

Participatory Budgeting Pilot

City Manager's Office

What is Participatory Budgeting (PB)?

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- PB is a specific type of engagement process where residents propose and vote on community investment projects, funded through a pre-determined portion of the municipal budget
- PB is being used across a range of international jurisdictions although the scale, level of funding and program design varies

Experiences in Other Jurisdictions

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- San Francisco and St. Louis recently piloted PB with \$100,000 allocated across all 11 districts in San Francisco and 28 wards in St. Louis
- New York City allocates \$1-2 M across their 5 districts and Chicago allocates \$1 M across each of their 55 wards
- Boston is currently piloting a PB process to allocate \$1M for youth
- Paris has recently allocated 5% of their capital budget over the next 6 years to PB

Benefits of PB

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- Greater transparency in government
- Increased civic participation of residents, particularly residents under-represented in civic affairs
- Strengthened and empowered communities
- Improved local budget decisions
- Increased community capacity and leadership

Key Elements of PB

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- **Community Outreach and Engagement** – Community meetings are convened to brainstorm ideas and select community delegates
- **Proposal Development** – Community delegates work with public service staff to transform project ideas into project proposals
- **Community Vote** – Community members vote on which project proposals to select
- **Project Implementation** – Public service staff implement the projects and the community monitors implementation

2015 PB Pilot Proposal

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- Allocate up to \$150,000 each to three (3) areas in Toronto to identify community improvement projects through a PB process including:
 - Ward 33
 - Oakridge in Ward 35 – Neighbourhood Improvement Area in East District
 - Rustic in Ward 12 – Neighbourhood Improvement Area in West District

PB Funding Sources

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- Up to \$150,000 for community improvement projects in Ward 33 to be funded through the Parkland Reserve Fund, Public Realm Reserve Fund and Capital Financing Reserve Fund
- Up to \$150,000 for community improvement projects in Oakridge and Rustic to be funded through the Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIA) Capital Funds included in the 10-Year Capital Plan

Criteria for PB Projects

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- Projects that acquire, develop, maintain or improve infrastructure or physical assets owned or leased by the City
- Cannot delay, cancel or supersede council approved project which has started.
- Must begin construction within 12 months of project selection and must be completed within 18 months of project selection

PB Pilot Timeline

- **March 2015** – City Council approves PB Pilot
- **April-May 2015** – Community meetings convened to identify project ideas and identify community delegates
- **May-August 2015** – Community proposal development
- **September 2015** – Community votes on which projects to select
- **October 2015 – March 2017** – Projects are implemented.

PB Resources

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- The City will use existing resources to support the 2015 PB pilot including outreach, developing education, communications and information materials, developing project proposals with community delegates and facilitating the community election
- Research and experience in other jurisdictions have found that implementing a successful PB process can be resource intense
- Resourcing will need to be considered and included in any proposed future PB process

PB Evaluation and Report Back

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- The PB pilot will be evaluated throughout the process
- The results of the PB pilot, including evaluation results, will be incorporated into options for PB processes in the 2016 and future years' annual budget cycle