

# BIG CITY BIG IDEAS

## FUNDING DEMOCRACY: PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN CANADA

May 5, 2016, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

**Keynote Speaker: Josh Lerner**

with Shelley Carroll, Alex Mazer, and Peter MacLeod



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# PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Real Money, Real Power

Josh Lerner | @joshalerner

Executive Director



PARTICIPATORY  
BUDGETING PROJECT

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



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BUDGETING PROJECT

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## HISTORY

Founded in 2009, incorporated as nonprofit in 2011.

## 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, Oakland, Chicago, and Greensboro.

A photograph of a man in a dark jacket and glasses, shouting with his right arm raised in a crowd. The background shows other people in a large room, some also with their arms raised. The scene appears to be a public meeting or a community event.

# THE PROBLEMS WITH PARTICIPATION

PAINFUL



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# THE PROBLEMS WITH PARTICIPATION

UNEQUAL



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# THE PROBLEMS WITH PARTICIPATION

## POWERLESS

je participe  
tu participes  
il participe  
nous participons  
vous participez  
ils profitent



I participate  
You participate  
He participates  
We participate  
You all participate  
They decide

*(French student poster)*





# REDESIGNING DEMOCRACY FOR EMPOWERED PARTICIPATION

Expert-centered vs Participant-centered



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# A LADDER OF BUDGET PARTICIPATION

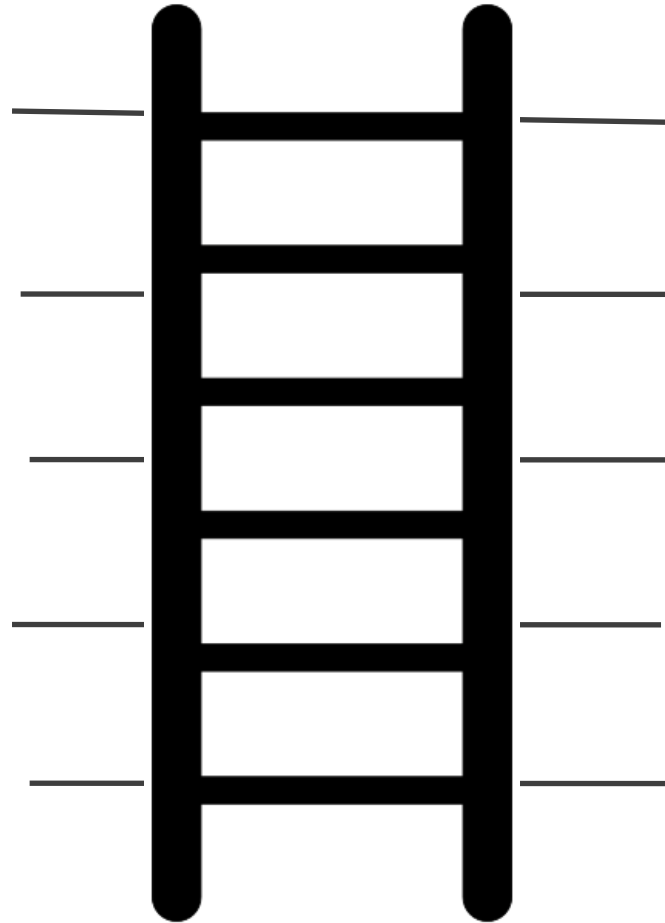
**Participatory Budgeting**

**Citizen Boards Or Councils**

**Focus Groups & Town Halls**

**Online Games**

**Hearings & Deputations**



**Full Participation**

**Limited Participation**

**Consultation**

**Informing**

**Listening**







# WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?

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



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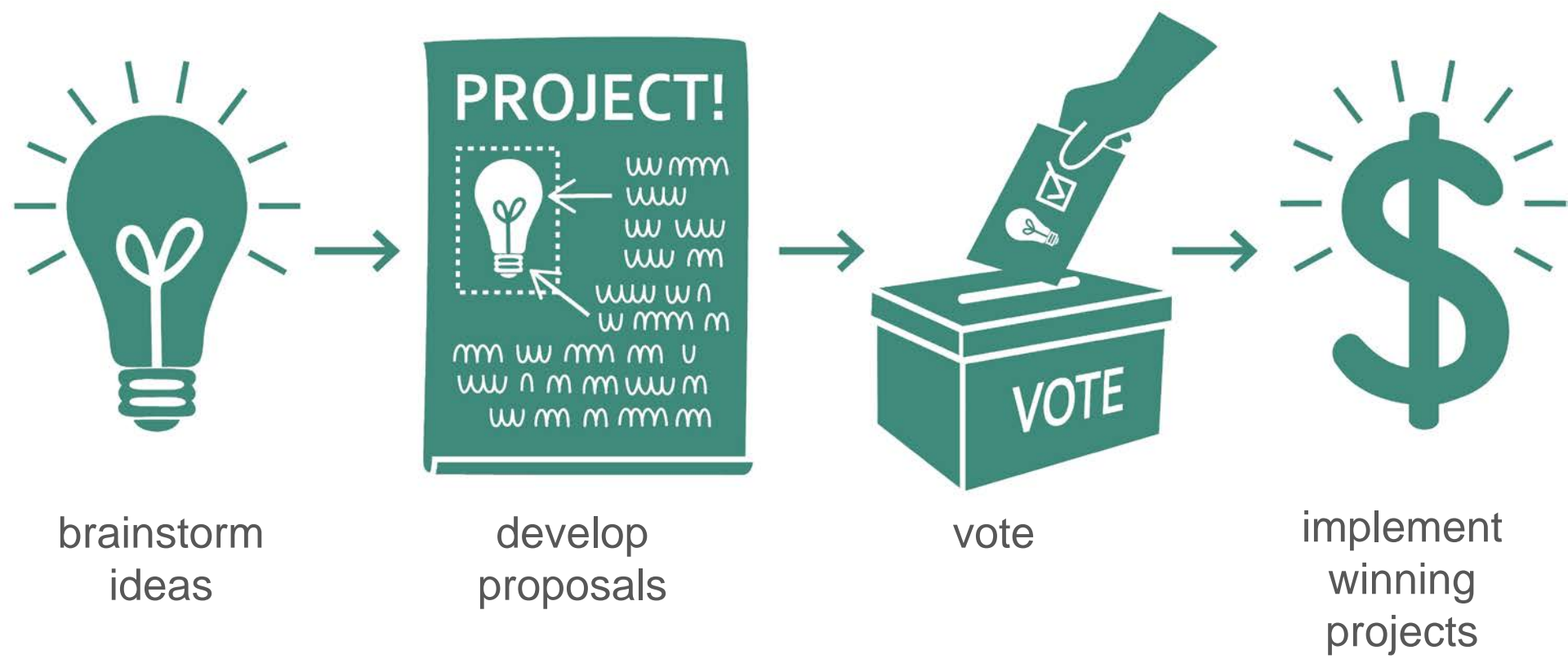
VIDEO

<https://vimeo.com/162743651>



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# HOW DOES PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING WORK?



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# WHERE HAS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING WORKED?

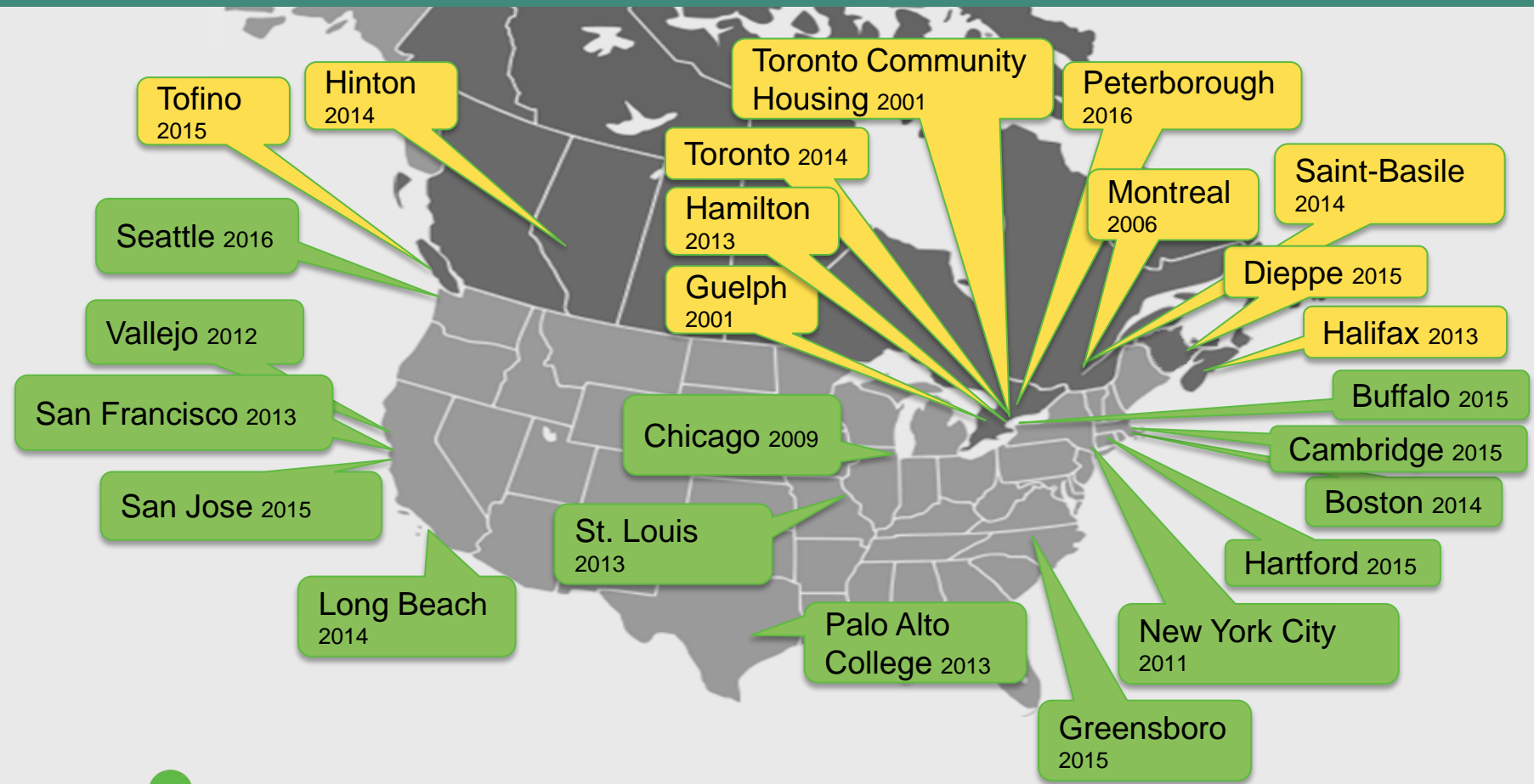
3000+ PB processes around the world

- ✓ Cities
- ✓ States
- ✓ Counties
- ✓ Public Housing
- ✓ Schools
- ✓ Community Organizations



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# PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN NORTH AMERICA



# RAPID GROWTH OF PB

## The Growth of PB

Each dot represents one district, city, or institution in the US & Canada that PBP has assisted in implementing PB.



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# NEW YORK CITY



## 2015 Boleta Oficial

Presupuesto Participativo en la Ciudad de Nueva York

Distrito 38  
Bay Ridge  
Bensonhurst  
Borough P

## 2015 Official Ballot

Participatory Budgeting in New York City

Council Member  
Carlos Menchaca

District 38  
Bay Ridge  
Bensonhurst  
Borough P  
Greenw  
Hein'  
R-

## 2015 年官方选票

纽约市参与式  
预算案  
议会成员  
Carlos Menchaca

第 38 区  
Bay Ridge  
Bensonhurst  
Borough  
Greenwo  
Heights  
Red Hoo  
South Slo  
Sunset P  
Windsor



Tristan Johnson, age 8, looks for an Easter egg at Children's Wonderland Park in Vallejo, CA. Funded through Participatory Budgeting, the park officially opened in June, replacing a long-vacant church.

# VALLEJO, CA



“It was a blight,” says Marie Miller, member of the park’s events planning committee. “But now it adds beauty to the neighborhood, and you see people out here almost every day.”





BOSTON

[Calendar of Events](#)[News](#)[News Releases](#)[Public Relations](#)[Brand Standards Guide](#)[On Campus Buzz](#)[The Pulse - Student Newsletter](#)

## Events

### Student Participatory...

Palo Alto College has set aside \$25,000 for projects that will be brainstormed, proposed, and voted on by students. Deadline to submit pre-proposal and consultation forms is Nov. 6.

## STUDENT PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING



### Student Participatory Budgeting

Friday, November 13, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Palo Alto College

Tags: Academics, Admissions, Students

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a different way to manage public money by engaging people to directly decide how to spend public funds. Palo Alto College has set aside \$25,000 for projects that will be brainstormed, proposed, and voted on in Fall 2015 and implemented by Spring 2016 by students. This is your opportunity to have your idea turned into a living project.

For more information about Participatory Budgeting, visit the office of Student Life in Student Center 124.

[Add to Calendar](#)



# PALO ALTO COMMUNITY COLLEGE, SAN ANTONIO

# PB IS SUPPORTING BROADER DEMOCRACY EFFORTS



PIONEERED BY THE  
ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION



NEW ECONOMY  
COALITION



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# IMPACTS OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

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# BROADER POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

## VALLEJO

20% of PB voters were ineligible to vote in regular elections

## NYC

Higher percentage of low-income residents voted in PB (40%) compared to full population (34%) & local elections (29%).



# STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS


BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, ORGS, AND RESIDENTS

The majority of PB participants say their view of city government improved after PB.



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# NEW COMMUNITY LEADERS



Participants report increased skills in public speaking, negotiating, building agreements, and contacting officials.



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LET ALL CHILDREN PLAY!

Vote for a park that includes the disabled

# MORE EQUITABLE & EFFECTIVE SPENDING

In NYC, funds are more likely to go to projects in low-income areas in PB than through other discretionary funds.

## THREE BIG POINTS:

1. TO HAVE A GREAT PROJECT! The play ground committee will support all of our projects with accessible materials when you provide.
2. WE WILL BE HAPPY TO HELP! CHU 13 will set up a "Team Support" meeting with a list of ideas of the play ground.
3. MAKE THE PROJECT ACCESSIBLE! CHU 13 will set up a "Team Support" meeting with a list of ideas of the play ground.

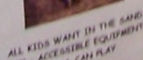
WAITING FOR A PLAY GROUND  
IN CHU 13

## MAKING CHU 13 PLAY GROUND ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

Think about children playing! It is not often that we have a vision of a child in a wheel chair in a play ground - or - play ground with their children. CHU 13 wants to build an accessible play ground that will allow all children to play. Growing equity and accessibility. CHU 13 needs your vision and ideas to help CHU 13 accommodate all children.



Children - waiting for equal access to the play grounds! Please save one of your votes for CHU 13



ALL KIDS WANT TO BE SAFE BOX - ACCESSIBLE EQUIPMENT SO ALL CAN PLAY



CAN A CHILD IN A WHEEL CHAIR GET ON THIS SLIDE????



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# HOW TO ENSURE EQUITY AND INCLUSION?

- ✓ Money that matters
- ✓ Grassroots leadership
- ✓ Inclusive design
- ✓ Targeted outreach
- ✓ Equity criteria



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