

# PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Real Money, Real Power

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Co-Executive Director



PARTICIPATORY  
BUDGETING PROJECT

[www.participatorybudgeting.org](http://www.participatorybudgeting.org)



PARTICIPATORY  
BUDGETING PROJECT

# Who We Are

## HISTORY

Founded in 2009, we have led, supported, or inspired almost every PB process in North America.

## MISSION

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

## WHERE WE WORK

Across the US and Canada, with staff in New York City, Oakland, Chicago, and Greensboro.



@PBProject

[participatorybudgeting.org](http://participatorybudgeting.org)



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# What We Do

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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

## PARTICIPATION LAB

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

## NETWORK- BUILDING

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



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[participatorybudgeting.org](http://participatorybudgeting.org)

A photograph of a diverse group of people, including men, women, and children, seated in a room. Many of them have their hands raised in the air, suggesting an active participation in a meeting or a vote. The room has a blue wall with some papers pinned to it. The overall atmosphere is one of engagement and community involvement.

# IMPACTS

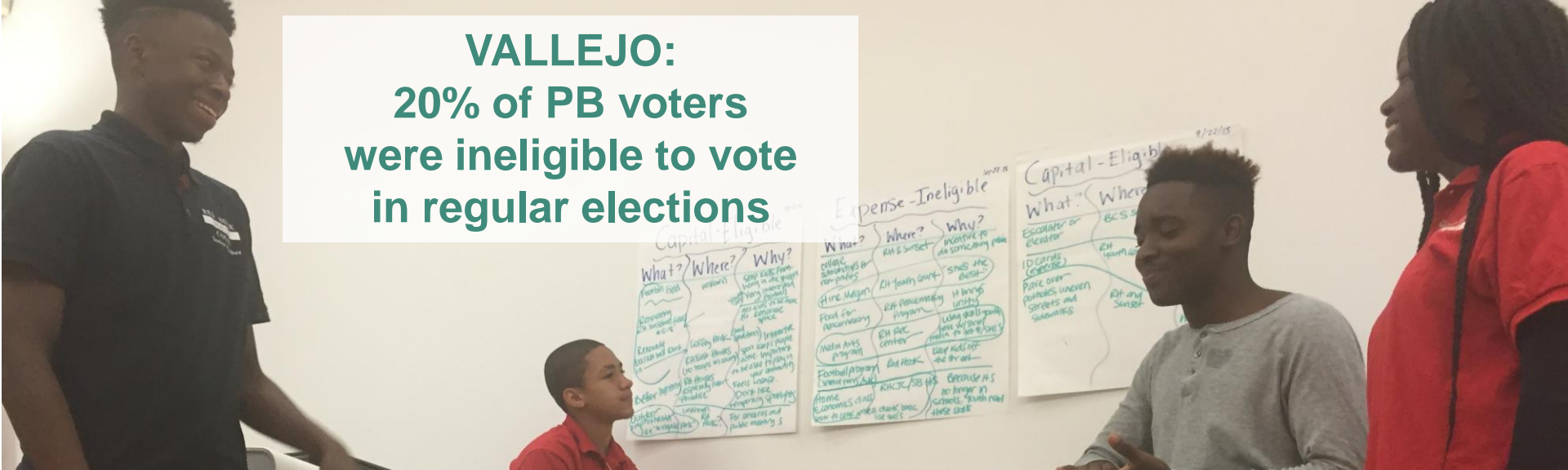




# BROADER & DEEPER PARTICIPATION



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



Enter an address...

**SUBMIT AN IDEA**

## Bus shelter

Community Resident suggested this Streets & Sidewalks idea in District 21.  
Near 24-05 94th Street, Queens, NY

My project idea is: Bus shelter

So that people could: Be protected from reckless drivers and other hazards that be coming their way via the moving traffic.

0 comment

COMMENT

- Culture and Community Facilities
- Schools and Education
- Environment
- Housing
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Health
- Public Safety
- Seniors
- Streets and Sidewalks
- Transit and Transportation
- Previously funded

Community Resident suggested an idea for Queens District 21. District 34 named PS31 Computers: Replace old computers with broken computers with new computers

bongo suggested a Transit & Transportation idea in District 11

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



YOUTH  
LEAD  
THE  
CHANGE

Boston Centers  
for Youth &  
Families  
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor

I'VE BEEN  
MANAGING  
MILLIONS  
SINCE

YOUTHLEADTHECHANGE.ORG  
CHANGE  
BOSTON  
BOSTON  
CHANGE

STRONGER & HEALTHIER  
COMMUNITIES





**CIVIC EDUCATION:**  
Participants report  
increased skills in public  
speaking, negotiating,  
building agreements,  
and contacting officials.



# 100 años con los mismos baños

P.S.  
172

New  
Bathrooms



We  
Need  
your  
support



Safe  
Environmentally  
Friendly

Now

After ✓  
You Vote

Presentable

## MORE RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT



**“PB brings new people into a leadership relationship with government...they teach government to operate better.”**

**-CARLOS MENCHACA, NYC COUNCIL MEMBER**



# How to design for inclusion & equity?

- ✓ Money that matters
- ✓ Grassroots leadership
- ✓ Inclusive design
- ✓ Targeted outreach
- ✓ Equity criteria

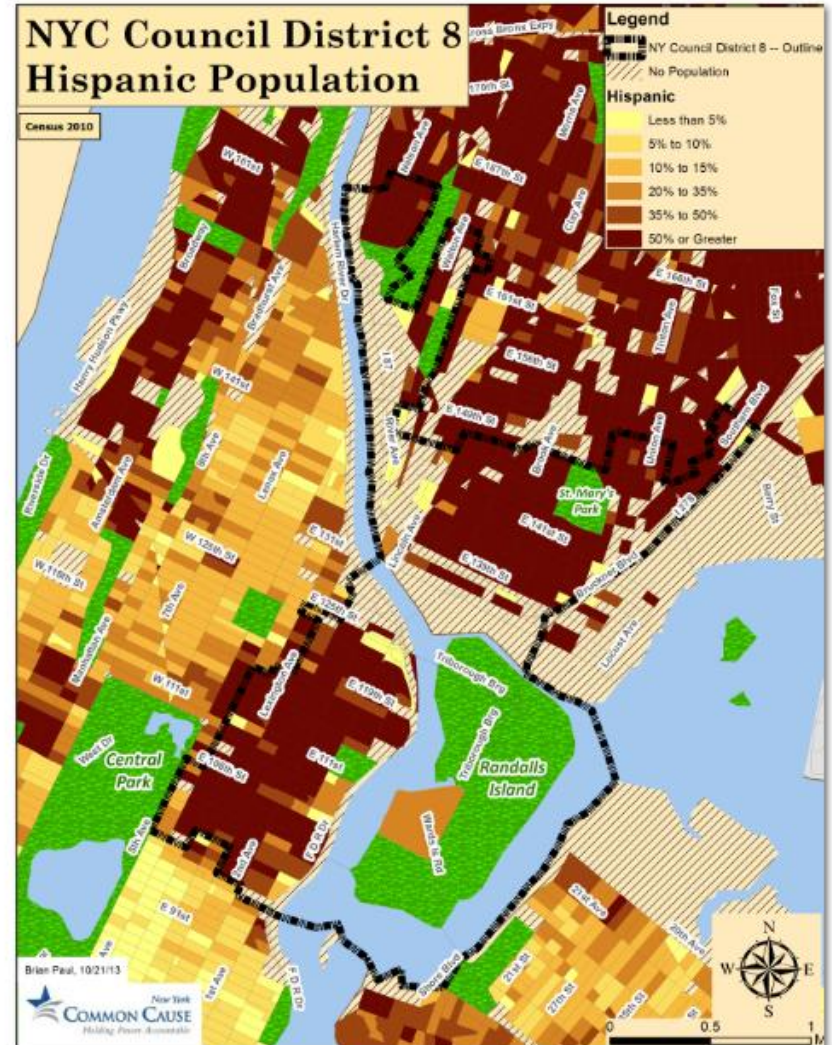
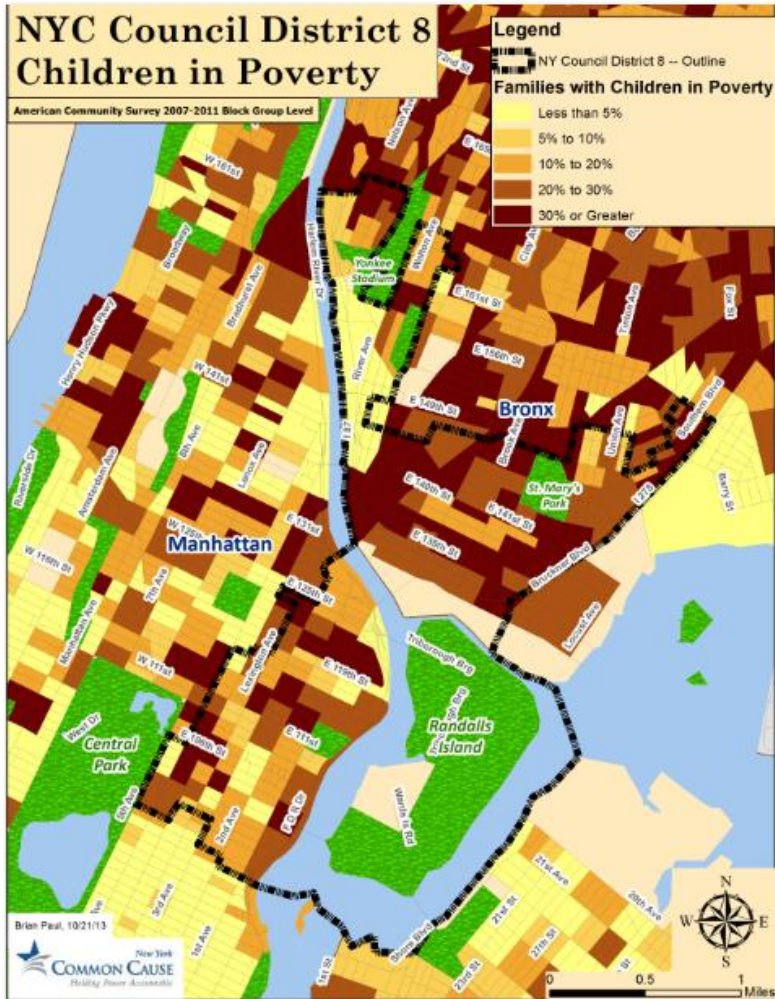


# Steering Committees & Participatory Design





# Mapping



# Face-to-Face Outreach Tools



**OUR MILLION DOLLAR DECISION!**  
cast your vote!

Streets/Transportation/Safety  
Parks - Education - Environment/Health/Food  
Art & Culture - Community Centers

**\*Youth Lead the Change:**  
Participatory Budgeting Boston  
is your chance to decide how  
to spend \$1,000,000 on  
community improvements.

**Sat, June 14**  
**Vote Launch Event**  
**2-4 pm @ the Tobin Center**  
1481 Tremont St  
\*there will be free food

**Thurs, June 19**  
**Burke High School**  
**8:15-10:35am /**  
**11:35am-12:40pm**  
**In the Auditorium**

**Wed, June 25**  
**Vote Results Party**  
**3:30-5 pm**  
BCYF Rec Center @ Madison Park  
55 Malcom X. Blvd, Building #4  
\*there will be free food

For More Info and Additional Vote locations:  
Text **YOUTHCHANGE** to 877877  
[www.bostonyouthzone.com](http://www.bostonyouthzone.com)

@youthleadboston  
@youthleadboston  
youthleadthechange

**ANY BOSTON RESIDENT  
BETWEEN AGES 12-25  
CAN VOTE!**  
(you do not need to be a  
registered voter)

  
Markus J. Walsh  
Mayor

  
THE CITY OF BOSTON  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

  
balooco

Real Money.  
Real Projects.  
Real Power.



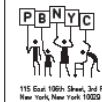
Your City Council Member has set aside at least \$1 million  
for neighborhood improvements like parks, school repairs,  
transportation, and more. How should it be used?

Cast your vote in April. But first, come find out what's on the  
ballot! See proposals and ask questions about the projects  
you and your neighbors have proposed - and give feedback to  
improve them.

PBNYC is a new and different way to make decisions about  
publicly funded projects in your neighborhood. Now in its second  
year, PB has grown from \$5 million to \$10 million citywide!

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to  
volunteer  
on PBNYC:  
\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No



Your City Council Member has committed  
\$1 MILLION to community projects that  
YOU can VOTE for this April!

☐ I PLEDGE TO VOTE  
THIS APRIL!  
☐ I PLEDGE TO BRING  
A FRIEND TO VOTE.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Find out more at:  
web: [pbny.org](http://pbny.org)  
contact: James Burke  
tel: (212) 880-8001 ext. 30  
email: [james@pbny.org](mailto:james@pbny.org)





# SMS Engagement

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://secure.mcommons.com/campaigns/124729/broadcasts/889275>. On the left is a sidebar menu with options: Inbox, mData, Agent View, Phone Calls (with a dropdown arrow), Mobile Web (with a dropdown arrow), and Help & Feedback (with a dropdown arrow). Below the menu is a scroll bar.

The main content area is titled "Conversation" and displays a simulated SMS exchange:

- Outgoing Message (Green bubble):** Hi *Frederick*, this is Ash from Youth Lead the Change. Just wanted to check in. Were you able to vote on Saturday?  
*This is the text message you're going to send. We will look for: voted\_june14 (Yes or No)*
- Incoming Message (Blue bubble):** Lorem ipsum abracadabra! This is my response.  
*Joe User can respond with anything they like. Their responses will be in the inbox and in their profiles.*
- Outgoing Message (Green bubble):** A conditional message template:

```
{% if voted_june14 == 'Yes' %}
Great! It would be great if you could remind your friends to vote too!
{% elif voted_june14 == 'No' %}
That's ok! There's voting all week in sites around Boston! REPLY with your address (i.e. 465 Huntington Avenue, 02115) to find the site closest to you.
{% else %}
Ok. Text me your address (i.e. 465 Huntington Avenue, 02115) to find a voting site closest to you.
{% endif %}
```

  
*This is the text message they're going to get. Their reply will trigger your mData - Voting Locations.*

# On-line Idea Collection & Voting

← → ↻ ideas.pbnyc.org/place/new

**PB NYC** How would YOU spend \$1 Million? ABOUT GUIDELINES GET MORE INVOLVED GO TO YOUR DISTRICT

SHOW AS A LIST SIGN IN

277 Washington Avenue, New York City NY

Describe your idea

Ideas must be "capital" projects - building, installing, or repairing something for public benefit, such as renovating a public basketball court or purchasing new computers for a library.

MY PROJECT IDEA IS...

Approximate location: 277 Washington Avenue, New York City NY

SO THAT PEOPLE COULD...

PICK A CATEGORY FOR YOUR IDEA

Please choose...

- Culture and Community Facilities
- Schools and Education
- Environment
- Housing
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Health
- Public Safety
- Seniors
- Streets and Sidewalks
- Transit
- Youth
- Previously funded

R.Cumbo suggested an Schools & Education idea in District 6 named Air conditioning for the gym, lunchroom and main office at ps191 The Museum Magnet school.

R.Cumbo suggested an Schools & Education idea in District 6 named

Powered by Shareabouts, a project of OpenPlans.





# Idea Collection & Voting at Public Events



# Pop-Up Idea Collection & Voting





# Targeted Meetings



# What you can do

- Sign up to PBP Newsletter at [participatorybudgeting.org](https://participatorybudgeting.org)
- Download free resources:
  - Scoping Toolkit for launching PB
  - PB in Schools Guide and video
  - White Paper for election officials:  
*Next Generation Democracy*







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