Participatory Budgeting

Real Money, Real Power

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

Kristania De Leon, Director, Partnerships &

Strategy kristania@participatorybudgeting.org



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT

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 WORKAcross 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.



HOW DOES PB WORK?

DESIGN THE PROCESS

A steering committee that represents the community creates the rules and engagement plan.

Service Brainstorm

_

Through meetings and online tools, residents share and discuss ideas for projects.



DEVELOP PROPOSALS

Volunteer "budget delegates" develop the ideas into feasible proposals.

FUND WINNING PROJECTS The government or institution funds

and implements the winning ideas.

VOTE Residents vote on

VOTE

Residents vote on the proposals that most serve the community's needs.

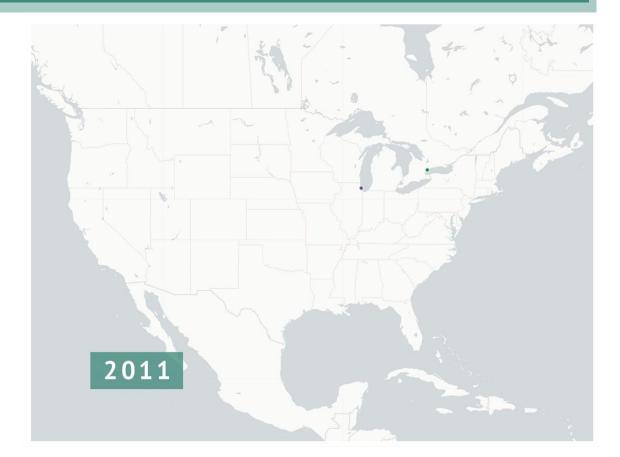
What kinds of budgets?

- 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





PB Oakland FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

BALLOTS



Participatory Justice



DEMOCRACY DEMOCRACY DEMOCRACY SPECTATOR SPORT

DEMOCRACY DOESN'T PAUSE

PB centers equity and inclusion

✓ Money that matters

✓ Grassroots leadership

✓ Inclusive design

✓ Focused outreach







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?



Kristania De Leon

Director, Partnerships & Strategy kristania@participatorybudgeting.org

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT www.participatorybudgeting.org



ParticipatoryBudgetingProject

