



Resident Engagement in the Budget Process



Objectives



- Discuss existing resident engagement efforts
- Discuss the results of the City Council survey
- Discuss the results of the resident engagement peer city benchmarking survey
- Discuss the Participatory Budgeting (PB) Model





Background

Resident engagement efforts include:

- Resident Surveys
- Coffees with Council
- Public Hearings
- Strategic Planning
- Citizen Capital Improvement Panel (CCIP)





City Council Survey Results

- Annual City Council Survey to obtain feedback to inform next year's process.
- Overall FY16-17, results were positive.
- Results indicated some concern for the effectiveness of engagement events, such as Public Hearings and Coffee with Council.
- Benchmarked other cities to seek opportunities for enhancing resident engagement.



Benchmarking Survey



The City Council adopted the following Peer City benchmarking list at its October 3, 2016 Council meeting:

- Augusta, GA,
- Baton Rouge, LA
- Fayetteville, NC
- Greensboro, NC
- Little Rock, AR
- Montgomery, AL
- Shreveport, LA
- Winston-Salem, NC
- Norfolk, VA
- Richmond, VA





Table 1.1: Peer City Benchmarking Results

	Public Hearings (2 or more)	Resident Satisfaction Survey	Employee Satisfaction Survey	Informal Community Events (Coffee with Council)	Departmental Strategic Plan	Citizen Budget Advisory Committee	Citywide Strategic Plan	Priority Based Budgeting (PBB)
Richmond, VA	X	X	X	X				
Greensboro, NC				X				
Winston-Salem, NC	X		X	X	X	X		
Norfolk, VA	X	X	X	X		X		X
Fayetteville, NC		X	X				X	
Durham, NC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



Benchmarking Survey



The City of Durham surveyed the following communities that currently have a participatory budgeting process:

- Cambridge, Massachusetts
- **Greensboro, North Carolina**
- Vallejo, California
- Boston, Massachusetts





Table 1.2:PB Benchmarking Results

	Resident Satisfaction Survey	Public Hearings (2 or more)	Citywide Strategic Plan	Departmental Strategic Plan	Priority Based Budgeting (PBB)	Citizen Budget Advisory Committee	Employee Satisfaction Survey	Informal Community Event (Coffee with Council)
Boston, MA	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Cambridge, MA	X	X						
Greensboro, NC								X
Vallejo, CA		X						X
Durham, NC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



What is Participatory Budgeting?



- It is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget.
- It enables taxpayers to work with government to make the budget decisions that affect their lives.
- The process was first developed in Brazil in 1989, and there are now over 1,500 participatory budgets around the world.
- The vast majority occur at the municipal level of government. PB has also been used, for counties, states, housing authorities, schools and school systems, universities, coalitions, and other public agencies.



Goals of Participatory Budgeting



- To empower residents to get involved in the local budget process.
- Process typically consists of:
 - 1) Idea Collection
 - 2) Project Submission
 - 3) Voting
 - 4) Project Implementation
- PB takes many forms depending on the community.



Participatory Budgeting in the US



Chicago, Illinois:

- The first PB cycle in the U.S. began in 2009 Alderman Joe Moore of the 49th ward of Chicago.
- Each alderman in Chicago receives slightly over \$1.3 million a year to spend at their discretion on various capital improvements in their wards
- Residents of Moore's 49th Ward worked together to decide how to spend \$1 million of his annual discretionary capital budget – the aldermanic “menu money.”
- Residents identified hundreds of project ideas, developed proposals, and then voted to fund street and sidewalk repairs, bike lanes, playground and park improvements, street lights, one hundred new trees, murals, and many more community projects.



Participatory Budgeting in the US



Vallejo, California:

- In 2012, the City Council established the first city-wide PB process in the U.S.
- Goals:
 - Improve the city, engage the community, transform our democracy, and open the government.
 - \$6.7 million to fund a total of 25 projects, while engaging over 15,000 residents.





Participatory Budgeting in the US

Boston, Massachusetts:

- In January 2014, the City of Boston launched the first youth participatory budgeting process in the US.
- Allows teens and young adults to decide how to spend \$1 million of the city's capital budget.
- 100% project implementation rate
- Winning projects included:
 - Wicked Free WiFi 3.0 - provides free WiFi and charging stations to key locations and bus stops across Boston.
 - Sunshine and Books - an app that will let anyone know where there are designed outdoor study spaces.



Participatory Budgeting in the US



Greensboro, North Carolina:

- In 2015, Greensboro implemented their first cycle of PB. Greensboro contract PBP for \$200,000 to assist in the PB process (\$100,000 community match).
- City Council set aside \$500,000 for PB projects. Each of the five City Council districts has up to \$100,000 for residents to decide upon for capital projects.
- City Councilmembers appointed two residents to the Steering Committee from their respective districts.
- Residents also served as budget delegates, responsible for preparing and presenting projects at community meetings.





Greensboro's PB Implementation Timeline

- *Idea Collection:* October-November, residents from across the city are invited to gather to learn about district needs and share ideas at neighborhood assemblies, meetings, and online.
- *Proposal Development:* December-March, budget delegates worked with City staff to turn idea submissions into project proposals.
- *Expos and Voting:* April-May, during this time final proposals were presented to the community at Project Expos and then put on the ballot for a vote.
- *Implementation:* Funding was awarded in June for implementation.





Summary

- Resident engagement in the budget development process can be accomplished in many ways (e.g. surveys, public meetings, focus groups, committees, etc.).
- Durham currently engages residents in various ways in the during the budget development process.
- Residents also participate at the departmental level during the development of plans and projects i.e. *durhambikewalkplan*, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, etc.
- Residents participate on boards, commissions and committees.
- Existing opportunities can be improved upon to increase effectiveness.





Summary

Ways to Enhance Existing Efforts

- Develop a process by which residents can review existing plans to determine which projects to prioritize in the upcoming budget process with additional resources.
- Establishing a Citizen Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) resembling the CCIP to review and make recommendations on City departmental budgets and advise the City Council on the decision-making process.
- Expanding the role of the existing CCIP to include review and recommendations of city departmental budgets.



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