

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.

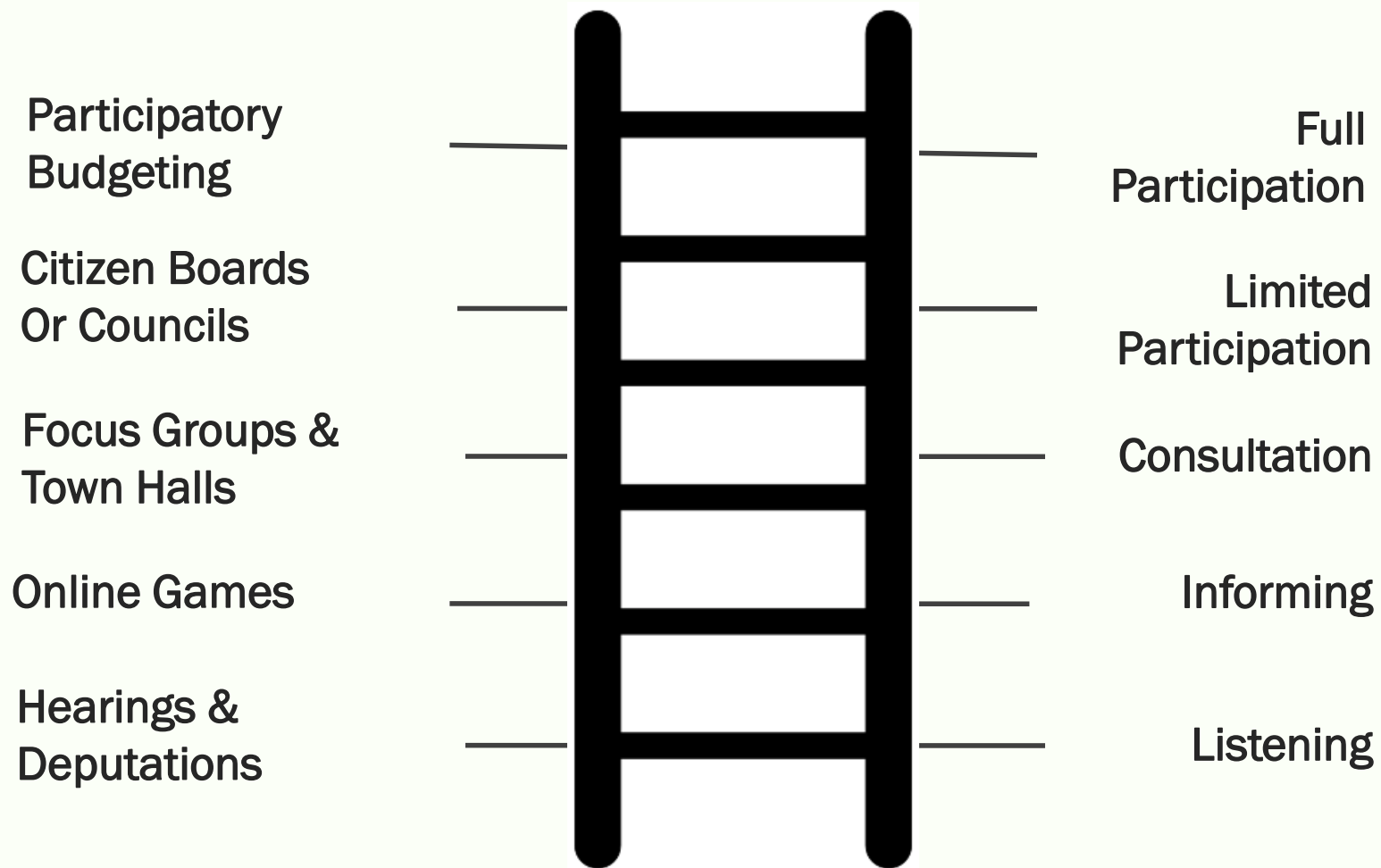
PROGRAM AREAS

- 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



WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?

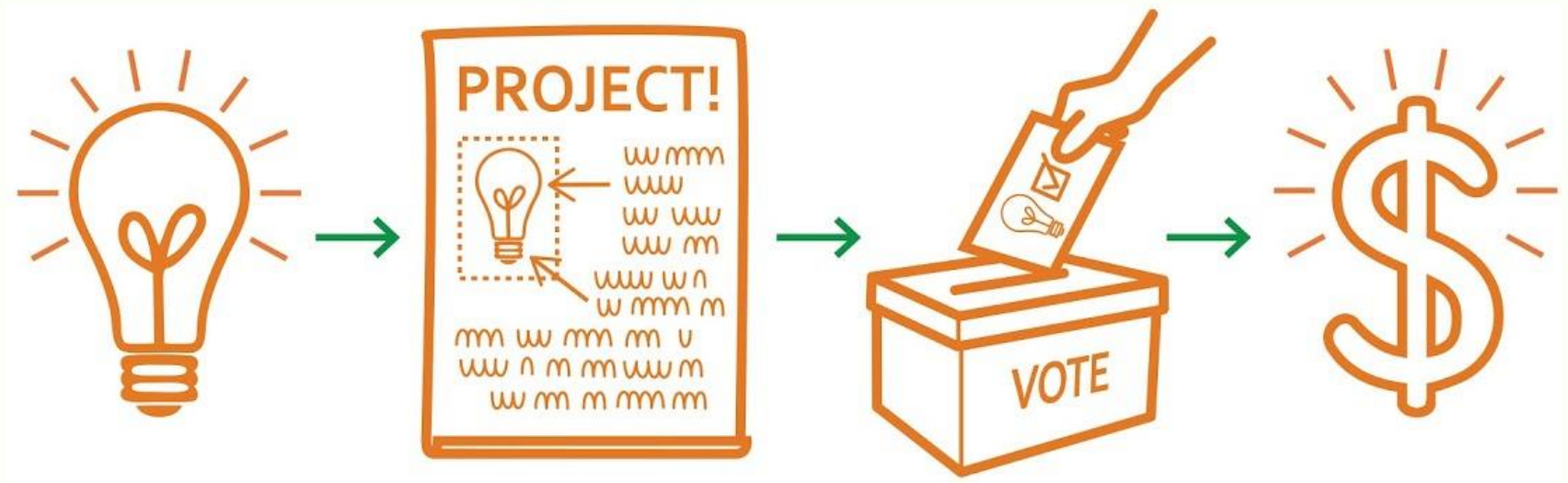


A democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget.

WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?



HOW DOES IT WORK?



Residents
brainstorm
ideas

Delegates
develop
proposals

Residents
vote

The top
projects win
funding

A light gray world map serves as the background. Numerous green location pins are scattered across the map, indicating various locations where participatory budgeting has been implemented. The pins are concentrated in North America, Europe, and South America, with a few in Africa and Asia.

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

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN NORTH AMERICA



TORONTO COMMUNITY HOUSING

2001

- 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

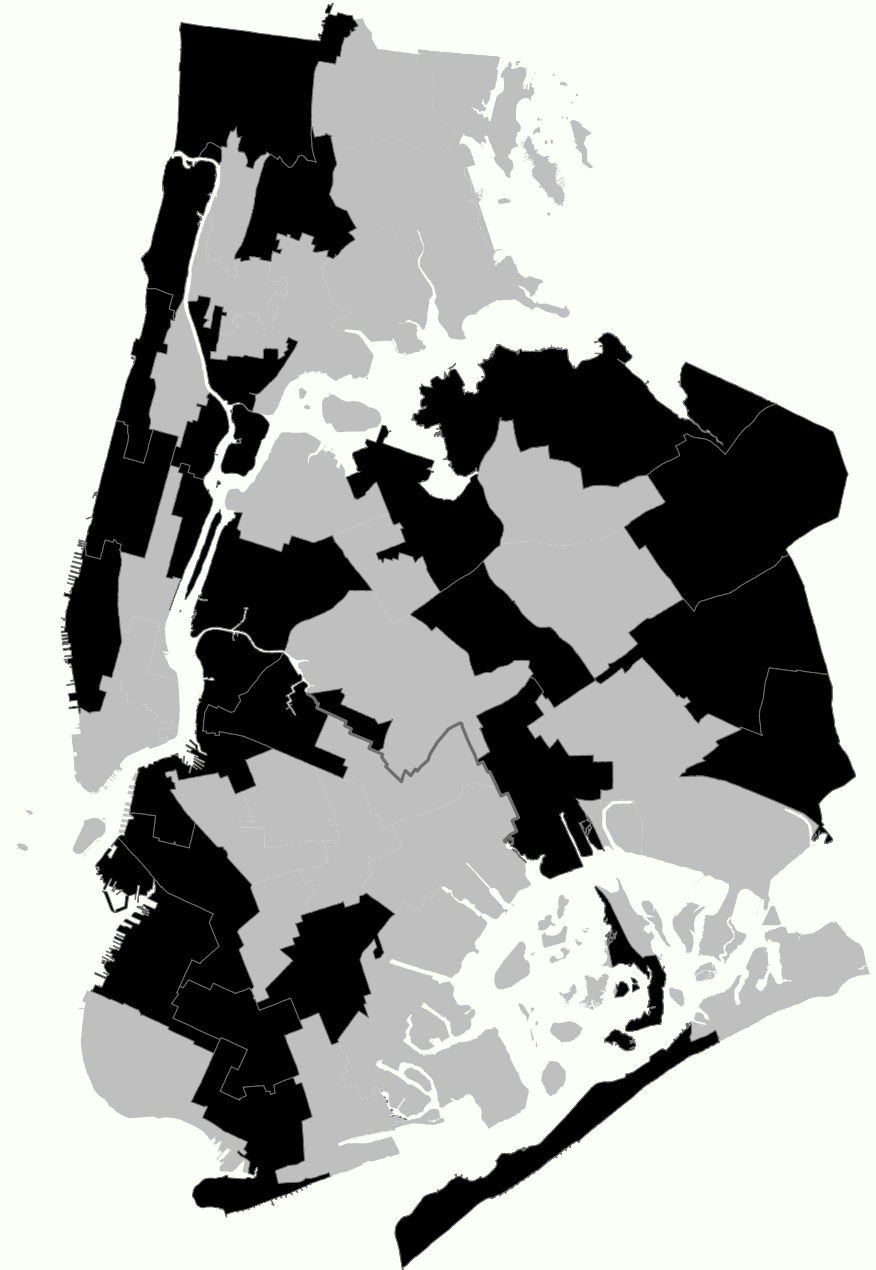




NEW YORK CITY

2011

\$30 million reaching over
3.5 million residents in
24 districts



VALLEJO, CA

2012

FIRST CITYWIDE PB
PROCESS IN THE U.S.

- \$3.2 million (sales tax revenue)
- Funds for capital projects and programs & services
- 4,000 people voted to fund 12 winning projects



BOSTON 2014

\$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.

MORE EQUITABLE & EFFECTIVE SPENDING

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

FACEBOOK

facebook.com/ParticipatoryBudgetingProject

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