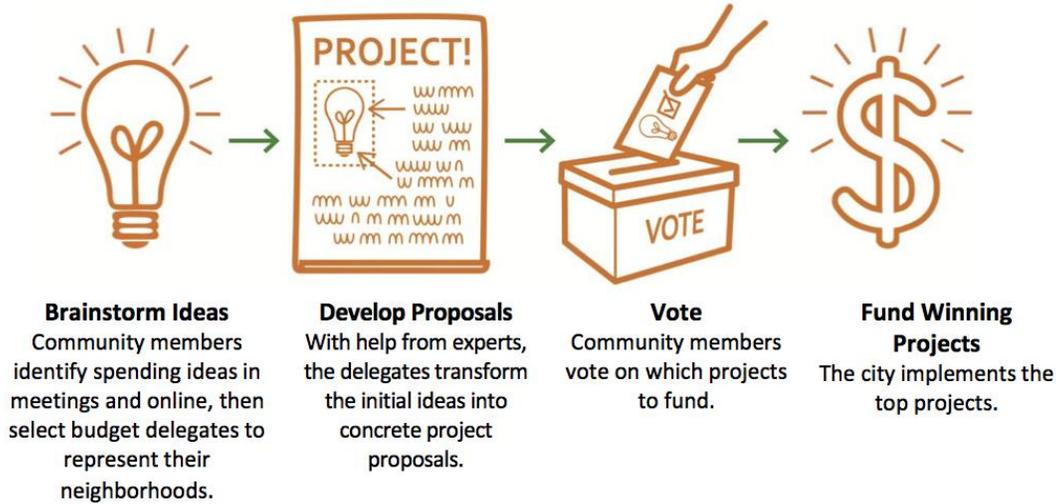


About Participatory Budgeting

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend part of a public budget. Through an annual cycle of meetings and voting, PB gives ordinary people real decision-making power over real money. PB has been used for over 1,500 city budgets across the globe, and these experiences typically follow a similar process:



Step 1: Brainstorm Ideas – Participants would meet at a public meeting in April to brainstorm ideas that will be considered for project proposals. At this public meeting, all attendees will be asked to assign themselves to a particular committee throughout this process. There will be a total of 4 resident committees; the “name” or focus of each committee will be discussed in a group setting before folks assign themselves. This will allow for participants to rank the top 4 issues that are most important to them. Each committee will congregate in different parts of the public venue (likely the CCC East Room), for introductions, the selection/vote of co-chairs (at most 2 individuals), and the facilitation by these co-chairs on the initial brainstorming of ideas. *NOTE: each committee will be allocated a \$2,500 ceiling for project proposals.*

Step 2: Develop and Present Proposals - Between the April meeting kick-off and the next public meeting in May, the resident committee members will be encouraged to develop more extensive proposals on the ideas they have put forward. Either the individuals in the group can decide to work on proposal they are passionate about, or the group can decide to work jointly on a proposal. While proposals are being developed, the help of the Mayor and City Council members will be available to help answer questions about the various laws and regulations on the books that might limit or enhance the scope of a specific proposal. At the May public meeting, these proposals will be discussed amongst the committee members present, and then presented to the larger group as the last item at the meeting. *NOTE: if a committee doesn't develop a proposal, then the appropriated funds for that committee are negated from the process.*

Step 3: VOTE - Between the May public meeting and the June public meeting, community members fitting the criteria laid out by the City Council Resolution will have further opportunity to discuss, campaign, lobby their fellow neighbors on the proposals that they feel are the best to vote for. At the June public meeting, a public vote will take place by approved voting community members on each of the proposals. Each approved voter will be given 4 vote cards in which to vote for 1 of the proposals out of the 4 resident committees. *NOTE: you are not required to have attended the previous meetings to attend and participate in the public vote meeting.*

Step 4: Fund Winning Projects - The successful proposals will be transmitted to the City Council for discussion at the June Work Session, and then for final vote at the July City Council meeting.