REAL MONEY, REAL POWER

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

GINNY BROWNE, PROJECT MANAGER
Participatory Budgeting Project
ABOUT PBP

HISTORY

Founded in 2009, incorporated as nonprofit in 2011

MISSION

To empower people to decide together how to spend public money.

PROGRAM AREAS

- Technical Assistance
- Movement Building

WHERE WE WORK

Across the US and Canada, with staff in New York City, Oakland, and Chicago
A LADDER OF BUDGET PARTICIPATION

Participatory Budgeting
Citizen Boards Or Councils
Focus Groups & Town Halls
Online Games
Hearings & Deputations

Full Participation
Limited Participation
Consultation
Informing
Listening

Participatory Budgeting Project | participatorybudgeting.org | @PBProject
WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?

A democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget.
WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?
HOW DOES IT WORK?

Residents brainstorm ideas

Delegates develop proposals

Residents vote

The top projects win funding
WHERE
HAS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING WORKED?

1,500+ PB processes in the world!

- Cities
- States
- Counties
- Public Housing
- Schools
- Community Organizations
PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL
1989

1.5 million residents | up to 50,000 participants per year

Decide as much as 20% of the budget | $200 million

KEY VICTORIES

Doubled sanitation coverage

Doubled the number of students in schools

Expanded bus service to neglected areas
- 164,000 tenants -
*The second largest public housing provider in North America*

As many as **6,000 tenants** per year have allocated up to **$9 million** in capital funds per year.
NEW YORK CITY
2011

$30 million reaching over 3.5 million residents in 24 districts
$3.2 million (sales tax revenue)
Funds for capital projects and programs & services
4,000 people voted to fund 12 winning projects
$1 million decided entirely by YOUTH residents ages 12-25
ENSURING EQUITY THROUGH PB

✓ Grassroots leadership
✓ Inclusive design
✓ Targeted outreach
✓ Equity criteria
WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF PB?
BROADER POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

**VALLEJO**
20% of PB voters were ineligible to vote in regular elections

**NYC**
Higher percentage of low-income residents voted in PB (40%) compared to full population (34%) & local elections (29%).

**BOSTON**
95% of most engaged participants were youth of color.
NEW COMMUNITY LEADERS

Participants report increased skills in public speaking, negotiating, building agreements, and contacting officials.
STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS
BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, ORGS, AND RESIDENTS

The majority of PB participants say their view of city government improved after PB.
In NYC, funds are more likely to go to projects in low-income areas through PB than through other discretionary funds.
FOR MORE INFO

WEBSITE www.participatorybudgeting.org
TWITTER @PBProject
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