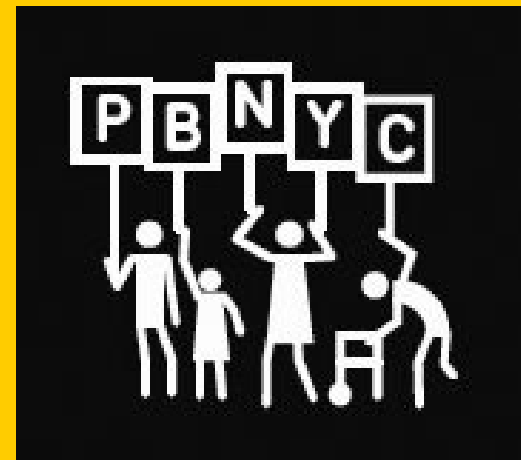
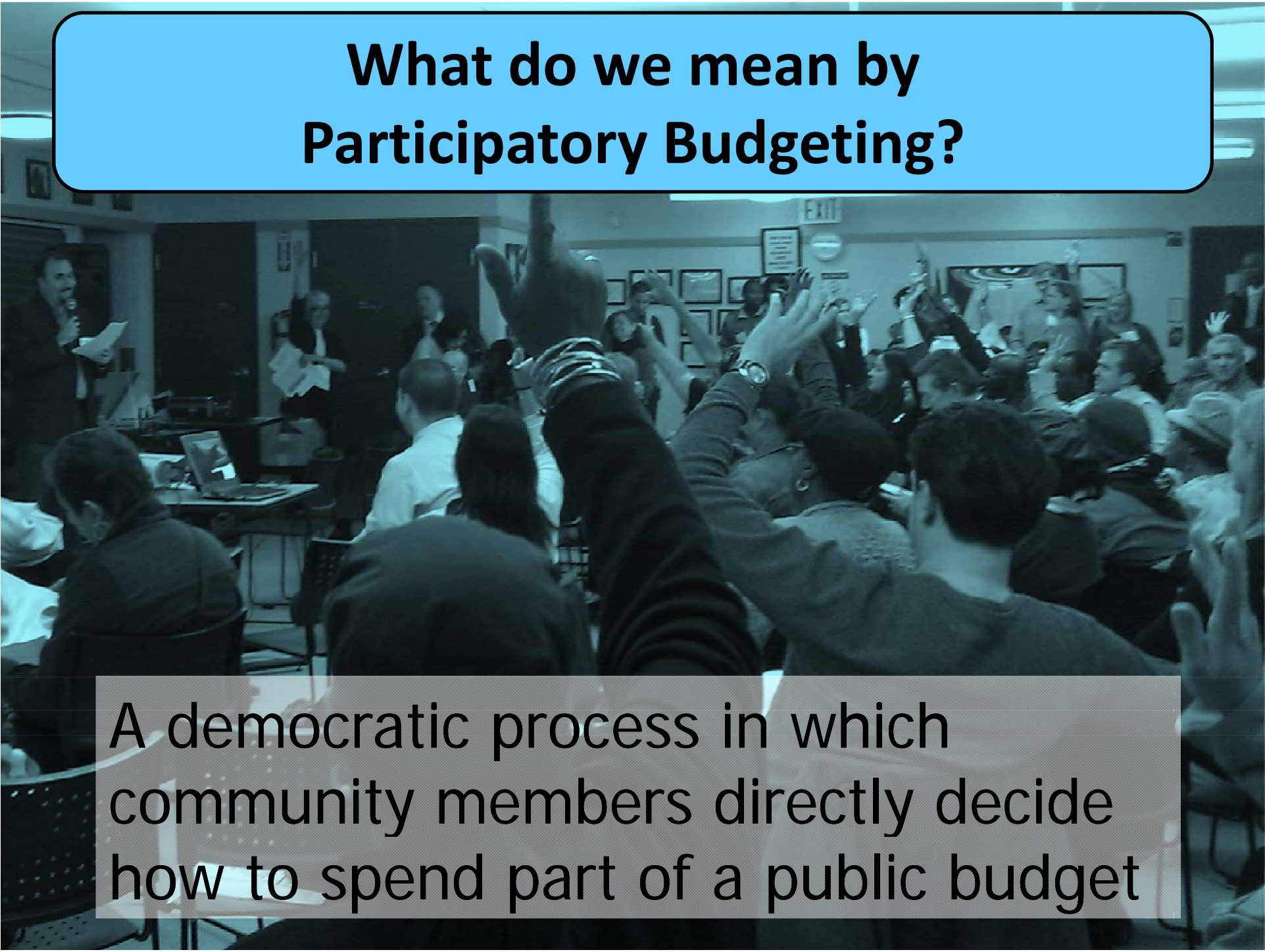


# **Participatory Budgeting in New York City**

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

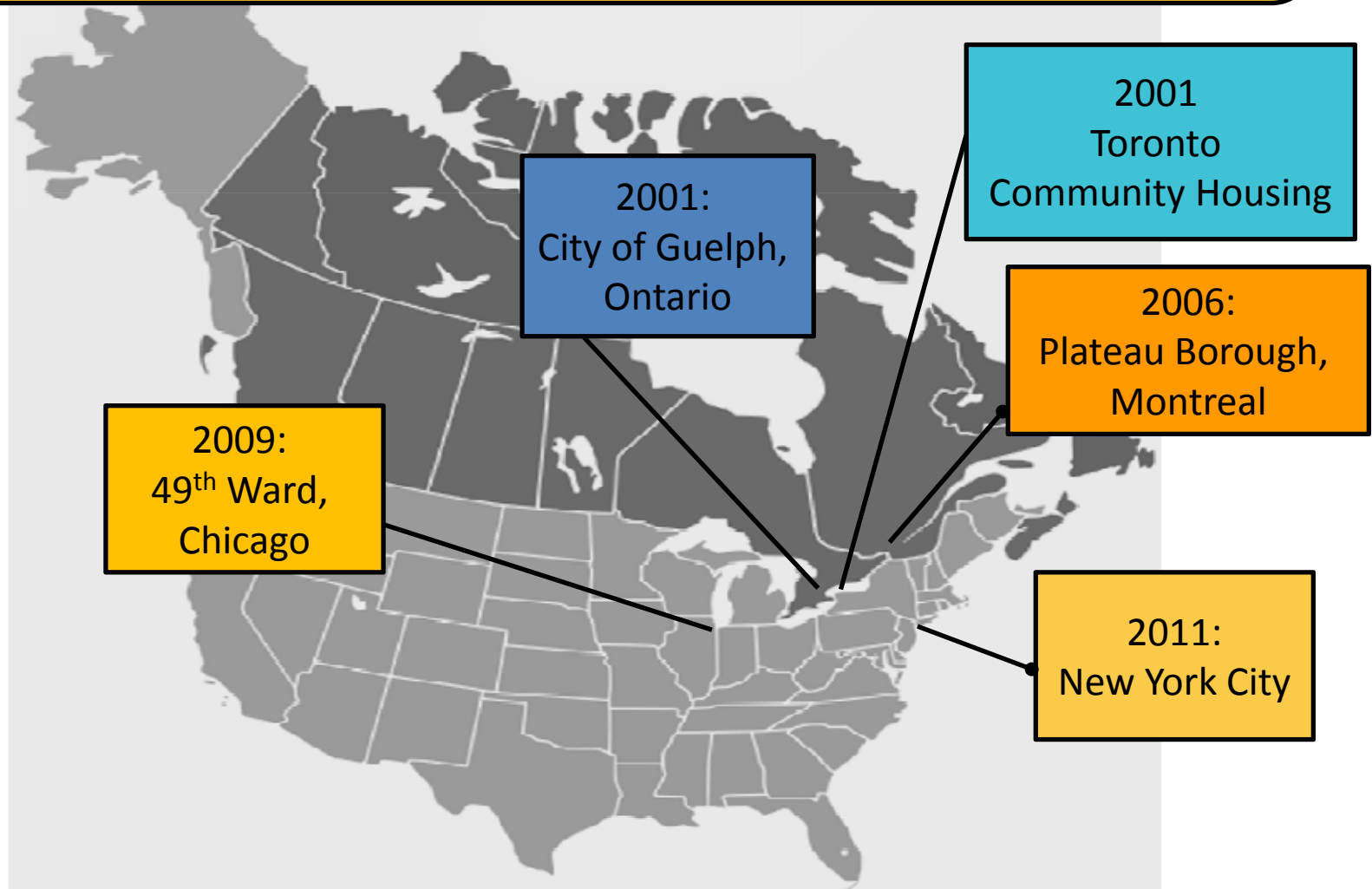


# What do we mean by Participatory Budgeting?

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 box containing text.

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.**

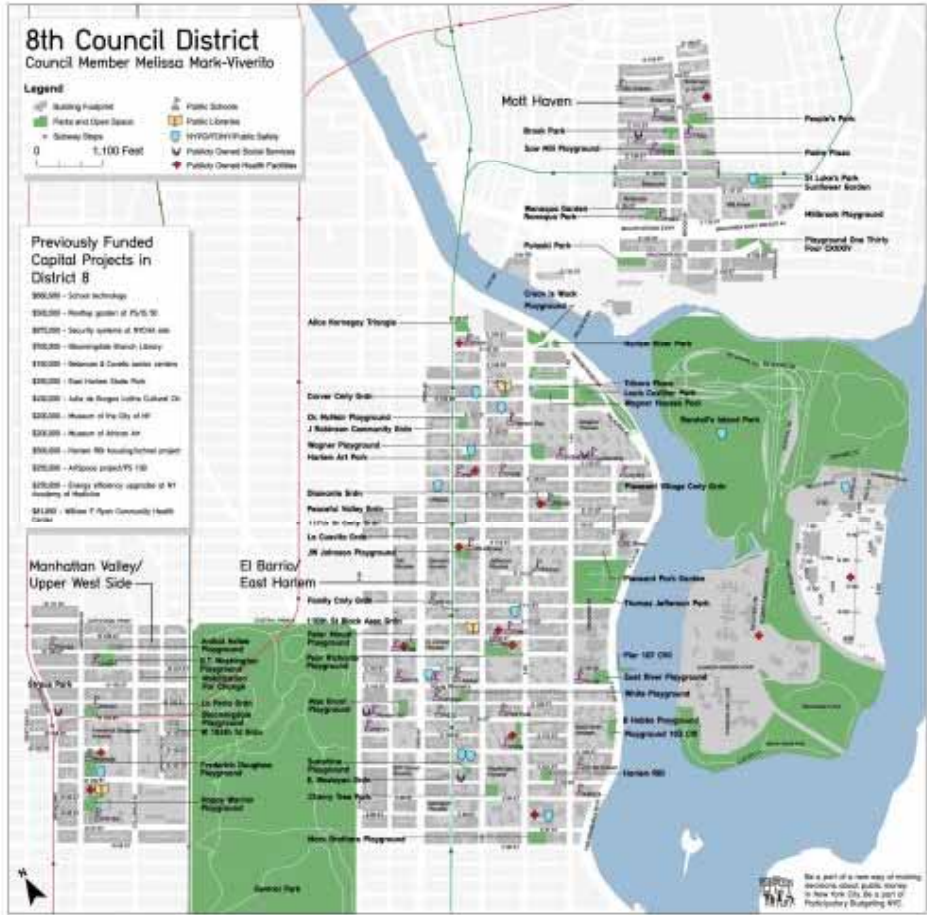
**By putting the power in the hands of local residents, PB is doing something that's never been done before in New York City.**



**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

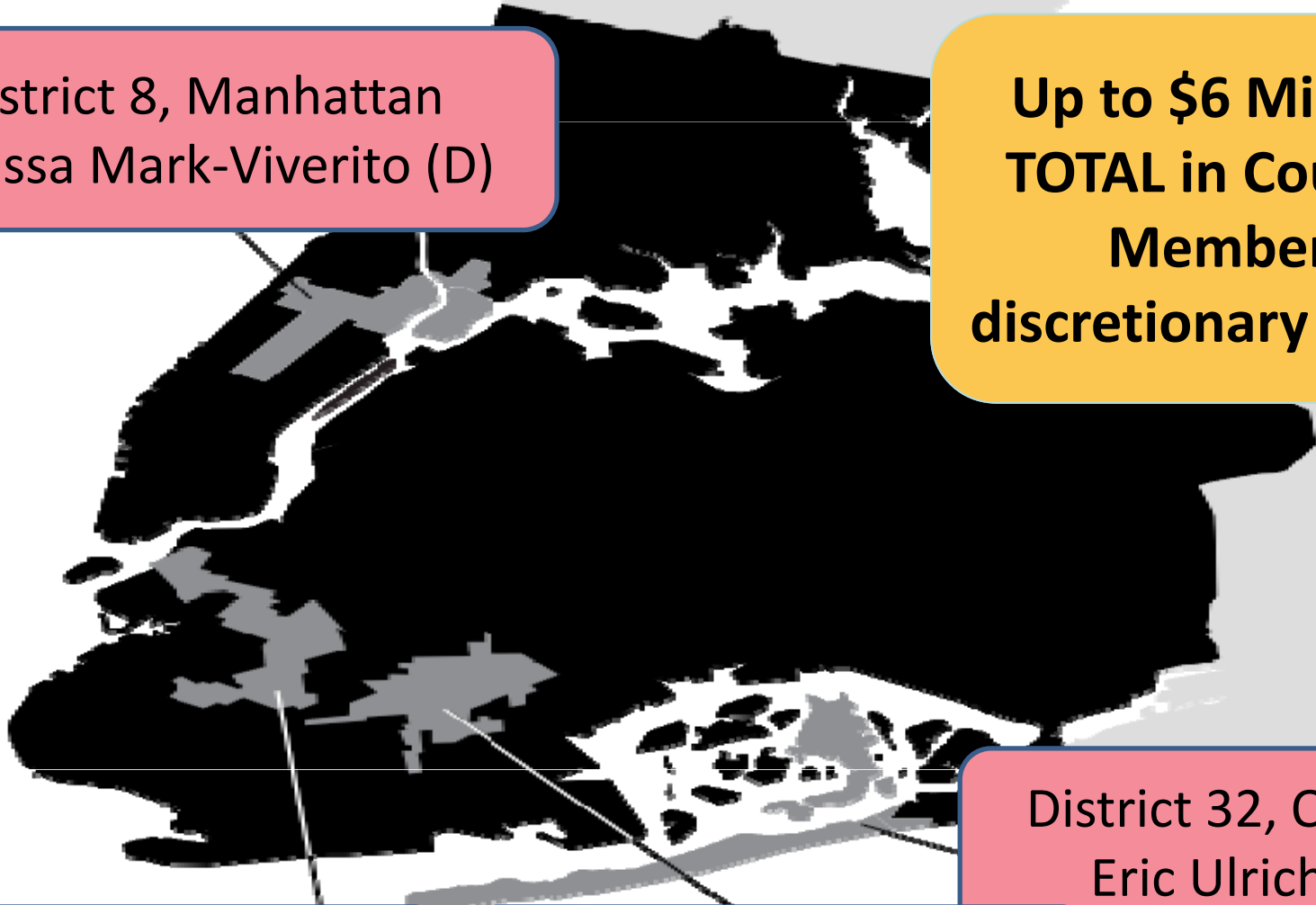
District 8, Manhattan  
Melissa Mark-Viverito (D)

**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)

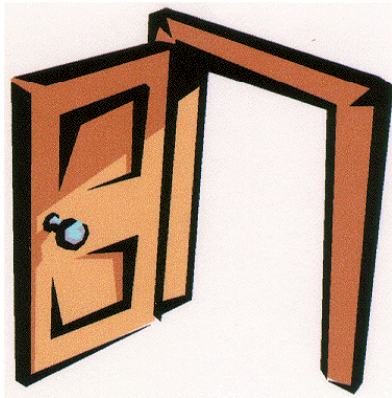


# Why PB in NYC?

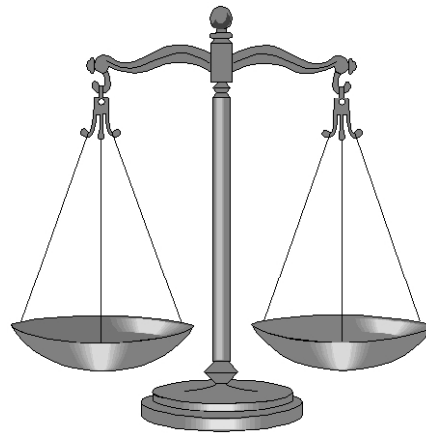
## Our Core Principles

### Main Principles:

1) Transparency



2) Equality



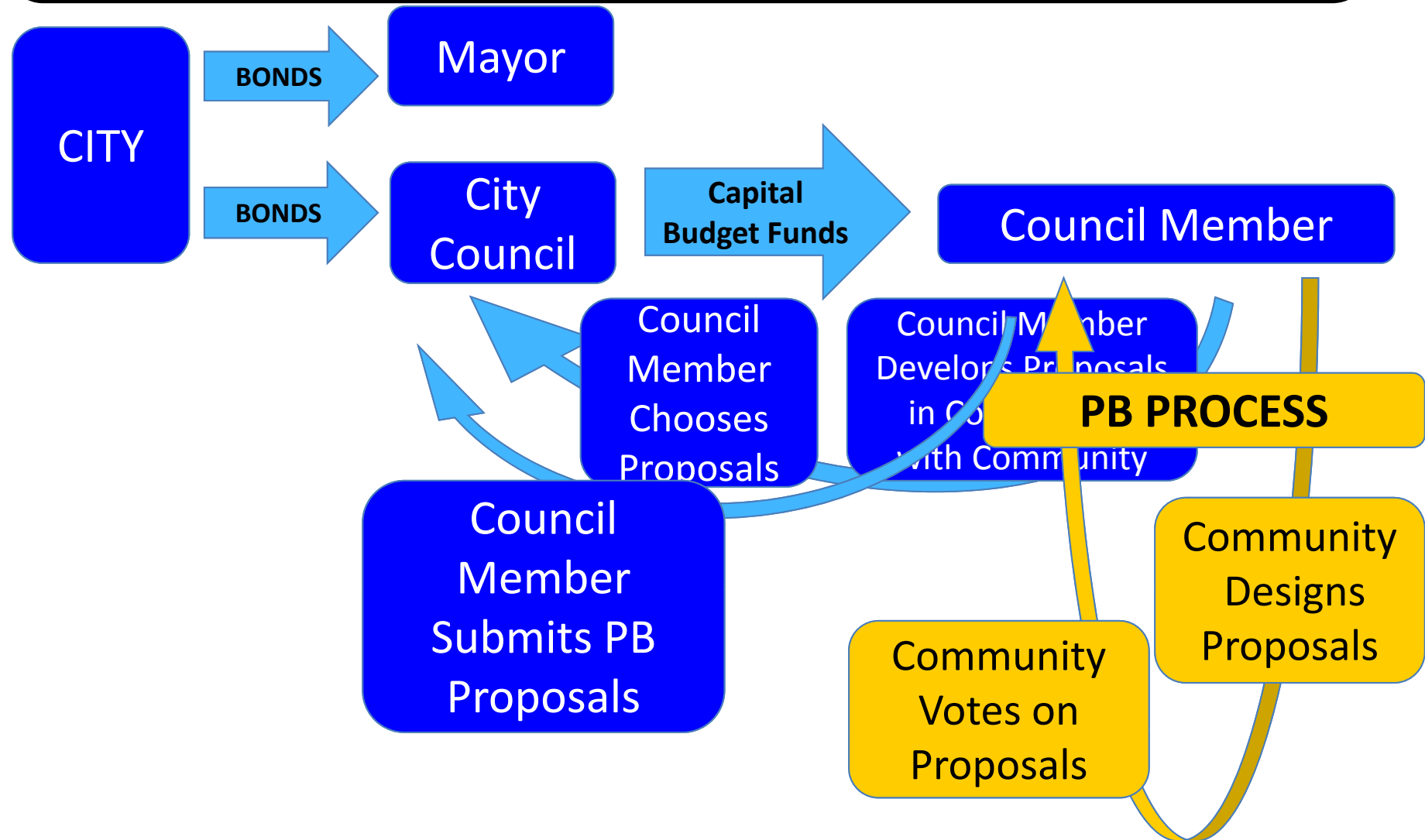
3) Inclusion



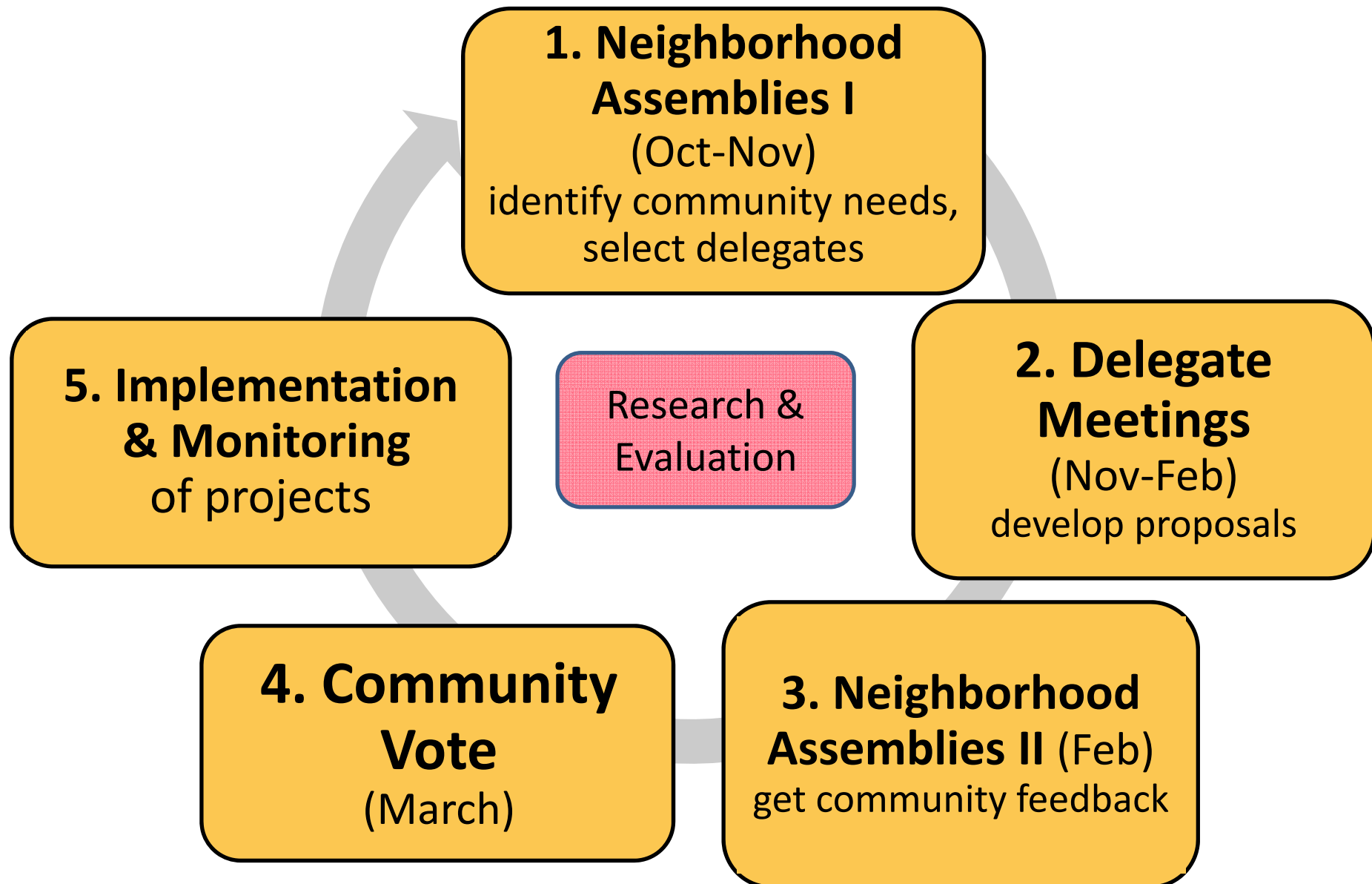
### Other Goals:

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

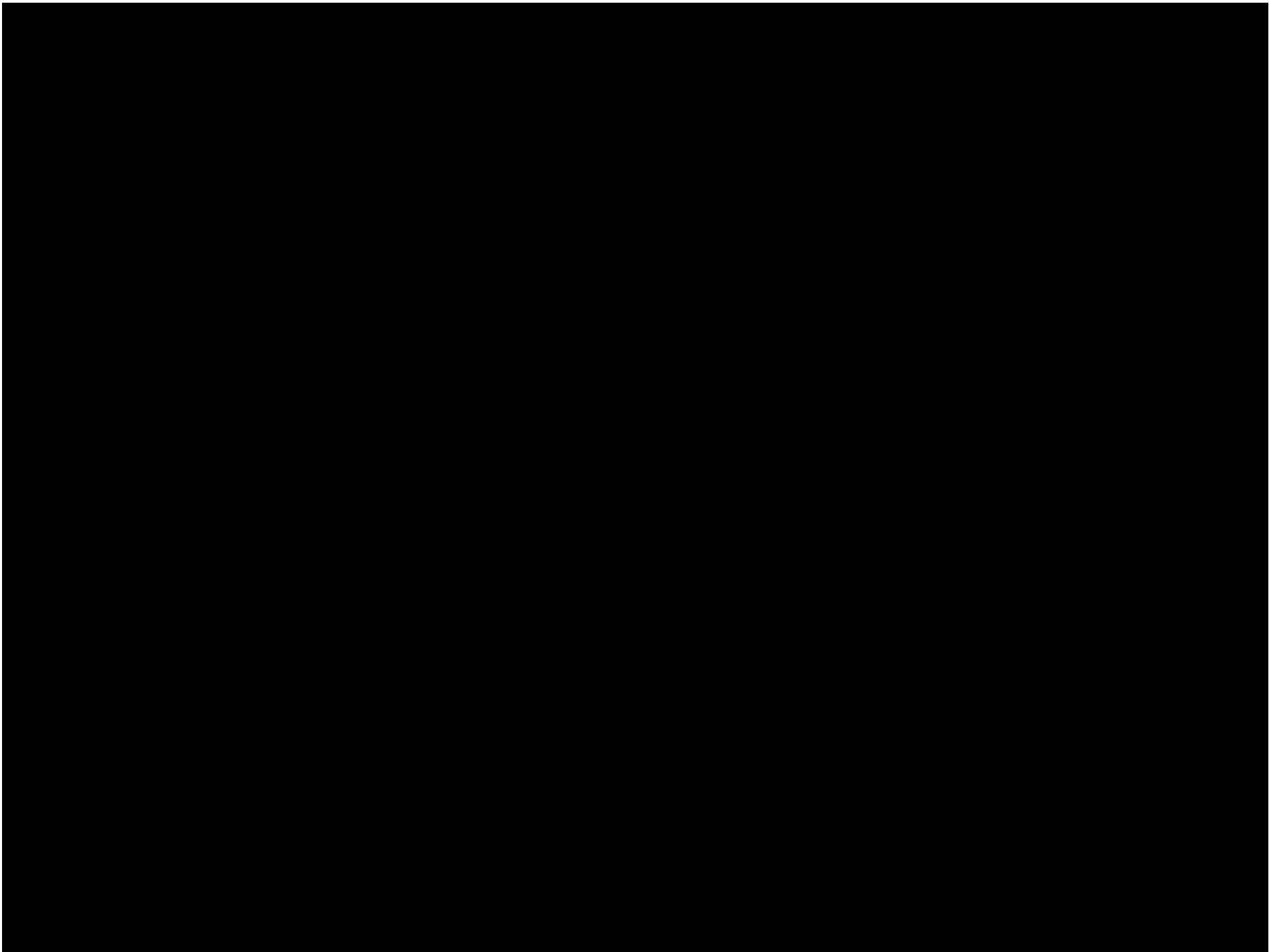
## **TOO EXPENSIVE**

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>