



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER MARK S. WEPRIN

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NEARLY 300 CAPITAL PROJECTS IDEAS PROPOSED FOR PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN COUNCIL MEMBER MARK WEPRIN'S DISTRICT

Residents from Council Member Mark Weprin's (D-Oakland Gardens) district proposed nearly 300 ideas for capital projects during a series of Neighborhood Assemblies, online submissions, and canvassing efforts throughout the community this fall as part of a process called Participatory Budgeting (PB). PB allows the community to decide how to spend one million dollars from the city's budget.

"PB gives everyone an opportunity to get involved and decide how public dollars are spent in our community," said Council Member Weprin.

Council Member Mark Weprin is one of nine Council Members who have designated at least one million dollars of their discretionary funds for the innovative process.

"In the future, I hope all fifty-one districts in New York City participate in this community based-process," added Council Member Weprin.

Some of the ideas collected include a community garden at Alley Pond Park, preservation of cupolas at Captain Dermody Triangle, solar panels on the roof of Benjamin N. Cardozo High School and handicapped accessible busses for the Samuel Field Y.

The ideas for the projects were generated at Neighborhood Assemblies, meetings at which community members learn about PB and discuss their community's needs. They then brainstorm project ideas and sign up to be budget delegates. Neighborhood Assemblies offer community members an opportunity to propose projects like improvements to schools, parks, libraries, and other public or community spaces. The PB process involves a series of meetings within an eight-month period that ends with a vote by residents on which final projects to fund.

Attachments:

Photo 1: Staffer Sara Abiboutros leads a Neighborhood Assembly held on October 3rd at the Cross Island Y.

Photo 2: Queens College student Jamie Cho leads a group discussion on October 8th during a Neighborhood Assembly at PS 18Q.

Photo3: A Neighborhood Assembly was held for the residents of North Shore Towers in Floral Park on October 21st at Towers on the Green.

Photo 4: Staffer Irene Cheung and PBNYC intern Andrew Sokolof read out loud the ideas generated by community members at North Shore Towers on October 21st.

Photo 5: On October 24th, residents gathered at Samuel Field Y to brainstorm ideas for capital projects at a Participatory Budgeting Neighborhood Assembly.