

Participatory Budgeting

A New Tool for Transparency,
Empowerment, and Inclusion



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The Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP)



About PBP

Founded in 2009, incorporated as a nonprofit in 2011

Mission To empower community members to make informed, democratic, and fair decisions about public spending and revenue.

Program Areas

- Public Education
- Technical Assistance
- Research & Evaluation

Small but Growing 1 paid staff → 5.5 in 2012
(Brooklyn, Chicago, Bay Area)

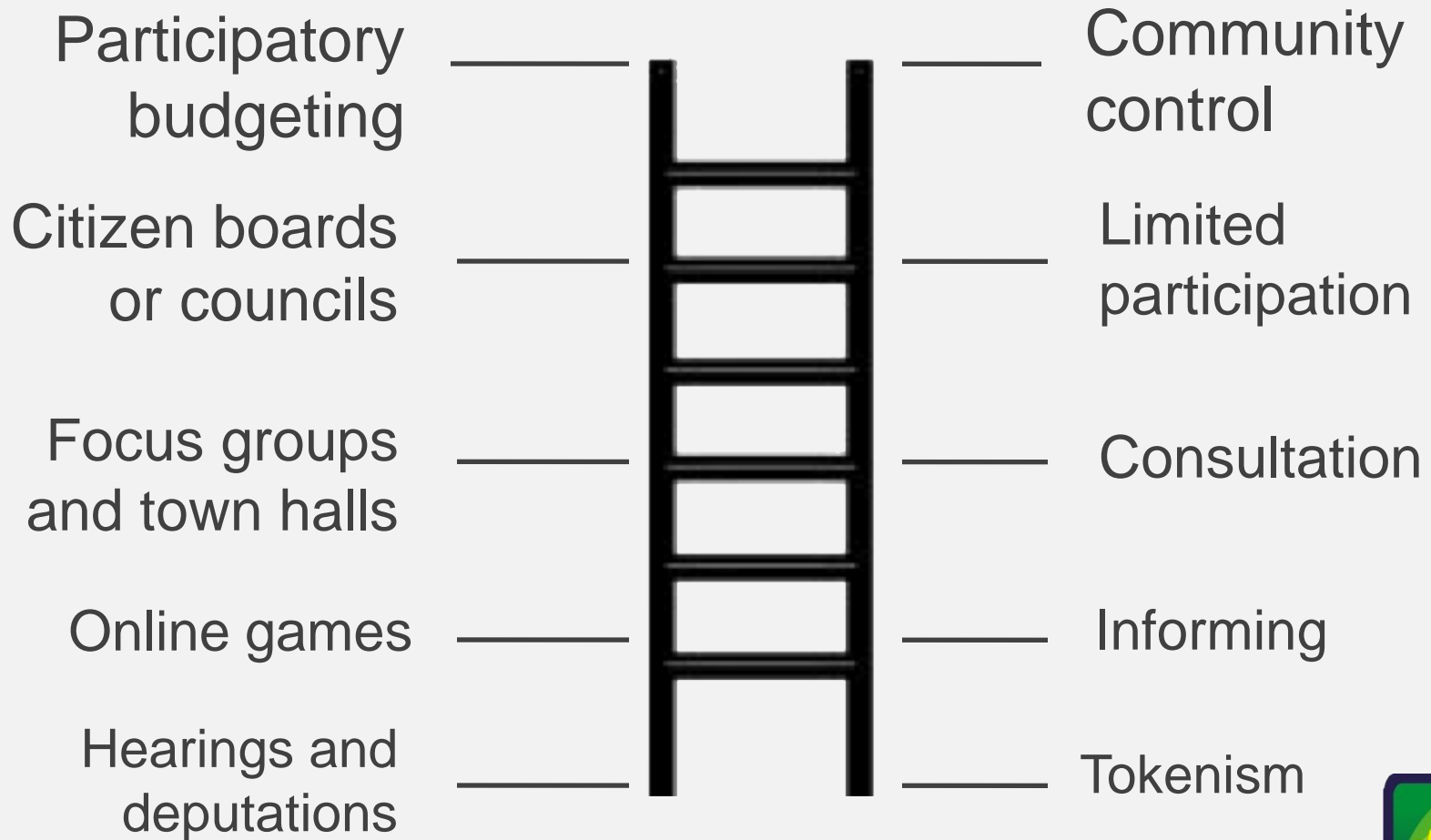


Why participate in budgeting?



- **Policy without the rhetoric**
- **Money talks,**
people pay attention
- Public budgets
are **taxpayer money**

A ladder of budget participation



What is participatory budgeting?

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

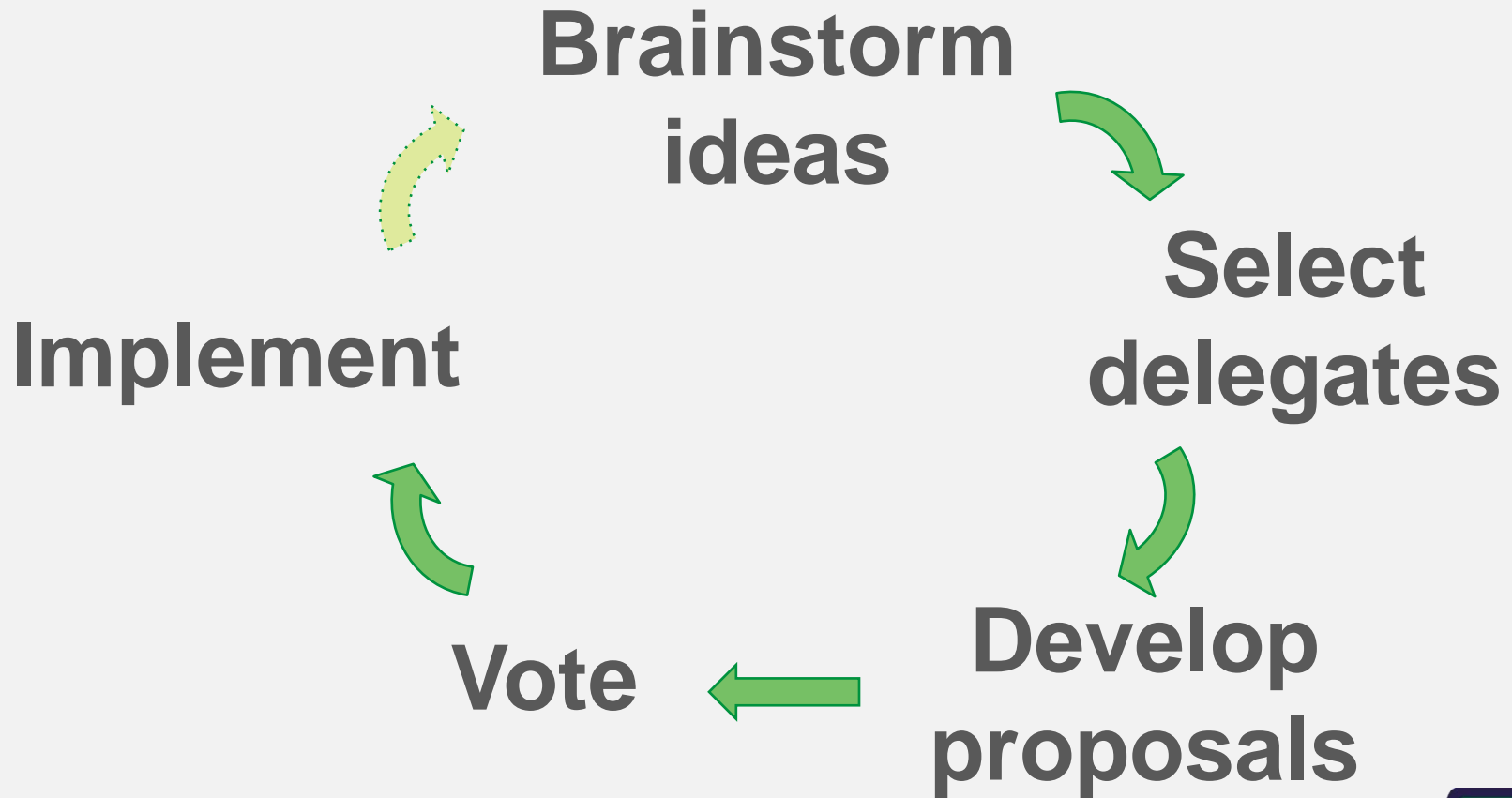


What is **participatory budgeting?**

- Making **real decisions about real money**
(NOT a consultation)
- **An annual cycle**
(NOT a one-off event)
- Usually for **discretionary funds**
(NOT the whole budget)



How does it work?



Public assemblies

Brainstorm ideas and select delegates



Delegate meetings

Develop proposals



Vote on proposals



Implement projects



Where has participatory budgeting worked?

1,500+ PB processes in the world!

**Cities,
States,
Counties,
Public housing,
Schools,
Community organizations**



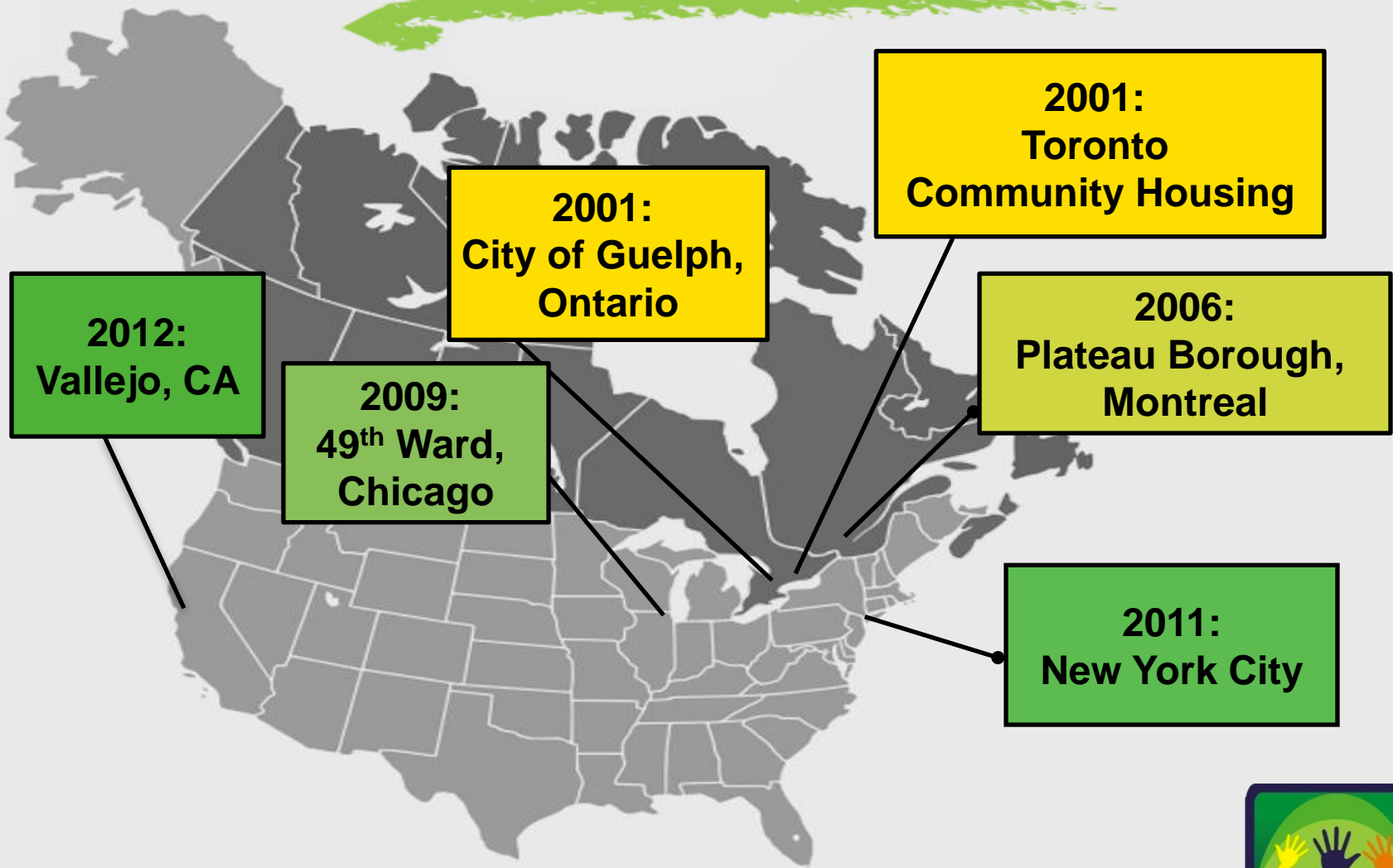
Porto Alegre, Brazil

1989

- **1.5 million population**
- Up to 50,000 participants decide as much as **\$200 million** in spending per year (20% of budget)
- Key victories:
 - **Doubled sanitation coverage**
 - Doubled the number of **students in schools**
 - **Expanded bus service** to neglected areas



Participatory budgeting in North America



Toronto Community Housing

2001

- Second largest public housing provider in North America: 164,000 tenants
- Tenants have allocated up to \$9 million in capital funds per year



Chicago's 49th Ward

2009

- 60,000 residents, NE Chicago
- \$1.3 million (Alderman Joe Moore's discretionary budget)
- Funds for capital projects only
- First PB Cycle:
April 2009 – April 2010
- Completed three cycles,
now expanding to
4 wards





Why **participatory** budgeting?



Public education



Deeper democracy



Current Condition of Gym

Ball

- 1. The ball court is in poor condition. The floor is cracked and uneven, making it difficult to play on.

Equipment

- 1. The equipment is old and worn out.
- 2. The equipment is not safe to use.
- 3. The equipment is not up to date.

Walk & Run

- 1. The walk and run area is not paved.
- 2. The area is not safe to walk or run on.

Locker & Shower

- 1. The locker and shower area is not clean.
- 2. The area is not well lit.

Costs

- 1. \$50,000
- 2. \$100,000
- 3. \$150,000

30 Denarda
Trimbee Courts
GYM
RENOVATION
\$50,000

Benefits of a Renovated Gym

- 1. A safe and healthy environment for all.
- 2. A place where people can exercise and stay fit.
- 3. A place where people can meet and socialize.
- 4. A place where people can learn and grow.
- 5. A place where people can have fun.



More informed decisions



Fairer spending

LET ALL CHILDREN PLAY!

Vote for a park that includes the disabled

WHY A DISABLED PARK?

LEAD OF PARADE - CHU 13 will open the door to a new world of play for children and their parents who sit in the side seat - trying not to tip over the wheelchair.

THE SPECIAL CHAIR ACCESS - The play ground equipment for children and their parents who sit in the side seat - trying not to tip over the wheelchair.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO & BAYVIEW - The play ground is in the neighbourhood - close to the main station and a lot of other things - high level of safety and security - dog waste - graffiti - the way to keep the children safe - especially for those in wheel chairs.

CANADIAN STAMPEDES ASSOCIATION - In this day and age you would never think to make any more wheelchair accessible, you would make it all more accessible. This might sound like a contradiction to our children and to grandparents who are also in wheel chairs.

EQUAL ACCESS BY CHU 13 - will ensure the integration of construction, bring all children together - help to address awareness - to promote inclusion - to help ensure the best chance for living in the future.



Vote for a Boundless Playground in CHU 13



ALL CHILDREN WANT TO PLAY IN THE PARK - ALL PARENTS WANT TO GO TO THE PARK WITH THEIR CHILDREN

WAITING FOR A PLAY GROUND IN CHU 13



MAKING CHU 13 PLAY GROUND ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

This is not about children playing! It is not about that we have a choice of a child in a wheel chair in a play ground at the park that will not let parents who are in wheel chairs go to the play ground with their children. CHU 13 will allow all children to play. Toronto Community Housing is an inclusive leader. Promoting equality through housing is an inclusive leader. CHU 13 will ensure the integration of construction, bring all children together - help to address awareness - to promote inclusion - to help ensure the best chance for living in the future.

THREE BIG POINTS:

1. IN THIS A BIRTH PLACE - The play ground equipment will be made with wheelchair access when the park is built.
2. WILL YOU BE ABLE TO GO? - CHU 13 will not let us have Toronto Community Housing who are in wheel chairs go to the play ground with their children.
3. MAKE THE PLAY GROUND ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL - The play ground equipment will be made with wheelchair access when the park is built.



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



Stronger communities



Accountability and transparency



Connects officials with residents



What's next for PB in North America?

- City-wide PB
- PB with universities, schools, housing authorities, coalitions
- PB for revenue
- Online and mobile participation



For more information



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