

District

39

**PARTICIPATORY
BUDGETING**

OFFICIAL

ZINE!

Council Member Shahana Hanif

Brooklyn, New York

Created by District 39 Youth Fellows

Participatory Budgeting Cycle 13 2023 - 2024





Shahana Hanif

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 39

Table of Contents

01-02 Why Participatory
Budgeting?

03 Global Context

04 District Map

05 Floating Goat the Aquatic Weed
Harvester

06 Park Slope Library Storytelling Garden

07 The FabLab M.S. 442 Project-Based
STEM Learning

08 Malukah Self-Defense Classes for Young
Muslim Women and Allies

09 Big Reuse Repair Cafe

10 Seed Funding Chips Food Pantry Truck

11 Closing

WHY PB?

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PUTS FUNDING AND POWER INTO THE HANDS OF OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY.



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Participatory Budgeting also known as PB is a democratic process where community members decide how to spend a portion of government funding. This form of public democracy allows us to delegate where and how tax dollars are being spent. District 39 is one of the first city council districts in the United States to implement this form of direct democracy. In this process \$1.5 million dollars is allocated towards Capital Projects and \$50,000 dollars is allocated towards expense projects. All projects are created by community members for community members.

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WHY PB?

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IS INNOVATING DEMOCRACY



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Participatory Budgeting in NYC aims to ensure equitable opportunities for community members to vote on projects. NYC residents ages 11 and up can choose to vote regardless of immigration status. This allows residents who may not have the qualifications to vote in other democratic processes to have a voice within PB. Diversifying voters allows for more perspectives and ideas to address a wider range of community needs. This model is imperative for the continuation of a positive relationship between local government and the people they serve. Participatory Budgeting is always looking to improve and evolve how we can get communities involved in their own neighborhoods and see real change. As PB becomes a more dominant force within America's major cities we can hope to see a more civilly engaged public for generations to come

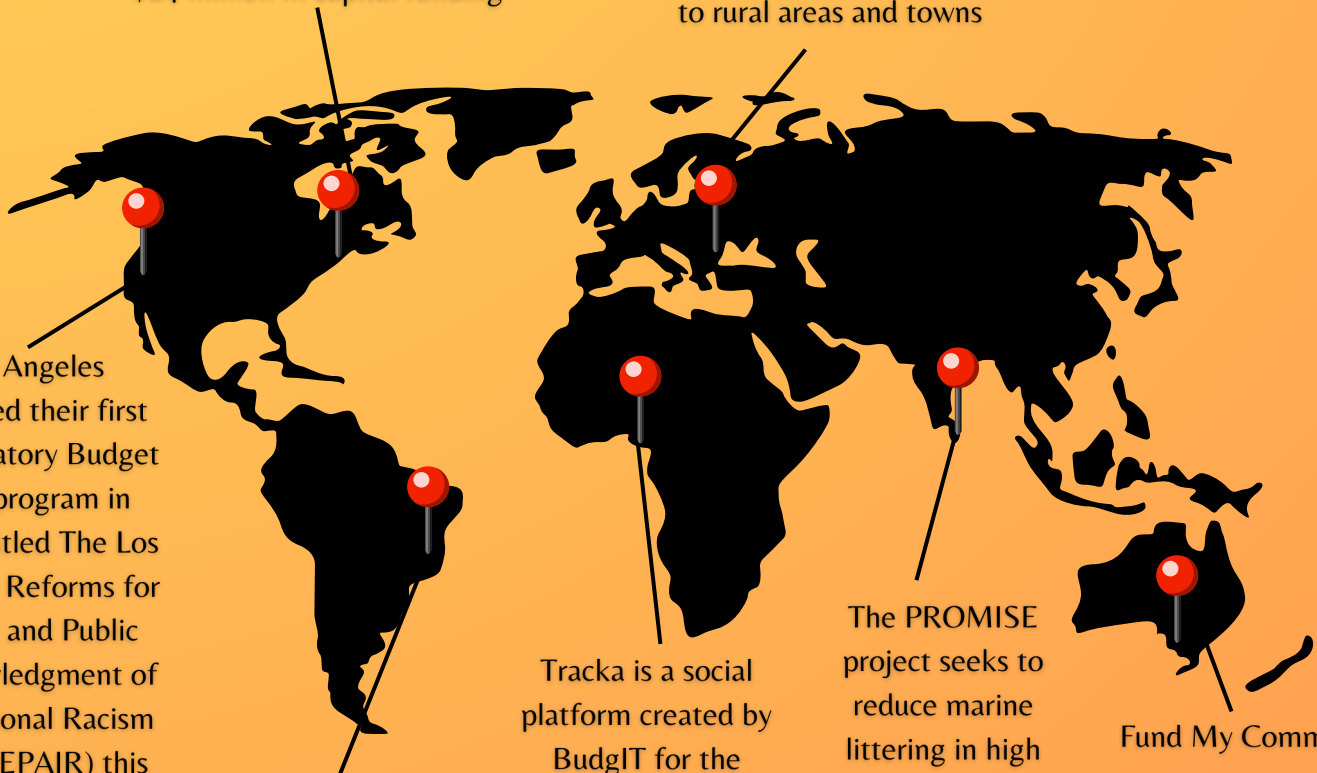
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This zine highlights six unique projects that have been successfully implemented throughout City Council District 39 to show the diversity of community needs, interests, and the impact these projects have had.

GLOBAL CONTEXT

NYC is the birthplace of Participatory Budgeting in the United States. This year 24 Council Members across the city are asking residents how to spend \$24 million in capital funding

The Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project is a \$50 million dollar, 5 year project (2022-2027) with the goal of increasing access and capacity of safely managed water supply and sanitation services to rural areas and towns



Los Angeles launched their first Participatory Budget Pilot program in 2022. Titled The Los Angeles Reforms for Equity and Public Acknowledgment of Institutional Racism (L.A. REPAIR) this program will distribute \$8.5 million dollars to 9 underserved neighborhoods.

In 1989 Porto Alegre, Brazil was the first place in the world to exercise participatory budgeting as an anti-poverty measure; helping reduce child mortality by 20%.

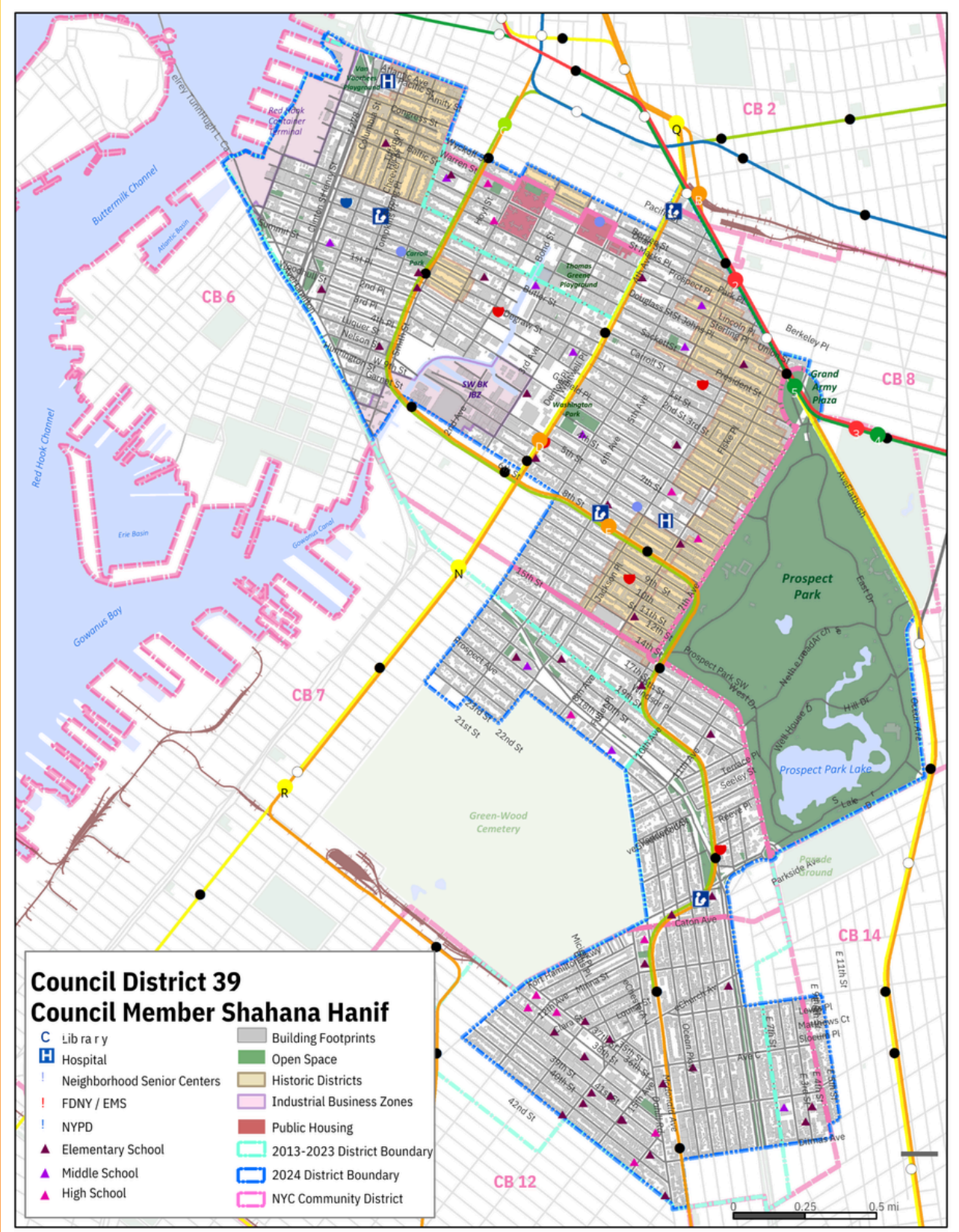
Tracka is a social platform created by BudGIT for the citizens of Nigeria to track, collaborate and provide feedback on public projects within their community to increase transparency on the governments budget process and public finance management.

The PROMISE project seeks to reduce marine littering in high tourism areas along the Lakshadweep shorelines of the Maldives, Sri Lanka and India. This \$4 million dollar multi-country effort is part of the SWITCH Asia program and runs from July 2020 - June of 2024.

Fund My Community is a grant program in the state of South Australia that uses Participatory budgeting to allocate funds to various organizations. In 2015 a project titled Big Sunday received \$100,000 dollars to provide lodging to Aboriginal women experiencing substance misuse issues.

DISTRICT MAP

Every 10 years the NYC Districting Commission redraws council district boundaries to reflect population and demographic changes. In January of 2024 Council District 39's boundaries were redrawn and now serve parts of Kensington, Borough Park, Windsor Terrace, Park Slope, Gowanus, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, Boerum Hill, and the Columbia Waterfront.





Prospect Park's Floating Goat



By: Emilia Adsuar

Project Type: Capital
Year: 2018
Budget: \$140,000



The floating goat in action!



Look at those teeth!

“It is a very special place, and we, as the stewards of the park, wanna make sure that it’s ecologically healthy and that it thrives for future generations”

-Leila Mougoui Bakhtiari, Director of Landscape Management

In Prospect Park’s 585 acres of land there is a large network of waterways leading down to Brooklyn’s only Lake. Prospect Park Alliance, the nonprofit organization of the parks department works in a team of twenty-three members, who care for the park. In 2018 the \$140,000 capital project awarded through participatory budgeting earned the name “Floating Goat“. The Floating Goat is an aquatic weed harvester that runs on Prospect Park’s lake for three days a week for five to six hours a day. The lake surface can be overrun by invasive plant species such as duckweed, floating heart, and floating primrose. These plants create a green carpet over the lake that occupies the oxygen the native wildlife needs to survive. According to Mark Anthony, Deputy Director of Landscape Management, the machine pulls the weeds from the lake with metal teeth and deposits them into a bucket through a conveyor belt before being sorted and dropped off at a dumping site.



Park Slope Library

Storytelling Garden

Capital Project, 2017
Budget: \$250,000

Like most original Carnegie Libraries, the Park Slope Library included an ornamental lawn— a roped-off green space inaccessible to the public. But, in 2016 and 2017, community members part of the volunteer group *Friends of Park Slope Library* reached out to the Brooklyn Public Library with an idea to create a “Storytelling Garden,” which would serve as a public, accessible space for individuals to read and for the library to host humanities and STEM programs. Through the PB system, the dream of the garden came true— a testament to how Participatory Budgeting is a pipeline for community ideas to grow and realize.



Mo Willems, renowned children’s book author and beloved Park Slope resident, had his book *Knuffle Bunny* commemorated with a statue in the Storytelling Garden.

MS 442 FAB LAB

By: Adrien Devery-Michael



The M.S. 442 Fab Lab is a partnership between the Beam center, an organization on project based learning, and local middle school M.S. 442. The Fab Lab was voted on in the 2016-2017 cycle of participatory budgeting, where it was a capital project, and ended up receiving \$200,000 in government funding. The Fab Lab was a pioneer when it came to project based learning, as it was one of the first facilities of its kind. Since the Fab Labs construction and completion, M.S. 442 has integrated the lab into its curriculum. Students now use the lab to build projects that reinforce and anchor science concepts they learn about in class. The unique project-based learning opportunities offered in the Fab Lab can help address students specific needs, the project based approach helps to “individualize everyone’s education”, says Corrine Contrino, M.S. 442's business manager.

Project Type: Capital

Year: 2017

Budget: \$200,000



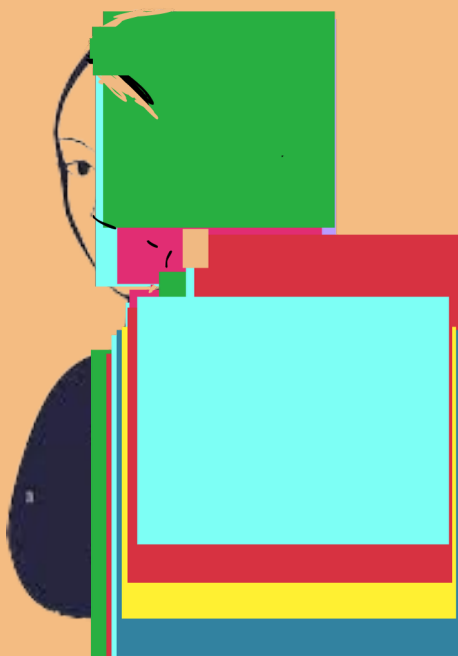
WOMEN'S SELF- DEFENSE FOR THE RESISTANCE

Expense project

Year: 2018

Budget: \$5400

In 2018, the organization Malikah ran self-defense classes and healing workshops for Muslim women and allies in Kensington. The program fostered a sense of community and solidarity among participants, empowering them to resist oppression and advocate for their rights as young Muslim women. Malikah is a non-profit formed in Queens in response to violence against Muslim women. The organization aims to create places for healing, learning self-defense, and empowerment.



*"A truly beautiful program that was led by young Bangladeshi women for young Bangladeshi women"
- founder of Malikah, Rana Abdelhamid*



BIG REUSE REPAIR CAFE

By: Flo Vagnetti

EXPENSE PROJECT

BUDGET: \$10,000

YEAR: 2023

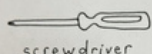
BIG
REUSE

CYCLE 12 OF DISTRICT 39 PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING WAS FOCUSED ON CLIMATE JUSTICE! THE REPAIR CAFE WAS BORN AFTER MANY CONSTITUENTS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN REDUCING WASTE AND CONFRONTING CONSUMERISM. ORGANIZED BY BIG REUSE, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, ANYONE CAN LEARN HOW TO REPAIR EVERYDAY OBJECTS SUCH AS CLOTHES AND FURNITURE FREE OF CHARGE. THE REPAIR CAFE AIMS TO REDUCE WASTE BY TEACHING SKILLS LIKE SEWING AND WOOD FINISHING WITH THE GUIDANCE OF SKILLED PROFESSIONALS. THESE EVENTS EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS TO TAKE SMALL STEPS IN REDUCING THEIR WASTE IN AN

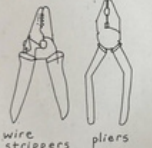
ACCESSIBLE AND FUN WAY.

Lamp Repair cafe

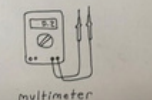
TOOLS



screwdriver

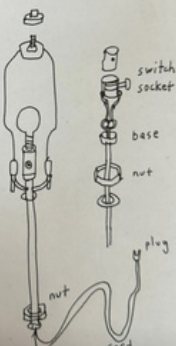


wire strippers pliers



multimeter

PARTS



By: Sophie Mochizuki

Expense Project

- Year: 2023
- Budget: \$20,000



Seed Funding CHiPS Food Pantry Truck

After COVID, CHiPS created the food pantry truck hoping to expand accessibility to those not within walking distance of CHiPS. CHiPS has been able to reach new communities through this service and double the size of their pantry program

CHiPS is a Brooklyn Organization aiming to reduce food insecurity and homelessness through a soup kitchen, a pantry program, temporary housing for expecting mothers, and the Food Pantry Truck

Stops:

- NYCHA Gowanus Houses**
- PS 124 (near WIN shelter)**





Special Thanks to...

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