

A PEOPLE'S BUDGET



A Research and
Evaluation Report

on the Pilot Year of
Participatory Budgeting
in New York City

By the Community Development Project
at the Urban Justice Center
with the PBNYC Research Team



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Participants discuss whether or not project ideas are eligible for participatory budgeting during a neighborhood assembly in Flatbush, Brooklyn.

Introduction



In March, thousands of New Yorkers went to the polls. But they weren't voting for Democrats or Republicans; they were casting ballots for computer labs in schools, a meal program for senior citizens and a composting system, through a groundbreaking process called Participatory Budgeting (PB).

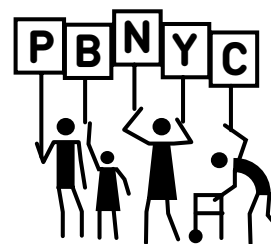
There are over 1,000 participatory budgets around the world,¹ most at the municipal level. These diverse undertakings generally follow a basic process: residents brainstorm ideas, volunteer budget delegates develop proposals based on these ideas, residents vote on proposals, and the city implements projects.

This year, four New York City Council Members—Brad Lander, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Eric Ulrich, and Jumaane D. Williams—partnered with community groups, led by Community Voices Heard and the Participatory Budget Project, to pilot Participatory Budgeting, or what the New York Times called “revolutionary civics in action,”² relinquishing decision-making power over about \$6 million along the way. While PB has its roots in Brazil, New York was only the second city in the United States to implement participatory budgeting.

In New York City, budget allocations usually happen quietly, behind closed doors. City Council Members might make their best guesses at what their constituents want, work with the city agencies they know best, or allocate funds to the residents and organizations that have the means to participate.

Not this year. Over 2,000 community members were the ones to propose capital project ideas in neighborhood assemblies and town hall meetings in the fall of 2011. During the winter, budget delegates put in some 15,000 volunteer hours, vetting costs and the feasibility of projects with city agencies and preparing proposals for the ballots. Six thousand people selected 27 projects, which totaled \$5.6 million dollars. Several Council Members also committed funds for projects that were not selected or eligible for PB. Voters included those that the government bars from traditional elections: undocumented immigrants and the formerly incarcerated.

Knowing that their opinions finally mattered, city residents turned off or typically excluded by politics got involved for the first time. Of the New Yorkers who attended assemblies, 62 percent reported that American democracy is in need of a lot of changes or should be completely revamped. Almost half had never before contacted a civil servant or elected official—yet there they were, participating.



6,000 people
selected
27 projects
totaling
\$5.6 million
dollars



Participatory budgeting holds the potential to not only reconnect us to government, but with each other—to help us build coalitions across political, racial and class lines, to address inequalities within the American public. PB mobilized a racially and ethnically diverse cross-section of New Yorkers, and through this process renewed their faith that government can do better and be more transparent, equitable, and inclusive.

Research and Evaluation

In order to track participation, examine shifts in civic participation and attitudes towards government, and conduct ongoing evaluation throughout the PB process, a research and evaluation team was formed, comprising scholars, professional researchers, and graduate students. Overall, researchers collected over 5,000 surveys, 35 in-depth interviews, and 91 observations at key points during the PB process. Unless otherwise noted, all data in the report derives from this research. Researchers also analyzed baseline data about the participating districts, such as overall income, race, gender and education demographics and voting patterns, in order to draw meaningful comparisons between PB participants and the broader population.

Overall, the data included in this report show that PB brought together thousands of New Yorkers from diverse backgrounds, many of whom do not typically participate in politics or have contact with government. These participants developed close connections with Council Members, neighbors and organizations in their districts. They gained valuable leadership skills and knowledge about government, and learned to work collaboratively to solve community problems. The following report details the pilot process from 2011-12 and provides key trends and lessons learned from the initial year in NYC.

PB brought together thousands of New Yorkers from diverse backgrounds, many of whom do not typically participate in politics

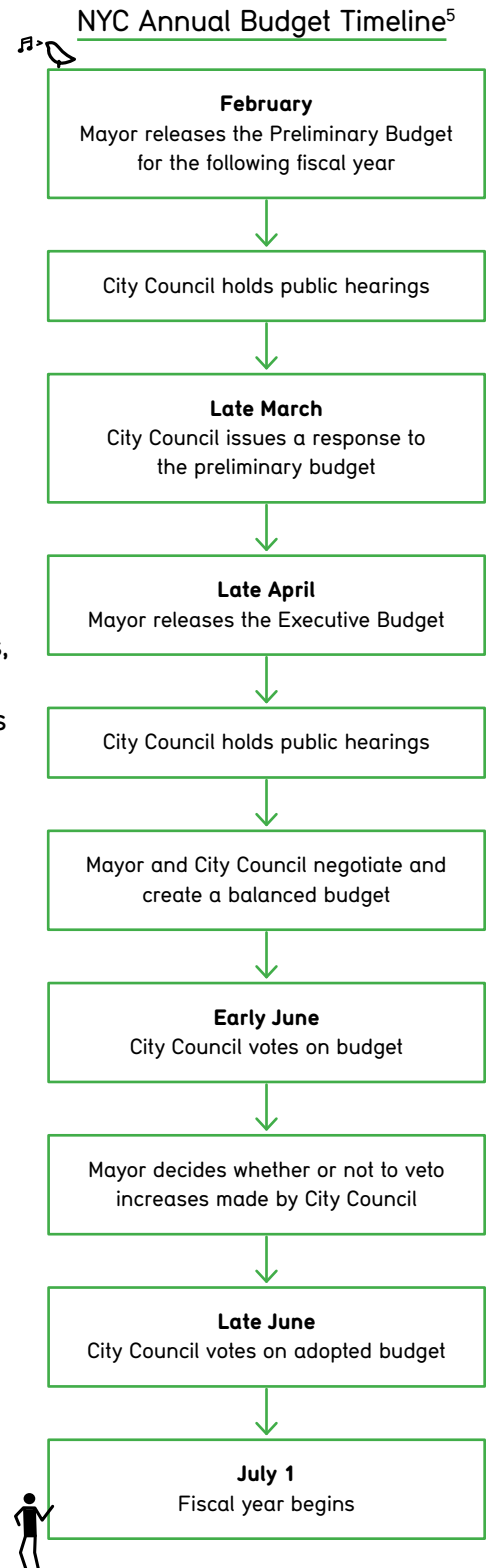


Background

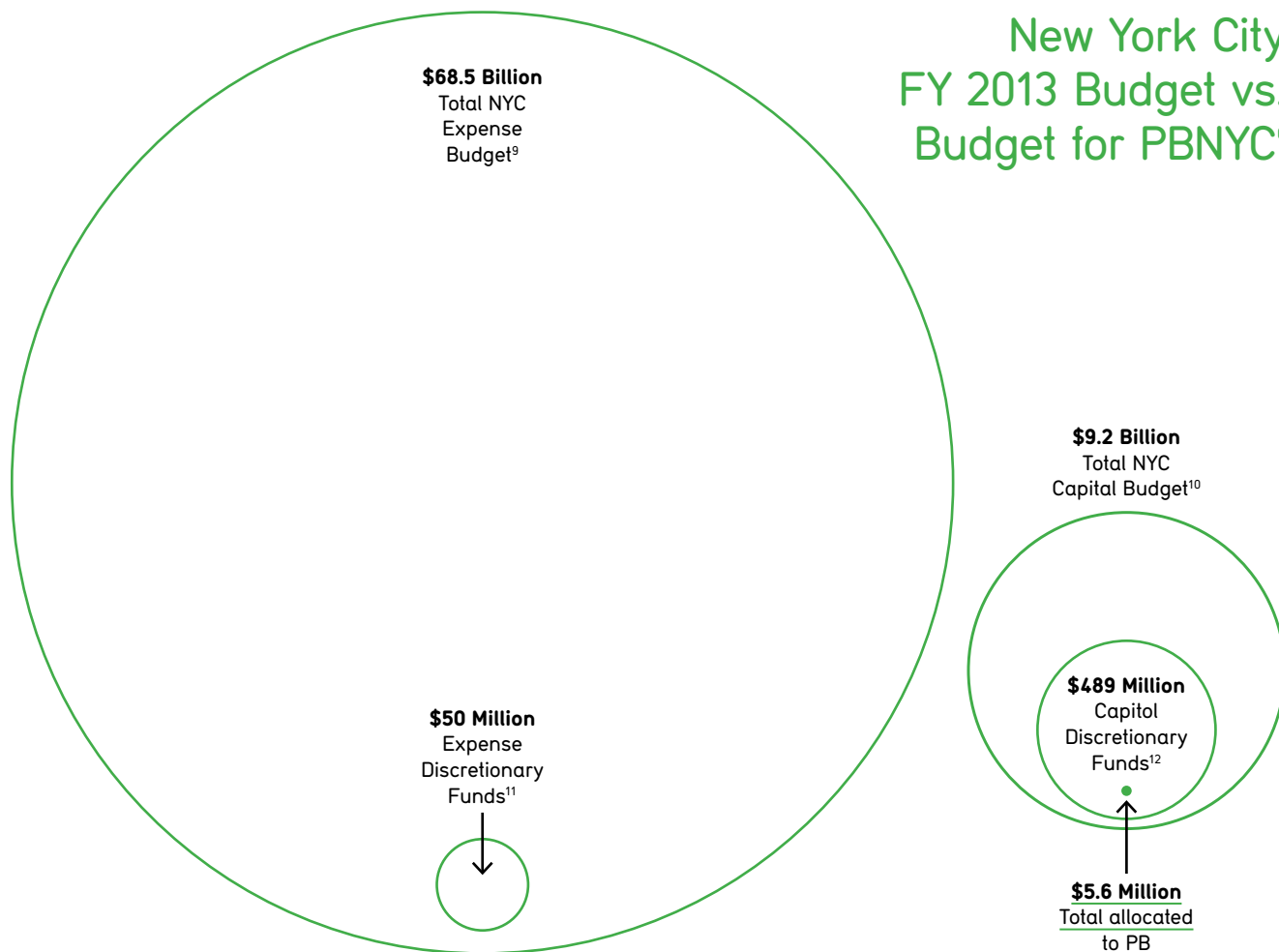
How the NYC Budget Works

To understand why Participatory Budgeting is unique, it is helpful to consider how PB compares to the traditional budgeting process in NYC. As indicated by the timeline on the right, every February the Mayor releases a preliminary budget. The City Council then holds hearings on the Mayor's budget, where community members can testify about their concerns and priorities but have no opportunity to play a meaningful or decisive role in what gets funded. The following month, the City Council submits a response to the Mayor's budget, which may or may not incorporate testimony from the public hearings. Behind closed doors, the Mayor and City Council then do more negotiating, and the City Council holds more hearings. In late April, the Mayor releases his executive budget, which in the last several years has included cuts to critical services, like senior centers, childcare and HIV/AIDS services.³ A political performance ensues: the City Council fights with the Mayor, and community groups and activists protest to restore budget cuts. Finally, in late June, the City Council and Mayor approve a budget. This annual process, known as the "budget dance"⁴ exemplifies the centralization of power, inequity and lack of transparency that tends to characterize typical government decision-making.

The fiscal year begins July 1st and ends June 30th. The budget for a fiscal year includes expenditures (all the money that the city government thinks it will spend) and revenues (everything it expects to bring in through taxes and fees).



New York City FY 2013 Budget vs. Budget for PBNYC⁶



**PB is a tiny fraction
of the overall
budget:**

0.008%
of the Total NYC
Expense Budget

0.06%
of the NYC
Capital Budget

1%
of Capital Discretionary
Funds Allocated By
City Council

Expense Budget: Pays for the annual operating costs of the city, such as the salaries of teachers and police officers, supplies, contracted services with non-profits and debt service. This is like a household's annual budget that includes food, clothing, and childcare.

Capital Budget: Pays for infrastructure projects that benefit the city well beyond the time of purchase, such as constructing a firehouse, repaving a road or sidewalk or building a new sewer.

Discretionary funds: City budget resources allocated by elected officials. The City Council, individual Council Members, the Speaker and the Borough Presidents can all allocate pots of discretionary money. Like the overall budget, there are two types of discretionary resources: expense funds, to finance programs; and capital funds, for infrastructure projects.

Council Member discretionary funds: Each Council Member can allocate between approximately \$2 and \$9 million dollars as

individual discretionary funds. The amount of discretionary funds that a Council Member receives each year is determined by the City Council Speaker, depending on factors such as length of time in office, committee appointments and relationship to the Speaker.⁷ In recent years, critics have accused the City Council Speaker of inequitably distributing discretionary funds to benefit her political allies and short-change her critics.⁸

Eligible Participatory Budgeting Projects: For the first year of PB, Council Member discretionary funds were used to pay for only capital items. There is a very strict test for funding projects in the city's Capital Budget. **In order to be eligible for PB, a project must meet all of the following three conditions:**

- 1. Cost at least \$35,000**
- 2. Have a "useful life" of at least five years**
- 3. Involve the construction, reconstruction, acquisition, or installation of a physical public improvement**

Participatory Budgeting

In contrast to the annual budget dance and arbitrary allocation of discretionary funds, participatory budgeting stresses three core principles: transparency, equity and inclusion. This means that the items funded through a participatory budget are selected with the maximum amount of public input, aim to benefit those most in need and engage the most diverse set of stakeholders possible in decision-making.

There are over 1,000 participatory budgets around the world, most at the municipal level.¹³ These diverse undertakings generally follow a basic process: residents brainstorm ideas, volunteer budget delegates develop proposals based on these ideas, residents vote on proposals, and the city implements projects. For example, if community members identify recreation spaces as a priority, their delegates might develop a proposal for basketball court renovations. Residents would then vote on this and other proposals. If the voters approve the basketball court, the city pays to renovate it.

The most famous example of PB comes from the Brazilian city of Porto Alegre, where since 1989 as many as 50,000 people have decided how to allocate as much as 20% of the city budget.¹⁴ Such high levels of public involvement in deliberation and decision-making resulted in more equitable distribution of funds and markedly improved the quality of life.¹⁵ Because of this success, PB has spread to cities in Latin America, Asia, Africa, Europe and North America over the past 20 years. Countries such as the United Kingdom and Dominican Republic have mandated that all local governments implement PB.¹⁶ States, counties, public housing authorities, schools and community organizations have also used PB for their budgets. The United Nations and The World Bank have promoted PB as a best practice of democratic governance.¹⁷

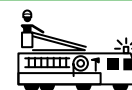
Participants in PBNYC focused on three core principles: transparency, equity and inclusion

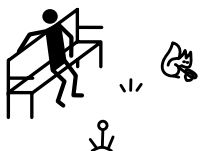
How PB Got to NYC

In 2011, New York City became only the second place in the United States to do participatory budgeting, thanks to the efforts of four NYC Council Members and 42 organizations headed up by Community Voices Heard and the Participatory Budgeting Project (see appendix for a full list of participating organizations). Between October 2011 and March 2012, each participating Council Member let residents directly decide how to spend at least \$1 million of discretionary capital funds.

Community Voices Heard (CVH), a membership-led organization founded in 1994 by women on welfare, first learned of PB during the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2002. In the years following, members and staff of CVH worked with the Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP) to learn more about the

Each Council Member let residents directly decide how to spend at least \$1 million of discretionary capital funds





Because of the visible success of PB in its pilot year, participation will double for the next cycle



process. PBP introduced CVH to those involved with participatory budgeting in Chicago and Toronto and, as a result, CVH became increasingly interested in bringing the model to NYC. In 2010, PBP organized three events: a public talk at Pratt Institute attended by Council Members Brad Lander and Melissa Mark-Viverito; an event at Brooklyn College, attended by Council Member Jumaane D. Williams; and a briefing for the full City Council about PB, sponsored by Lander and Mark-Viverito.¹⁸ In March 2011, Lander, Mark-Viverito and Williams, all Democrats and members of the City Council's Progressive Caucus, as well as Republican Eric Ulrich, agreed to implement PB in their districts.

Because of the visible success of PB in its pilot year, participation will double for the next cycle in 2012-13, with four additional Council Members joining the process. NYC has inspired other cities and institutions around the country to adopt PB, including Brooklyn College and the City of Vallejo, California.¹⁹

Timeline and Description of Phases of PB in NYC

In May 2011, a city-wide Steering Committee, composed of 42 organizations and led by Community Voices Heard and Participatory Budgeting Project, was established to plan and oversee the PB process in New York City. District Committees were also formed to coordinate local implementation. These committees spent months working with the Council Members to design and plan the process.

In September 2011, the four Council Members and the Steering Committee officially launched the process at a press conference at City Hall. Speaking on the steps of City Hall, Council Member Lander said, "We are excited to put budgeting power directly in the hands of the people. Not only will next year's budget be more democratic as a result, it will also be more effective, because our constituents know best where money needs to go in our community."²⁰ Council Member Williams added, "The message behind participatory budgeting is 'your money, your vote, your choice',"²¹ while Council Member Mark-Viverito said, "Participatory budgeting asks citizens how they want their taxpayer dollars reinvested in our communities, and encourages civic participation across the neighborhoods we represent. It is a real step towards true democracy in our city, and I am excited to bring this process to my district."²² Council Member Ulrich said, "This is an effort to bring the public into the budget decision-making process."²³

In October 2011, the PB team rolled out the process with approximately 2,000 residents attending 27 neighborhood assemblies across the four districts. Through the assemblies and project website, residents submitted nearly 2,000 ideas for capital projects, and over 250 people volunteered to serve as budget delegates. In November,

"The message behind participatory budgeting is 'your money, your vote, your choice'"

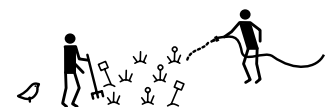
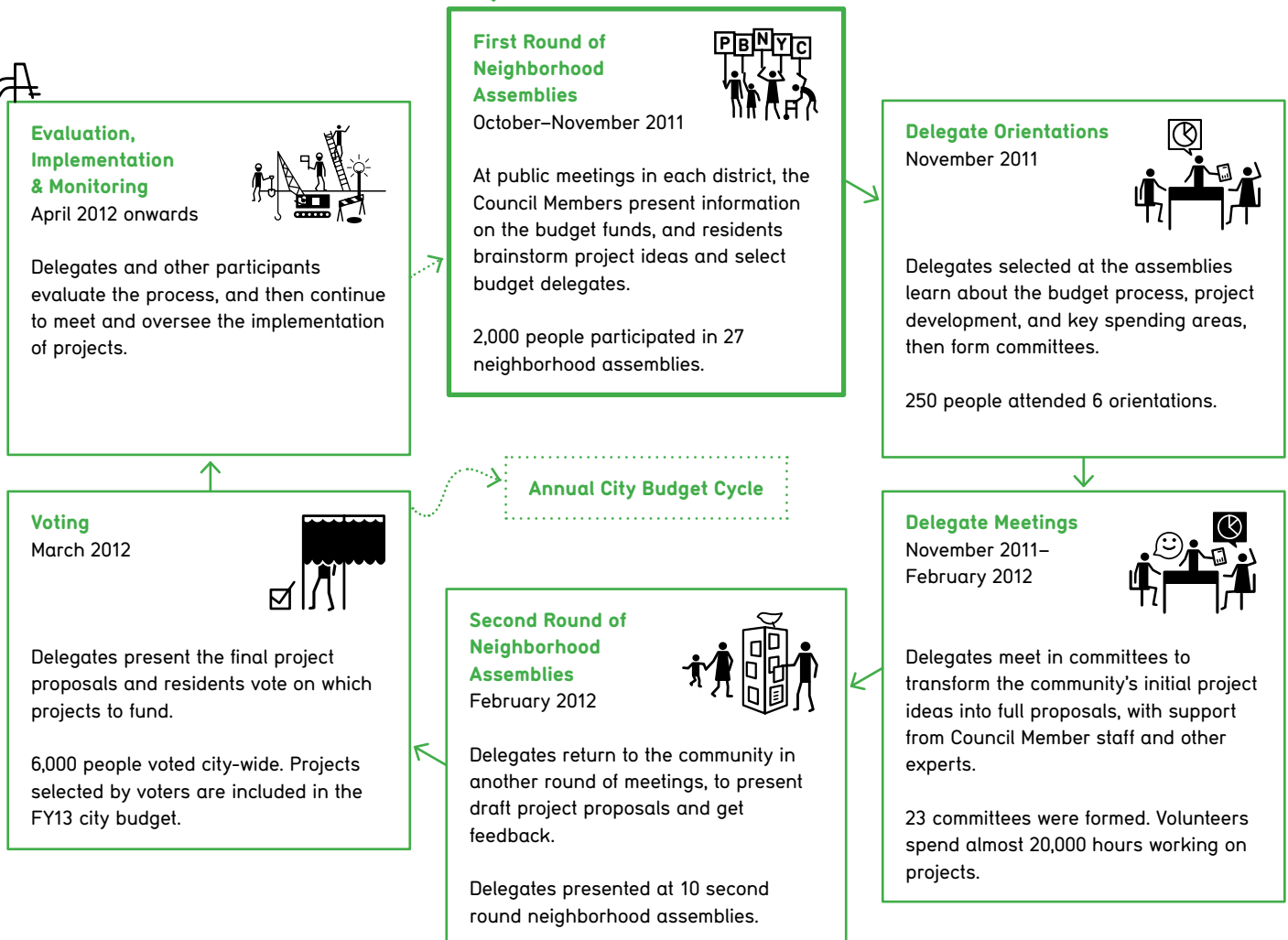
the delegates began researching, revising and prioritizing the initial project ideas and transformed them into detailed and concrete proposals. In February 2012, the delegates presented and received feedback on the proposals at another round of neighborhood assemblies.

At the end of March, residents 18 years and older in each district voted for five out of about 20 projects that made it onto the ballot.²⁴ In total, about 6,000 people voted for projects. Twenty-seven projects won, totaling \$5.6 million. In addition, other projects that were not selected by voters or were ineligible for PB ended up being funded through other mechanisms.

In 2011-2012 the PBNYC process had six main steps that fed into the city's annual budget cycle:

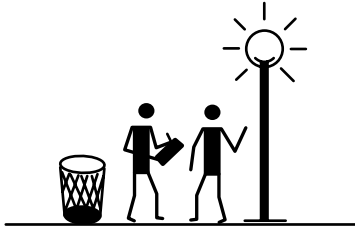


How PBNYC Works



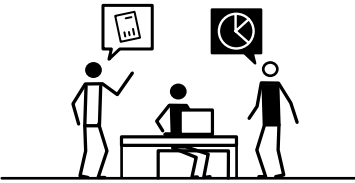
Roles and Responsibilities: Who does what in PBNYC?

Participatory budgeting engages a wide array of stakeholders, from individual community members, grassroots community organizations and policy and good government groups to community boards, civic associations and Council Member offices. Each plays a role in the process.



Community Stakeholders

In each district, community members identify local problems and needs, propose project ideas, provide input and feedback on project proposals, encourage people to participate, volunteer to be budget delegates (if they are at least 16 years old and live, work, own a business or attend school or have children attending school in the district), and vote on project proposals (if they are at least 18 years old and live in the district). While the voting age for the pilot phase was 18, it will be lowered to 16 for year two.



Budget Delegates

In each district, delegates do the extra work necessary to turn resident ideas into real projects. They research local problems, needs and projects; learn about the budget process; discuss and prioritize initial project ideas; develop full project proposals (with technical assistance from experts); update residents on project proposals and solicit feedback; and monitor and provide input on the implementation of projects.

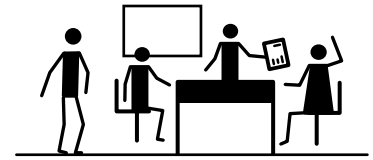


District Committees

In each district, a District Committee (DC) composed of local organizations, institutions and community boards manages the PB process locally. The DC plans and determines the number of neighborhood assemblies, distributes educational and promotional materials about the PB process, develops outreach plans and mobilizes residents to participate, and facilitates budget assemblies and delegate meetings.

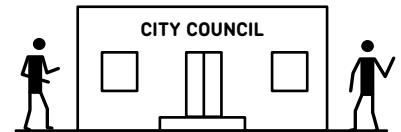
City-wide Steering Committee

A Steering Committee (SC) coordinates the PB process across the participating districts. The committee includes the participating Council Members, the project heads, community boards and community-based organizations from the participating Council districts and city-wide organizations focused on good government, research, policy, organizing and community education. The SC designs, oversees and revises rules to the PB process, and also creates and distributes educational and promotional materials about it. See appendix for full list of Steering Committee members.



Council Member Offices

Staff from each district's Council Member office participates in the Steering Committee and the local District Committee. They assist with committee responsibilities, provide information on the budget funds and past spending, secure spaces for assemblies and meetings, provide cost estimates for project proposals, offer feedback and technical assistance on project proposals, serve as a liaison between budget delegates and city agencies, coordinate the public vote and deliver final budget priorities to the city.



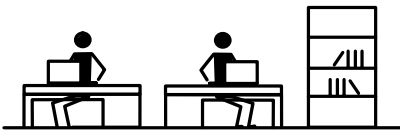
PBNYC Steering Committee Members
deliberating in a workshop.

Research Methodology

Over 5000
surveys
90 observations
30 in-depth
interviews

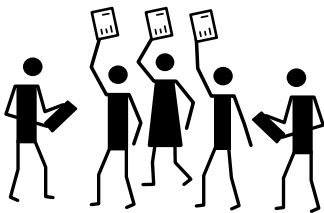
Throughout the PB process, the PBNYC Research Team, led by the Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center, conducted over 5,000 surveys, 90 observations and 30 in-depth interviews in the four participating City Council districts. Quantitative and qualitative data was collected to examine participation at key points in the PB process, to examine the impact PB has on civic engagement and governance and to conduct ongoing evaluation of the process. Specifically, data was collected at neighborhood assemblies, the budget delegate orientation and the vote.

Methods



Background and Secondary Research

Researchers collected data on the NYC budget, population demographics and voting patterns in the participating districts to explore how PB impacts government spending and operations, and to conduct a comparative analysis of participation in PB. Data sources include Census data, the General Social Survey and 2009 voter data from the Voter Activation Network and Catalist.



Surveys and Evaluation Forms

Over 5,000 surveys were collected to examine who participated in PB, how they learned from the process and what outreach methods were most effective.

Survey respondents included:

- Neighborhood Assembly participants: **796**
- Budget Delegates: **251 surveys at beginning** and **95 at the end of the process**
- Facilitators of Neighborhood Assemblies and Budget Delegate meetings: **150**
- Voters: **3,746**

In-depth Interviews

Researchers conducted **35 in-depth interviews** with neighborhood assembly participants, budget delegates, steering and district committee members and Council Member staff to examine how and why people participated in PB, what participants learned from PB, and how it affected relationships between city officials, city staff and community members.



Observations

Researchers collected **91 observations of PB meetings and events** to examine the dynamics of participation in PB.



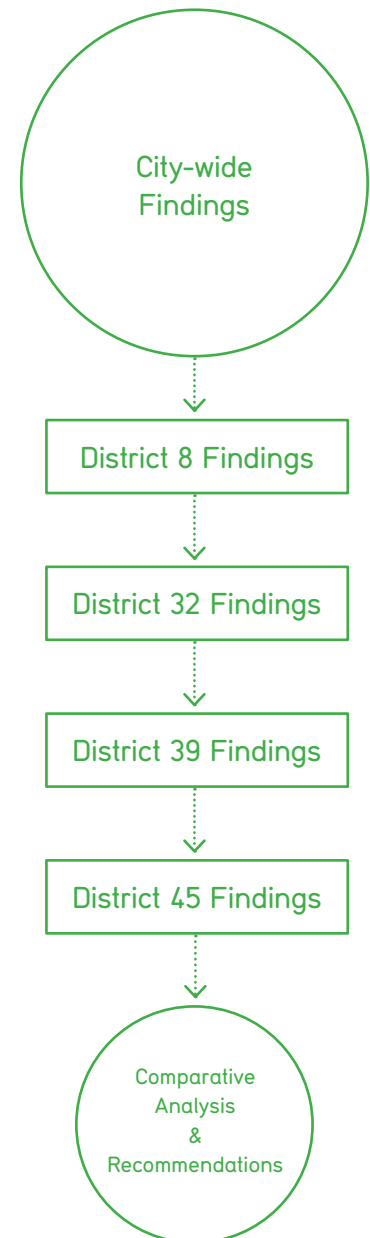
Roadmap for report

This report has six sections.









These include a **city-wide section**, which presents aggregated data on participation, civic engagement, outreach and proposed and funded projects for the four participating City Council districts.

The subsequent sections provide a more **detailed breakdown of PB in each of the districts**: 8 (Mark-Viverito), 32 (Ulrich), 39 (Lander) and 45 (Williams).

The report concludes with a **comparative analysis of the four districts** and a set of **recommendations for future participatory budgeting processes** in NYC and beyond.



Participating NYC Council Districts: 8, 32, 39 and 45

Council Member	District	Neighborhoods	Key Demographics	Unique Characteristics
<p>Melissa Mark-Viverito, Democrat</p> 	<p>8th Manhattan The Bronx</p> 	<p>Manhattan Valley, El Barrio/East Harlem, Mott Haven, Central Park, Randall's Island</p>	<p>50% of the district's population identifies as Hispanic/Latino/a, 23% as Black/African American, and 19% as White²⁵</p> <p>40% of residents are lower income (less than \$25,000)²⁶</p>	<p>District encompasses Central Park and Randalls Island</p> <p>Neighborhoods span from the Upper West Side to East Harlem/El Barrio to the South Bronx</p> <p>Has the greatest concentration of public housing in the city.</p>
<p>Eric Ulrich, Republican</p> 	<p>32nd Queens</p> 	<p>Belle Harbor, Breezy Point, Broad Channel, Rockaway Park, and Rockaway Beach</p>	<p>68% of the district's population identifies as White²⁷</p> <p>40% of the district has household income of \$25,000 to 75,000²⁸</p>	<p>Most of the district is located on a peninsula known for its beaches and parks.</p> <p>Only a portion of the district participated in PB.</p>
<p>Brad Lander, Democrat</p> 	<p>39th Brooklyn</p> 	<p>Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Columbia Waterfront, Gowanus, Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Boro Park, and Kensington</p>	<p>Large Bangladeshi population in Kensington</p> <p>66% of the district's population identifies as White²⁹</p> <p>57% of residents have a college education³⁰</p>	<p>The district is intersected by the Gowanus Canal and contains several parks and cemeteries. These geographical characteristics create distinct neighborhoods: including wealthy Park Slope; Kensington with a large Bangladeshi population; and finally Borough Park, a Jewish enclave.³¹</p>
<p>Jumaane D. Williams, Democrat</p> 	<p>45th Brooklyn</p> 	<p>Flatbush, East Flatbush, Flatlands, and parts of Midwood and Canarsie</p>	<p>76% of the district's population identifies as Black/African American³²</p> <p>45% of residents have a college education³³</p>	<p>Has the largest foreign-born population in Brooklyn, made up of immigrants from Jamaica, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago.³⁴</p>

City-wide Findings

From November until March of 2012, four Council Members: Melissa Mark-Viverito (D-8), Eric Ulrich (R-32), Brad Lander (D-39) and Jumaane D. Williams (D-45), serving four distinct constituencies, took part in the pilot year of participatory budgeting in NYC. Based on an aggregate analysis of over 5,000 surveys, 35 interviews, 91 observations and multiple secondary data sources collected across the four districts, researchers developed a set of city-wide findings.

Overall, the data shows that PB brought together thousands of New Yorkers from diverse backgrounds, many of whom would not otherwise participate in politics or have contact with government. Research shows that these participants learned how the budget works; developed close connections with Council Members, other residents and organizations in their districts and learned to work collaboratively to solve community problems.

PB engaged 7,736 people: 2,138 neighborhood assembly and 245 online participants, 251 budget delegates and almost 6,000 voters



Budget delegates attend an orientation to learn more about the city budget and how to turn project ideas into concrete proposals that can be voted on by residents in their district.

Who Participated in PBNYC?

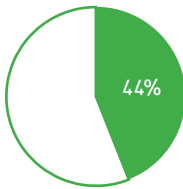
In its pilot year, PB engaged 7,736 people, including: 2,138 neighborhood assembly and 245 online participants; 251 Budget Delegates; and almost 6,000 voters.³⁵ In addition, hundreds more joined the process as volunteer members of the Steering and District Committees. Demographic information collected at key points during the process indicates the following:

PB mobilized long-term residents, many of whom had NOT previously worked for community change.

"Before [PB], you heard from civic associations or a block association or a tenant association or a non-profit, but those are naturally organized constituencies already. The point is that people, who don't feel a part of those groups for whatever reason, still have a way in."

— **Bart Haggarty**, Chief of Staff, Office of Eric Ulrich, District 32

Percentage of PB voters who had never worked with others in their community to solve a problem



- 75% of neighborhood assembly participants and 78% of PB voters lived in their neighborhood for more than 8 years; 55% of assembly participants and 60% of PB voters lived in their neighborhood for more than 15 years.
- 1 out of 3 neighborhood assembly participants and budget delegates and 44% of PB voters had never worked with others in their community to solve a problem before PB.

PB Mobilized a racially and ethnically diverse cross-section of New Yorkers.

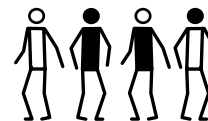
- 20% of PB voters identified as African American; 14% as Hispanic or Latino/a; 2% as Asian and 2% as "Other."
- A higher percentage of African Americans participated in neighborhood assemblies (38%), compared to the full population in the four districts (31%).³⁶
- 21% of budget delegates and 19% of PB voters were born outside of the United States.
- 1 out of 10 PB voters reported that English is not their primary language.

PB voters identified as:
20% African American
14% Hispanic or Latino/a
2% Asian
2% Other



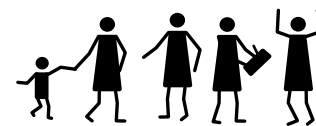
People of color actively participated in PB meetings and discussions.

- 87% of participants who identified as Black/African American, 81% of Asians and 79% of Latino/as made specific budget proposals at neighborhood assemblies.
- Participants that identified as Black/African American were the most likely to volunteer to be budget delegates.



Although women reported starting the PB process with less comfort in their leadership skills and more skepticism about government, they were the most likely to actively participate in all phases of PB.

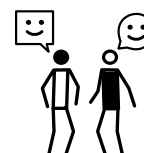
- Only 24% of female budget delegates reported that they felt “very comfortable” with public speaking prior to starting PB, compared to 40% of male delegates.
- Only 18% of female budget delegates reported that they felt “very comfortable” with negotiating and building agreement prior to starting PB, compared to 30% of male delegates.
- 64% of women neighborhood assembly participants think that government needs a lot of changes or that it needs to be completely changed, compared to 58% of male participants.
- However, women were 64% of neighborhood assembly participants, 65% of budget delegates and 62% of voters in the PB process.



Women were over 60% of the participants in each stage of the process

Non-English speakers and those born outside of the U.S. were actively engaged in PB.

- 21% of budget delegates and 19% of PB voters were born outside of the United States.
- 1 out of 10 PB voters reported that English is not their primary language.
- 89% of Spanish-speaking participants spoke during the small group discussion at the neighborhood assembly and 42% of Spanish-speaking participants volunteered to be budget delegates.



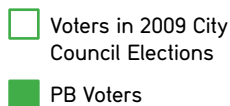
21% of budget delegates and 19% of voters were foreign-born

How did Participatory Budgeting compare to previous patterns of civic engagement?

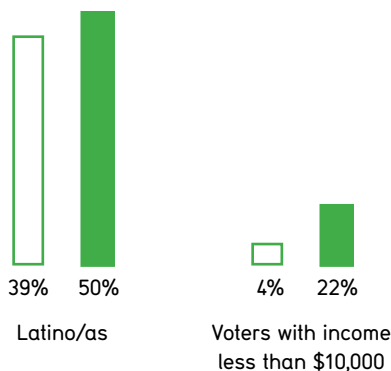
One of the most striking findings about who participated in PB is how the data compares to other types of civic engagement, particularly voting patterns in NYC elections. Across the districts, PB engaged communities that have traditionally been uninspired by politics. People of color, low-income people and some immigrant groups turned out at higher rates than in previous elections. More than just getting people to vote, PB deepened the connections between residents and the government.

People of color and low-income people participated in PB at higher rates than traditional electoral politics.

Demographics of PB Voters compared to Voters in 2009 City Council Elections



District 8



Melissa Mark-Viverito, District 8:

- Latino/as were 39% of voters in the 2009 City Council elections.³⁷ However, 46% of the district's neighborhood assembly participants and 50% of PB voters identified as Latino/a.
- 22% of PB voters had household income less than \$10,000 compared to 4% of the district's voters in the 2009 City Council election.³⁸

Jumaane D. Williams, District 45:

- Black or African Americans were 79% of voters in 2009 City Council elections.³⁹ However, 83% of the district's neighborhood assembly participants and 87% of the district's PB voters identified as Black or African American.
- 21% PB voters had household income less than \$25,000 compared to 6% of the district's voters in the 2009 election.⁴⁰

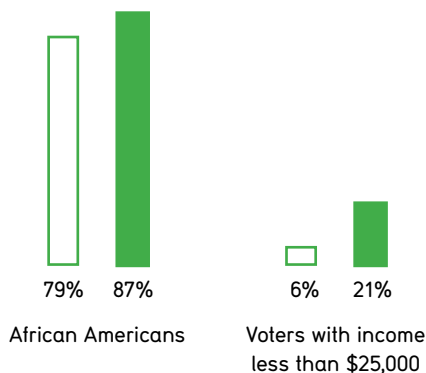
Eric Ulrich, District 32:

- 9% PB voters had household income less than \$25,000 compared to 1% of the district's voters in the 2009 election.⁴¹

Brad Lander, District 39:

- Approximately 10% of the ballots for the PB vote were cast in a language other than English.

District 45



PB created deeper connections to government and community for participants, many of whom were disillusioned or disengaged from politics.

“Early in the process, Council Member Viverito got approached by someone from Douglass Houses [NYCHA public housing] and he told her, ‘I don’t vote, I don’t come to any meetings but this sounded really interesting,’ and he said, ‘You better be serious about this. You’re not gonna just bring us out here then go do whatever you want.’ And she gave her word and then I actually saw him come out to vote so he obviously went through with the whole process.”

— **Joe Taranto**, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Melissa Mark-Viverito, District 8

Before PB:

- Almost half of the neighborhood assembly participants had not contacted an elected official in the year before PB.
- Almost 2 out of 3 (61%) neighborhood assembly participants think our system of democracy needs a lot of changes or that it needs to be completely changed, compared to 1 out of 3 (33%) in the general population.⁴²
- About 40% of PB voters either sometimes miss, rarely vote or never vote in local elections.

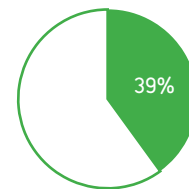
After PB:

- Budget delegates were more likely to be “very comfortable” contacting government agencies and officials after PB.
- 82% of budget delegates said they were more likely to participate in a community organization after PB.
- 78% of PB voters felt that they understood the needs of their council district better after voting.

“[The] benefit is that people feel they are part of the political process. It’s always that the government doesn’t do anything... but we make up the government too.”

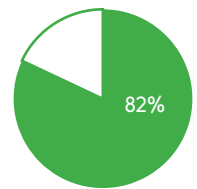
— **PBNYC participant**

Before PB



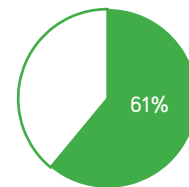
PB voters that sometimes miss, rarely vote or never vote in local elections

After PB



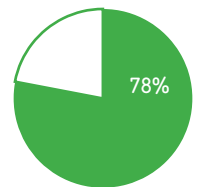
Budget delegates that were more likely to participate in a community organization

Before PB



Participants that think our system of democracy needs a lot of changes

After PB



PB voters that felt they understood the needs of their council district better after voting

Targeted Outreach & Engagement

In year one of PBNYC, the city-wide Steering Committee identified “inclusion” as one of the core values to be advanced in the process:

All voices in the community should be included—especially those of community members who feel disillusioned with the political process or face obstacles to participating. By making every effort to reduce obstacles to participation, we hope to prevent the ‘usual suspects’ or groups with more resources from dominating, and to generate projects that better reflect community needs.

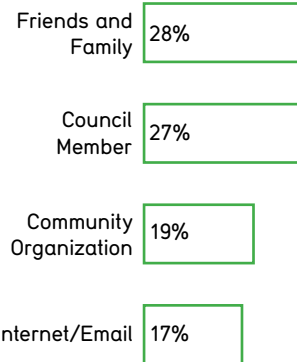
In order to involve people beyond the “usual suspects,” extra efforts needed to be made. Community Voices Heard (CVH), the Lead Community Engagement entity for PBNYC, saw supporting and coordinating this work as one of its primary functions.

A city-wide Outreach Workgroup was established to bring together key Council staff, community organizing district partners—such as the Flatbush Development Corporation and the Fifth Avenue Committee in Brooklyn—and groups with inroads into local communities, such as the New York Immigration Coalition. This workgroup identified traditionally excluded communities and constituencies in the various districts, brainstormed organizations that might help to connect with these groups, and prepared memos to help guide the District Committees in thinking about their outreach plans in a holistic and inclusive manner.

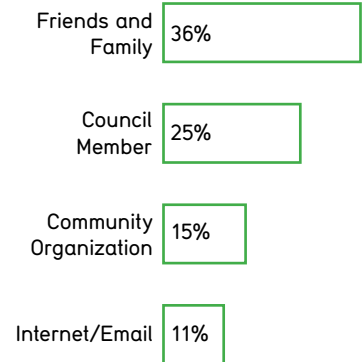
CVH also worked with many of the District Committees and Council offices to develop targeted outreach and mobilization plans, teaching the basics of “organizing math” and the importance of “repetitive contacts” (i.e., how many people you need to talk to and how many times you need to talk to them to get them to come out), conducting rap trainings and overseeing group outreach sessions. This work was meant to both provide new tools to community members to engage their neighbors and to generate new ideas to reach people who were not already part of existing organizations and networks. Supplemental outreach teams were

How did people find out about participatory budgeting and what motivated them participate?

How People Learned About Neighborhood Assemblies



How People Learned About The PB Vote



While there was variation across districts, overall, participants were most likely to hear about the neighborhood assembly and the PB vote through social networks, community organizations and their Council Member. In addition:

Many low-income people heard about the PB vote through their social networks.

- 49% of people with a household income less than \$25,000 heard about the PB vote through family and friends.

African American participants were also likely to hear about PB through family and friends.

- 43% of Black/African American PB voters heard about the PB vote through family and friends.

Community groups helped to bring Latino/as and people with lower levels of education into the PB process.

- 68% of Hispanic/Latino/a PB voters heard about PB through a community group.
- 24% of PB voters with a high school degree or less heard about PB through a community group, compared to only 12% of PB voters with a graduate degree.

Highly educated and higher income people were likely to hear about PB through their Council Member.

- 35% of PB voters with graduate degrees heard about PB through their Council Member.
- 31% of PB voters with incomes greater than \$75,000 heard about PB through their Council Member.

**Targeted Outreach & Engagement
cont. from pg. 22**

hired, trained and supervised by CVH to target a variety of identified constituencies, including Bangladeshi residents in Kensington, Brooklyn; public housing residents in East Harlem, Manhattan and the South Bronx; renters and co-op owners in the Rockaways; and affordable-rent tenants in Flatbush, Brooklyn.

As this report documents, these outreach efforts led to the involvement of long-term residents who had not been active in their communities before PB. Low-income people, people of color and some immigrant groups participated at higher levels than in traditional elections. These results demonstrate the critical need to couple PB with strong, systematic outreach and mobilization efforts.

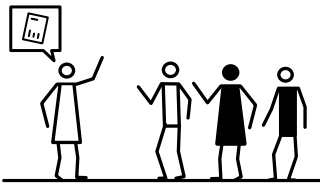


Residents of Council District 8 participated in a neighborhood assembly where they heard more about PBNYC from Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito.

What did people learn from PB?

Did PB expand social networks and build community?

The data shows that people did more than just show up to various PB meetings: they were transformed and energized by the process. Participants actively engaged in discussions and decision-making and worked collaboratively with other community members, Council Member staff and agency officials to make important decisions. As a result, participants gained skills and knowledge of complex issues, expanded social and organizational networks and forged connections to government and politics.



PB made people, particularly those with lower incomes and less education, more comfortable interacting with government and speaking in public.

- 50% of budget delegates with incomes less than \$25,000 became more comfortable contacting government agencies and officials.
- 38% of budget delegates with incomes less than \$25,000 became more comfortable with public speaking.
- 75% of budget delegates with a high school degree or less formal education became more comfortable contacting government agencies and officials.
- 100% of budget delegates with a high school degree or less formal education became more comfortable negotiating and building agreement.

People worked collaboratively with others in their community.

"People came out with a community agenda rather than a personal agenda."

— **Neighborhood Assembly Interviewee 11**, District 8

"Many times participants fed off the ideas of others and expanded them; there was a very rich discussion of needs and ways to address them."

— **Neighborhood Assembly Observation 30**, District 8

"The discussion was collaborative; some ideas led to thinking of other ideas, free from confrontation."

— **Neighborhood Assembly Observation 5**, District 39

PB expanded social networks for participants, particularly for low-income people and Latino/as.

- While low-income people were more likely to have smaller social networks before PB, their participation in PB expanded these networks.
- 57% of budget delegates with a household income less than \$25,000 knew more people in their district after participating in PB.
- 36% of Hispanic/Latino/a budget delegates knew more people in their district after participating in PB.



**New social
networks were
built in
communities**

PB exposed participants to a variety of organizations.

- Budget delegates were affiliated with 250 organizations.
- 41 organizations served on the Steering Committee.
- Over 1/3 of Budget Delegates reported an increase in their participation with community organizations after completing the PB cycle.

Table 1
Types of Organizations with which Budget Delegates
were Affiliated by Issue Area and Geographic Focus
(Total Organizations=250)

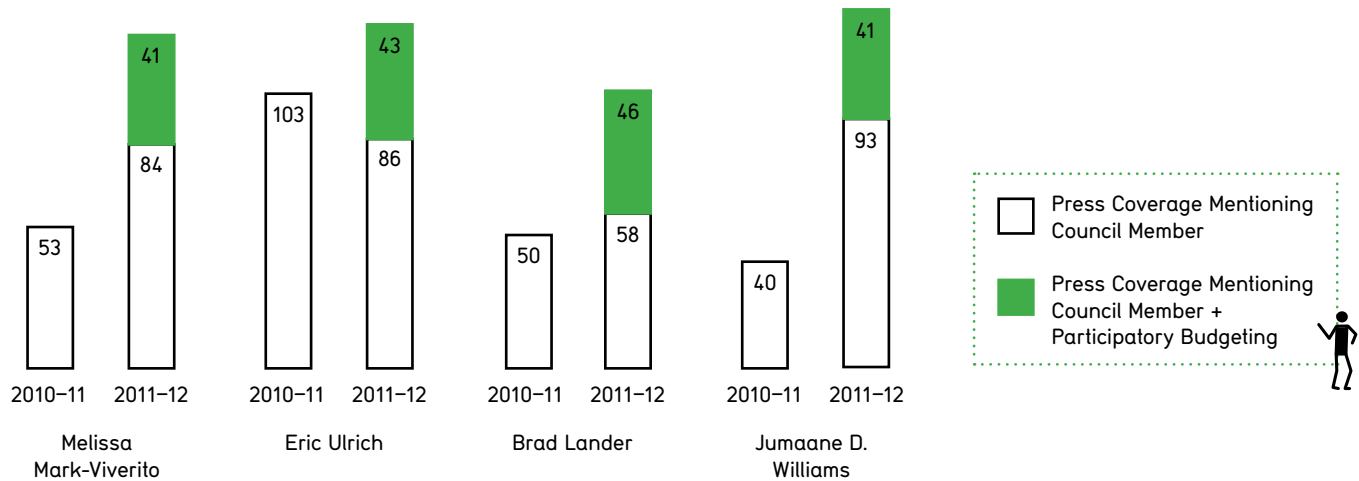
<u>Issue Area of Focus</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Geographic Focus</u>	<u>#</u>
Neighborhood Development	66	Neighborhood	175
Education	40	City-wide	53
Social/Economic Justice	38	National	19
Environment	25	International	12
Arts and Culture	17	State-wide/regional	8

How did City Council Members Benefit from Participatory Budgeting?

In addition to the benefits PB brings to participants, such as skill building, enhanced civic engagement, and leadership development, elected officials gained from the process in the following ways:

During the PB cycle, Council Members received more media coverage than in the previous year.

Council Member Press Coverage Before and During PB



Participants valued the Council Members' involvement in the process and felt it brought the Council Member closer to the community.

- Almost 70% of budget delegates felt that they got a lot of support from their Council Member throughout the PB process.

"Now I know what he looks like, not just his name. Usually we only see our elected officials when they need votes."

"We get to know our Council Member. Now I know what he looks like, not just his name. Usually we only see our elected officials when they need votes."

— PB Participant (Neighborhood Assembly Interviewee 5, District 39)

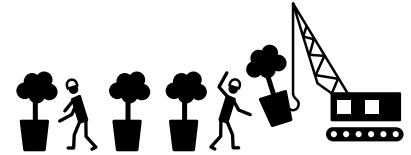
"We're a big presence in the community and we're represented in probably every major community meeting and I think that people generally have a good rapport with her (Council Member Viverito) but I think she touched a lot more people through this process because there are a lot of people who just don't come to those community meetings."

— Joe Taranto, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Melissa Mark-Viverito, District 8

"I've been in the area for 47 years so it feels really good. I'm glad the Council Members are really getting involved in the community."

— PB participant (Neighborhood Assembly Interviewee 14, District 8)

Council Members were able to identify additional community needs and make concrete improvements to neighborhoods, even beyond the projects that were eligible through the participatory budgeting process.



"There were a lot of things we couldn't fund through the [PB] process because they weren't capital projects, but, for example, we heard over and over again about the trash situation...hearing it in the context of the [PB]...I think it made us step up our game because we had a meeting with the sanitation commissioner. There's this one corner that gets really bad and we got them [sanitation department] to put an extra trash can on each corner to deal with the waste. We're also looking to invest some expense funding to purchase additional trash cans. That was a result of what we were hearing over and over in the PB process."

— Joe Taranto, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Melissa Mark-Viverito, District 8

"There are probably a dozen or more things that we're doing or asking agencies to do that we learned about through PB but either couldn't work through PB, didn't get to the ballot or didn't get enough votes but, it's clear that there were many people that want them."

— Alex Moore, Communications and Events Director, Office of Brad Lander, District 39

Table 2
Projects that did not win PB vote but will still be funded in FY '13⁴³

<u>Project</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Additional Garbage Cans	8th	\$10,000
50th Street Repaving	39th	\$150,000
Bus Countdown Clocks	39th	\$50,000
Ft. Hamilton Street Subway	39th	\$325,000
International Mother Tongue Monument	39th	\$150,000
Wi-Fi at Carroll Gardens Library	39th	\$250,000
Increase street lights and underpasses	45th	N/A
Additional speed bumps throughout the district	45th	N/A
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$935,000</u>



What projects made it on the ballot?

Total projects that were voted on city-wide:

78

Average cost of projects city-wide:

\$201,361

Most expensive project:

\$840,000

(for sidewalk bump outs in district 45)

Least expensive project:

\$35,000

(2 projects in district 32: dog run and trash receptacles)

The Education Committee had the most projects on the ballot in 3 of the 4 districts (8th, 39th, and 45th) at an average cost of \$198,350 city-wide.

What changes did PB participants want for their communities?

In the year preceding participatory budgeting, the four Council Members focused their discretionary funds primarily on school improvements, park improvements and library improvements⁴⁴—and for the most part, the projects proposed by community members were consistent with previous allocations. However, some new trends emerged, with a large number of projects proposed for traffic and street repairs, lights and security cameras, public housing improvements and green space. In addition, some participants wanted projects that were ultimately ineligible for PB. The following trends emerged across the districts:

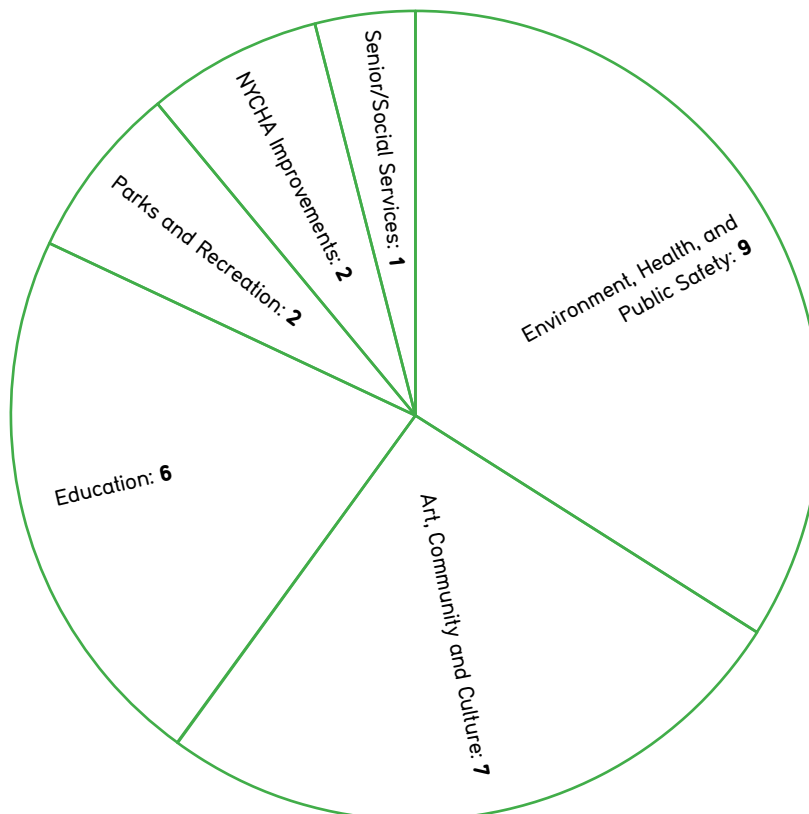
- School improvements were in the top five project ideas for every district.
- Park improvement, traffic improvements and security cameras were in the top five in two of the districts.
- Most ineligible project ideas were related to the proposal of funding for a new community center, a program or school improvements.
- Many traffic improvements were ineligible, since these are completed and funded through other funding streams.
- Over 75% of the ineligible projects were not eligible for PB because they were expense requests rather than capital projects, indicating the need for more education for participants.
- Some of the other reasons for ineligibility include: project cost too much or too little (5%), was outside of district (4%), was not a specific proposal (2%) or was traffic related and covered by federal funds (6%).

City-wide Summary

The city-wide data provides an important snapshot of the pilot year of PBNYC: who participated and why, what people learned, how PB shifted attitudes about government and civic engagement, and how participating Council Members and districts benefited from the process. PBNYC brought together thousands of New Yorkers from diverse backgrounds, many of whom do not typically participate in politics or have contact with government. These participants developed close connections with Council Members, neighbors and organizations in their districts, gained valuable leadership skills and knowledge about government and learned to work collaboratively to solve community problems.

To learn more about how PBNYC varied across the participating districts, researchers took a closer look at participation demographics, outreach and mobilization, project ideas and winning projects for each of the districts. The following chapters include data specific to council districts 8, 32, 39 and 45 as well as a highlighted budget delegate experience, a community that was mobilized by PBNYC and a winning project in each district.

Winning Projects by Type



Winning Projects City-wide

Total overall
funds allocated
to all winning
projects:
\$5,600,000

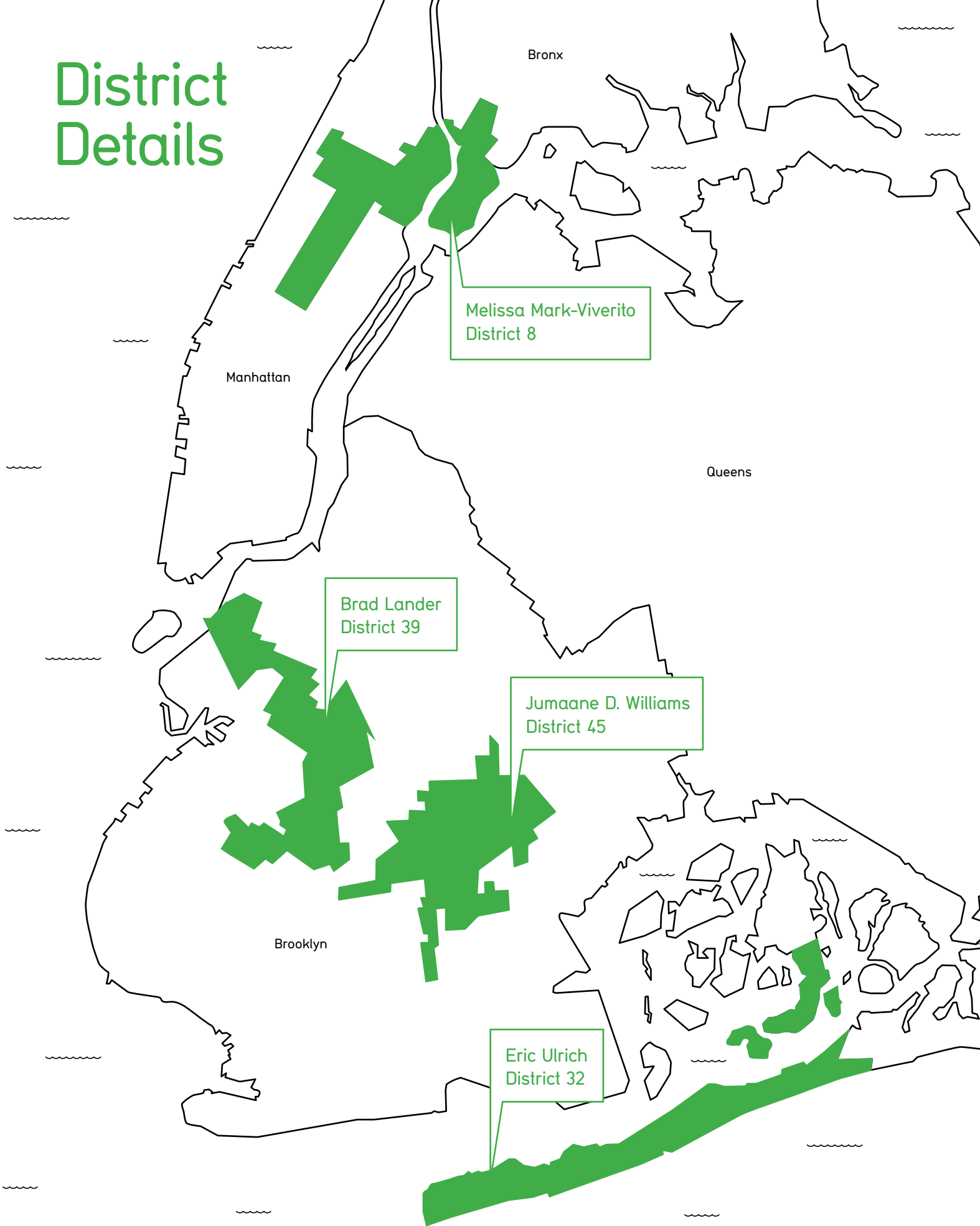
Number of
Projects:
27

Average cost
of a project:
\$196,370

Highest cost
project:
\$525,000

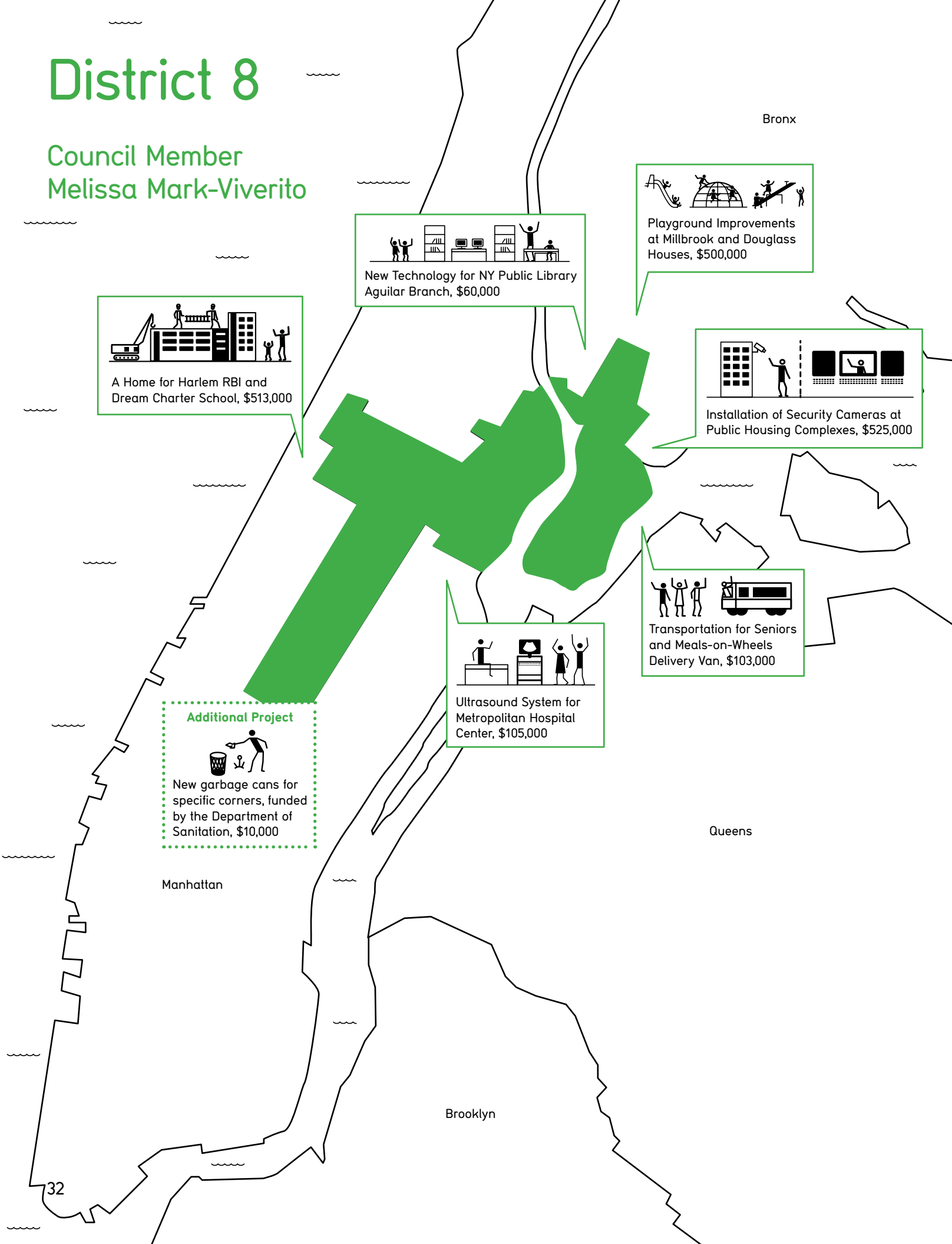
Lowest cost
project:
\$39,000

District Details

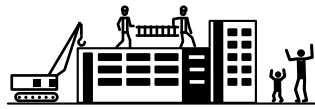


District 8

Council Member
Melissa Mark-Viverito



Bronx



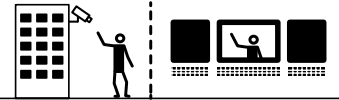
A Home for Harlem RBI and
Dream Charter School, \$513,000



New Technology for NY Public Library
Aguilar Branch, \$60,000



Playground Improvements
at Millbrook and Douglass
Houses, \$500,000



Installation of Security Cameras at
Public Housing Complexes, \$525,000



Transportation for Seniors
and Meals-on-Wheels
Delivery Van, \$103,000



Ultrasound System for
Metropolitan Hospital
Center, \$105,000

Additional Project



New garbage cans for
specific corners, funded
by the Department of
Sanitation, \$10,000

Manhattan

Queens

Brooklyn

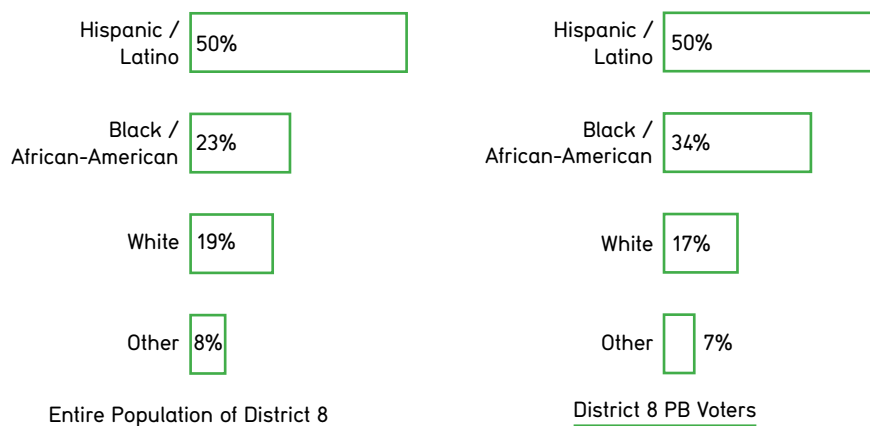
Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito's district encompasses three distinct neighborhoods: Manhattan Valley on the Upper West Side, El Barrio/East Harlem on the Upper East Side, part of Mott Haven in the South Bronx, Central Park, and Randall's Island. Half of the residents in Council District 8 identify as Hispanic or Latino/a, with the largest concentration in Mott Haven. People who identify as Black or African American comprise 23% of the district, while people who identify as White make up 19%.⁴⁵ The district is linguistically diverse with 42% of residents citing Spanish as their primary language and 11% indicating other languages.⁴⁶

The PB process in District 8 saw high levels of participation by low-income people, people of color, seniors and public housing residents. The district was also unique in the robust participation of various community-based organizations and coordination with local Community Boards. District 8 saw many proposals for projects related to public housing, senior care and projects related to specific non-profit organizations.

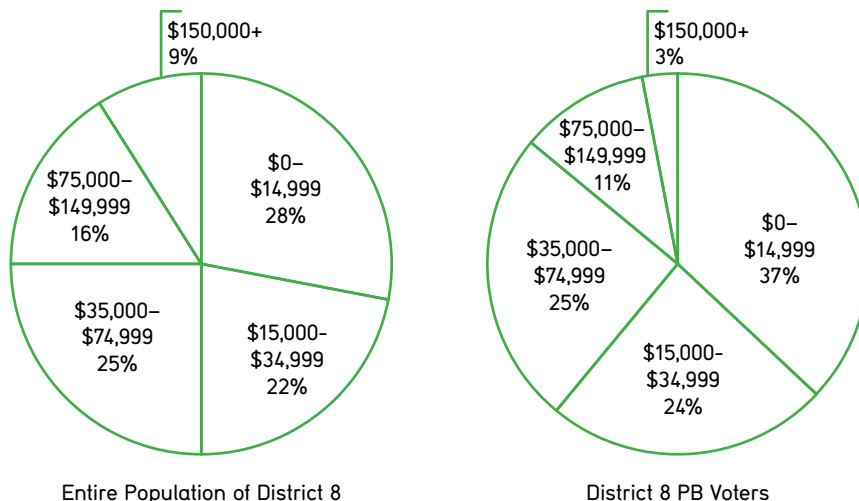
The PB process in District 8 saw a high level of participation by low-income people, people of color, seniors and public housing residents.



District 8
Race and Ethnicity



District 8
Income



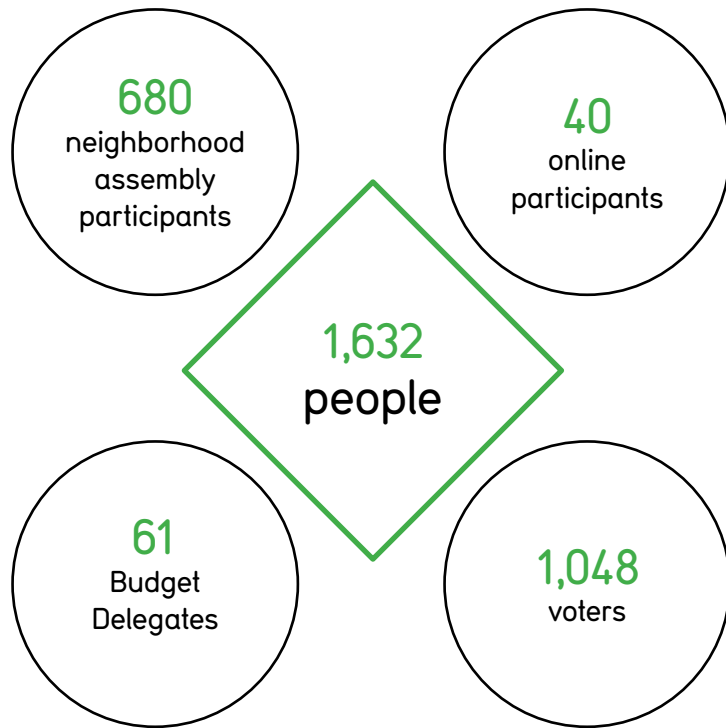
District 8
Overall
Population:
162,734⁴⁷

Number of PB
Participants:
1,632

Neighborhoods:
Manhattan Valley
El Barrio
East Harlem
Central Park
Mott Haven
Randall's Island



Who Participated in District 8?



In District 8, PB engaged 1,632 people, including 680 neighborhood assembly and 40 online participants, 61 Budget Delegates and 1,048 voters.⁴⁸ Demographic information collected at key points during the process points towards several trends in participation, including the following:

Latino/as in District 8 voted at a higher rate in the PB process than in the local 2009 elections.



- Participants who identified as Hispanic/Latino/a made up the biggest share of neighborhood assembly participants (46%) and PB voters (50%) in District 8.
- Half of the budget delegates identified as Black/African American, which is more than double the percentage of this population in District 8 (23%).
- Participation of African Americans decreased from the budget delegate phase to the vote, while participation of Latino/as increased over the same period.
- Latino/as voted at a higher rate in the PB process (50%) than in the local 2009 elections (39%);⁴⁹ while African Americans voted at a slightly higher rate in PB (34%) than in the 2009 elections (31%).⁵⁰



Language and Country of Birth

- 28% of PB voters reported that they were born outside of the United States compared to 24% of the overall district. Countries of origin included Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Mexico.
- 13% of PB voters in District 8 reported Spanish as their primary language compared 42% in the district overall.



Gender

- Women were more likely than men to participate in District 8, but the participation of men increased as the process moved forward.



Income

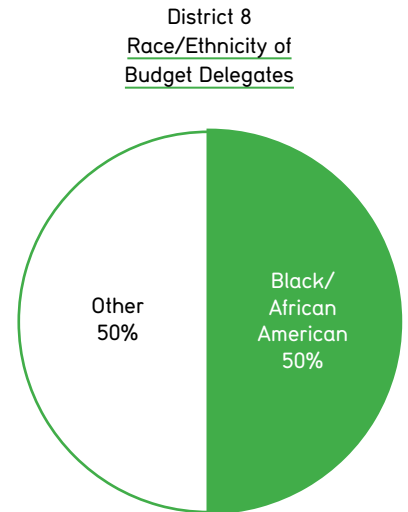
- Participants with low to middle incomes participated in PB at higher rates than those with higher incomes.
- People with very low incomes (under \$15,000 per year) and low to middle incomes (\$35,000 to \$75,000) participated in the PB process at higher rates, compared to the overall population in the district.
- People with very low incomes voted at higher rates in PB than they did in the general election.



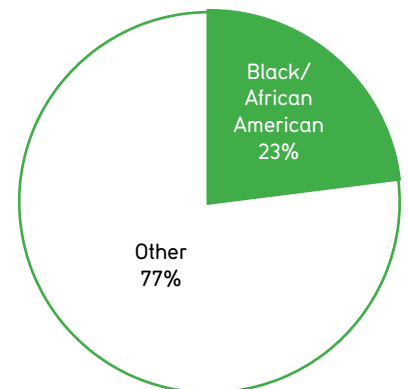
Age

- Young people (ages 15 to 24) participated in PB at levels consistent with the population in the district.
- However, 10% of PB Voters were young people (ages 18-24) compared to only 2% of voters in the 2009 local elections.⁵¹

District 8
Demographics of Budget Delegates
Compared to District's Population



District 8
Race/Ethnicity of
Entire Population





Ann Bragg is a lifelong New York City resident who has been involved with Community Voices Heard since 2005. After finishing high school, she was involved with the NYC Public School District and the U.S. Postal Service, while also founding her block association and tenant association—all while raising five children. A long-term East Harlem resident, she has helped spearhead CVH's Sustainable Communities Project in Harlem, wanting to make sure that Harlem remains affordable for low-income New Yorkers. Ann served as a budget delegate on the Seniors committee.

Why did you get involved in Participatory Budgeting?

Number one it was for getting my community into a new voting process across age, race and all the categories. We reached out to a lot of people who didn't think their voices were being heard and I feel good about that. We also wanted to know where the money was going and so our involvement helped us learn a lot about that. Now not only do we know where discretionary funds have gone in the past, but we can decide where it goes. This is the peoples' vote for the peoples' money.

What is the most important thing you took away from the PB process?

The most important is that without me being an elected official I could make a decision as a community member and with the rest of my community. I feel good people listened to what I said. The experience doing outreach for this was different then anything I did before. The energy was high. We would be on the street talking to people and others would overhear us explaining what PB was and people would come over to find out what was going on. I guess it's different handing out flyers to get people to a meeting versus trying to bring people into a whole process where they can make a real decision and learn a lot about the budget.

Did PB change the way you feel about government/your council member? How so?

I think that before the PB process, people did not know who their Council Member was. Through this process I was able to connect a lot of community members to Council Member Mark-Viverito's office. We engaged her in conversations about a lot of things—not just PB. And so people learned for the first time that there was a whole lot of things they could bring up as issues to their Council Member—things that your Council Member could address to make your life better. And this uplifted her in the eyes of the community because now a lot more people know her and what she can do.

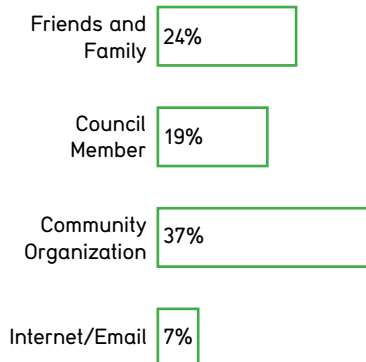
Where would you like to see the PB process in five years?

I want to see more Districts included. This was a test run—the first year. A lot of people will be saying that if it worked for that District then why not in this District. It would be great to see more than half of the City Council involved. I would like to see more money allocated to the process and different pots of money too. Every dollar counts. Lastly, I would like to see more community organizations involved as we grow because these organizations are the ones who are most connected to the people and can bring them into the process.

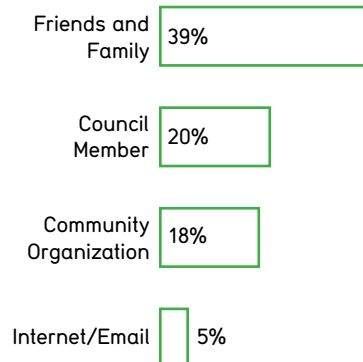
How did people hear about participatory budgeting in District 8?

People were most likely to hear about the neighborhood assembly in District 8 through a community organization, and were most likely to hear about the vote through social networks. Throughout the process, community groups played a significant role in getting the word out about participatory budgeting.

How People Learned About Neighborhood Assemblies in District 8



How People Learned About The PB Vote in District 8



Budget delegate meeting in District 8



Seniors in the 8th district

In District 8, over 1 in 10 residents are 65 or older, and many live on fixed incomes.⁵² While seniors have unique and pressing needs, these often go unmet through the city's budgeting process. In fact, over the past three years, the Mayor has slashed the Department of Aging budget in half, resulting in the closure of hundreds of senior centers.⁵³ To engage seniors in PB and make sure they have a say in how public funds are allocated, Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito and the District 8 committee planned a special neighborhood assembly and conducted targeted outreach at senior centers. To accommodate seniors' schedules and transportation barriers, the neighborhood assembly was held in the morning at a senior services center. The council office also organized "field trips" from various other senior centers to help with transportation. As a result, 130 seniors participated.

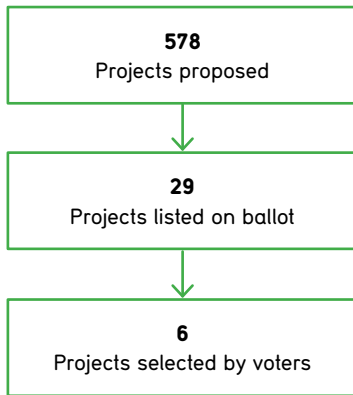
A special budget delegate committee was formed to focus on the issues that affect seniors. Four of their projects (security cameras at a senior housing building, repairs at a senior housing building, outdoor seating renovations and a van to transport seniors and home-deliver meals) made it onto the ballot. In preparation for the vote, the Council office and district committee coordinated extensive outreach to senior populations through door-knocking and phone calls.

When the votes were tallied, the senior committee's project to buy new vans for senior services received the most votes of all those on the ballot. All told, seniors accounted for 20% of neighborhood assembly participants and 21% of voters, double their share of the full population in District 8 (11%).⁵⁴ One senior participant commented, "This is great to learn about the process and be involved."

What projects were proposed in District 8, what made it on to the ballot and what won the vote?

The following is a summary of the types of projects that were proposed, selected for the ballot and ultimately won the vote.

Project Proposals



Overall, in District 8, neighborhood assembly participants proposed projects that were consistent with the capital projects funded by Council Member Mark-Viverito in the past. These include school and public housing improvements. However, some new types of capital projects emerged through the PB process, such as public health and transportation projects. In reviewing the types of projects that were proposed, the following findings emerged:

- District 8 was unique for having many requests for specific NYCHA improvements as well as requests for projects through a specific non-profit organization.
- More than a quarter of the ineligible project ideas were for a new center or program, indicating a strong desire for more community space.

Projects on Ballot

Number of Projects on District 8 Ballot: 29
Average Cost: \$206,379



Eligible projects were sent to a specific budget delegate committees for further research, consultation with city agencies and deliberation. During this process, delegates evaluated the eligible projects based on feasibility, need and benefit to the community. Out of 578 proposed projects, 29 were put on the ballot. The figure on the right shows the categories of projects that were selected for the ballot.

Winning Projects

1,048 voters cast a ballot for their top five projects in District 8. Table 3 shows the projects that were selected.

Table 3
6 Winning Projects: District 8

<u>Project</u>	<u># of Votes</u>	<u>% of Voters</u>	<u>Price</u>
Transportation for Seniors and Meals-on-Wheels Delivery Van	579	55%	\$103,000
Installation of Security Cameras at Public Housing Complexes	499	48%	\$525,000
Playground Improvements at Millbrook and Douglass Houses	300	29%	\$500,000
A Home for Harlem RBI and Dream Charter School	292	28%	\$513,000
Ultrasound System for Metropolitan Hospital Center	252	24%	\$105,000
New Technology for NY Public Library Aguilar Branch	248	24%	\$60,000
<u>Total</u>			<u>\$1,806,000</u>

Additional Projects

Additional projects were proposed through the PB process that either did not win the PB vote or could not be funded through PB because they were not eligible as a capital project. Some of these projects will be funded by non-PB money—including \$10,000 from the Department of Sanitation for new garbage cans for specific corners in the district—proving the added benefits PB can bring to a district beyond the winning projects.



Winning Project

Meals-on-Wheels Van in East Harlem
\$103,000
579 out of 1,048 votes

Union Settlement in East Harlem operates a Meals-on-Wheels program and a transportation service for seniors. The current East Harlem Meals-on-Wheels van does not have proper heating and cooling compartments to ensure the food is kept at a safe temperature. New vans, funded through PB, will replace the old Meals-on-Wheels van and provide an additional transportation van used to give free, short rides for seniors. The new vans are estimated to impact over 1,000 East Harlem seniors. Joe Taranto, Deputy Chief of Staff for Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, explained how this project might not have been funded without PB: "We had sort of heard that they wanted vans through our senior services staff but we weren't really looking at that [to fund] necessarily."⁵⁵

Lessons Learned/ Summary from District 8

The data collected from PB participants in Melissa Mark-Viverito's Council District 8 shows high levels of participation for low-income people, people of color and seniors. While most participants have lived or worked in this district for over a decade, many were new to politics and civic engagement. District 8 conducted focused outreach to specific demographics and held targeted neighborhood assemblies for youth and seniors as well as providing translation and interpretation for Spanish and Chinese speakers at several assemblies. This strategy paid off, as the district saw higher rates of participation for several of these groups. District 8 also benefited from the participation of community organizations in their districts and many participants learned about PB through a community group. With one of the highest concentrations of public housing in the country, Mark-Viverito's district was unique in having several projects focused on improvements to public housing. In the end, Mark-Viverito allocated beyond the \$1 million she committed, funding 6 projects for a total of \$1.8 million. Moreover, the district benefited from PB even beyond the winning projects, with additional funds going to PB-ineligible projects, including restoration of a mural and new trash cans in areas with high garbage volume.



Participants view presentations of projects during
a Round 2 Neighborhood Assembly in District 45

District 32

Council Member
Eric Ulrich

Queens

Brooklyn



Pagers for four Volunteer Fire Departments, \$48,000

Located at the end of the A subway line in Queens, Council Member Ulrich's district includes 14 neighborhoods, five of which participated in Participatory Budgeting: Belle Harbor, Breezy Point, Broad Channel, Rockaway Park and Rockaway Beach. This part of the district largely identifies as White (68%) with 14% of residents identifying themselves as Black or African American and 14% Hispanic or Latino/a.⁵⁶ A third of the district's residents have a college degree and 40% of the district has an annual household income between \$25,000 and \$75,000.⁵⁷

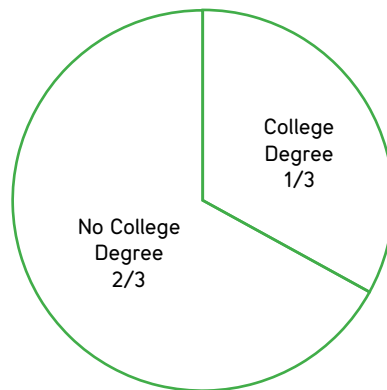
This section of southern Queens stretches across a long, narrow peninsula, except for the Broad Channel neighborhood on a neighboring island. Due to its location, the district faces many water- and erosion-related issues, especially during the summer months when beach traffic is high and hurricane season is in full force.⁵⁸ District 32 was unique from the other districts in that only a portion of the district participated in PB. In addition, because of its location near the beachfront, many of the project proposals related to drainage and flooding issues, as well ensuring an accessible waterfront.

District 32
Overall
Population:
38,309⁵⁹

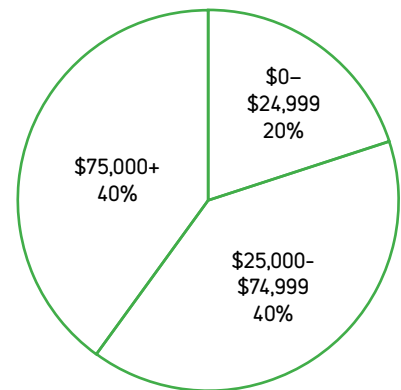
Number of PB
Participants:
1,799

Neighborhoods:
Belle Harbor
Breezy Point
Broad Channel
Rockaway Park
Rockaway Beach

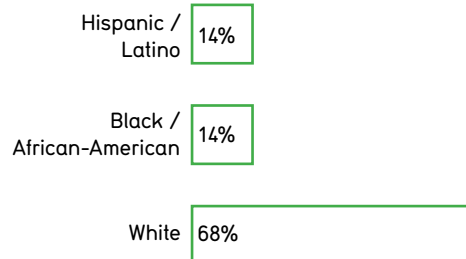
District 32
District Residents with College Degrees



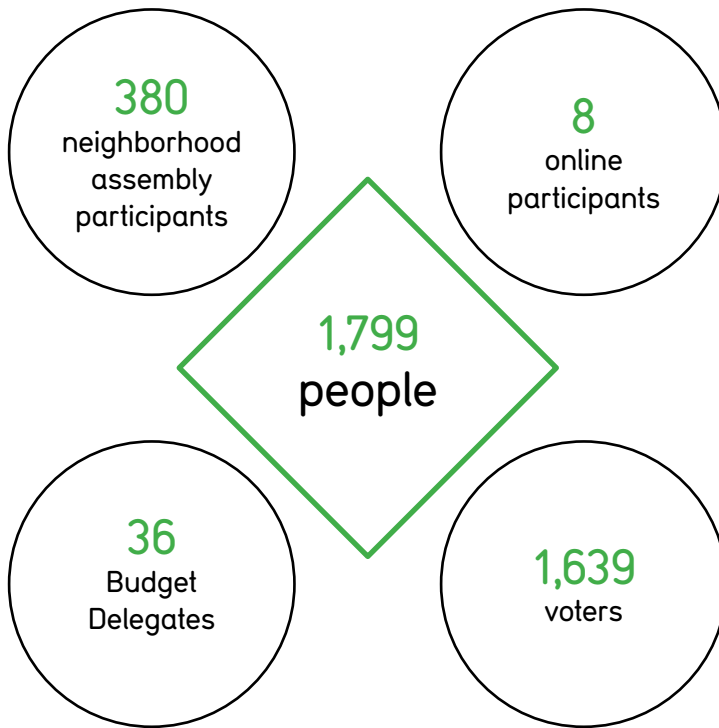
District 32
Income Level



District 32
Race and Ethnicity



Who Participated in District 32?



In District 32, PB engaged 1,799 people, including: 380 neighborhood assembly and 8 online participants; 36 Budget Delegates; and 1,639 voters.⁶⁰ Demographic information collected at key points during the process points towards several trends in participation, including the following:



Race/Ethnicity

- The majority of participants in all phases of PB in District 32 identified as White.
- African Americans and Latino/as were underrepresented in the PB process compared to the population of the area participating in PB.



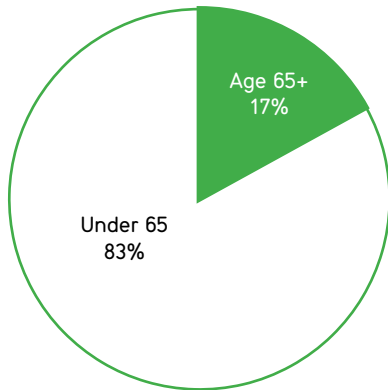
Gender

- Turnout among women was high for all phases of PB as compared to turnout in the 2009 elections.⁶¹

People with low incomes in District 32 voted at higher rates for PB than in the 2009 elections.



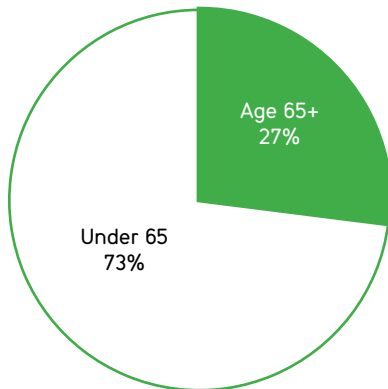
District 32
Age of Overall Population



- Participation of low-income people increased as the PB process progressed.
- People with low incomes voted at higher rates for PB than they did in the general election.
- Most budget delegates had middle or higher incomes.

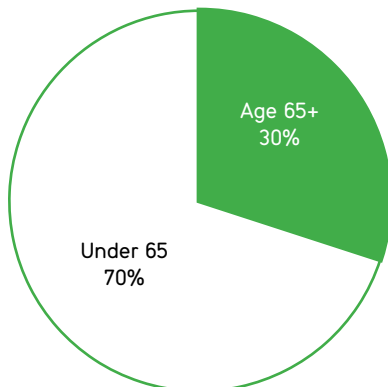


District 32
Age of Neighborhood
Assembly Participants



- People over 65 years participated at higher rates, compared to the overall population of seniors in the district.

District 32
Age of PB Voters



Why did you get involved in Participatory Budgeting?

I got involved because I believe...in a community for the people by the people and I think that right now a lot of people have been disenfranchised by the government and I think the people that know best what's needed in the neighborhood are the people who live there.

What is the most important thing you took away from the PB process?

I got a chance to see a little bit more into what the inner-workings of city government are...just the red tape and how it kind of hinders the process... I got to meet some people that I probably may not have met previously...being able to sit down and exchange ideas...the interesting points of view on the same idea from different people from different demographics.

Getting the community into where their tax dollars were being spent was the most important thing, to have the community have a say in what happens where they live...The people in the community have a vested interest in what happens here and I think it's always good to get them involved in the process and so that was great and I really appreciated that."

Did PB change the way you feel about government/your Council Member? If so, how?

I'm a resident and I really don't have much faith in government and how government operates. This is why I got involved with the process.

Where would you like to see the PB process in five years?

Certain people are apprised to what's going on in the neighborhood and some are not...Part of it is if people aren't already involved in politics how are they going to get on this listserv to receive these emails?...PBNYC is great in theory but in practice we need to figure out how to get the public at large involved."



Ronald Joseph has lived in Rockaway Park for a decade. He has a history of community involvement as a member of the 100th Precinct Community Council and the Rockaway Initiative and served as a budget delegate in District 32 as a member of the Environmental and Public Safety Committee.



Targeted outreach in Mitchell Lama buildings in the 32nd District

Built in 1969 as part of New York State's Mitchell-Lama housing program, Bay Towers is a 14-story, 376-unit cooperative housing complex on the eastern end of the Rockaway peninsula. (Mitchell-Lama is a New York State program created in 1955 to provide affordable rental and cooperative housing to moderate- and middle-income families.)

While much of the Rockaways' housing stock comprises one-family homes, the peninsula also includes a significant number of multi-family buildings such as Bay Towers. For the most part, these buildings tend to have more diversity in race and income of residents compared to the more homogenous, affluent sections of Breezy Point and Broad Channel to the west.

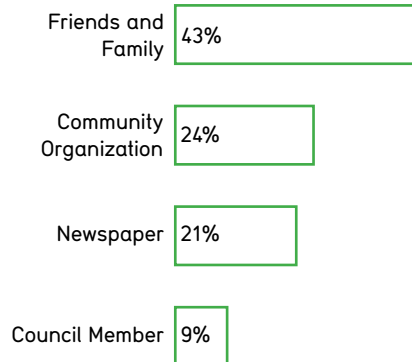
As part of the outreach for participatory budgeting, the District 32 committee, with support from Community Voices Heard, conducted targeted outreach in these Mitchell-Lama buildings in order to mobilize communities that have not engaged in community or political activities in the past. This included setting up onsite voting stations for two days in Bay Towers.

As Bart Haggerty, Chief of Staff for Council Member Ulrich, said, "[Bay Towers] is not a place where we had done specific outreach for any purpose in the past. We had done some constituent work to help with recurring elevator problems...but this was a great opportunity for us to reach people living in those buildings that we would not necessarily have reached previously."⁶²

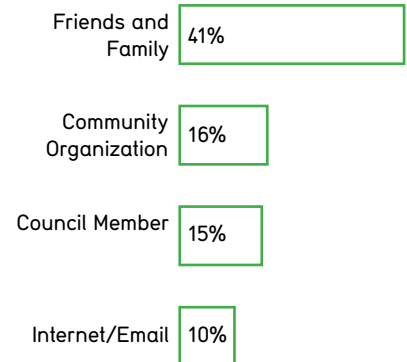
How did people hear about participatory budgeting in District 32?

- People were most likely to hear about the neighborhood assembly and the PB vote through family, friends and neighbors in District 32.
- 2 out of 10 people heard about the neighborhood assemblies through a newspaper.

How People Learned About Neighborhood Assemblies in District 32



How People Learned About The PB Vote in District 32



What projects were proposed in District 32, what made it to the ballot and what won the vote?

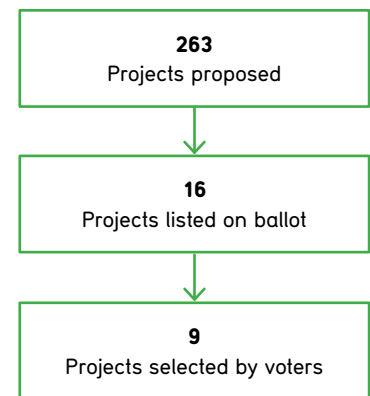
The following is a summary of the types of projects that were proposed, selected for the ballot and ultimately won the vote.

Project Proposals

In District 32, neighborhood assembly participants proposed 263 projects, many relating to school improvements, drainage and flooding issues, and the waterfront. However, some of these proposed projects were not eligible for participatory budgeting. About one-fifth of the ineligible projects were for community amenities, like roller rinks or bowling alleys, which are not typically funded through government capital funds. In addition, many were not eligible because they were expense rather than capital projects.

Projects on the Ballot

Following the budget delegate process, which included months of research, consultation with government agencies and deliberation, the 263 ideas were whittled down to 16 projects. The figure on the right shows the categories of projects that ended up on the ballot in District 32.



Number of Projects on District 32 Ballot: 16
Average Cost: \$161,375





Winning Project

Library Vending Machine in Breezy Point
\$200,000
392 out of 1,639 Votes

For the past several years, Breezy Point volunteers have been running the community's only "lending library" out of a church basement, using donated books and materials. Recognizing that this was not meeting the needs of the community, the volunteers, through participatory budgeting, proposed that the Queens Library establish a new branch in Breezy Point. Due to logistical issues and a lack of public land in Breezy point, the proposal was untenable. However, through the PB process, budget delegates worked with Library staff to come up with a new, innovative solution: library vending machines. The machine, which will be serviced by the Queens Library system, will include a variety of reading materials and residents will be able to request and reserve materials from the vast Queens Library collection. It will be the first library vending machine in New York City. Bart Haggerty, Chief of Staff for Council Member Eric Ulrich, reflected on the uniqueness of the project, "I loved the idea that we had a pilot process (PB) with a pilot project that won (vending machine)." Haggerty went on to explain how this project exemplified how PB can bring together city agencies and community members to solve community problems, "We invited [staff from Queens Library] to meet with the budget delegates. She [representative from the Queens Library] came with very specific proposals for the committee in terms of pricing and options...she took back what she heard and tweaked the proposals. If every city agency was that responsive, we'd be way ahead of the game."⁶³

Winning Projects

1,639 voters cast a ballot for their top 5 projects in District 32. Table 4 shows the winning projects.

Table 4
9 Winning Projects: District 32

<u>Project</u>	<u># of Votes</u>	<u>% of Votes</u>	<u>Price⁶⁴</u>
Technology Upgrades at PS 47, PS 317/MS 318, PS 114	1,010	62%	\$230,000
Cascade (Oxygen Refill) System for Fire Departments	870	53%	\$60,000
Water pump for Volunteer Fire Departments to Alleviate Flooding	804	49%	\$39,000
Pagers for four Volunteer Fire Departments	770	47%	\$48,000
Knights of Columbus, Rockaway Council: Handicapped Bathroom Upgrade	427	26%	\$45,000
Gazebo/Grandstand/Outdoor Performance Space on Shorefront Parkway	396	24%	\$150,000
Library Vending Machine in Breezy Point	392	24%	\$200,000
Six Argus Security Cameras for 100th Precinct (3 locations)	387	24%	\$100,000
Library Renovation/Upgrade at Peninsula Library Branch	360	22%	\$500,000
<u>Total</u>			<u>\$1,372,000</u>

Lessons Learned/ Summary from District 32

In contrast to other districts, only a portion of Eric Ulrich's Council District 32 engaged in participatory budgeting. As a result, only about 38,000 people in The Rockaways were targeted for participation compared to an average of 150,000 in the other three districts. Nevertheless, District 32 had high levels of participation, with the second highest overall voter turnout of all the districts and the highest rate of participation based on the total voting population. To generate high turnout, the council office organized 15 voting sites in addition to opening the Council Member's office for voting every day for a week.

By using a media strategy and engaging multiple neighborhood groups as stakeholders, the district was successful in creating buzz about the process. From the beginning, the Council Member sought buy-in from neighborhood associations, tenant associations, housing co-ops, civic associations, PTAs and local newspapers such as "The Wave." In fact, unlike other districts, 21% of people heard about the neighborhood assembly through the local newspaper.

Due to concentrated outreach efforts, in particular those aimed at housing developments, the district had higher rates of participation amongst low-income people than in the 2009 city-wide elections. The district also saw robust partnerships with city agencies to produce innovative projects such as the library vending machine. Budget delegates in District 32 also employed some interesting strategies to ensure equity by bundling education technology projects to ensure that multiple schools, not just those with the most resources, would secure PB funds.



Residents voting for participatory budgeting projects in District 32.

District 39

Council Member
Brad Lander

Manhattan

Queens



Renovation of two dysfunctional
bathrooms at PS 124, \$150,000



Planting 100 new trees on blocks
throughout the district with few or
no trees, \$100,000

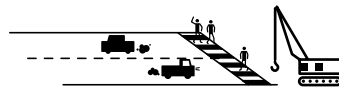


Repairing Prospect Park pedestrian
paths to prevent flooding, and adding
trash cans in the park, \$205,000



New technology for PS 130
and PS 154, \$140,000

Brooklyn



Repairs and safety improvements at
the dangerous Prospect Expressway/
Church Avenue pedestrian crossing,
\$200,000



Innovative community
composting system near
Gowanus Canal to turn 1
ton/day of food waste into
soil, \$165,000

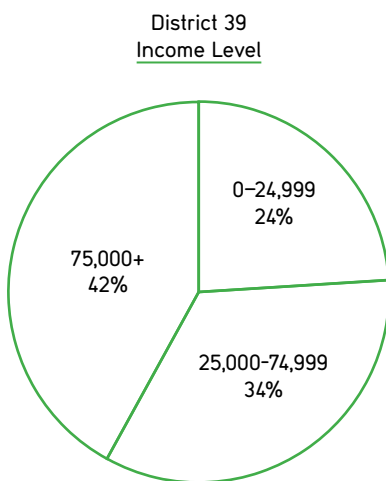
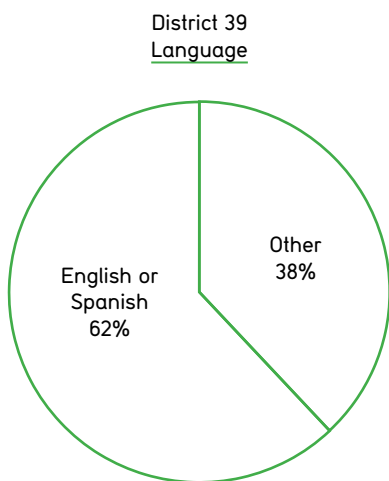


New books and equipment for
the Kensington public library to
enhance the branch's use for
meetings, storytelling, rehearsals,
and small performances
promoting Kensington's cultural
diversity, \$80,000

Council Member Brad Lander's district includes the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Columbia Waterfront, Gowanus, Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Borough Park and Kensington. Sixty-six percent of the district identifies as White, 14% as Hispanic or Latino/a, and 13% as Asian.⁶⁵ The district also has a large Bangladeshi community, concentrated in Kensington.⁶⁶ A large percentage (38%) of the district speaks a language other than English as their primary language⁶⁷ and nearly half (42%) of District 39's residents have annual household incomes over \$75,000.⁶⁸

Participation in PB was mostly consistent with the district's demographics. The majority of PB participations were white, college educated and middle-or upper-income. Many Bangladeshi immigrants were mobilized for PB, while participation of Latino/as and African Americans was low. District 39 introduced some of the more innovative projects, such as a new composting system on the Gowanus Canal. The district also saw the prioritization of other ecological and education projects such as tree planting, renovating school bathrooms and technology upgrades for schools. Other projects on the ballot reflected participation of particular communities, such as the "Mother Tongue Monument," which was introduced and developed by members of the Bangladeshi immigrant community in Kensington.

District 39 introduced some of the more innovative projects, such as a new composting system on the Gowanus Canal.



District 39
Race and Ethnicity

Hispanic / Latino 14%

Asian 13%

White 66%

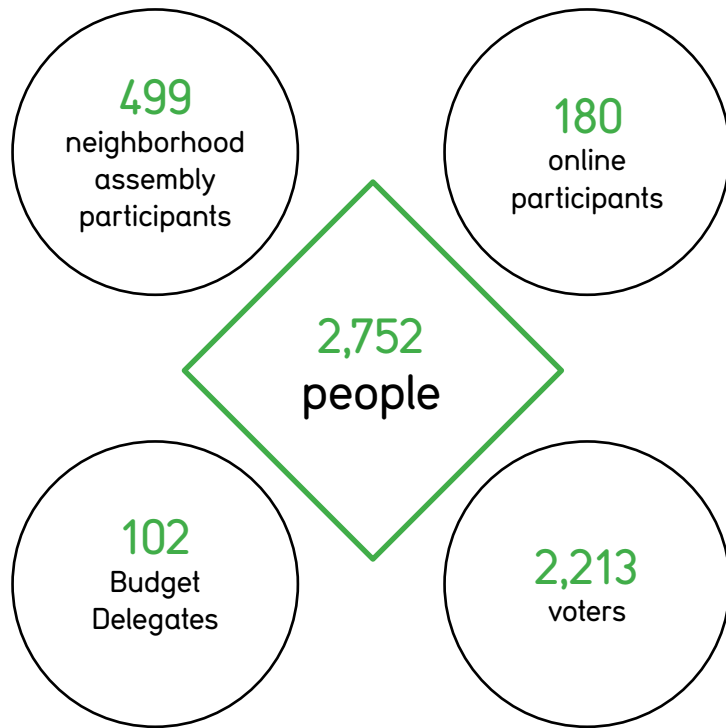
District 39
Overall
Population:
154,341⁶⁹

Number of PB
Participants:
2,752

Neighborhoods:
Borough Park
Carroll Gardens
Cobble Hill
Columbia Waterfront
Gowanus
Kensington
Park Slope
Windsor Terrace



Who Participated in District 39?



In District 39,
PB engaged
180 online
participants.

In District 39, PB engaged 2,752 people, including: 499 neighborhood assembly and 180 online participants; 102 Budget Delegates; and 2,213 voters.⁷⁰ Demographic information collected at key points during the process points towards several trends in participation, including the following:



Race/Ethnicity

- Participants who identified as White made up the biggest share of neighborhood assembly participants (81%) and survey respondents at the PB vote (87%) in district 39.
- According to survey data, Latino/as were underrepresented in PB compared to the overall population in the district.





Language and Country of Birth

- 13% of PB voters who filled out a survey in District 39 reported they were born outside the United States.
- Approximately 10% of the ballots for the PB vote were cast in a language other than English.



Gender

- Women were the most likely to participate in PB in District 39, especially as Budget Delegates (70%).



Income

- Participants with medium to high incomes participated in PB at higher rates than those with lower incomes.
- People with high to very high incomes voted at higher rates for PB than they did in the general election.
- People with low to medium (\$15,000-\$74,999) incomes voted at lower rates than they did in the general election.



Age

- Young people (ages 14 to 24) participated in PB at lower levels than the population in the district. This is due in part to the fact that the voting age for PB was 18.
- Participants 45 years and older participated in PB at higher levels than the population in the district.

Approximately
10% of the ballots
for the PB vote
were cast in a
language other
than English





Mellen O'Keefe is a freelance TV news producer. She is a New York native and has been a resident in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn for 30 years. She is the mother of two children who attended NYC public schools and was a budget delegate in the 39th district's education committee.

Why did you get involved in Participatory Budgeting?

I heard there was going to be a PB meeting at Brooklyn's PS 58 which is down the block from me and I had no idea what it was about but decided to go check it out. I was astounded at how many people were there and I found the enthusiasm fascinating and hopeful. As a parent of children who have gone all the way through NYC public schools and an active public education advocate, the education committee was an obvious choice for me.

What is the most important thing you took away from the PB process?

That a group of totally unrelated people of all ages and backgrounds can commit to come together to discuss important issues in our communities and wrestle with problems, conflicts, unknowns and realities and take on the mission of the committee in a thoughtful civilized manner. That was wonderful. Democracy is not easy and sometimes people come in with an agenda or are competitive or inflexible or confrontational—and that can lead to drama. That was awkward but instructive. Having a fabulous facilitator was transformational! She negotiated all the committee's issues, questions and personalities masterfully.

Did PB change the way you feel about government/your Council Member? If so, how?

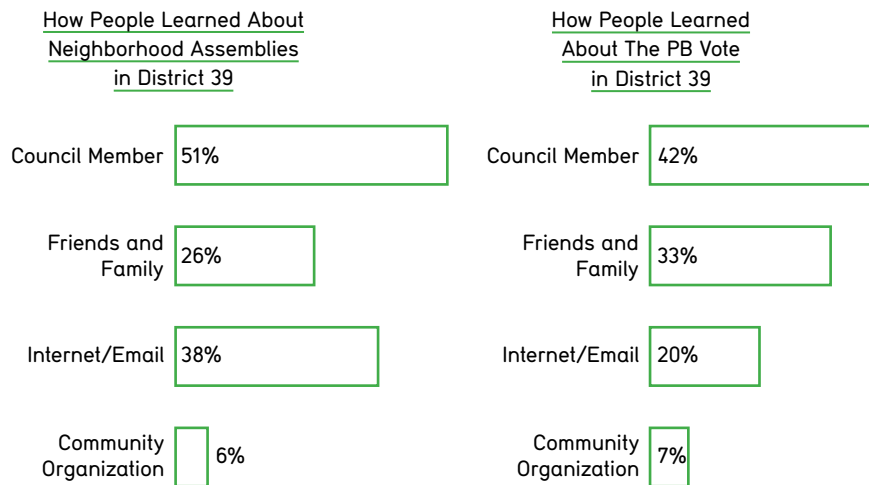
Brad Lander's office staff is great. They are all smart, enthusiastic and were accessible at every stage. The process got messy but solutions were found. It made me feel hopeful that if we throw open the doors of the city councils and state assemblies across America and get ordinary people engaged in the process, we can start solving the problems we are facing as a country. Governmental transparency is imperative to shift the US vs. THEM thinking. Ordinary people are sick of the government's elitism and back-room deals and corruption and ineffective leadership. What I didn't like was discovering that the School Construction Authority (SCA) has the taxpayers of NYC over a barrel and that to get anything DONE to fix schools they over-complicate, over-charge and under-deliver. That was disheartening—but we just have to fight the laziness, the disorganization, the corruption, the incompetence—whatever it is that's gumming up the works—and press on to improve schools for all of our children.

Where would you like to see the PB process in five years?

I think PB should be everywhere. Give folks a voice and an invitation to be in the game. I think it could really help bring other small and large struggling communities together and give folks a chance to understand what the problems are, who the players are and get in there and talk about what's going on and how to redefine their communities in crisis. I also think bringing children into the process would be instructive for them and for the adults in the room. Getting students into civic activities early in their lives will make them understand the process and appreciate the potential value in using their individual and collective voice.

How did people hear about participatory budgeting in District 39?

- People were most likely to hear about the neighborhood assembly and the vote through their Council Member.
- District 39 was also successful in using e-mail and other social media to spread the word about PB.



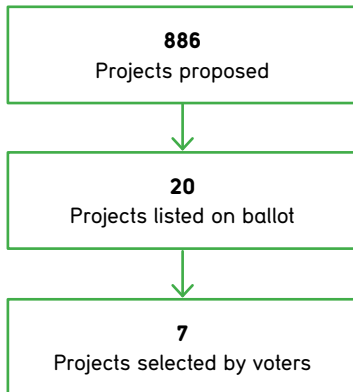
Residents of the four participating Council Districts voted at various sites in their districts.

Bangladeshi Immigrant Community in the 39th district

Asians are the fastest-growing immigrant group in New York City, adding 262,142 new residents in the last decade.⁷¹ A driving force of this growth has been the Bangladeshi community, concentrated in the Kensington neighborhood, which has doubled since 2000.⁷² Similar to other groups in NYC, many Bangladeshi immigrants face daily struggles with poverty, immigration status, unemployment and language access. In order to address some of these issues and promote civic engagement in the community, Council Member Brad Lander teamed up with Bangladeshi organizers and Kensington residents to engage the community in participatory budgeting. The district organized a neighborhood assembly targeted at Bangladeshi immigrants and translated materials into Bangla. Organizers Mamnunul Haq and Annie Ferdous partnered with the Council Member's office and Community Voices Heard for targeted outreach. Mamnunul, who has lived in Kensington for 20 years, said, "Every night, I went into the street and the restaurants and talked to people around the Church Street subway stop."

As a result of this outreach, one of the projects promoted by the Bangladeshi community, the International Mother Language Monument honoring the Bengali language movement, made it to the ballot and received 318 votes. Additionally, participation of Bangladeshis in the PB vote was high, with 10% of voters using a Bangla ballot. Mamnunul explained why participatory budgeting was important for his community: "Bangladeshis are not normally involved in civic engagement on a city-wide level. This process opened the door for them. Lots of people that can't vote in city, state, federal elections because they are not documented or don't have a passport could take part in PB. People can now say, I live in this block, I pay taxes and I can vote. They can say, I did this for my children's future, for my community." While the project did not win enough votes to be selected through the PB process, because of the overwhelming support in the Bangladeshi community,⁷³ Council Member Lander allocated additional discretionary funds for it in the FY 2013 budget.

What projects were proposed in District 39, what made it to the ballot and what won the vote?



Overall, in District 39, neighborhood assembly participants proposed projects that were consistent with capital projects funded by Council Member Lander in the past. These include school and park improvements. However, some new and innovative types of projects emerged through the PB process such as a composting system and bus countdown clocks. The following is a summary of the types of projects that were proposed, selected for the ballot and ultimately won the vote.

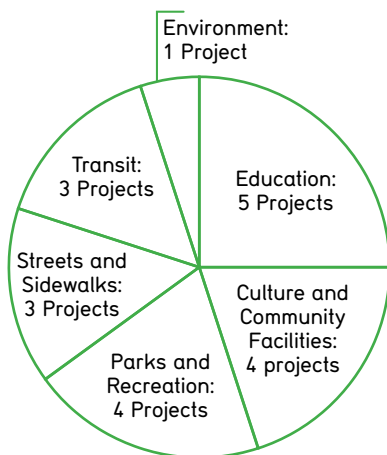
Proposed Projects

- Districts 39 suggested neighborhood improvements such as Community Amenities and Environmental/Sustainability projects.
- 13% of the ineligible projects were for traffic improvements that are often covered by the federal government.

Projects on the Ballot

Following the budget delegate process, which included months of research, consultation with government agencies and deliberation, the 886 ideas were whittled down to 20 projects. The figure to the right shows the categories of projects that ended up on the ballot in District 39.

Number of Projects on District 39 Ballot: 20
Average Cost: \$157,350



Winning Projects

Over 2,000 voters cast a ballot for their top five projects. Table 5 shows the projects that were selected.

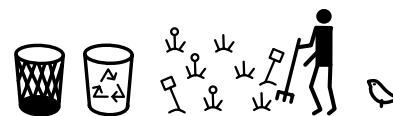
Table 5
7 Winning Projects: District 39

<u>Project</u>	<u># of Votes</u>	<u>% of Votes</u>	<u>Price</u>
Renovation of two dysfunctional bathrooms at PS 124	958	43%	\$150,000
Innovative community composting system near Gowanus Canal to turn 1 ton/day of food waste into soil	919	42%	\$165,000
Planting 100 new trees on blocks throughout the district with few or no trees	767	35%	\$100,000
New technology for PS 130 and PS 154	758	34%	\$140,000
Repairing Prospect Park pedestrian paths to prevent flooding, and adding trash cans in the park	648	29%	\$205,000
Repairs and safety improvements at the dangerous Prospect Expressway/Church Avenue pedestrian crossing	606	27%	\$200,000
New books and equipment for the Kensington public library to enhance the branch's use for meetings, storytelling, rehearsals, and small performances promoting Kensington's cultural diversity	582	26%	\$80,000
<u>Total</u>			<u>\$1,040,000</u>

Additional Projects

In addition, the following proposed projects either did not win the PB vote or could not be funded through PB because of a budgeting technicality. These projects will be funded by another pot of non-PB money and indicate the additional benefits that PB can bring to the district beyond those projects that win the vote.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Getting "bus countdown clocks" at bus shelters.	\$50,000
Building an "International Mother Language" monument as part of the renovation of Dome Playground.	\$150,000
Address flooding and other issues at the Ft. Hamilton F/G subway station.	\$325,000
Getting DOT to repave 50th Street in Borough Park.	\$150,000
Facilitating more community access and Wi-Fi at the Carroll Gardens library.	\$250,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$925,000</u>



Winning Project

Composting Site at 2nd Ave and 5th Street
\$165,000
919 out of 2,213 Votes

Every week local greenmarkets and schools in District 39 collect about a ton of food waste that is shipped out of state to be composted. Thanks to PB, a new composting system in the district, run by the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, will soon convert food waste into rich soil that will nourish the district's gardens, parks and trees. Processing will be done in an automated, 30-foot, closed container system that is pest- and smell-free and can compost a ton of food waste per day. Once the new system is in place, carbon emissions from shipping food waste will be eliminated, and the district will have rich soil to bolster its plants. As Alex Moore, staffer for Council Member Lander, explained, this project also promotes the development of leaders in the community: "The people on the environmental committee that developed the composting project have a lot more expertise about how composting works than they did before. They're going to be doing a lot of work to run and promote the whole program that goes along with the capital project." He also said that a project such as this would probably not have been developed through the traditional budgeting process: "Without this process there wouldn't have been a project like the composting proposal. That just took a lot of time and a lot of creativity from community members."⁷⁴

Lessons Learned/ Summary from District 39

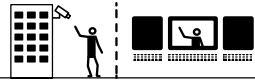
Due in part to the demographics of Brad Lander's 39th Council District, the majority of PB participants were white, college educated and middle- to upper-income. However, the district did make a concentrated effort to mobilize Bangladeshi immigrants through targeted outreach, partnerships with community activists and investing in translation and interpretation for meetings and outreach. As a result, the district had high levels of participation from this community. The projects that were proposed and won in Lander's district were some of the more innovative and environmentally focused in the city, including a composting project in the Gowanus Canal and tree planting. In addition to the seven projects that won, the district will see progress on other projects proposed by PB participants, including bus countdown clocks, the repaving of 50th Street and improvements to the Fort Hamilton subway station.⁷⁵



PBNYC participants in District 39 listened to their Council Member, Brad Lander, speak at an assembly where budget delegates presented their project proposals.

District 45

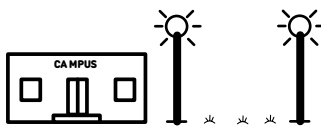
Council Member
Jumaane D. Williams



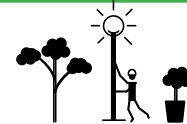
The installation of two security cameras at several locations district-wide, \$400,000



Funding towards the purchase or renovation of a space for a proposed community resource center, \$350,000



Field lights for Tilden Educational Campus, \$350,000



The installation of floodlights in each park in the district, \$150,000



The purchase of desktops, laptops, a security cart, and a smartboard for students at the CAMBA Beacon Program located at PS 269 Nostrand, \$150,000

Low-income people in the district participated in PB at higher rates than during past elections.

District 45
Overall
Population:
139,731⁶³

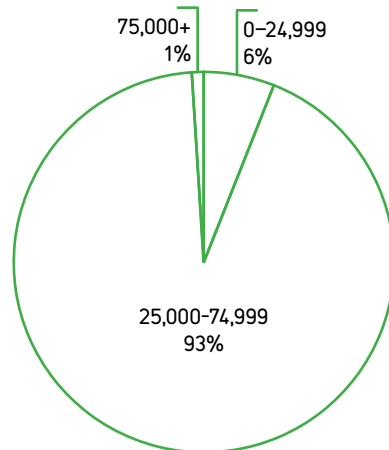
Number of PB
Participants:
1,553

Neighborhoods:
Flatbush,
East Flatbush,
Flatlands,
parts of Midwood
and Canarsie

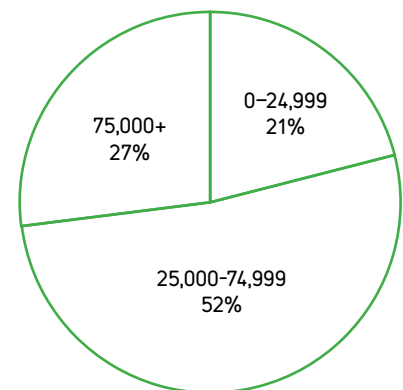
Council Member Jumaane D. Williams's district in Brooklyn includes the neighborhoods of Flatbush, East Flatbush, Flatlands and parts of Midwood and Canarsie. The residents of the district identify largely as Black/African American (76%) with 11% identifying as White and 8% as Hispanic or Latino/a.⁷⁶ The large foreign-born population brings a diversity of languages, with 23% of residents speaking languages other than English or Spanish as their primary language.⁷⁷ Forty-four percent of District 45 residents have a college education and 44% have incomes between \$25,000 and \$75,000.⁷⁸

The PB process in District 45 saw a high level of participation among those who identify as Black/African American and/or foreign-born. To accommodate the demographics of the district, translation of materials and interpretation for meetings was provided in Haitian Creole. Low-income people in the district participated in PB at higher rates than during past elections. Additionally, due to targeted outreach to youth and the creation of a youth budget delegate committee, the district was unique in placing several youth-focused projects on the ballot.

District 45
Income Level

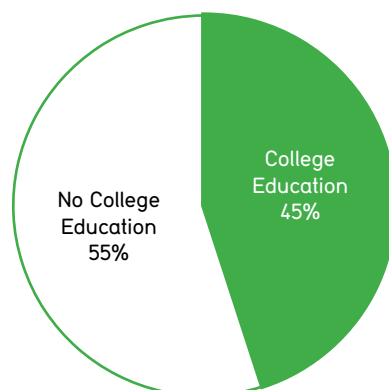


District 45 2009 Voters⁸⁰

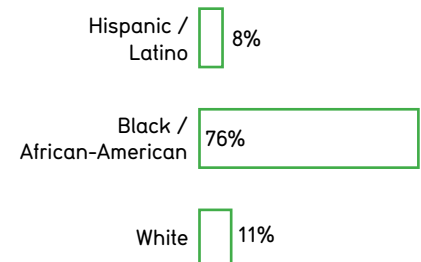


District 45 PB Voters

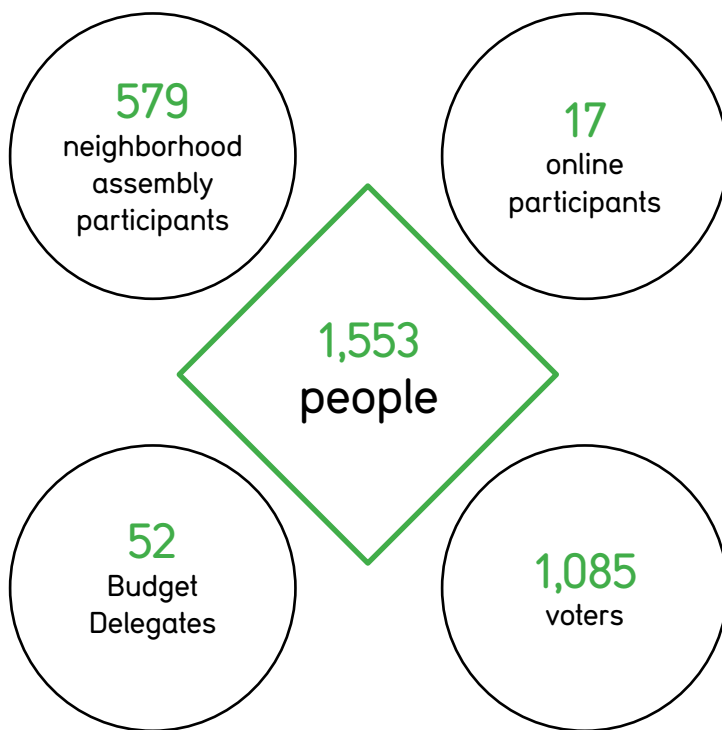
District 45
District Residents with College Education



District 45
Race and Ethnicity



Who Participated in District 45?

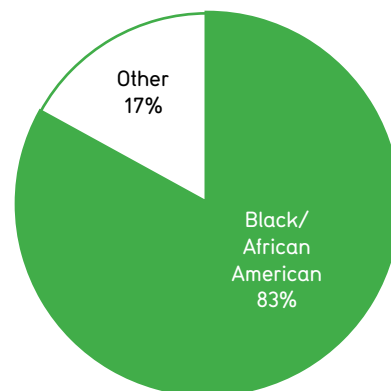


In District 45, PB engaged 1,553 people, including: 579 neighborhood assembly and 17 online participants; 52 Budget Delegates; and 1,085 voters.⁸¹ Demographic information collected at key points during the process indicate:

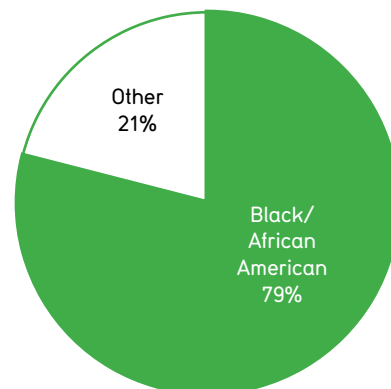


- Participants who identified as Black or African American made up the biggest share of neighborhood assembly participants (83%) and PB voters (79%) in district 45.
- The race and ethnicity of PB participants in District 45 were consistent with the population in the district.

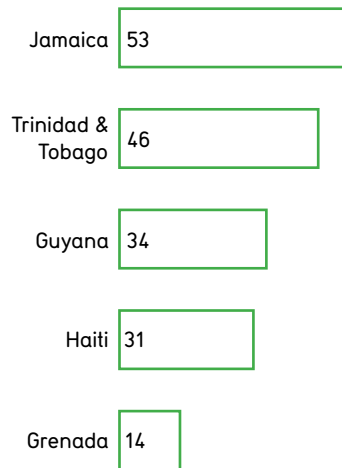
District 45
Race/Ethnicity of Neighborhood
Assembly Participants



District 45
Race/Ethnicity of PB Voters

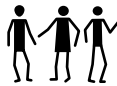


District 45
Top 5 Countries of Birth for
PB Voters, Excluding U.S.



Language and Country of Birth

- 56% of PB voters in District 45 reported they were born outside the United States.
- 93% of PB voters reported English as their primary language, compared to 70% in the district overall.



Gender

- Women were more likely than men to participate in PB in District 45, especially as voters.



Income

- Participants with low to middle incomes participated in PB at higher rates than those with higher incomes.
- People with very low incomes voted at higher rates for PB than they did in the general election.



Age

- Young people (ages to 15 to 24) participated in PB at lower levels than population in the district. This is due in part to the fact that youth under 18 could not vote.
- Participants 45 years and older participated in PB at higher levels than the population in the district.

Why did you get involved in Participatory Budgeting?

I am very involved in many community activities and it seemed like something that would benefit my neighborhood.

What is the most important thing you took away from the PB process?

The most important thing I took away from the PB process is that most of the residents in the community have the same aspirations and desires for the community. And if we work together we will be able to find consensus and get positive things accomplished.

Did PB change the way you feel about government/your Council Member? How so?

It made me more aware of how funding for the community is derived and the politics involved. I was impressed with the job my councilman is doing on our behalf.

Where would you like to see the PB process in five years?

In the next five years, I would like to see PB become larger and eventually power of spending relinquished to the people. The citizens of this city are quite capable of determining their needs and deciding the priorities.



Hazel Martinez

District Committee member

Hazel has lived in East Flatbush since 1970. She works with the New York State Office of Medicaid Inspector General. She is active in her community as president of the Four-in-One Block Association, a member of the 45th District Committee and a Budget Delegate on the Public Safety committee for the Participatory Budgeting Process.



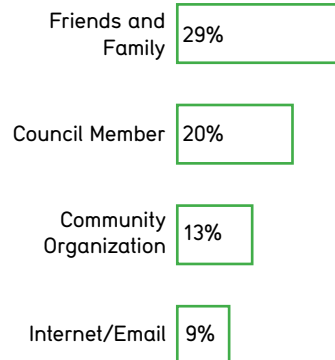
Youth in the 45th district

While young people comprise 28% of District 45's residents,⁸² they are traditionally disengaged from civic engagement activities. In part, this is due to the fact that those under 18 cannot vote. In addition, few opportunities exist for youth to have a real impact on their communities. However, PB provided the chance to engage youth in a new and creative way. Realizing this opportunity, Council Member Jumaane D. Williams and the 45th District Committee decided to prioritize youth participation in PB. To engage and mobilize young people, the district committee planned a neighborhood assembly specifically for youth, held immediately after school in the Tilden High School gym. Over 50 youth attended to share their ideas on how to spend the money. Interested youth then formed a youth-only budget delegate committee. After much deliberation, the youth put three projects on the ballot: adding lights to an athletic field, renovating a performing arts studio and expanding an athletic track. Since youth under 18 couldn't vote in PB, the students instead did outreach in the community to build support for their projects. Their efforts paid off when new lights for the Tilden High School field won. Monique Chandler-Waterman, Staff for Council Member Jumaane D. Williams reflected on why youth participation matters: "I really liked the way that the youth got involved in this project [field lights] because they thought about the community as a whole. They are the leaders of our future and they were able to do something and see it through to the end which is very important for their self-esteem."⁸³

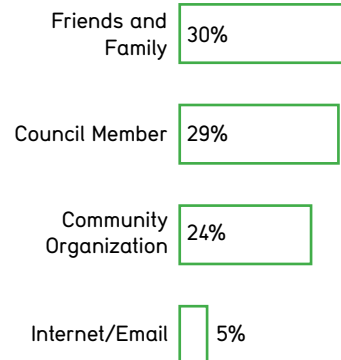
How did people hear about participatory budgeting in District 45?

- People were most likely to hear about the neighborhood assembly and the PB vote through social networks.

How People Learned About Neighborhood Assemblies in District 45



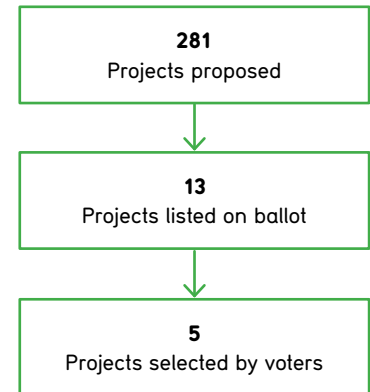
How People Learned About The PB Vote in District 45



Neighborhood assembly participants ranked project ideas.

What projects were proposed in District 45, what made it to the ballot and what won the vote?

Overall, in District 45, neighborhood assembly participants proposed projects that were consistent with capital projects funded by Council Member Williams. The projects proposed in District 45 were somewhat divergent than the capital projects Williams has funded in the past. In Fiscal Year 2012, Council Member Williams focused his capital discretionary funds on education and parks projects.⁸⁴ However, some new types of projects emerged through the PB process, such as a youth center and lights for a high school sports field. District 45 also expressed the desire for basic traffic and road repair projects, indicating a lack of infrastructure and services in the district. The following is a summary of the types of projects that were proposed, selected for the ballot and ultimately won the vote.



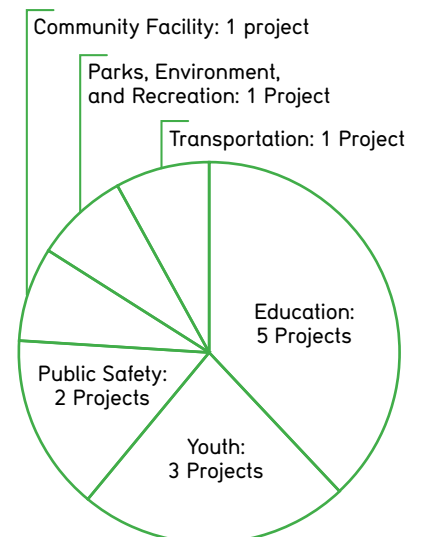
Proposed Projects

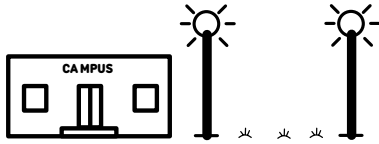
- District 45 showed concern for public safety and quality of low-income housing conditions.
- Over one-third of ineligible projects were for community centers.
- Many of the projects were traffic related or for road repairs.
- Another one-third of projects were ineligible because the suggestions were general ideas rather than specific projects.

Projects on the Ballot

Once the ineligible projects were removed, the remaining proposals were sent to the appropriate budget delegate committee for further research, consultation with city agencies and deliberation among delegates. During this process, delegates evaluated the eligible projects based on feasibility, need and benefit to the community. Out of 281 proposed projects, 13 were put on the ballot. The figure to the right shows the categories of projects that were selected for the ballot.

Number of Projects on District 45 Ballot: 13
Average Cost: \$315,900





Winning Project

Field lights for Tilden Educational Campus Field at 5800 Tilden Ave (\$350,000)

393 out of 1,085 votes

In the past, sporting events at the Tilden Educational Campus had to end before 5:30 p.m.—because the athletic field had no lights. Besides limiting the hours the community could use the field, the lighting problem also put students and teachers in danger. Indeed, several students and teachers have been robbed and attacked leaving the field after dark.⁸⁵

To alleviate this problem, new field lights funded through PB will be installed. This will help to ensure the safety of students and teachers and allow the field to be used to its full potential. The project was proposed by a group of 20 students, who created a PowerPoint and knocked on doors to build community support for the project.⁸⁶ Marcus Montiston, one of the youth budget delegates who developed the proposal, reflected on how PB helped him realize the impact that youth can make: "I can really make a change. We're not just here to go to school. We can be more, do more."⁸⁷

Winning Projects

1,085 voters cast a ballot for their top five projects. Table 6 shows the projects that were selected.

Table 6

5 Winning Projects: District 45

Project	# of Votes	% of Votes	Price
The installation of two security cameras at several locations district-wide	819	75%	\$400,000
Funding towards the purchase or renovation of a space for a proposed community resource center	806	74%	\$350,000 ⁸⁸
The installation of floodlights in each park in the district	747	69%	\$150,000
The purchase of desktops, laptops, a security cart, and a smartboard for students at the CAMBA Beacon Program located at PS 269 Nostrand	436	40%	\$150,000
Field lights for Tilden Educational Campus	393	36%	\$350,000
<u>Total</u>			\$1,400,000

Additional Projects

In addition, the following proposed projects either did not win the PB vote or could not be funded through PB because of a budgeting technicality. These projects will be funded by another pot of non-PB money, proving the additional benefits that PB can bring to a district.

Project

Increase the number of street lights at several different intersections, dead end streets, and underpasses in the district.

Speed bumps on several different streets throughout the district.

Lessons Learned/ Summary from District 45

The majority of those who participated in PB in Jumaane D. Williams' District 45 identified as Black/African American and over half said they were born outside of the United States. Participants tended to be lower- or middle-income, and women were more likely to participate than men. To accommodate the language needs in the district, the district committee provided translation and interpretation in Haitian Creole. District 45 had one of the most independent district committees and grassroots processes with most people learning about PB through family and friends rather than an organization or the Council Member office. District 45 prioritized the participation of youth by holding an afternoon neighborhood assembly for youth at a local high school and establishing a youth budget delegate committee. As a result, three youth-focused projects made it onto the ballot. Despite the fact that youth could not vote in PB, the youth committee actively campaigned for their projects and won lighting for the field at Tilden High School.



Neighborhood assembly participants in District 45 discussed which project ideas were most important to their district.



District 39 displayed a colorful banner at the second round of neighborhood assemblies where budget delegates revealed project proposals.

Conclusion

How did PB compare across the 4 districts?

Overall, the data presented in this report tells a compelling story about the pilot year of participatory budgeting in NYC. Thousands of New Yorkers from diverse backgrounds came together, many of whom do not otherwise participate in politics or have contact with government. The PB process engaged people deeply and helped transform them and their communities. Participants learned how the budget works, developed close connections with Council Members, other residents and organizations in their districts and learned to work collaboratively to solve community problems. They invested massive volunteer time and resources because they were able to design and carry out the processes collaboratively with elected officials and because there was real money on the table. PB brought considerable resources and benefits to the districts that participated beyond just the projects that won the PB vote.

From public housing residents in East Harlem and the Bronx to Bangladeshi immigrants in Kensington, from youth in Flatbush to volunteer firefighters in the Rockaways, participatory budgeting engaged a diverse set of people from four very different communities. While the districts maintained some continuity and adhered to the same basic structure and principles in carrying out the PB process, there are some important distinctions among the districts in terms of who participated, what outreach and community engagement methods were employed, and which projects were proposed and won. Lessons can be drawn from these findings in order to highlight best practices and make improvements for future cycles of PB in NYC and beyond.

Thousands of
New Yorkers
from diverse
backgrounds
came together,
many of whom
do not otherwise
participate in
politics or have
contact with
government



Participation

Across the districts, women were more likely than men to participate in all phases of PB and exceeded the rates of female participation in traditional elections.



- Melissa Mark-Viverito's District 8, encompassing East Harlem, the Bronx and Morningside Heights held targeted assemblies for youth, seniors and Spanish speakers. As a result, the district saw higher rates of participation for these populations, compared to the other districts.
- Similarly, Jumaane D. Williams' District 45, including Flatbush, Brooklyn, held a targeted assembly for youth and also had higher youth participation than districts that did not have such an assembly. In addition, the district boasted a majority of participants who were people of color, as well as the highest rate of participation from people born outside the United States.
- Eric Ulrich's District 32 had the overall highest rate of voter turnout, with approximately 1,600 of the 38,000 Rockaway residents coming out to vote. The district also mobilized low-income people at higher rates than during the 2009 election, through targeted outreach in housing developments.
- Brad Lander's District 39 had high voter turnout and an effective strategy for reaching the district's Bangladeshi immigrant community. Their success was due to hiring Bangla speaking outreach workers and partnering with community activists.
- Across the districts, women were more likely than men to participate in all phases of PB and exceeded the rates of female participation in traditional elections.

Outreach and Community Mobilization

- In District 39, most participants learned about PB through the Council Member, whether through a flyer, email or in-person contact with Brad Lander. District 39 also had the most developed online and social media presence with more people hearing about PB and submitting project ideas online than in the other districts. Importantly, District 39 residents have the highest education level and incomes of the four districts and thus are likely to have better access to and comfort with technology.
- District 8 had robust participation from community groups, who helped to spread the word about PB through phone calls, flyering and door-knocking. In addition, District 8 participants were less likely to learn about PB from online sources than those in other districts. This may be due in part to the fact that many of those who participated in PB in District 8 were very low-income and did not have the same access to technology as those in the wealthier districts.

- Districts 45 and 32 ran more grassroots operations, with many people learning about the process through word of mouth and informal social networks. In addition, outreach workers in District 32 were able to blanket the area and create a buzz that was more difficult to attain in some of the larger districts, thanks to the smaller geographic area and population, coordination with a widely-read, local weekly newspaper and early engagement of a wide variety of stakeholders.

Winning Projects

The projects that were selected in each district also represent the uniqueness of each neighborhood.

- District 8 had several projects focused on improvements to public housing and seniors.
- District 45 voted for a youth-focused project and several projects to repair streets and lighting.
- District 39 selected several projects focused on environmental sustainability.
- District 32 had several projects supporting volunteer firefighters, libraries and increasing access to the waterfront.
- Higher-income districts 39 and 32 chose more innovative projects, such as a library vending machine and a composting system, while the lower-income districts tended to focus on more basic needs, such as road repairs, transportation and lighting.
- All districts chose education projects, particularly focused on improving conditions and upgrading technology in schools.

All districts
chose education
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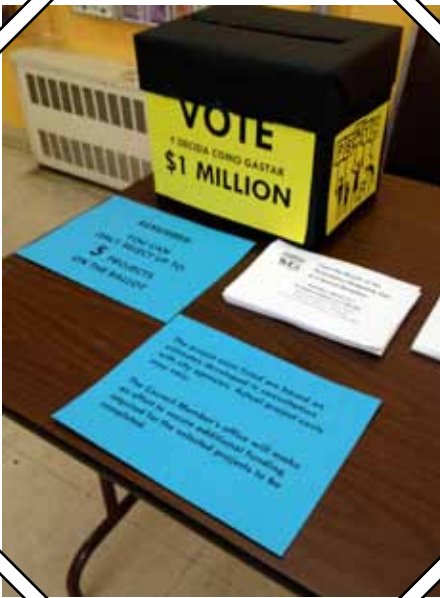
Recommendations for Future Participatory Budgets in NYC and Beyond

While the data indicates that PB succeeded in upholding the three guiding principles of transparency, equity and inclusion, it is helpful to build on past successes and identify areas for improvement. In order to strengthen the PB process in NYC and in other locations, we recommend the following:

Participation

Council Members should:

- **Reduce the voting age to 16**, to encourage youth participation.
- **Design the process with the community.** Engage a diverse group of organizations in deciding how the process will work, to build more support and ground the process in the local community.
- **Provide and publicize interpretation or special meetings and assemblies for non-English-speaking populations.** Districts that had assemblies in additional languages engaged more non-English speakers.
- **Hold community meetings specifically for youth.** Districts that organized youth assemblies engaged more young people.
- **Special PB events should be organized for seniors, who face unique participation barriers.** These meetings should be accessible for seniors, occur during the day and include materials with large fonts. When these techniques were used in the first year of PB, senior participation drastically increased.
- **Conduct targeted outreach to specific populations that tend not to participate.** Districts that used targeted outreach were able to engage more community members from the targeted groups.



A PBNYC voting site in Melissa Mark-Viverito's district gave directions in both Spanish and English.

Outreach

Council Member offices should:

- **Commit sufficient resources to ensure that effective outreach and mobilization work can be done.** Create outreach workgroups to focus on outreach and mobilization in the community.
- **Set up a series of group outreach and phone banking days in each district** so that more people can become familiar with how to do effective outreach and begin to employ these skills.
- **Ensure that outreach materials are translated** into the variety of languages represented in the districts.
- **Use ethnic and local media** (newspapers and radio shows) strategically to reach out to particular populations.
- **Enter into partnerships with groups that work directly with youth, non-citizens and the formerly incarcerated** as a way to ensure that these traditionally excluded populations are encouraged and supported to participate in PB.
- **Run the voter mobilization work like a traditional Get Out the Vote (GOTV) campaign**, by which people are contacted three to six times (in person, by phone, by mail) in order to inspire participation.

Project Ideas

Council Members should:

- **Develop a clear and consistent methodology across districts for determining whether or not a proposed project is eligible for PB.**
- **Consider allocating expense funding for PB.** Many neighborhood assembly participants proposed projects that can only be funded through expense funds.
- **Increase funding allocations in areas that residents prioritized.**

Expansion of PB to Cover Other Pots of Money

While the nearly \$5.3 million allocated through PB is a huge step forward for democratic decision-making, it is a tiny fraction of the full New York City and City Council budgets (.008% of the total NYC Budget; .06% of the NYC capital budget and 1% of capital discretionary funds allocated by City Council).

New York City council, City agencies and the Mayor should:

- **Expand PB to additional pots of money:**
 - **Expense Funds:** Many desired projects were ineligible by virtue of being expense fund projects, indicating an interest in more participation for these funding decisions.
 - **City agencies such as New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), NYC Department of Education (DoE) and Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) should implement PB for their budgets.**
 - **Full City Council budget.**
 - **Overall City budget.**
- **Dedicate more funding for implementation of participatory budgeting.** If the City wants to meaningfully engage residents, more resources are necessary to facilitate inclusive participation.



District 39 handed out stickers to participants after they voted.

Appendix

Research Limitations

There are several things to note about the secondary data used throughout the report, particularly the Voter Activation Network (VAN) and Catalist data used to estimate voter demographics in local NYC elections.

The 2009 local voter data represents people that actually showed up and signed in at a voting location on Election Day in Nov 2009 in New York City's 8th, 32nd, 39th and 45th city council districts. The city-wide averages used in this report are based on a weighted average of those four districts. Data is not available for which election contests, if any, the person actually voted for after signing in. 2009 included races for mayor, public advocate, comptroller, borough president and city council. There were no elections for state or federal offices.

Gender and age data is self-reported on voter registration sheets. Ethnicity and race data is based on models that take into account many factors including the person's census block, name and various consumer data. Income and years of education are represented by the median within a person's 2000 census block. This method tends to undercount high-income voters and low-income voters and over-count middle-income voters. This effect is mitigated slightly in New York City since Census blocks are so small (usually they correspond to a city block). Despite the data's limitations this is the only comparative data available for local elections in such a specific geographic area.

Additionally, PB was only implemented in part of District 32. However, the 2009 voter data for District 32 is for the entire district (this is the smallest geographic area available). This makes comparisons between the datasets difficult. However, both datasets were included in this report to compare PB voters with voters in typical local elections.

8th District Demographics

		Census Data ⁸⁹	Neighborhood Assemblies N=274	Budget Delegates N=61	PB Voters N=777	Voters in 2009 Local Elections ⁹⁰	Difference between PB and 2009 Voters
Gender NA: N=249 BD: N=61 Voters: N=731	Female	53%	68%	61%	66%	60%	+6%
	Male	47%	31%	39%	34%	40%	-6%
	Other	N/A	1%	0%	0%	N/A	N/A
Race/Ethnicity NA: N=243 BD: N=60 Voters: N=746	American Indian or Alaska Native	0%	3%	5%	2%	0%	+2%
	Asian	6%	3%	2%	2%	2%	0%
	Black or African American	23%	41%	50%	34%	31%	+3%
	Hispanic or Latino/a	50%	46%	33%	50%	39%	+11%
	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0%	0%	0%	1%	N/A	N/A
	White	19%	14%	20%	17%	22%	-5%
	Other	2%	5%	3%	2%	0%	+2%
Highest Level of Education NA: N=169 BD: N=53 Voters: N=740	Some High School or less	16%	10%	2%	16%	N/A	N/A
	H.S. Diploma or GED	21%	20%	8%	24%	N/A	N/A
	Associate/ Vocational Degree	5%	8%	6%	8%	N/A	N/A
	Some College	13%	18%	30%	21%	N/A	N/A
	Bachelor's Degree	17%	23%	28%	15%	N/A	N/A
	Graduate Degree	15%	21%	26%	16%	N/A	N/A
Income NA: N=196 BD: N=52 Voters: N=680	Less than \$10,000	18%	23%	19%	22%	4%	+18%
	\$10,000-\$14,999	9%	14%	19%	15%	24%	-9%
	\$15,000-\$24,999	13%	13%	8%	12%	14%	-2%
	\$25,000-\$34,999	9%	13%	6%	12%	25%	-13%
	\$35,000-\$49,999	12%	13%	14%	15%	11%	+4%
	\$50,000-\$74,999	13%	12%	19%	10%	20%	-10%
	\$75,000-\$99,999	8%	7%	8%	6%	1%	+5%
	\$100,000-\$149,000	8%	3%	8%	5%	1%	+4%
	\$150,000 or more	9%	3%	0%	3%	0%	+3%
Age NA: N=246 BD: N=58 Voters: N=726	14 years or under	20%	14%	2%	0%	N/A	N/A
	15 to 19 years	7%	12%	7%	4%	N/A	N/A
	20 to 24 years	8%	2%	2%	6%	N/A	N/A
	25 to 34 years	19%	12%	14%	14%	11%	+3%
	35 to 44 years	14%	7%	12%	16%	N/A	N/A
	45 to 54 years	12%	18%	29%	21%	N/A	N/A
	55 to 64 years	10%	15%	26%	19%	N/A	N/A
	65 years and older	11%	20%	9%	21%	31%	-10%
Language ⁹¹ NA: N=246 BD: N=56 Voters: N=731	English	47%	79%	96%	84%	N/A	N/A
	Spanish	42%	12%	4%	13%	N/A	N/A
	Other	11%		0%	3%	N/A	N/A

32nd District Demographics

		Census Data ⁹²	Neighborhood Assemblies N=117	Budget Delegates N=36	PB Voters N=1379	Voters in 2009 Local Elections ⁹³	Difference between PB and 2009 Voters
Gender NA: N=106 BD: N=36 Voters: N=1321	Female	52%	60%	64%	62%	54%	+8%
	Male	48%	40%	33%	38%	46%	-8%
	Other	N/A	0%	3%	0%	N/A	N/A
Race/Ethnicity NA: N=103 BD: N=31 Voters: N=1305	American Indian or Alaska Native	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	+1%
	Asian	3%	0%	0%	0%	6%	-6%
	Black or African American	14%	5%	3%	3%	6%	-3%
	Hispanic or Latino/a	14%	5%	3%	4%	18%	-14%
	White	68%	89%	94%	89%	61%	+28%
	Other	2%	1%	0%	4%	0%	+4%
Highest Level of Education NA: N=99 BD: N=31 Voters: N=1348	Some High School or less	10%	1%	0%	2%	N/A	N/A
	H.S. Diploma or GED	30%	17%	3%	21%	N/A	N/A
	Associate/ Vocational Degree	5%	10%	3%	9%	N/A	N/A
	Some College	20%	20%	19%	23%	N/A	N/A
	Bachelor's Degree	20%	26%	48%	22%	N/A	N/A
	Graduate Degree	13%	25%	26%	23%	N/A	N/A
Income NA: N=84 BD: N=24 Voters: N=1199	Less than \$10,000	8%	0%	0%	2%	0%	+2%
	\$10,000-\$14,999	5%	0%	4%	3%	0%	+3%
	\$15,000-\$24,999	8%	13%	0%	4%	0%	+4%
	\$25,000-\$34,999	10%	2%	0%	8%	11%	-3%
	\$35,000-\$49,999	13%	11%	29%	10%	42%	-32%
	\$50,000-\$74,999	17%	20%	17%	18%	40%	-22%
	\$75,000-\$99,999	15%	14%	13%	19%	6%	+13%
	\$100,000-\$149,000	16%	23%	21%	20%	1%	+19%
	\$150,000 or more	10%	17%	17%	16%	0%	+16%
Age NA: N=106 BD: N=32 Voters: N=1297	14 years or under	18%	1%	0%	0%	N/A	N/A
	15 to 19 years	7%	0%	0%	0%	N/A	N/A
	20 to 24 years	5%	0%	0%	2%	N/A	N/A
	25 to 34 years	10%	5%	9%	9%	8%	+1%
	35 to 44 years	15%	17%	19%	20%	N/A	N/A
	45 to 54 years	16%	20%	38%	21%	N/A	N/A
	55 to 64 years	13%	30%	16%	19%	N/A	N/A
	65 years and older	17%	27%	19%	30%	32%	-2%
Language ⁹⁴ NA: N=103 BD: N=36 Voters: N=1378	English	83%	98%	92%	94%	N/A	N/A
	Spanish	8%	0%	0%	5%	N/A	N/A
	Other	9%	2%	8%	3%	N/A	N/A

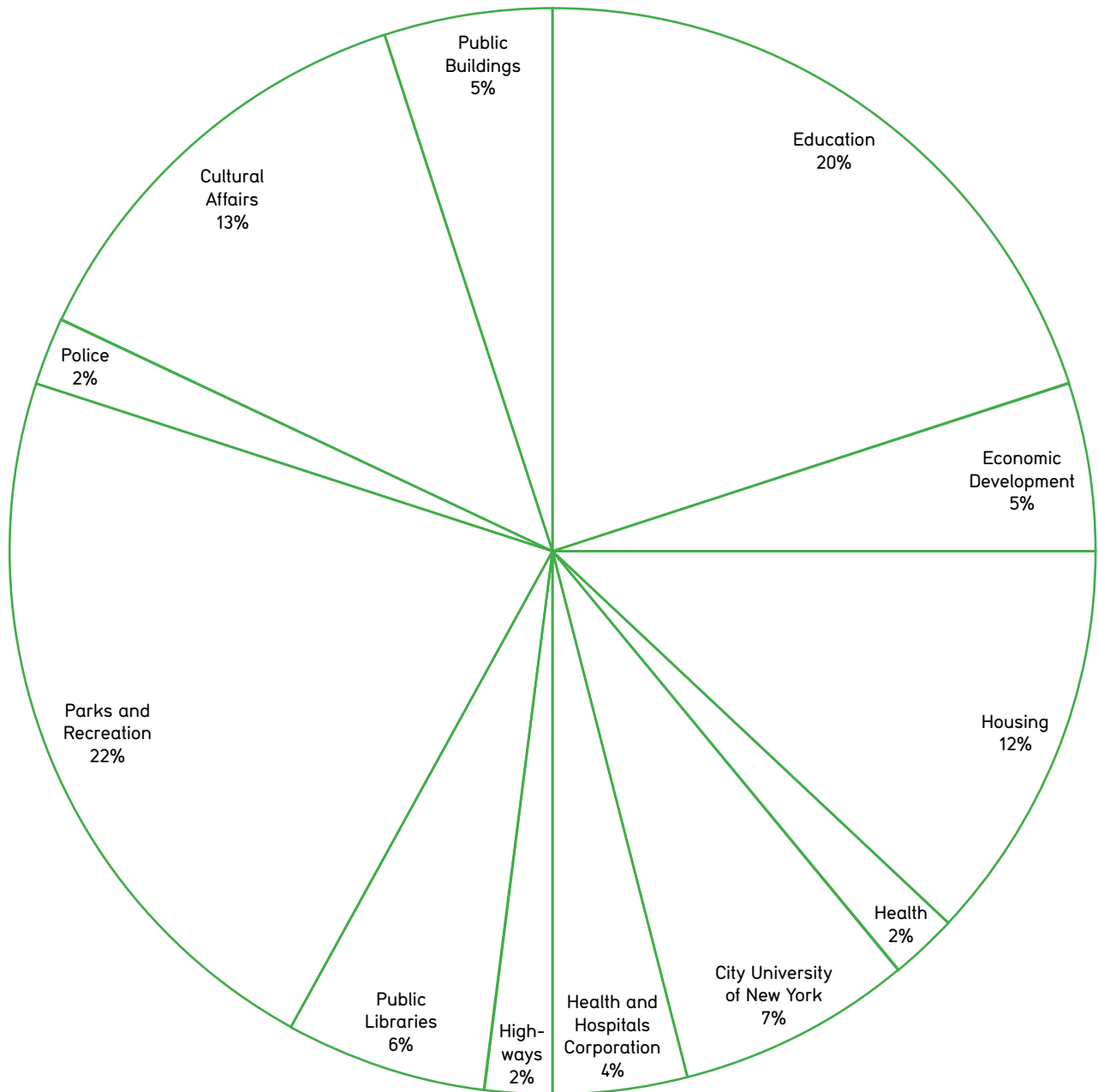
39th District Demographics

		Census Data ⁹⁵	Neighborhood Assemblies N=277	Budget Delegates N=102	PB Voters N=1106	Voters in 2009 Local Elections ⁹⁶	Difference between PB and 2009 Voters
Gender NA: N=252 BD: N=101 Voters: N=1031	Female	51%	65%	70%	60%	53%	+7%
	Male	49%	35%	30%	40%	47%	-7%
	Other	N/A	0%	0%	0%	N/A	N/A
Race/Ethnicity NA: N=254 BD: N=90 Voters: N=1047	American Indian or Alaska Native	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	+1%
	Asian	13%	7%	6%	5%	4%	+1%
	Black or African American	4%	4%	4%	3%	8%	-5%
	Hispanic or Latino/a	14%	6%	10%	6%	11%	-5%
	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	0%	1%	1%	0%	N/A	N/A
	White	66%	81%	89%	87%	55%	+32%
	Other	3%	6%	6%	5%	0%	+5%
Highest Level of Education NA: N=240 BD: N=98 Voters: N=1093	Some High School or less	8%	2%	1%	1%	N/A	N/A
	H.S. Diploma or GED	22%	5%	1%	4%	N/A	N/A
	Associate/ Vocational Degree	5%	2%	1%	1%	N/A	N/A
	Some College	13%	6%	7%	6%	N/A	N/A
	Bachelor's Degree	25%	33%	33%	30%	N/A	N/A
	Graduate Degree	19%	53%	57%	58%	N/A	N/A
Income NA: N=229 BD: N=88 Voters: N=969	Less than \$10,000	8%	2%	1%	1%	0%	+1%
	\$10,000-\$14,999	6%	2%	3%	1%	0%	+1%
	\$15,000-\$24,999	10%	4%	1%	2%	13%	-11%
	\$25,000-\$34,999	8%	5%	7%	4%	18%	-14%
	\$35,000-\$49,999	12%	10%	9%	6%	23%	-17%
	\$50,000-\$74,999	15%	21%	17%	14%	37%	-23%
	\$75,000-\$99,999	12%	14%	13%	16%	8%	+8%
	\$100,000-\$149,000	15%	26%	30%	28%	0%	+28%
	\$150,000 or more	15%	18%	19%	30%	0%	+30%
Age NA: N=249 BD: N=100 Voters: N=1027	14 years or under	22%	0%	0%	0%	N/A	N/A
	15 to 19 years	6%	1%	0%	0%	N/A	N/A
	20 to 24 years	6%	1%	2%	1%	N/A	N/A
	25 to 34 years	19%	14%	21%	15%	17%	-2%
	35 to 44 years	15%	25%	22%	31%	N/A	N/A
	45 to 54 years	13%	22%	25%	23%	N/A	N/A
	55 to 64 years	9%	21%	12%	18%	N/A	N/A
	65 years and older	10%	16%	18%	12%	19%	-7%
Language ⁹⁷ NA: N=249 BD: N=101 Voters: N=1072	English	49%	96%	96%	93%	N/A	N/A
	Spanish	13%	0%	0%	4%	N/A	N/A
	Other	38%	3%	4%	5%	N/A	N/A

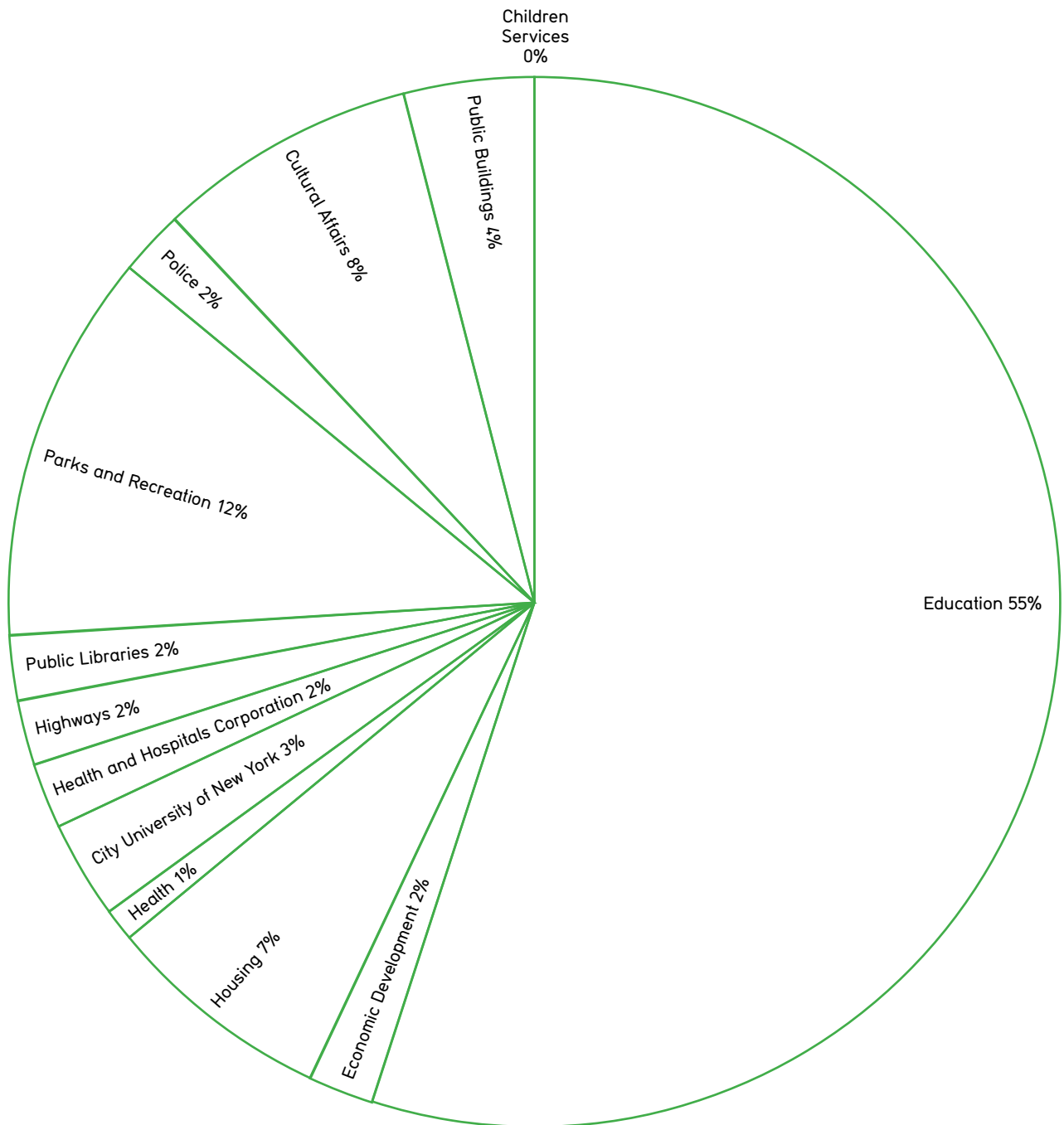
45th District Demographics

		Census Data ⁹⁸	Neighborhood Assemblies N=295	Budget Delegates N=52	PB Voters N=479	Voters in 2009 Local Elections ⁹⁹	Difference between PB and 2009 Voters
Gender NA: N=258 BD: N=51 Voters: N=457	Female	54%	61%	61%	64%	60%	+4%
	Male	46%	39%	37%	36%	40%	-4%
	Other	N/A	0%	2%	0%	N/A	N/A
Race/Ethnicity NA: N=259 BD: N=51 Voters: N=447	American Indian or Alaska Native	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	+2%
	Asian	3%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
	Black or African American	76%	83%	84%	87%	79%	+8%
	Hispanic or Latino/a	8%	4%	6%	6%	4%	+2%
	White	11%	7%	8%	7%	11%	-4%
	Other	2%	6%	12%	6%	0%	+6%
Highest Level of Education NA: N=221 BD: N=48 Voters: N=463	Some High School or less	10%	7%	0%	9%	N/A	N/A
	H.S. Diploma or GED	32%	11%	10%	21%	N/A	N/A
	Associate/ Vocational Degree	9%	7%	8%	11%	N/A	N/A
	Some College	20%	23%	29%	19%	N/A	N/A
	Bachelor's Degree	16%	25%	27%	20%	N/A	N/A
	Graduate Degree	8%	28%	25%	19%	N/A	N/A
Income NA: N=217 BD: N=43 Voters: N=393	Less than \$10,000	9%	11%	2%	8%	0%	+8%
	\$10,000-\$14,999	5%	4%	7%	5%	2%	+3%
	\$15,000-\$24,999	11%	5%	9%	8%	4%	+4%
	\$25,000-\$34,999	11%	12%	9%	14%	19%	-5%
	\$35,000-\$49,999	14%	16%	12%	18%	46%	-28%
	\$50,000-\$74,999	19%	21%	26%	20%	28%	-8%
	\$75,000-\$99,999	12%	12%	14%	14%	1%	13%
	\$100,000-\$149,000	13%	14%	12%	6%	0%	6%
	\$150,000 or more	7%	6%	9%	7%	0%	7%
Age NA: N=258 BD: N=52 Voters: N=439	14 years or under	21%	2%	0%	0%	N/A	N/A
	15 to 19 years	7%	7%	2%	4%	N/A	N/A
	20 to 24 years	6%	5%	6%	4%	N/A	N/A
	25 to 34 years	16%	11%	8%	14%	10%	+4%
	35 to 44 years	13%	17%	21%	14%	N/A	N/A
	45 to 54 years	15%	21%	29%	21%	N/A	N/A
	55 to 64 years	11%	17%	15%	21%	N/A	N/A
	65 years and older	11%	21%	19%	23%	29%	-6%
Language ¹⁰⁰ NA: N=263 BD: N=52 Voters: N=466	English	70%	94%	92%	93%	N/A	N/A
	Spanish	7%	0%	2%	6%	N/A	N/A
	Other	23%	6%	6%	5%	N/A	N/A

NYC Capital Budget FY13:
Division of Allocated Funds per Category¹⁰¹



NYC Capital Budget FY13:
Division of Projects per Category¹⁰²



Endnotes

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90. Race and Ethnicity data for Voters in 2009 local elections does not include voters identified as Jewish or Middle Eastern. Voter Activation Network, *The New York State Engagement Table*, 2009 City Council Election.
91. The answers for the question regarding participant language were re-coded into a "check all" question for the voter surveys but not for the budget delegate or neighborhood assembly surveys.
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96. Race and Ethnicity data for Voters in 2009 local elections does not include voters identified as Jewish or Middle Eastern. Voter Activation Network, *The New York State Engagement Table*, 2009 City Council Election.
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About the Authors



The Community Development Project (CDP) at the Urban Justice Center strengthens the impact of grassroots organizations in New York City's low-income and other excluded communities. We partner with community organizations to win legal cases, publish community-driven research reports, assist with the formation of new organizations and cooperatives, and provide technical and transactional assistance in support of their work towards social justice. CDP's Research and Policy Initiative partners with and provides strategic support to grassroots community organizations to build the power of their organizing and advocacy work.

For more information about CDP please visit:

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About the Designers

The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement. CUP collaborates with designers, educators, advocates, students, and communities to make educational tools that demystify complex policy and planning issues.

MTWTF is a graphic design studio specializing in publications, exhibitions, environmental graphics, and interactive work with clients in other disciplines such as art, architecture, and urban planning.