



Let's Budget, Denver!

Participatory Budgeting Pilot: Update

Finance and Governance Committee | May 10, 2022

Agenda

Overview of Participatory Budgeting Pilot in Denver

- Program history and structure
- Team members
- Capital improvements

Design Phase Update

- Community Steering Committee recruitment
- Rulebook design

Idea Collection Phase

- Upcoming outreach and mini-grants

Proposal Development and Community Voting Lookahead

- Planning for the community vote



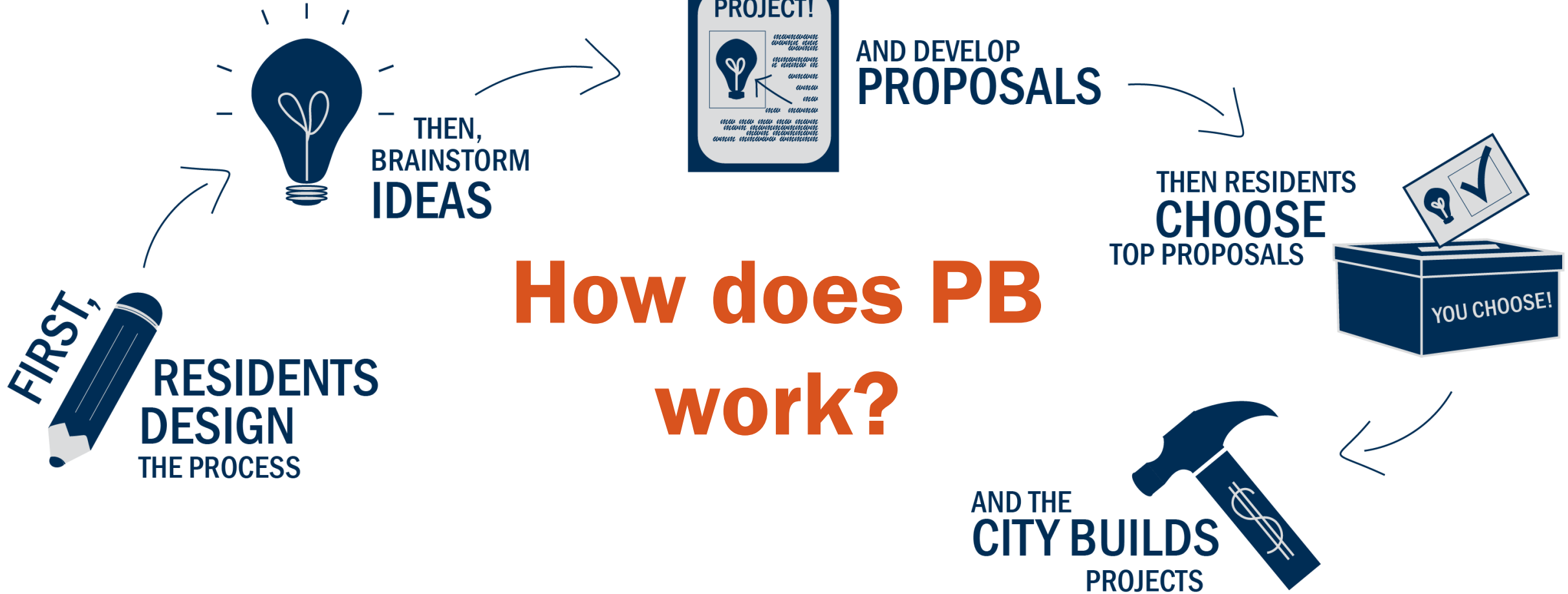
Participatory Budgeting in Denver

How it works and who is involved in Denver's pilot program

Participatory What?

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic process where community members decide how to spend part of a public budget.





\$1.7 million on capital improvements

\$1,000,000

Distributed across three areas with completed neighborhood plan initiatives (NPI)

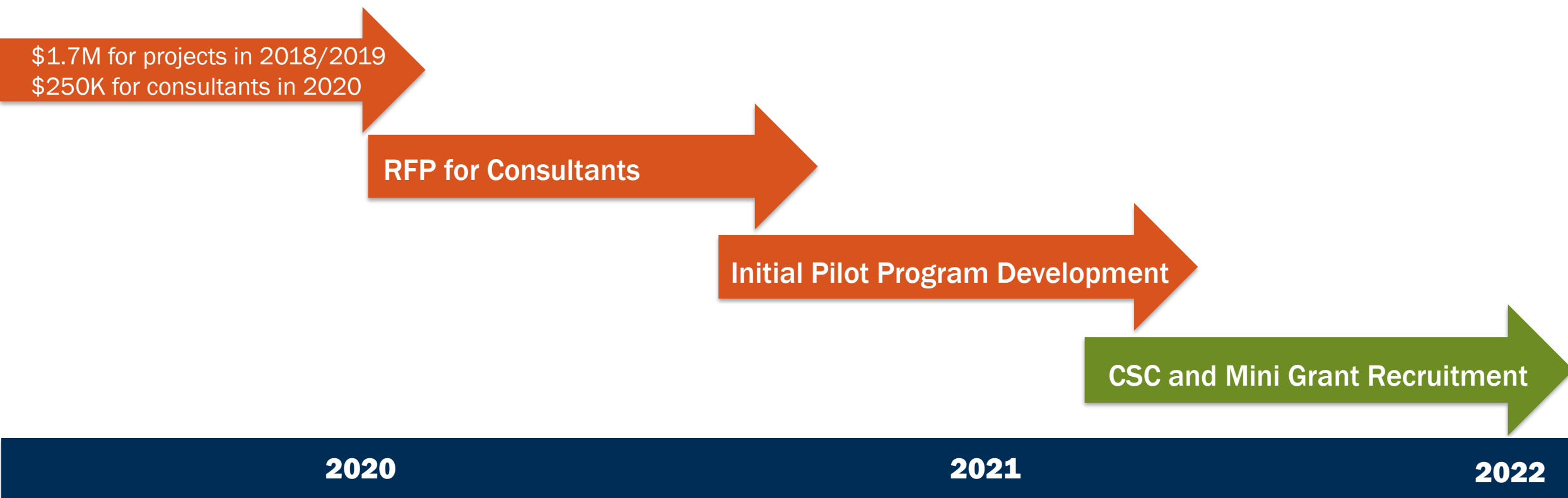


\$700,000

Distributed to mobility safety projects citywide in areas outside the NPI areas



Denver PB Timeline: History



Initial planning for Denver PB started in 2018

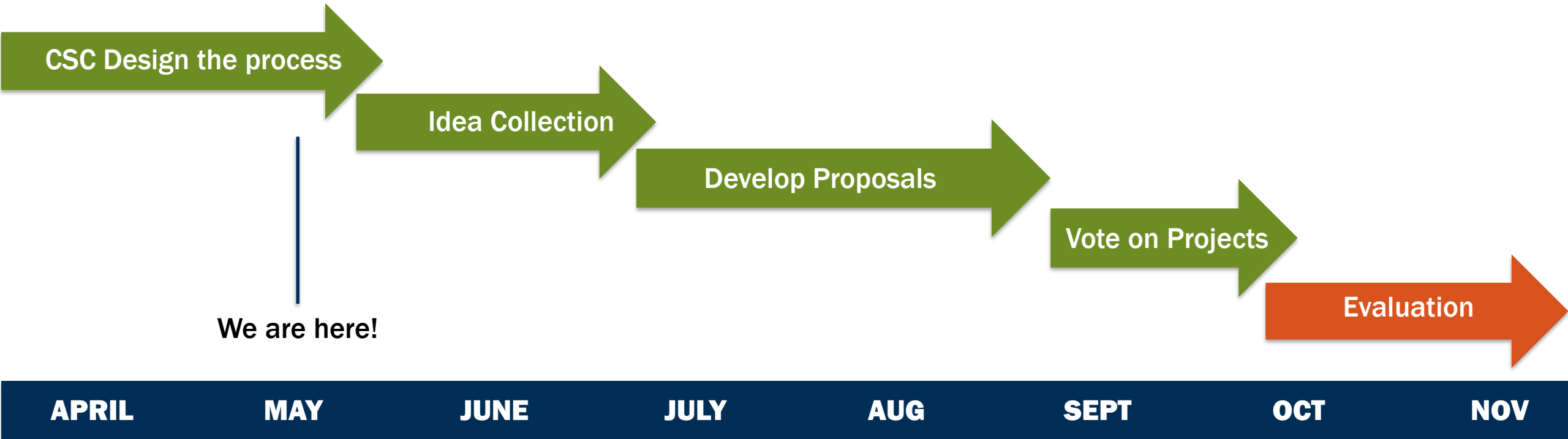


Current Phase: Design

Seating the CSC to design the process

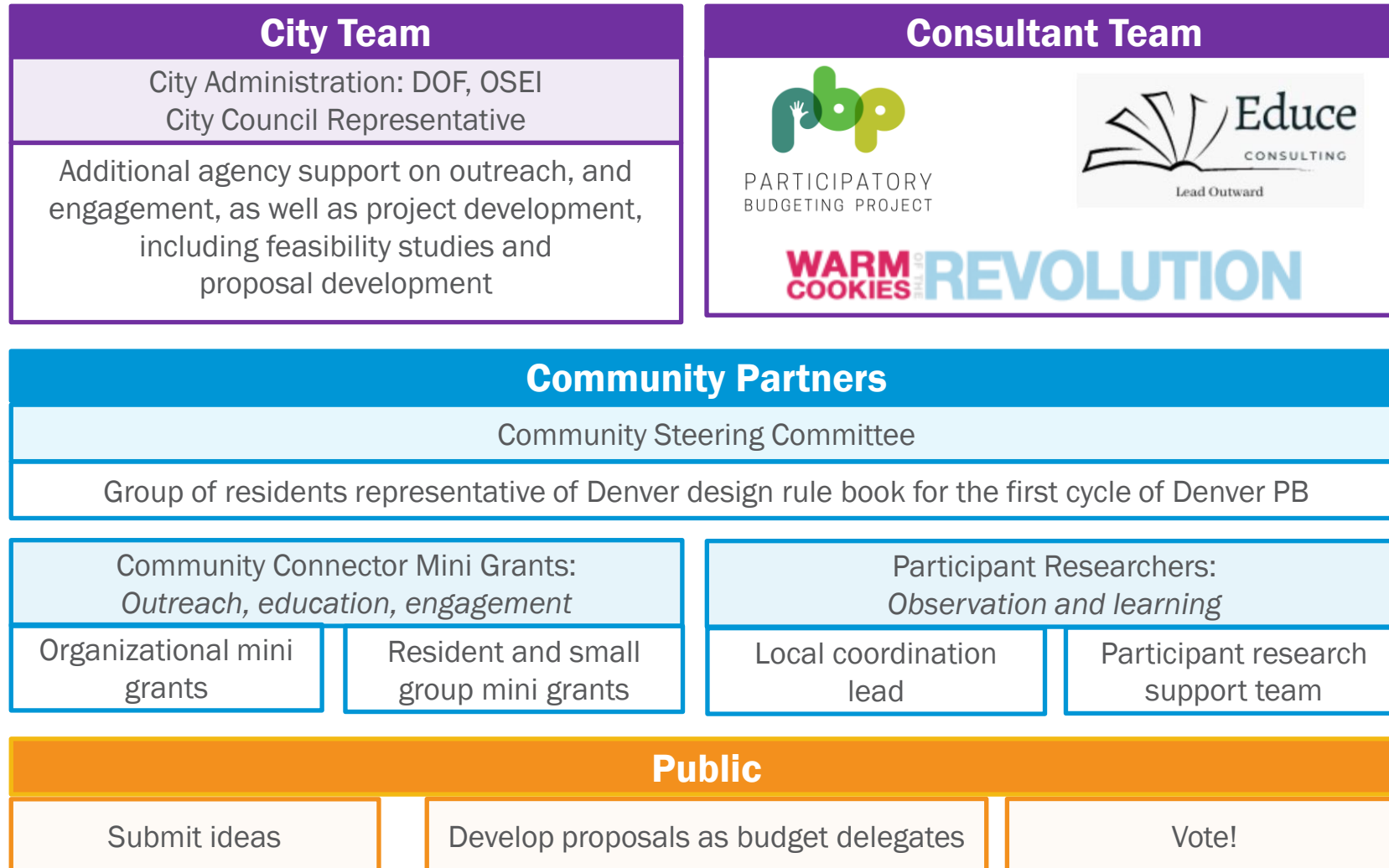
Denver PB Timeline: Current Status

The first cycle of Denver PB will take place over the next several months.



The City may start designing and constructing selected projects as early as the end of 2022.

Program Structure



Civic Engagement

- Resident ownership in government and participation in long-term, collective decision-making

Community Capacity and Education

- Individual and collective capacity to shape civic affairs

Denver PB Goals

Equity and Accessibility

- Equitable outcomes for historically underserved communities, especially BIPOC residents, people with disabilities, youth, and immigrants and refugees

Institutional Capacity

- Authentic collaboration rooted in improved listening and dialogue to create a more responsive government that invests in residents and community power

Commitment to Equity and Inclusion

Denver PB is committed to an inclusive process that prioritizes residents who have historically faced the highest barriers to civic engagement, including:

Black, Indigenous,
People of Color (BIPOC)

Immigrants and
refugees

Persons with
disabilities

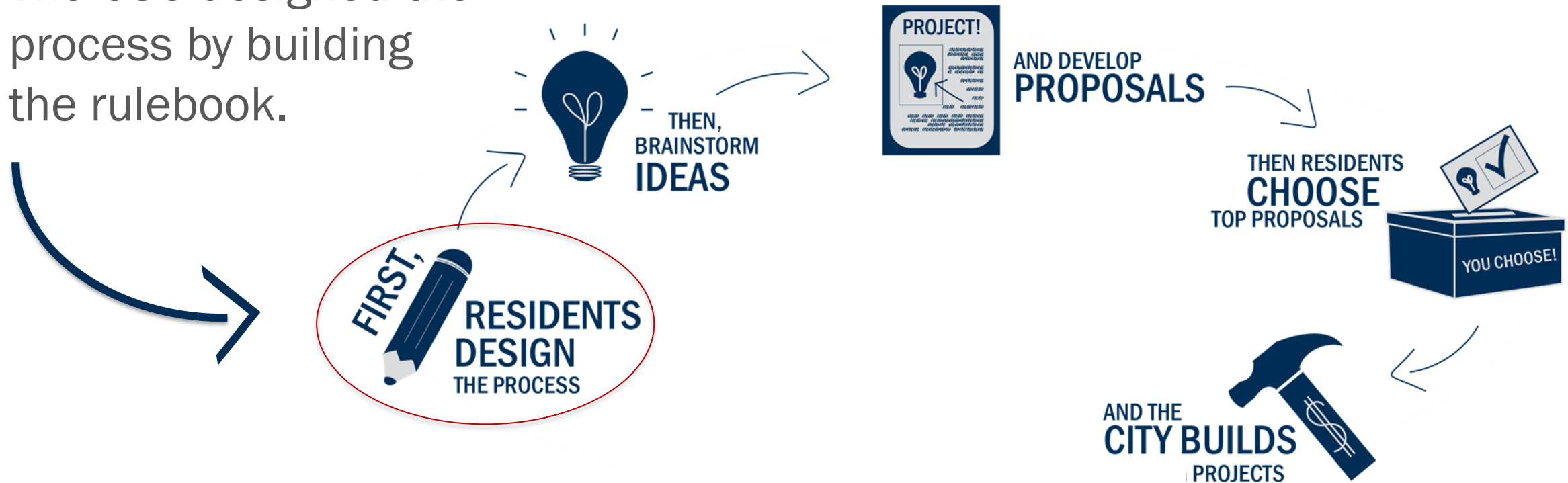
Youth

Equity is built into every step of the process, including consideration of:

- Language justice
- Compensation
- ASL and captioning
- Transportation support
- Childcare support
- Flexible meeting times

Community Steering Committee (CSC)

The CSC designed the process by building the rulebook.



Community Steering Committee



CSC members have vibrant and diverse perspectives:

Strong advocates for historically underserved communities:

Representation from persons with disabilities and LGBTQ identities. Strong advocacy for unhoused residents.

Culturally rich and committed to language justice:

Members speaking Karen, Poe Karen, Burmese, Thai, Poah, Fulani, Spanish, Lakota, Nyanja, Bemba, and Tonga

Citywide representation with Focus in NPI areas:

Strong representation in FNE, E, and EC. Members represent 12 different neighborhoods across the city.

Racially and Ethnically Diverse:

Strong representation from Black, Indigenous, People of Color as well as immigrants and refugees

Youth representation:

Two members 18 or under, with the youngest member under the age of 15

CSC Engagement

Alejandro Galaza (he, his) to Everyone

AG I voted for 13 years old, but I'm not opposed to lowering the age to 10.

Anaya Robinson (he/him) to Everyone

There's also youth who grow up without supportive adults, and unhoused youth may not be able to participate if they do not have adults to consent in their lives.

Who can see your messages? Recording On

To: Everyone

Type message here...

Ways to Verify that are OK

- Ask for street address
- Ask for a piece of mail with name and address
- Display a map of the neighborhood if they live in a school zone
- Ask a yes/no if a person meets the eligibility criteria
- Basic eligibility questions before submitting an online ballot
- Clearly post eligibility, do not check
- Ask what school and the address of the school
- Clearly post eligibility, do not check

Ways to Verify that are NOT OK

- Not OK Way: Asking for receipts (7) do they buy things at the local super market?
- Not OK Way: Requesting specific documents such as licenses, bills, etc.
- Not OK Way: Asking more than 2 verification questions to determine how a person meets the eligibility criteria
- Not OK Way: Requesting any form of verification will remove access for at least some individuals who are eligible every time
- Not OK Way: Check driver's licenses

Examples: Clearly post eligibility, do not check; Ask for street address; Basic eligibility questions before submitting an online ballot; Ask for student IDs?; Ask for street address; Check driver's licenses

Questions Responses Settings

For DEVELOPING IDEAS, who should be eligible? (minimum age)

Response	Count	Percentage
at least 10 years old	2	28.57%
at least 13 years old	4	57.14%
at least 16 years old	3	42.86%
no minimum age stated	0	0%

For DEVELOPING PROPOSALS do you want the youngest participants to be required to have an adult agree to support for accountability?

Response	Count	Percentage
Yes	4	57.14%
No	3	42.86%
Not sure	1	14.29%

Participants: Roshan Bliss (he/him), Kiki Turner (she/hers), Charissa Murphy (she/hers), Jordan T (They/Them), Alejandro Galaza (he, his), Adam A (he/him), Pam Jinar, Michael Cusack (he/him), Joie Ha (she/he/hers), Mayra Gonzales, Beauclarine Thomas, Drew Brown, Danna's iPhone, Anaya Robinson (he/him), Lakisha Gentry SHE/HER

Denver PB CSC - Participation Criteria - CSC Proposals

NPI Areas

1B Who can submit ideas in NPI areas?

Proposal(s)	Objection(s)?	Modification(s)?
Anyone in Denver (no age limit) can submit ideas in NPI areas		Question: How are you defining "in Denver?"
live in, go to school, own or work at micro & small business		Strike small businesses
Live in NPI area, go to school there, own or work at a micro business		

Can I hear anyone with objections, things that you wanna change about this proposal?

Levels of Agreement

0	1	2	3	4	5
Blocking Objection	Disagree, but willing to move forward	No preference	I support with reservations	In Support	Enthusiastic support

DENVER

CONNECT WITH US 311 | POCKETGOV | DENVERGOV.ORG | DENVER 8 TV

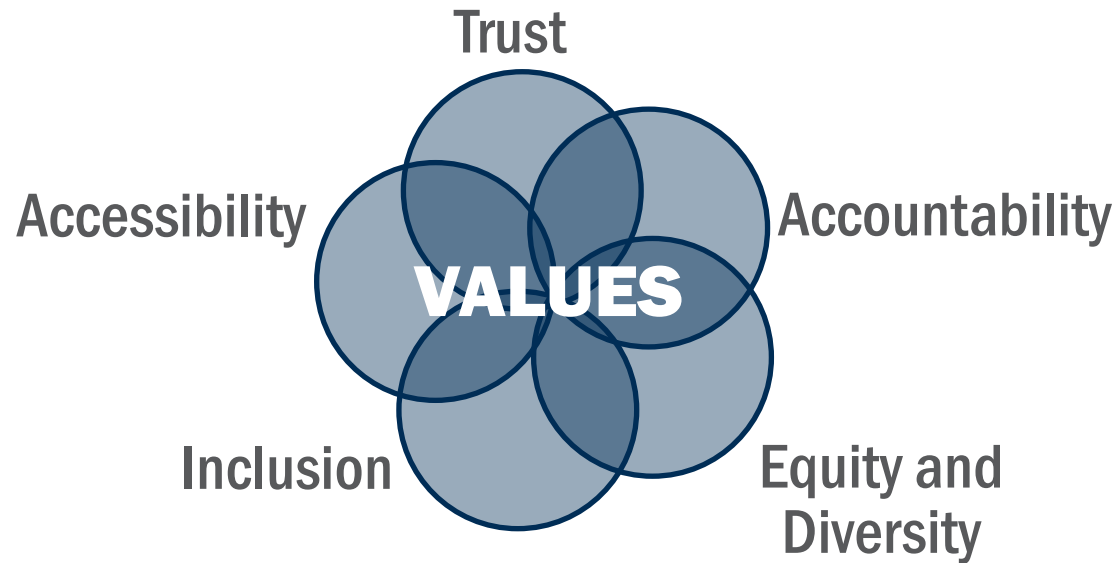
registered your disagreement and thank you for being willing to still go with the rest of the flow, because everyone else was a

Let's Budget, Denver Rulebook

Pilot name

Let's Budget, Denver
Your Community Choice

Values and Goals



Let's Budget, Denver Rulebook

Decision-making: Consent

What decision-making method would you prefer the CSC use to adopt or approve decisions for the guidebook?

Majority (50% + 1)

8%

Supermajority (66% +1)

31%

Consensus (all in favor)

15%

Consent (no objections)

46%

Other

0%

Group agreements

Assume best intentions

Make space, take space (step up, step back)

Respect how people engage on camera and present themselves in this space

Spell out acronyms

Clarify when making proposal vs brainstorming ideas – support each other in clarifying

And others!

Launching the Pilot Program



1

Foundation set by the City

- \$1.7M for capital projects
- Citywide and regional approach



2

Decisions and rulebook created by CSC



3

Share rulebook and launch idea collection to the public

Building the Rulebook: CSC Input/Decisions



CSC Functions

- How the committee will work together
- How CSC will make decisions
- Program name
- Values & goals



Public Participation

- Who can participate in idea collection, proposal development, and voting
- Are there age thresholds for each phase?



Outreach and Engagement

- Who do we want to prioritize in our outreach?
- How to reach people through technology?
- How to reach people without technology?



Vote and Ballot Planning

- Project scoring rubric input
- Project voting method input
- Vote contingency
- Participation criteria verification

Let's Budget, Denver Rulebook

NPI Participation Criteria (specific to each NPI area)

**Submit
ideas**



- Participants must **live, go to school, or work at a micro business** in an **NPI area**.
- There is **no age limit** to submit an idea.

**Develop
proposals**



- Participants must **live or go to school** in an **NPI area**.
- Participants must be at least **10 years old**

**Vote for
projects**



- Participants must **live or go to school** in an **NPI area**.
- Participants must be at least **10 years old**

Let's Budget, Denver Rulebook

Citywide Participation Criteria

Submit ideas



- Participants must **live, go to school, or work** at a micro business in **Denver**.
- There is **no age limit** to submit an idea.

Develop proposals



- Participants must **live or go to school** in **Denver**.
- Participants must be at least **10 years old**

Vote for projects



- Participants must **live or go to school** in **Denver**.
- Participants must be at least **10 years old**

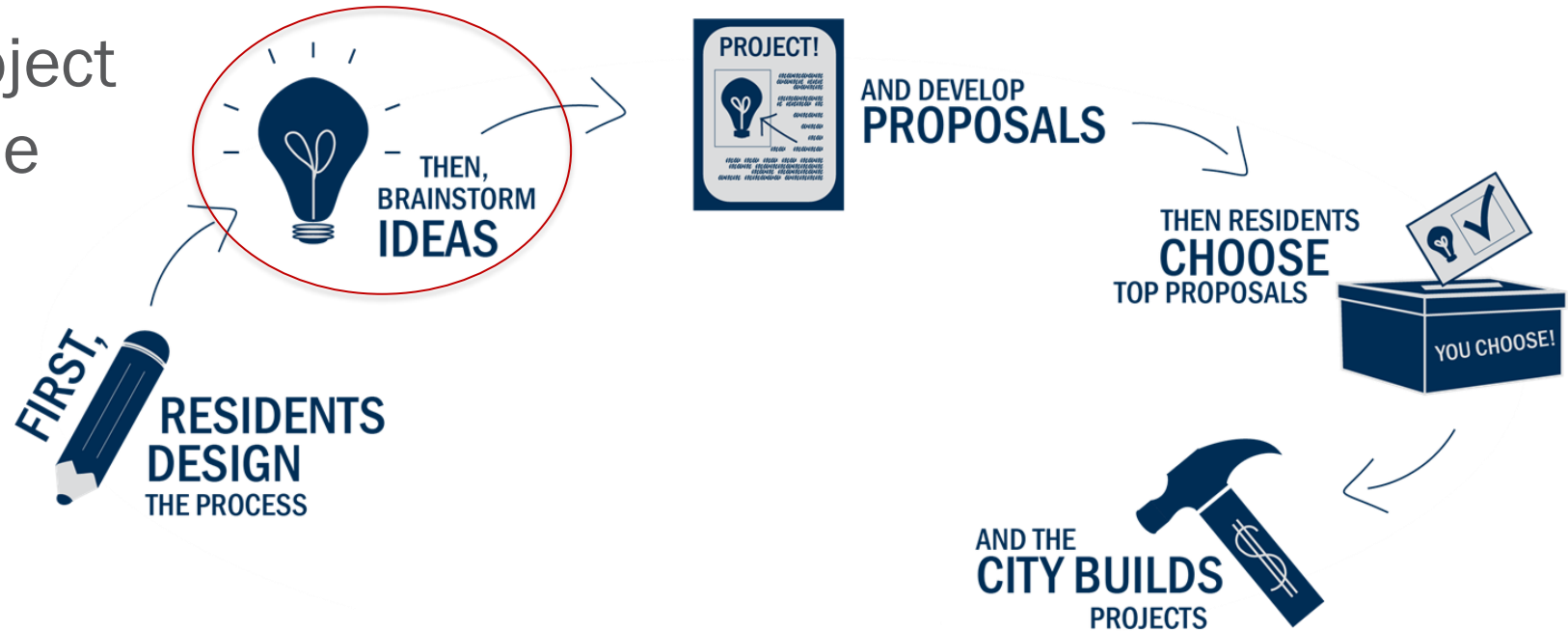


Upcoming Phase: Idea Collection

Launching the idea collection process

Idea Collection

The public will submit project ideas in-person and online starting in late spring.



Community Connector Mini Grants



\$30K in mini-grants to amplify community engagement

\$21K for Organizations

\$9K for Individuals/Small Groups



**Let's Budget, Denver
Community Connectors will**

Motivate residents to participate in the process and develop long-term skills to lead future civic processes

Coordinate and host events to make the process accessible and inviting, and to encourage new and diverse perspectives to participate

**Tactics proposed by
Community Connectors:**

○ Navigators/
canvassing

○ Budget
workshops

○ Budget
storytelling

○ Neighborhood
events

○ WhatsApp and
text outreach

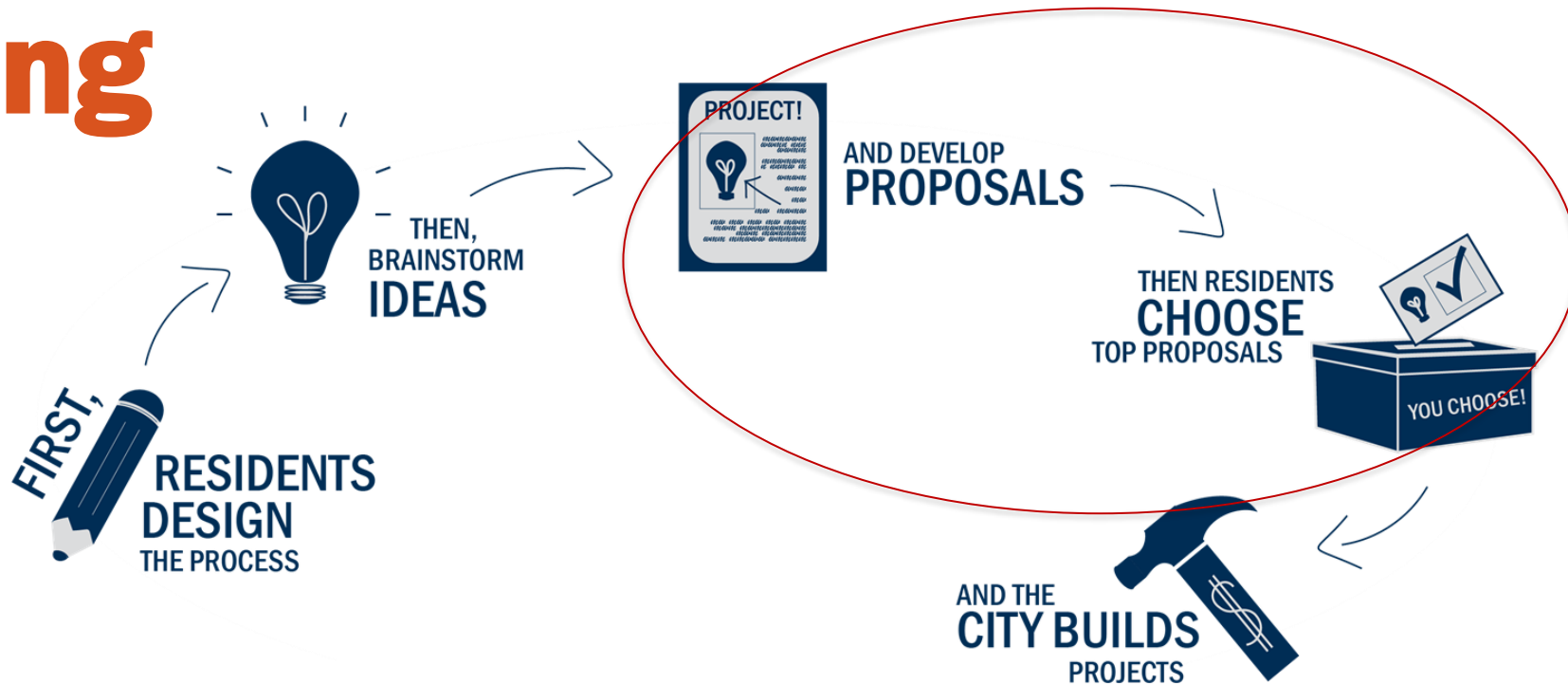


Future Phases: Proposal Development, Voting, and Evaluation

A Lookahead

Proposal Development & Voting

Budget delegates will work with City staff to develop proposals, complete with cost estimates.



Community voting anticipated this fall.

Proposal Development & Voting Process



Evaluation

- Observe the pilot Program's development, including responses to scale and geographic scope, decision-making processes, representation of the Steering Committee, and overall Program participation
- Interview City staff and Denver-based organizations/individuals who partnered with the Program to provide local support.
- Engage in Program events and processes, including idea collection and deliberation events, budget delegate meetings, and voting events.



After the pilot cycle of Denver PB is complete, the Evaluation Consultant will provide a complete analysis and evaluation answering the questions:

- What did we achieve and learn in relation to our established goals and outcomes?
- Which approach- neighborhood v. citywide – was more effective?
- What could be improved?



Questions?