

Participatory Budgeting

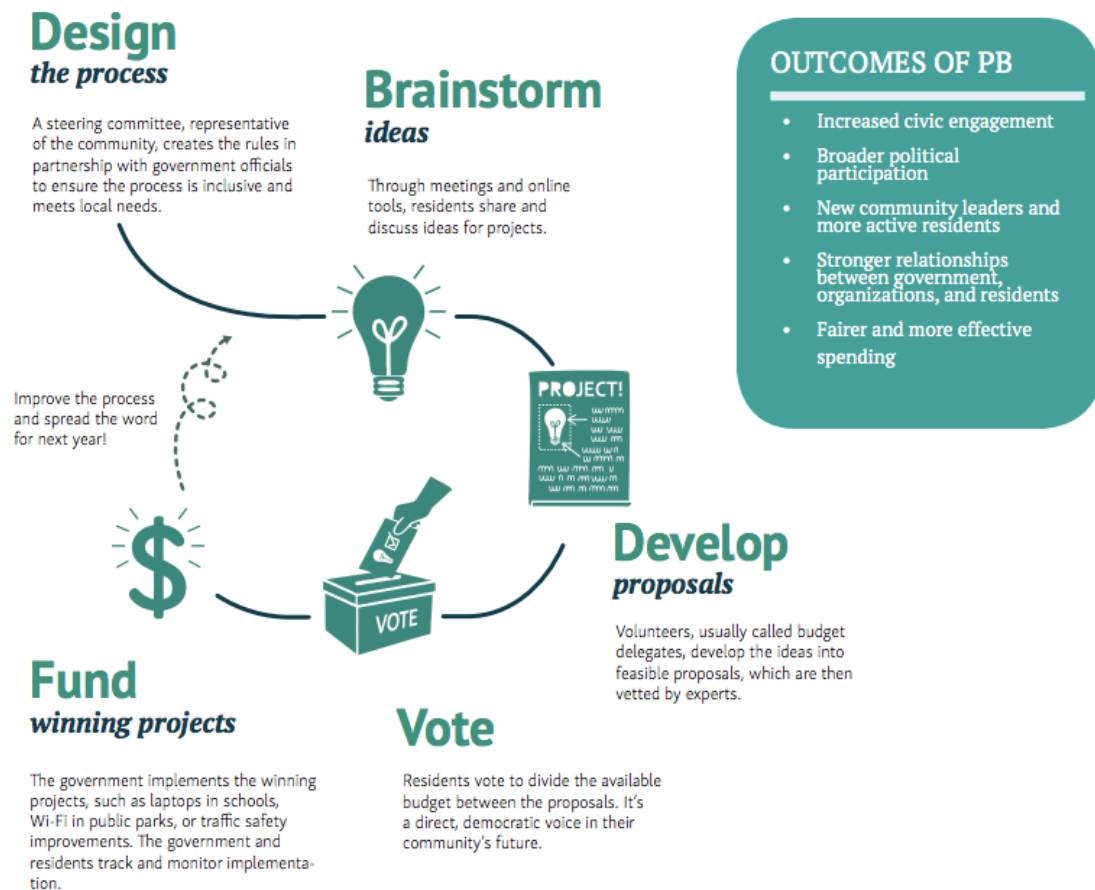
Building community capacity for addressing equity and health in Richmond

This document is an initial effort to define a participatory budgeting process for the City of Richmond Virginia. What follows is a brief explanation of the process, a rough timeline, and various roles that will be needed to make the project successful for the City of Richmond and the residents of Richmond. In the coming months, this document will be added to and refined based on the input of various community leaders, city council, and city staff as we build toward establishing a process in Richmond.

What is Participatory Budgeting?

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic, community focused process that brings the knowledge of city hall and residents together to make important decisions about public money. In doing so, PB creates deeper connections between local government and residents, builds the capacity of the community to participate in civic processes, and allows the community to engage in rich, deep conversations about equity and wellbeing.

How does PB works



PB in Richmond

The opportunity for PB is immense in Richmond. While the history of the city is well known, significant efforts and vital leadership are presently bringing new innovative ideas to imagine a different future for the city. For that future to succeed it is vital that all members of the community have a role in envisioning these plans for Richmond and see that their ideas are heard and enacted. In this way Participatory Budgeting can be a vital way for Richmond to deeply think about equity, empower underserved and under-represented neighborhoods to have a voice, and create a path way for the next generation by including youth in the process. PB accomplishes this by implementing a rigorous process that brings out the creativity of all residents, trains the community to collaboratively develop proposals, and then assess which projects will have the most impact in their neighborhoods. Over time, PB supports the creation of deep relationships across old divides and allows the Richmond as a whole to make better decisions about community investments.

History of PB

Participatory Budgeting has a 30-year history, starting in Brazil in the 1980's. Since that time the process has spread to over 3000 different cities around the world. In 2008, the first US process began in Chicago and since then has quickly expanded to multiple states. Greensboro, NC was the first southern city to adopt a city-wide process that invested \$500,000 each year. In 2019, Durham, NC began their first process with a budget of \$2.4 million dollars. While Charlottesville, VA will begin a pilot process in the fall of 2019 with \$100,000.

Possible Goals for Richmond

- Build new opportunities for equity
- Strengthen community bonds
- Grow leadership in our youth
- Celebrate the vitality of Richmond
- Explorer new ways to improve community health
- Expand civic and financial knowledge about public dollars

Project Team

- Ebony Walden – Founder - Ebony Walden Consulting
- Ryan Rinn – former Executive Director – Storefront for Community Design
- Matthew Slaats – Creative Director – Pauselab
- Albert Walker - Richmond Memorial Health Foundation

Timeline 2019 - 2021

June

Initial Meeting with City Council Representative Addison
Define PB Team - Ebony Walden , Ryan Rinn, Matthew Slaats, Albert Walker
Draft initial PB timeline and budget

July

RVAPB Brainstorm - partners and network map development
Engage and gain support for PB process from core City Council Members

August

Engage City Council Liaisons and City Council Members
Begin conversations and develop initial asks with public and private funding sources to support pre-development and year one process

Sept

Presentation to City Council Members at fall budget meeting.
Identify and establish core community partnerships

Oct - Dec

Continue to educate city council and community partners about PB
Organize visit to RVA by Participatory Budgeting Project or Our City Our Voice representatives

Jan - Feb

City Council Vote to allocate funding for year 1 PB process

Feb - Jun

Possible visit to City of Durham or City of Greensboro to discuss process and build relationships.
Continue to education Council, Staff, and formalize community partnerships
Begin coordinating PB Rulebook process - identify PB Steering Committee, develop initials goals/values/objectives (logic model), define macro level process

Jun - October

PB Rulebook development with Steering Committee
Development of outreach plan
Design of print materials, social media, and video materials
Hire and train community engagement team

Oct - Dec

Idea Collection process - multiple events for idea collection and assessment

Dec - Mar

Presentation of results of idea collection
Proposal Development - Training, team development
Final project approvals

April - May

Public Engagement of Projects

Voting - Ballot distribution, collection of ballots, tabulate results
Announcement of winning projects

June

Begin implementation of projects
Assessment and evaluation of process
Revision of RVAPB rulebook for year 2

Begin second year of process.

Roles

Albert Walker -

Formerly at Bon Secours and now at the Richmond Memorial Health Foundation, Albert has expertise and practical experience in community-based participatory approaches to public health and quantitative and qualitative community-engaged public health research. His expertise includes a focus on promoting health equity through public health practice and addressing the social determinants of health community coalitions, academic research universities, community-based organizations and everyday ordinary people. In this role with the PB process in Richmond he will be helping guide the development of the equity/health index and building partnerships to position community resources at the center of the project.

Matthew Slaats - Project Coordinator

Matthew will serve as the overarching coordinator and organizer for the RVAPB project. Building on a long history of community based development and efforts to expand participatory budgeting efforts in Virginia, Matthew will bring a direct knowledge of the process and the vital infrastructure needed to make the process successful for everyone in Richmond. He will coordinate partnerships that build trust, bring vital knowledge about how best to implement PB in Richmond, and access resources so that knowledge is placed in the hands of residents to guide the process.

Ebony Walden - Engagement and Process Development Coordinator

With a significant history of supporting community transformation, Ebony will support meeting facilitation, strategic planning, and community engagement processes for the RVAPB process. This will center primarily on working with the community, city council, and city staff to develop a process that will be meaningful for all of Richmond. This will continue by working with the community engagement team develop an engagement process to effectively connect and listen to all voices involved in this initial process.

Ryan Rinn - Community Partnership Consultant

Having long lead community engagement and design efforts at the Storefront for Community Design, Ryan will bring his deep knowledge of Richmond and vast relationships to support the success of the RVAPB process. This will include advising on funding resources, supporting partnerships that build community capacity, and relationship development with core members of the Richmond community.

City Council PB Leaders -

These vital City Council members will be core leaders in bringing PB to Richmond. With their leadership on City Council they will work to define public funds that will be used for the project, identify relationships with staff, and establish deep connections with the neighborhoods they represent.

City Council Liaisons

As the vital connection to all City Council Members, the Liaisons will be a conduit for sharing information to representative leaders and out into the communities they represent. At the same time think about how PB can strategically impact all of Richmond.

City Staff Leaders

These members of the PB team will be vital to connecting with the knowledge and skills that reside within all city staff. This will center on advocating for PB efforts across departments and finding ways that staff can bring their experience to bear in support of RVAPB.

Community Engagement Staff

As representatives of the community, this team will play an important role by directly connecting with the residents build excitement around the project, meet people where they are, and make sure to tap into the immense knowledge that resides on every street.

All Residents living in the City of Richmond

RVAPB begins with an understanding that there is immense experience and knowledge residing on every street in Richmond. Our goal is to make sure that all residents can bring their vision of the city to bear through a process dedicated to developing an equitable, resilient city.

Other Roles/Partners

Community Funding Resources

Youth Engagement Process - Mayor's Youth Academy, RPS, Afterschool Programs

Non-Profit Sector - Civic Engagement, Community Budgeting, etc