

# Participatory Budgeting

*Real Money, Real Power*

*Buffalo Niagara Community  
Reinvestment Coalition: Taking Control  
of Public Dollars*

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PARTICIPATORY  
BUDGETING PROJECT

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



## HISTORY

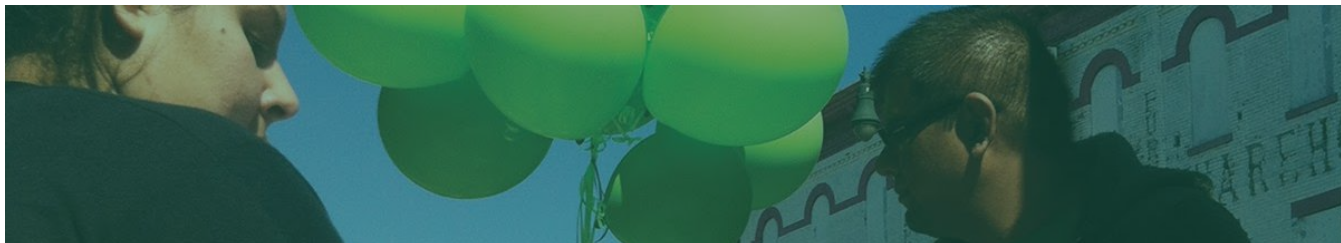
Founded in 2009, we have led, supported, or inspired almost every PB process in North America.

## MISSION

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

## WHERE WE WORK

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



# REFRAMING DEMOCRACY



# What is participatory budgeting?

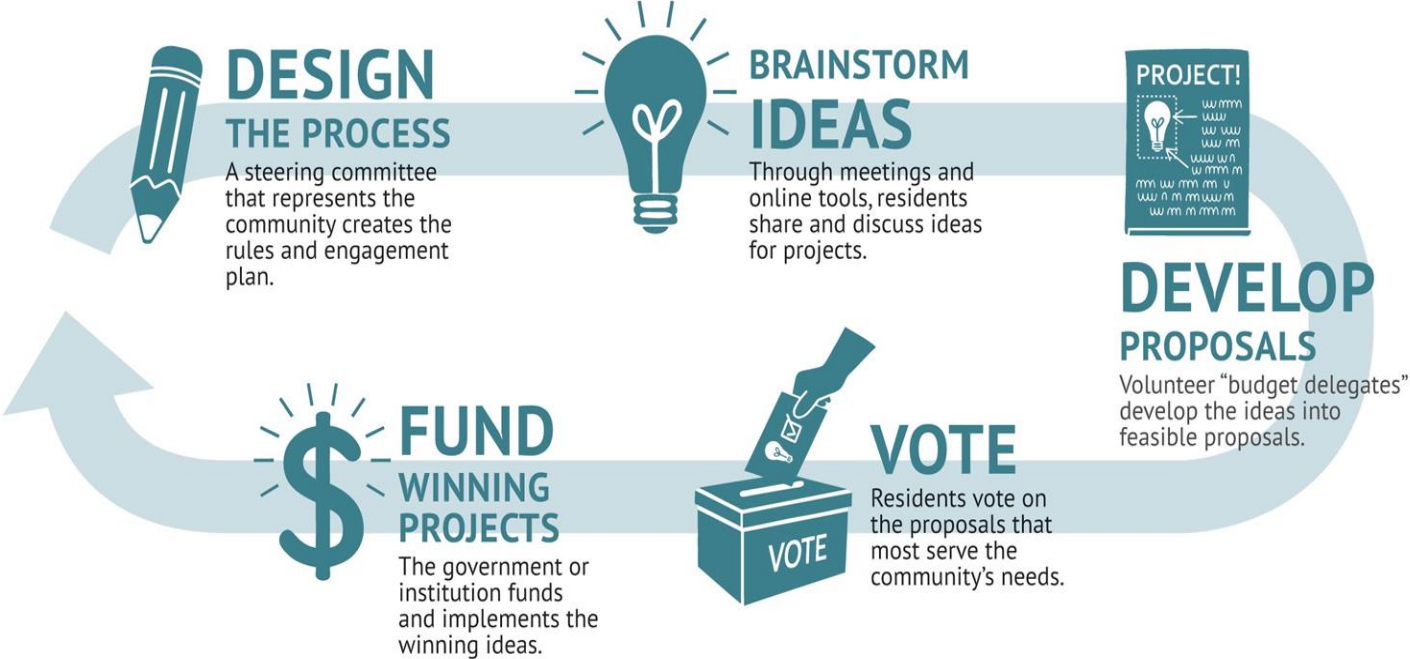
## *Participatory budgeting*

is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget.



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# HOW DOES PB WORK?

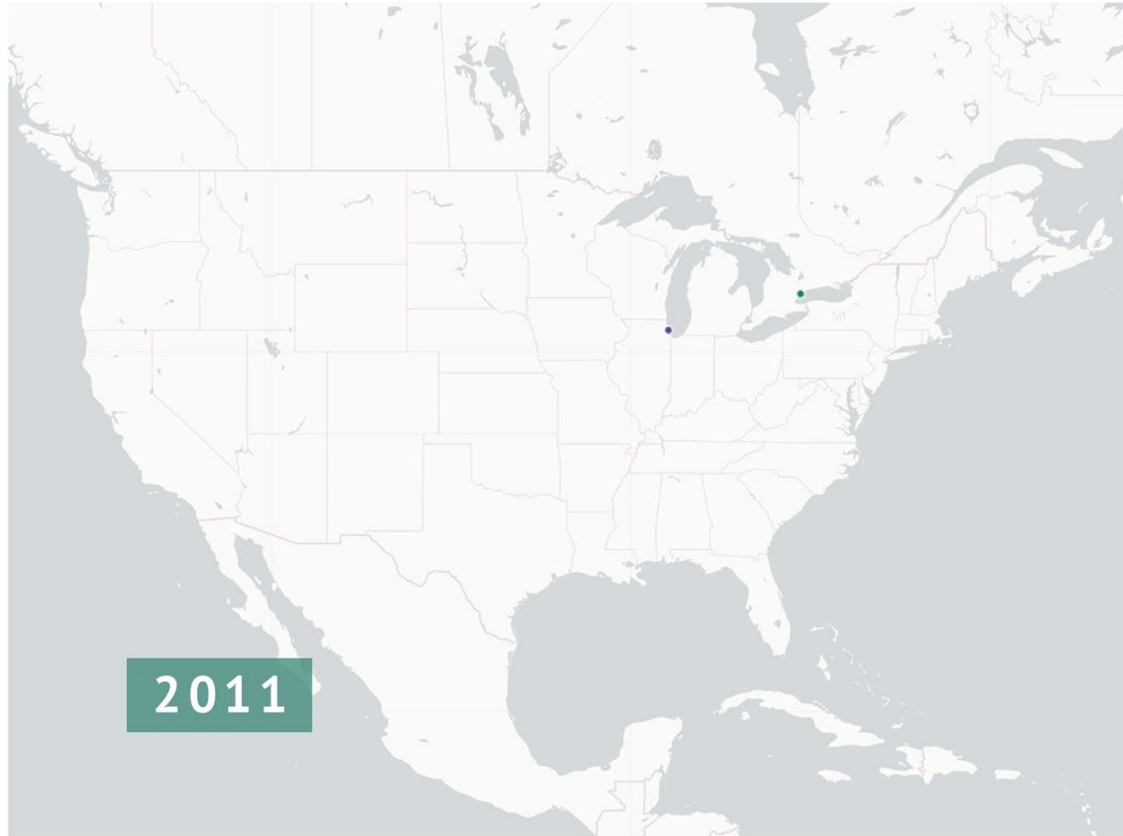


# What kinds of budgets?

- City, county, state, and federal budgets
- Non-governmental sources like foundation or nonprofit budgets
- Discretionary funds of elected officials
- School, school district, and university budgets
- Housing authority or other public agency budgets
- Community Benefit Funds from private development
- Funds divested from criminal justice and police



# PB in North America



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## PB Oakland

FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
BLOCK GRANTS





# Participatory Justice





**DEMOCRACY  
DOESN'T PAUSE**

# PB centers equity and inclusion

✓ Money that matters

✓ Grassroots leadership

✓ Inclusive design

✓ Focused outreach

✓ Equity criteria



# Key questions for PB planning & advocacy

- ✓ WHAT? What funding or budgets could be allocated through PB?
- ✓ WHO? Who needs to be brought (or bought) in? Who is missing?
- ✓ WHEN? What's a reasonable timeline, with the budget in mind?
- ✓ WHY? Are are you trying to accomplish?
- ✓ What challenges or obstacles are you most concerned about?





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