KEY DATA FOR PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN NEW YORK CITY 2012-2013

BY THE NUMBERS

- OVERALL
  - 8 Council Members allocated a total of $9.4 million of capital funds
  - Engaged 14,000 residents in participatory budgeting (PB)
- NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLIES
  - 1,546 residents attended 43 assemblies and suggested over 1,500 project ideas.
- BUDGET DELEGATES
  - Over 280 volunteers selected 121 projects for the PB ballot.
- VOTE
  - Over 13,035 residents voted and selected 45 winning projects ($9.4 million).

METHODOLOGY

The data collection and analysis for this year’s New York City participatory budgeting process was coordinated by the Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center. An advisory board comprised of academics from CUNY, Pratt Institute, Queens College and Marymount Manhattan College provided input and guidance on research design. Community Voices Heard and The Participatory Budgeting Project served as overall coordinators of the PB process.

To date, researchers have collected:
- 924 surveys at 43 neighborhood assemblies;
- 7,300 surveys from PB voters;
- 82 exit interviews with PB voters;
- 25 interviews with budget delegates (expecting to conduct 50 more);
- 31 meeting observations.

KEY TRENDS FROM VOTER SURVEYS

PB brings people that are disillusioned with government into the political process:
- More than half (52%) of PB voters disapprove with how government business is conducted in the NYC government.

PB creates new civic participants:
- Half of the voters had not worked with anyone in their community to solve a community problem before voting in PB.
• One-third of PB not likely general election voters (reported that they rarely vote, sometimes miss or never vote).

• About 40% of PB Voters reported that they are not members of any groups or associations.

• Over 600 voters had barriers to vote in general elections (non-citizens, people under 18, ex-offenders):
  o About 500 voters identified as non-citizens; 125 were under 18; 21 identified as ex-offenders.

PB mobilizes long term residents:
• 68% have lived in neighborhood for more than 8 years; 46% more than 15 years.

Other characteristics of voters:
• New to participatory budgeting
  o 72% of PB voters didn’t vote in last year’s PB process (only includes Districts 8, 32, 39 and 45)

• Gender
  o Over 60% of voters were women.

• Race/Ethnicity
  o Citywide, more than a third of PB voters were people of color.
    ▪ White: 64%
    ▪ Black: 12%
    ▪ Latino: 14%
    ▪ Asian: 8%
  o District 8:
    ▪ 53% of PB voters identified as Latino/a compared to 39% of voters in the 2009 local elections.
  o District 45:
    ▪ 89% of PB voters identified as Black compared to 79% of voters in the 2009 local elections.

• Country of Origin/Language
  o 24% of PB voters were born outside of U.S.
  o 14% speak a language other than English at home.

• Income
  o Citywide, 23% of voters reported household incomes below $35,000.
  o District 45:
    ▪ 16% of PB voters had incomes below $15,000 compared to only 2% of voters in the 2009 local elections
  o District 8:
    ▪ 40% of PB voters had incomes below $15,000 compared to 28% of voters in the 2009 local elections