



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT

We are a non-profit organization that empowers people to decide together how to spend public money, primarily in the US and Canada. We create and support participatory budgeting processes that deepen democracy, build stronger communities, and make public budgets more equitable and effective.

We have worked with partners to engage **100,000 PEOPLE** in over **10 CITIES** to decide how to spend **\$98,000,000** on more than **440 COMMUNITY PROJECTS**.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING (PB) is a better way to manage public money. It is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend part of a public budget. PB gives ordinary people real decision-making power over real money.

WHAT WE DO

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

We help governments, institutions, and organizations to implement participatory budgeting 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 diverse practitioners and community organizers to help participatory budgeting grow.

WHERE WE HAVE WORKED

City / Level of PB

- Boston, MA / City
- Cambridge, MA / City
- Chicago, IL / District
- Chicago, IL / School
- Dieppe, NB / City
- Hamilton, ON / District
- Long Beach, CA / District
- New York City, NY / District
- San Francisco, CA / District
- San Jose, CA / School
- St Louis, MO / District
- Toronto, ON / Housing Authority
- Vallejo, CA / City

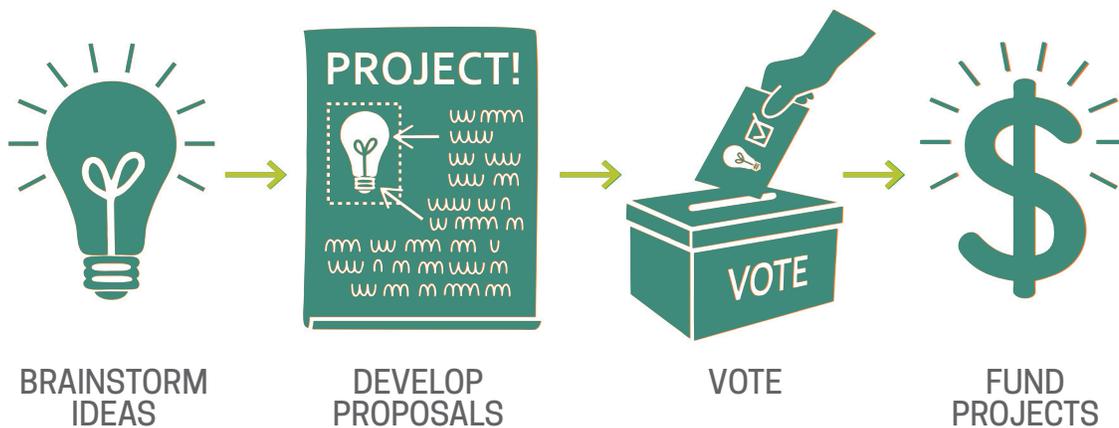
HOW PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING WORKS

Communities make budget decisions through an annual cycle of meetings and voting.

Most experiences follow a similar basic process:

- *residents brainstorm spending ideas;*
- *volunteer budget delegates develop proposals based on these ideas;*
- *residents vote on proposals;*
- *and the government funds the top projects.*

After funding, the process starts again, and PB becomes part of the way government works.



HISTORY OF PB

The Brazilian City of Porto Alegre started the first full participatory budgeting process in 1989. Since then, PB has spread to over 3,000 cities around the world, and been used for counties, states, housing authorities, schools, universities, and other institutions.

OUTCOMES OF PB

- More civic engagement
- Broader political participation
- New community leaders and more active citizens
- Stronger relationships between government, organizations, and residents
- Fairer and more effective spending

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