADS TO NYC PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio announced PB expanding to all of the city's public high schools (over 400 total). This will give young people a powerful new opportunity to learn and practice democracy, and to inspire lifelong civic participation.

## NY VOTERS SAY YESYESYES TO CITYWIDE PB

In a landslide vote, New Yorkers approved creating a Civic Engagement Commission, tasked with setting up citywide PB.



"PB brings government closer to the people, and provides an open form of democracy that continues to gain momentum."

### Jumaane Williams

Public Advocate  
& former City Council Member  
New York City, NY

## Making PB better

As we've grown PB, we've also invested in research and development to make PB more accessible, effective, and equitable. Leaders around the world use the tools and resources we've created to make participation work better.

### RESEARCH

#### BUILDING A RESEARCH BOARD & AGENDA

We partnered with Public Agenda to launch the North American PB Research Board to support the evaluation of PB processes across the US and Canada and guide a broader research agenda for PB.

#### SUPPORTING LOCAL EVALUATION

We worked with the Research Board to develop 15 key metrics for evaluating PB to better measure its impact, growth, and reach.

#### UNDERSTANDING USER NEEDS

Through surveys, interviews, and user testing, we have regularly identified challenges and solutions for running effective and equitable PB.

#### SHARING KNOWLEDGE

We hosted webinars and study sessions with PB practitioners, participants, and researchers. We produced and supported the production of reports to share key knowledge about making PB bigger and better.

### TOOLS

#### VIDEOS



- Intro to PB
- PB in Schools
- Facilitation, Outreach, and Voting



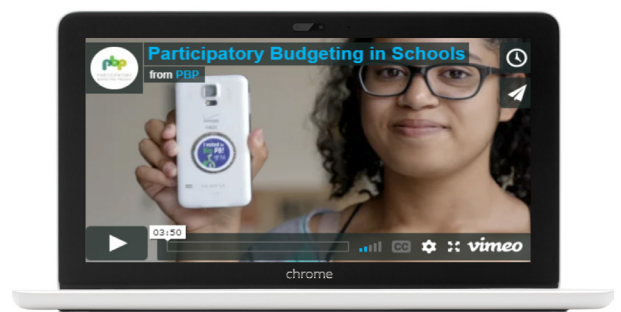
#### GUIDES & TOOLKITS

- Next Generation Democracy (White paper)
- Outreach Toolkit
- PB in Schools Guide
- Running PB from Start to Finish: A How-To Guide
- SMS Toolkit
- Arts + PB
- TIF toolkit



#### DIGITAL TOOLS

- Community Data Mapping Tool
- Information Management Tools
- myPB





# Investing in young leaders

Through PB in schools, we are creating new opportunities for civic education and action where participants learn democracy by doing it. We are empowering young people to change how government works, starting in their schools and their communities.

*"PB taught me how to make new friends and be more open to new ideas, to listen to ideas, and to properly put them into action to actually make a change in our community and our school."*

*-Lucy G., student, Phoenix Union High School District*



With opportunities to make a real impact, young people show up. From Phoenix to New York City, we've sparked big voter turnout and lasting impacts after participating in school PB:

## In the Phoenix Union High School District:

- 26,550 students voted in PB.
- 2,670 new voters were registered in Maricopa County after voting.

## In Brooklyn where students participated in PB and participatory policymaking on school safety:

- 95% of the 1,488 voters said projects and policies would make the campus safer and more supportive.
- 408 students volunteered to join the student councils after voting.



PHOENIX, AZ



SAN JOSE, CA



SACRAMENTO, CA



CHICAGO, IL



PHILADELPHIA, PA



MESA, AZ



CHANDLER, AZ



NEW YORK, NY



NY State



NEW YORK, NY

## Tackling BIG public problems with community

We are providing new ways for community leaders to address broader societal challenges together with residents.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

We have partnered with the California Endowment and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to use PB as a tool for building healthy communities. Too often, low-income communities and communities of color are left out of policy-making, leading to policies that fail to address their needs.

PB advances a culture of health by building community power and securing funding for concrete projects that address the social determinants of health, in areas such as education, streets and transportation, recreation, public safety, and community economic development.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

We have served as a core partner for a national “participatory justice” initiative to enable people most impacted by the justice system to shape criminal justice reforms.

In Brooklyn high schools, we launched a pilot program to engage students in deciding spending and policies to make their schools safer and more supportive

PLANNING

ORGANIZING

CIVIC  
TECH

PUBLIC  
HEALTH

CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE

HOUSING

PARTICIPATORY

TRANSPORTATION

PARTICIPATORY  
DEMOCRACY



# Growing a powerful network

In the last 10 years, we've brought together leaders from different sectors to learn with us and from each other, to build a more equitable democracy together.

## PBP ADVISORY BOARD

**Giovanni Allegretti** | Centre of Social Studies, Portugal

**Sal Asaro** | Queens College

**David Beasley** | Auburn Seminar

**Alina Chatterjee** | Scadding Court Community Centre

**Shymaine Davis** | Baltimore, MD

**Karen Dolan** | Institute for Policy Studies

**Joanna Duarte Laudon** | City of Toronto

**Michael Freedman-Schnapp** | Forsyth Street

**Alexandra Flynn** | University of British Columbia

**Jez Hall** | PB Partners, UK

**Sandy Heierbacher** | National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation

**Gabriel Hetland** | University at Albany

**Isaac Jabola-Carolus** | City University of New York

**Patricia Jerido** | Leadership Matters Consulting

**Sandeep Kandhari** | Legal Aid Society

**Alexander Kolokotronis** | Yale University

**Rachel Laforest** | Retail Action Project

**Stephen Lafume** | City of Boston

**Steve Larosiliere** | Stoked

**Matt Leighninger** | Public Agenda

**Richard Marcantonio** | Public Advocates

**Joe Moore** | City of Chicago

**Aseem Mulji** | University of California Berkeley

**Tiago Peixoto** | World Bank Institute

**Whitney Quesenbery** | Center for Civic Design

**Richard Raya** | San Francisco's Mission Promise Neighborhood

**Erin Sanborn**

**Daniel Schugurensky** | Arizona State University

**Donata Secondo** | Democracy Fund

**Al Solis**

**Anne Stuhldreher** | San Francisco Financial Justice Project

**Celina Su** | City University of New York

**Rachel Swaner** | Center for Court Innovation

**Aaron Tanaka** | Center for Economic Democracy

**Tai Tsao** | Meeteor

**David Vlahov** | Yale University

**Ny Whitaker** | Events by Ny

**Sondra Youdelman** | People's Action

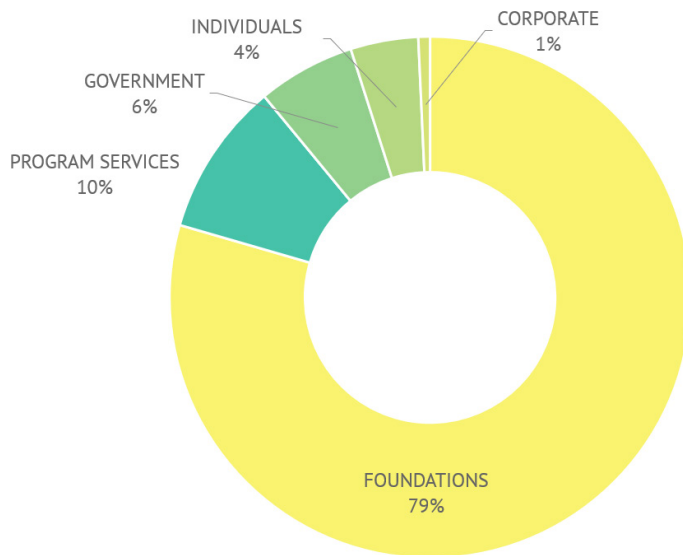
# Board of Directors



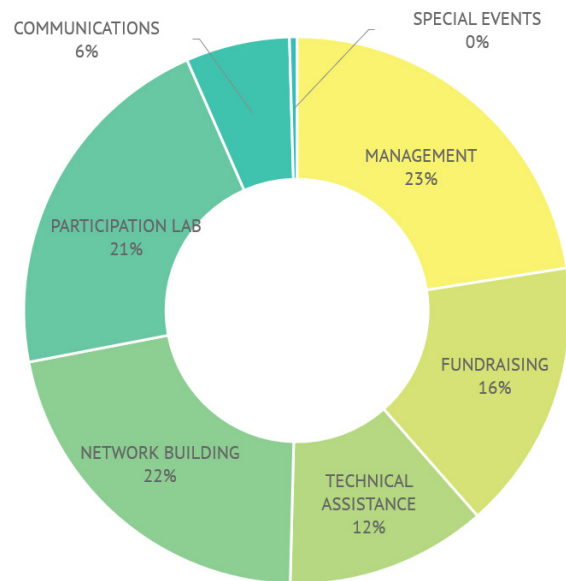
**Mike Menser, Board Chair** | City University of New York  
**Silaka Cox, Board Treasurer** | Fund for the City of New York  
**Chelsea Tu, Board Secretary** | Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment  
**Joan Bakiriddin** | Elsevier Inc.  
**Evan Graner** | Landor  
**Robert Sherman** | Consultant  
**Cyndi Tercero-Sandoval** | Phoenix Union High School District

# Financial Overview

*JAN 1, 2018 - DEC 31, 2018\**



**INCOME: \$1,472,528**



**EXPENSES: \$1,220,092**

*\*unaudited financials*



# Looking Forward

As we start our second decade, we are shifting our focus to four strategic directions. We look forward to your continued support in this next stage of our journey to transform our democracy!

- 1** Expand public power over larger budgets & decisions to increase civic engagement & equity.
- 2** Spread PB in schools to inspire a new generation of leaders to grow participatory & equitable democracy in the long term.
- 3** Improve the design & technology of PB & democracy to enable equitable & empowering civic engagement to spread more widely.
- 4** Build a sustainable organization that models our values to attract & retain amazing staff & board members.



## Thank you to our supporters



Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc.



for our **first 10 years!**

Booth Ferris Foundation



*and hundreds of individual supporters like you!*





# PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT

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