

A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a tan jacket over a blue and white striped shirt, is hugging another person from behind. The person being hugged is wearing a dark blue suit jacket and holding a white document. They are in a meeting room with several windows in the background. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be overlaid.

Denver Participatory Budgeting

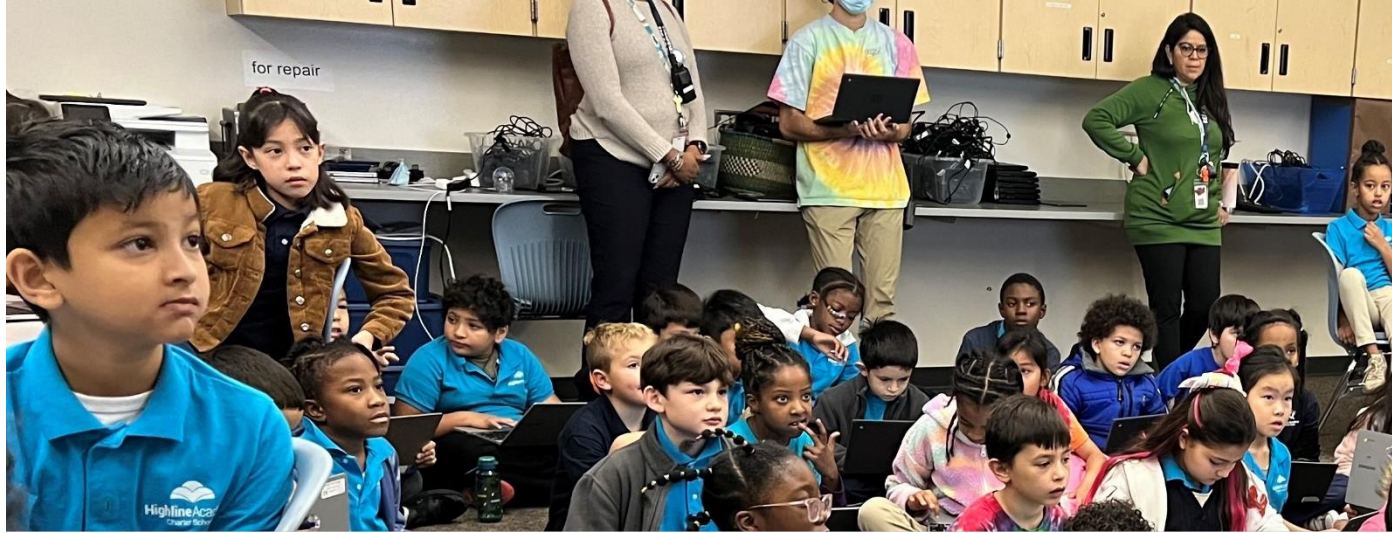
Cycle One Overview and Cycle Two Planning

Finance and Governance Committee | May 2, 2023

Purpose

- Overview of Cycle One
- A community leader's perspective
- Key recommendations and Cycle Two planning
- Questions and discussion





Cycle One Overview

What is Participatory Budgeting?

A form of **participatory democracy** to strengthen partnerships between residents and governments. An equity-focused civic engagement process, PB aims to **improve communication** between municipal government and historically underserved residents, **increase trust and transparency**, and foster reciprocal **learning between government and the community**.



Phase I: Community Design

The Community Steering Committee deliberated to create the first-ever Denver Participatory Budgeting Guidebook, where they decided:

- Participants must **live, go to school, or work at a micro business** in their ballot area.
- Any resident of any **age, immigration status, incarceration status, and housing status**, could vote in this process.
- A **rank vote system** complete with contingency plans for ties and other scenarios.

80%

of the 60+ resident leaders in the program identified as **Black, Indigenous people of color**

Ways to Verify that are OK

- Ask what school and the address of the school
- Clearly post eligibility, do not check
- Ask for street address
- OK
- Basic eligibility questions before submitting an online ballot
- Display a map of the NPS area, ask if they live / go to school inside the boundary
- Asking a yes/no if a person meets the eligibility criteria
- Clearly post eligibility criteria, then don't check
- Ask for nearest cross streets instead
- Basic eligibility questions before submitting an online ballot
- Ask to see student IDs?
- Ask for street address

Ways to Verify that are NOT OK

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

Anaya Robinson (he/him) raised hand

So we're here now, so I guess we just have to trust that



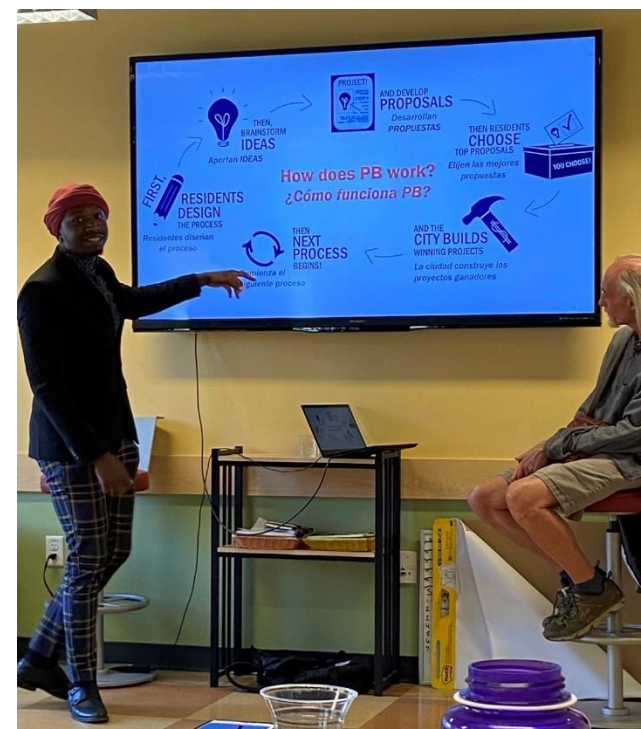
Phase 2: Idea Collection

- Idea collection events focused on reaching **historically underserved communities**, with deliberative meetings at the jails, Safe Outdoor Spaces, schools, Denver Housing Authority sites, food banks, etc.
- **\$30K** of “mini-grants” went to residents and grass root organization to solicit project ideas from the community.
- **Over 1,100 ideas** were submitted

97%

of idea collection respondents identified as BIPOC.

Half earned less than \$25K a year and **half** had not earned a high school diploma



Phase 3: Proposal Development

- Residents, called **budget delegates**, worked in four groups to score ideas and prioritize projects.
- Collaborating with city staff and community partners budget delegates designed **23 project proposals** across the four ballots.

+ REPRESENTATION

Budget delegates represented historically underserved communities, including people with disabilities, youth, undocumented residents, refugees, and unhoused residents

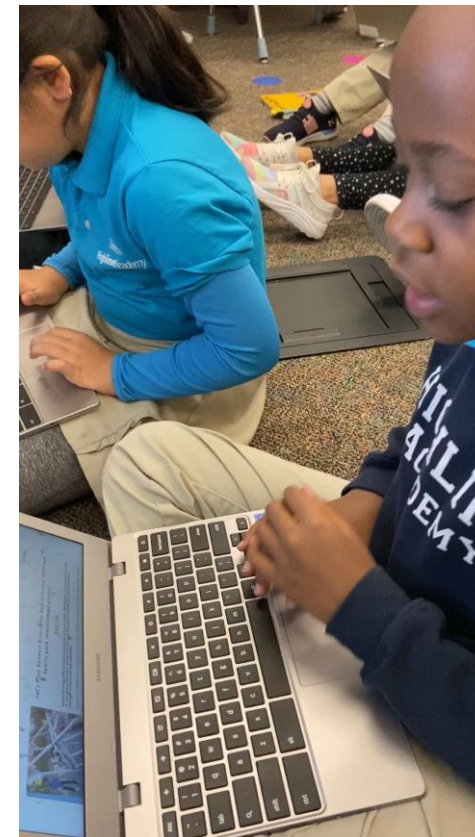
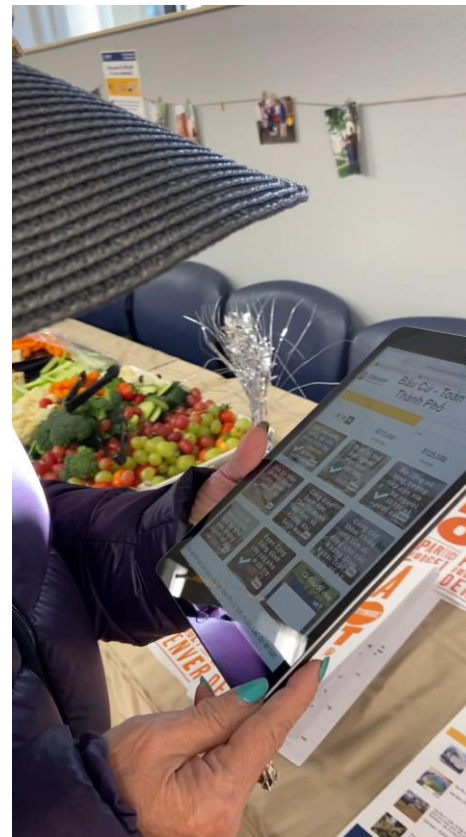


Phase 4: Voting

Over 3K residents of all ages and any immigration status ranked and voted for projects on physical and digital ballots

+ ACCESS

Ballots translated into 8 languages



Denver Participatory Budgeting Citywide Ballot

50 \$1.1m 5/8 Selected 0 Needed

<p>Provide more shower trailers for Safe Outdoor Spaces to support people experiencing homelessness</p> <p>\$225,000 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Select</p>	<p>Drinking fountains in northwest Denver parks lacking public water</p> <p>\$109,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Remove</p>	<p>Cleaner Parks, Stronger Minds, and Cleaner Air for Five Points and Surrounding Neighborhoods</p> <p>\$300,000 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Select</p>
<p>Provide Tiny Homes for people expanding homelessness</p> <p>\$200,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Remove</p>	<p>Wider and more accessible sidewalks for people with disabilities and older adults</p> <p>\$400,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Remove</p>	<p>Outdoor fitness equipment for older adults</p> <p>\$200,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Remove</p>
<p>Light signal safety for people with disabilities</p> <p>\$150,000 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Select</p>	<p>Community Gardens for subsidized housing areas</p> <p>\$175,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Remove</p>	<p>Have something to share?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

Results

Residents budgeted \$2M, funding nine projects across a broad range of infrastructure

\$400,000: Accessible sidewalks in Ruby Hill

\$362,500: New lights in FNE Parks/Trails

\$300,000: New Freedom Park Improvements

\$225,000: Shower trailers for unhoused residents

\$200,000: Tiny homes for unhoused residents

\$187,500: Safer intersections in Capitol Hill

\$175,000: Community Gardens

\$112,500: Accessible transit in City Park

\$37,500: New trashcans in FNE Parks/Trails

\$2 MILLION of community-led infrastructure projects

Total Ideas and Respondent Information



Far Northeast

511
Respondents live in

145
Respondents go to school in

158
Respondents work/own mic...



East

98
Respondents live in

26
Respondents go to school in

28
Respondents work/own mic...



East Central

122
Respondents live in

31
Respondents go to school in

59
Respondents work/own mic...



another part of Denver

249
Respondents live in

50
Respondents go to school in

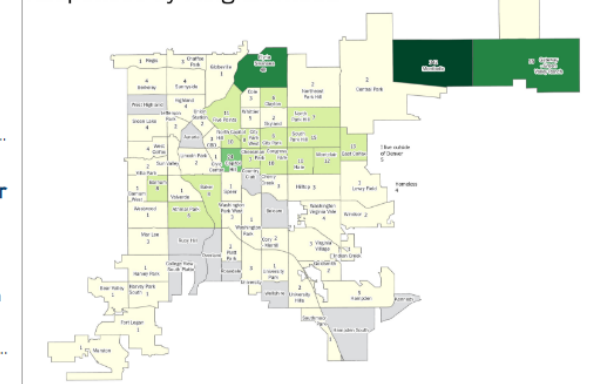
204
Respondents work/own mic...

Note: Each of these responses is not mutually exclusive, so some people may be double counted (e.g. someone may have indicated that they live in East, go to school in Far Northeast, and work in Far Northeast)

Notes on the data

- Use of the demographic information in this dashboard is limited given that about 1/3 of respondents did not provide their demographic information.
- Data from the 2020 US Census American Community Survey 5-year Estimates is offered as context only and not as a statistical comparison due to limited response rates to demographic questions.

Denver Participatory Budgeting Responses by Neighborhood



Select neighborhood to see total number of responses. Neighborhoods not listed in the drop-down had no responses.

Neighborhood

All

1176
total ideas

1094
total respondents



Phyllis Mack

Cycle 1 Mini-Grant Recipient



Cycle Two Planning

CYCLE ONE DENVER PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROGRAM
\$300,000

THE PROJECT | EL PROYECTO | ပရောဂျက်
 Clean Air and Tight-Knit Community in East Colfax with Improvements to New Freedom Park.
 Aire limpio y comunidad fuerte en East Colfax al mejorar New Freedom Park.
 New Freedom Park ကို မျှင်တင်ခြင်းဖြင့် East Colfax ရှိ လူကောင်းလူသန် နှင့် နိုင်ငံသားအားလုံးအတွက်။

THE PROCESS | EL PROCESO | လုပ်ငန်းစဉ်

- BRANDFORM IDEAS
Aportar ideas
ဆင်ခြင်တုံတရားထုတ်ဖော်
- DEVELOP PROPOSALS
Develop plan preparation
ဆင်ခြင်တုံတရား ချုပ်ဆို
- NOTE FOR PROJECTS
Vote
အမတ်ခံ

THEN, THE CITY BUILDS THE TOP IDEAS
 La ciudad construye los proyectos
 စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှု အကောင်အထည်ဖော်

THE PEOPLE | LA GENTE | လူများ
 Projects are brought to you by the people of Denver. Special thanks to the Community Steering Committee, Mini-Grant Recipients, Budget Delegates, and Participatory Researchers.
 Los proyectos son presentados por la gente de Denver. Gracias al Comité Directivo de la Comunidad, mini-subservición de Consejo Comunitario, a los delegados de presupuesto, y Participante Investigadores.

ရေစာအောက်တွင် စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုအကောင်အထည်ဖော်ခြင်းသည် မြို့စည်တွင် တည်ဆောက်ခြင်းပင် မဟုတ်ဘဲ စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုအကောင်အထည်ဖော်ခြင်းကို။
 The Grant is available to Denver residents who live in the city and are at least 18 years old. The grant is available to Denver residents who live in the city and are at least 18 years old.

DENVER
 THE MILE HIGH CITY

Learn more:
 Obtenga más información:
 303.295.3663
 Denvergov.org/DenverPB

Key Recommendations

From the 3rd Party Evaluation and City Staff

Expanded community involvement

- Grassroots data collection
- Referral or recommendation process to select resident leaders
- Collaborate with community organizations for project delivery (staff rec)

Program resources and resource allocation

- Create a full-time program position
- Language justice needs to be addressed
- Set spending caps on proposals

+ *Staff suggest posing this to the Community Steering Committee*

Program structure and management

- Integrate the implementation and data-collection teams
- Expand PB citywide and based on council districts
↓
- Allocate more money to projects and expand funding to one-time programs/operations
↓

+ *Staff agree and hope to implement if additional funding is available*

Cycle Two Approach

+ External Approach

\$1M toward infrastructure

- Capital projects delivered by the city and in partnership with community organizations.

Focus on West Region

- Key neighborhoods would include Westwood, Sun Valley, West Colfax, Villa Park, Barnum, Barnum West, and Valverde
- Build upon existing outreach and engagement in these areas through plans and other efforts

+ Internal Approach

Internal project management team

- Integrate city agencies and city council, and build in time for collaborative problem solving

Professional Services (\$250K)

- Direct majority of funds toward residents and grassroots organization.
- Contract for key needs: fiscal administration, facilitation and outreach, data collection, language access, etc.

Cycle Two Timeline

Key milestones for 2023:

- **Successful solicitation** for professional services
- Onboard program-wide **resident specialists** (for facilitation/data collection/outreach)
- Onboard **Community Steering Committee** and begin design meetings



Questions and Discussion

