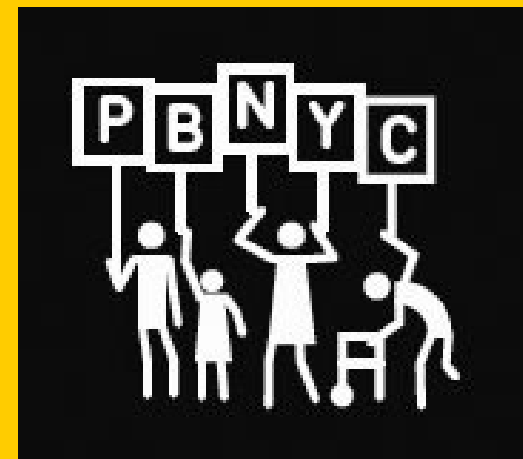
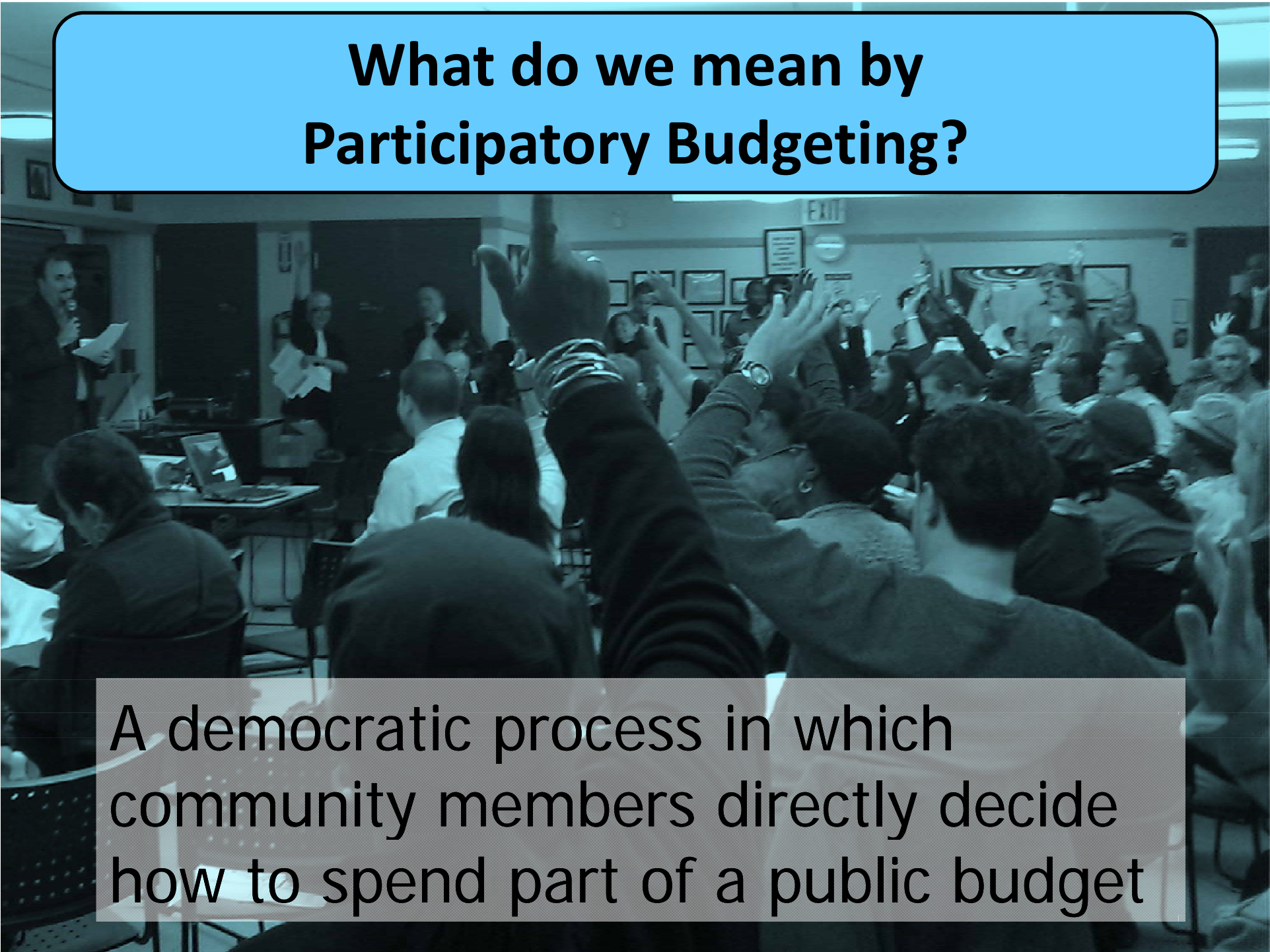


Participatory Budgeting in New York City

***YOU Decide How to Spend
Millions of Dollars
from the City Budget***

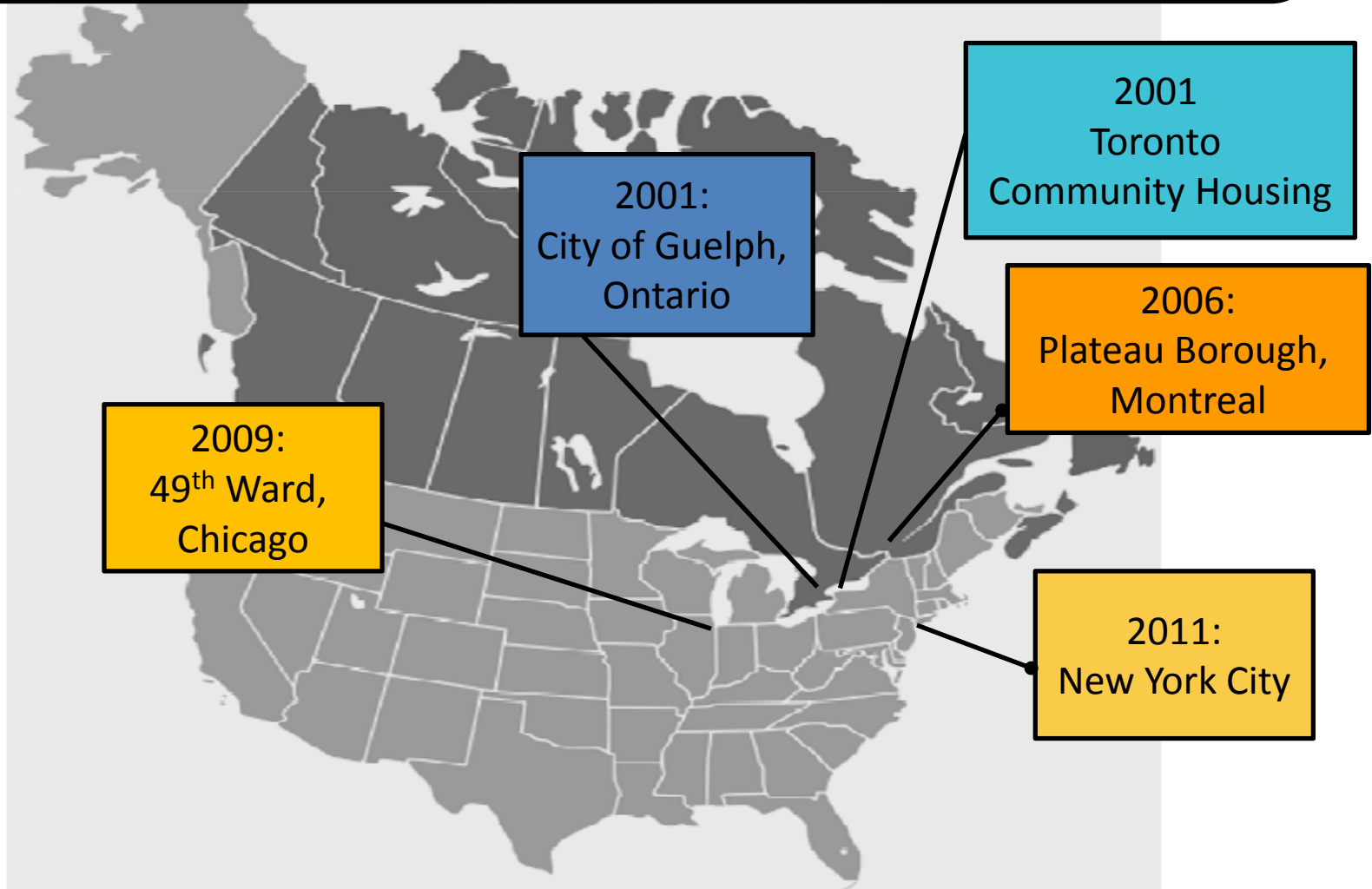


What do we mean by Participatory Budgeting?

A photograph of a group of people in a meeting room. Many people have their hands raised, indicating active participation. The room has an 'EXIT' sign and framed pictures on the wall. The image is overlaid with a blue gradient and a white text box.

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

Participatory Budgeting in North America: Experiences So Far



New York City's Population

New York City has a population of over 8.1 million.

Racial/Ethnic Breakdown:

33% White 29% Latino

23% Black 13% Asian

[Source: 2010 U.S. Census Data]

**New York City has highest
income disparity of all
cities/municipal areas
in the United States**



Overview: New York City Government & The City's Budget

The City is primarily governed by the Mayor and the City Council. Other elected officials, Community Boards and various commissions also have roles to play.



The City's total budget is \$63 billion. About \$400 million of the total budget is allocated each year at the Council's discretion.

Overview: The New York City Council

The City Council is made up of 51 members, each representing about 160,000 constituents.

City Council Members are responsible for:

- **Passing local laws**
- **Oversight over the Mayoral administration**
- **Negotiating and approving the City's budget**
- **Approving zoning changes and large development projects**



Community Boards & Local Participation

There are 59 community boards in New York City. While they are important drivers of participation in local government, they only have advisory capacities.

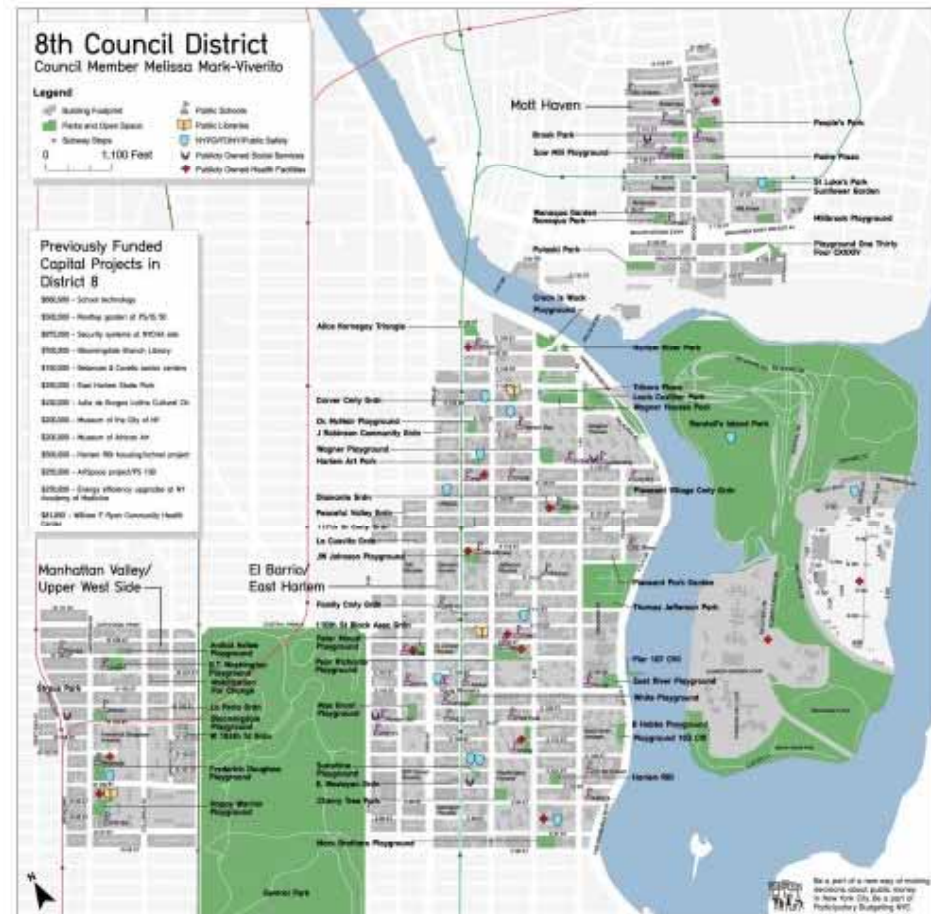
By putting the power in the hands of local residents, PB is doing something that's never been done before in New York City.



Council District 8

**Spans two boroughs and
three separate and
distinct neighborhoods.**

**Has the highest number of
public housing
developments of all
Council districts.**



2011-2012 Pilot Initiative in NYC

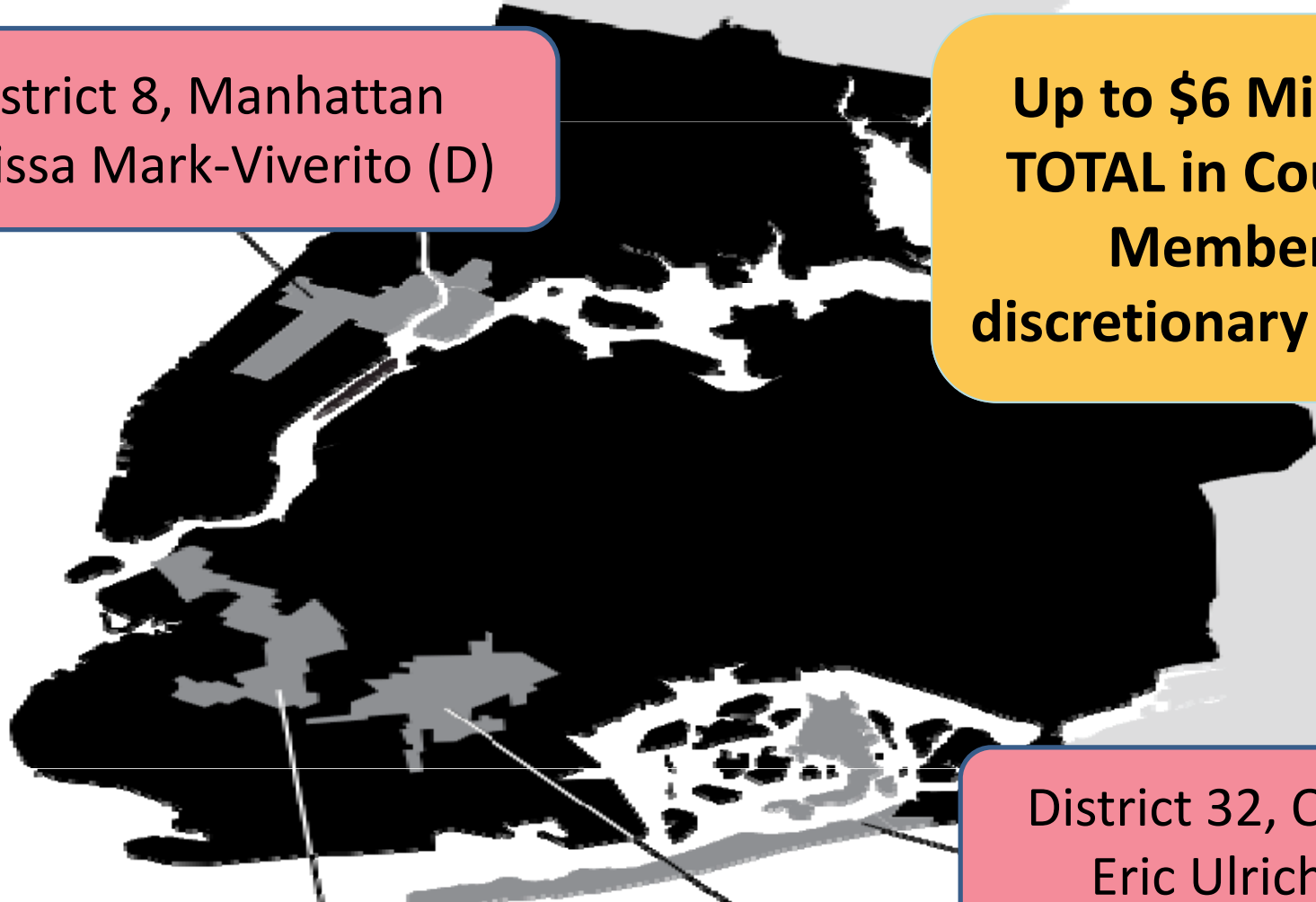
District 8, Manhattan
Melissa Mark-Viverito (D)

**Up to \$6 Million
TOTAL in Council
Member
discretionary funds**

District 39, Brooklyn
Brad Lander (D)

District 45, Brooklyn
Jumaane Williams (D)

District 32, Queens
Eric Ulrich (R)

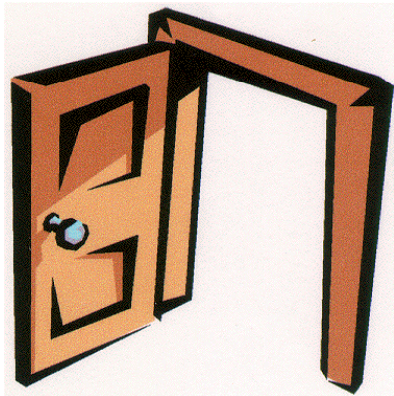


Why PB in NYC?

Our Core Principles

Main Principles:

1) Transparency



2) Equality



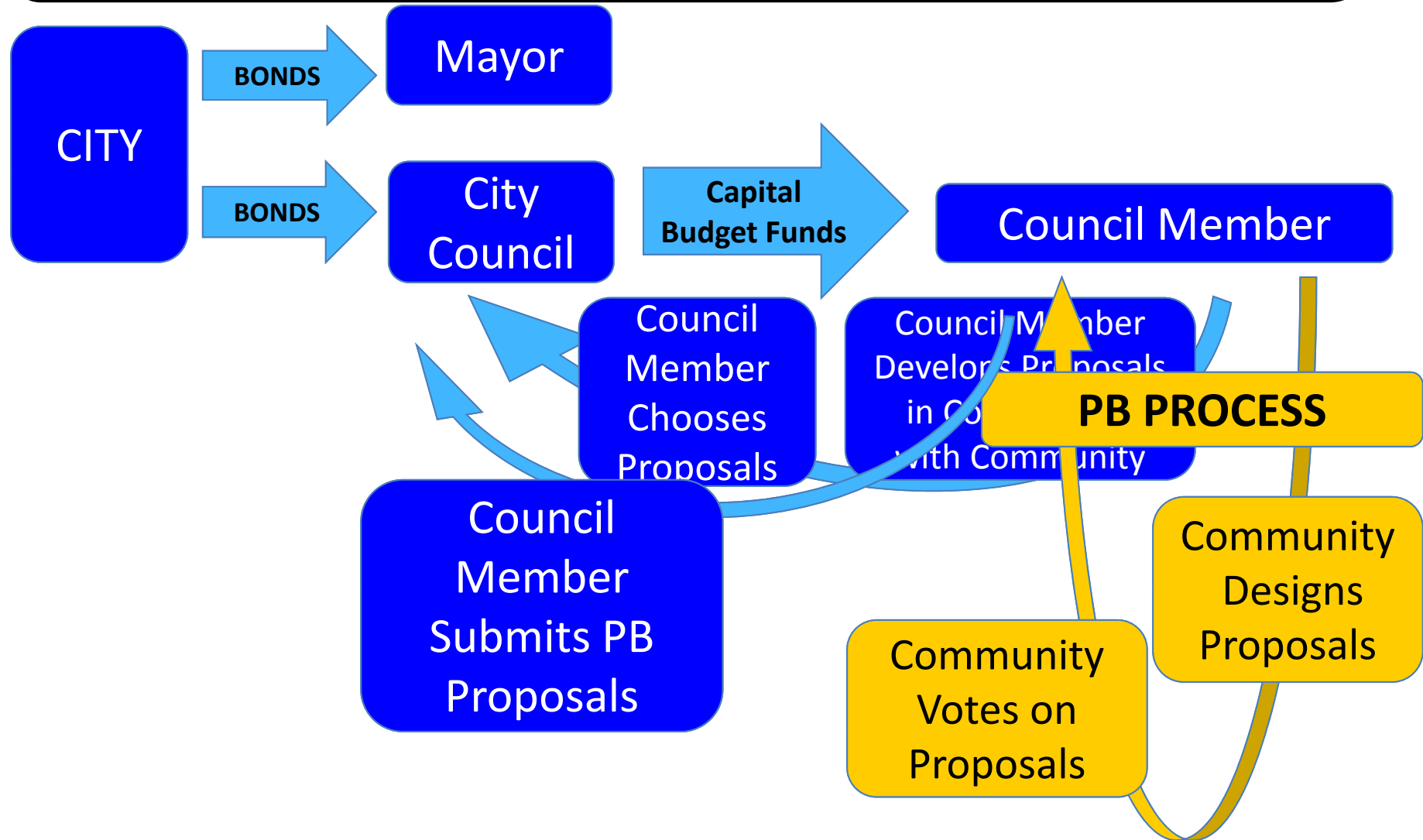
3) Inclusion



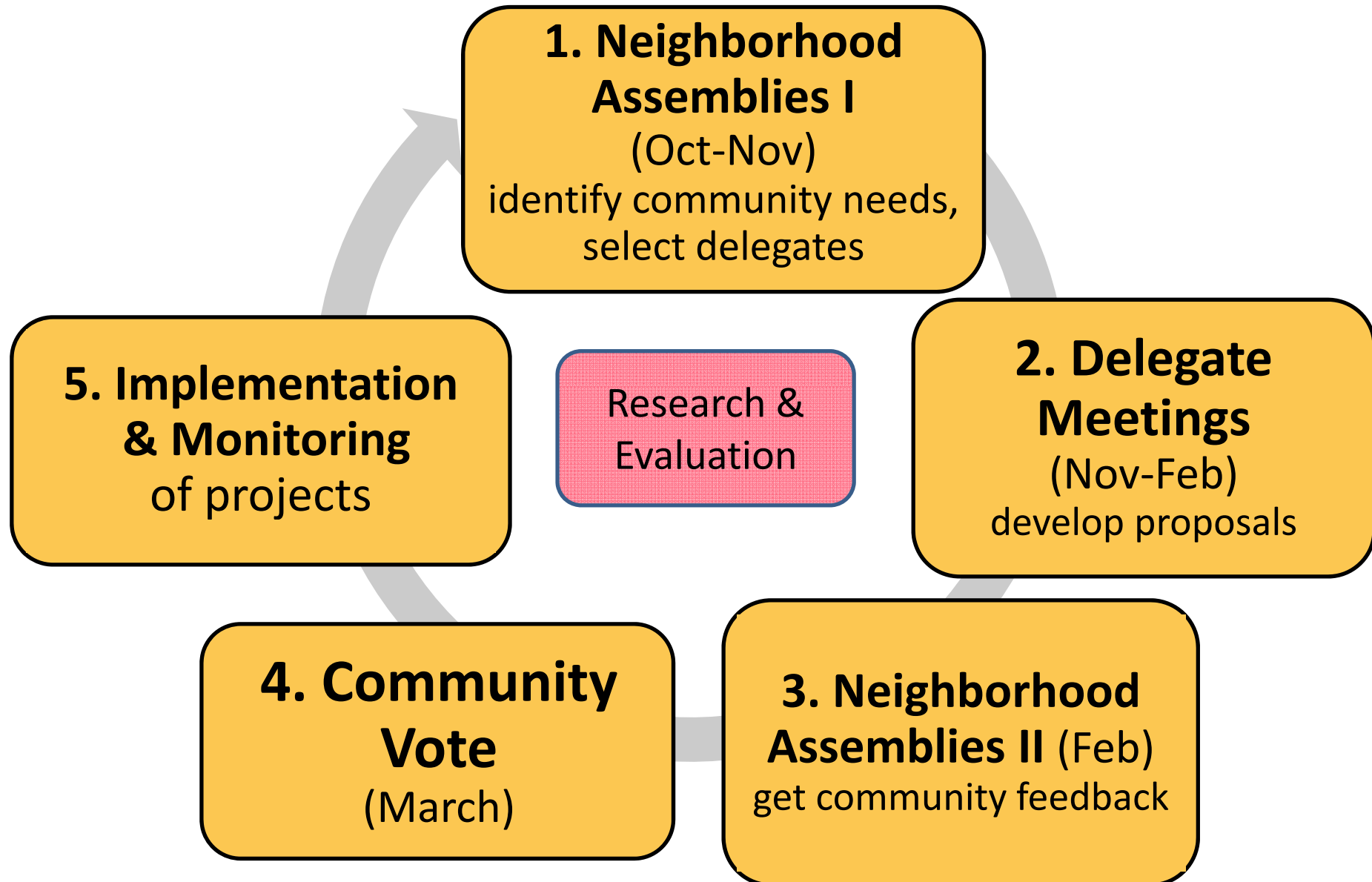
Other Goals:

more civic participation, community-building, education, empowerment, responsible and efficient spending, sustainable and livable neighborhoods

How does PB fit into the city budget process?



How does PB work in NYC?



Who can participate?

Everyone can participate in PB!

Anyone can attend an assembly and propose a project.

To be a **budget delegate** you must:

- be at least 16 years old, and
- live in the district, work in the district, own a business in the district, attend school in the district, or have children who attend school in the district

To **vote** for projects you must be at least 18 years old and live in the district

Who are the players?

Community Decision-Makers

District Residents
Vote on Projects



Budget Delegates
Develop concrete project proposals out of community ideas



District Stakeholders
Propose Projects

Organizers and Support

Citywide Steering Committee
Design and oversee overall process

District Committees
Implement and manage the process locally

Research & Evaluation Team

Council Member Offices

Community Voices Heard
Community Engagement Lead

The Participatory Budgeting Project
Technical Assistance Lead

What money is on the table?

Discretionary resources:

money that the city councilmember allocates as he or she sees fit

Capital Funds:

“Bricks and Mortar” physical infrastructure projects
Ex. Building a community garden



Expense Funds:

“People and Services” programs



Cost Criteria

**Eligible projects must cost more than \$35,000
and less than \$1 million**

TOO CHEAP

Replacing a door at a
community center

Replacing a fallen tree

Installing a Stop sign

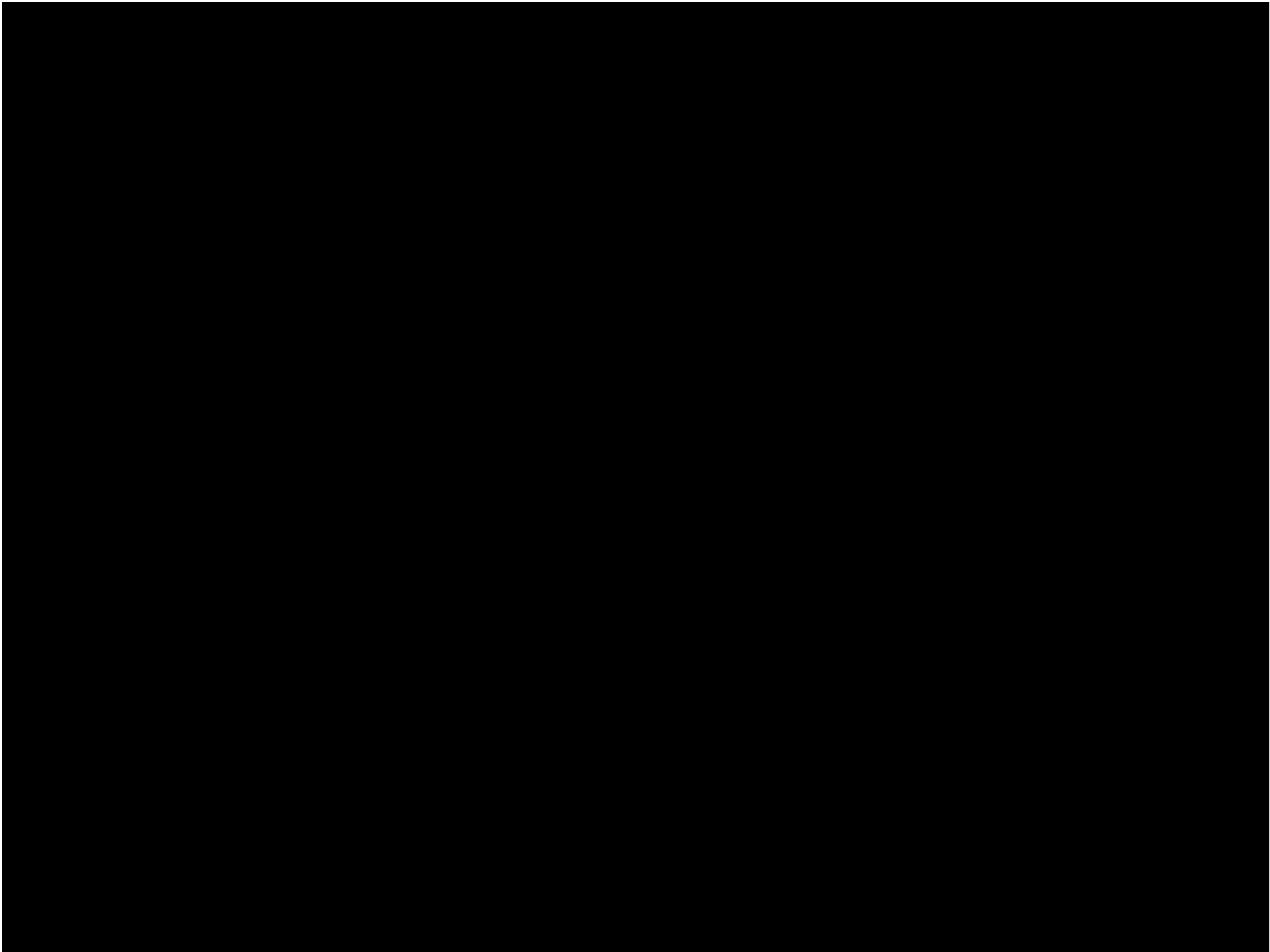
TOO EXPENSIVE

Building a new community
center

Building a new park

Building a new swimming
pool

Note: Small projects can often be bundled together, and big projects can often be divided into smaller parts.



Participatory Budgeting in My District

What We've Done So Far:

- Organized a District Committee
- Held seven neighborhood assemblies held in October, including one for youth and one for seniors
- Collected additional ideas through an online system
- Held orientations for budget delegates



Participatory Budgeting in My District

What's Next:

- Budget delegates begin meeting next week
- A second round of neighborhood assemblies in February
- The final vote in March



Participation in My District: Preliminary Numbers

- **450** people attended a neighborhood assembly
- **560** ideas were submitted
- **130** people signed up to be budget delegates
- **88%** of assembly attendees were people of color
- **87%** self-reported as low- or middle-income



Participation Citywide: Preliminary Numbers

- **1,380** people attended a neighborhood assembly
- **1,955** ideas were submitted
- **470** people signed up to be budget delegates
- **58%** of assembly attendees were people of color
- **63%** self-reported as low- or middle-income

More Information



PBNYC Website: <http://pbnyc.org>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Participatory-Budgeting-in-New-York-City/224651774256746>

**Office of Council Member Mark-Viverito:
<http://www.mmviverito.com>**