

# VOTER GUIDE

## 2023 Seattle People's Budget



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT

For the latest information about the 2023 Seattle People's Budget, go to [PBSeattle.org](https://PBSeattle.org)



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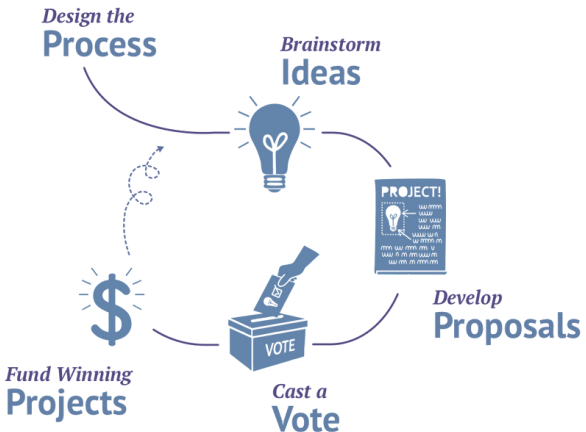
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# THE PROCESS

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic process where community members directly decide how public funds are spent. The 2023 Seattle People's Budget is a PB process in which community members put forth ideas and decide how to spend \$27 million to improve their communities.

The PB cycle (see chart below) starts with the formation of the Steering Committee, which writes the rules for the process and is made up of community members. During Idea Collection, community members submit project ideas which are turned into concrete project proposals by the PB Budget Delegates and the Facilitator Working Group.

Once finalized, they are put on a ballot for community members to vote on - in person and online. The projects that get the most votes are funded and implemented!



# HOW TO VOTE

## WHO CAN VOTE?

Any person age 15 or above who lives, works, or plays in Seattle is eligible. No I.D. is required to vote!

## HOW CAN I VOTE?

During the Vote Phase, community members will choose which proposals move forward by selecting up to four proposals from the options on the ballot. There are several ways to vote:

**IN PERSON** – Cast your ballot at a local event in Seattle; a list of upcoming events is available on [PBSeattle.org/events](https://PBSeattle.org/events).

**ONLINE** – Go to [PBSeattle.org](https://PBSeattle.org) and select the “Vote”



# PROJECT IDEA FOCUS AREAS

## WHERE DID PROJECT IDEAS COME FROM?

Project Ideas were submitted by community members during Idea Collection within the five focus areas below. Each idea was reviewed, vetted for feasibility, and turned into a concrete project proposal by the PB Budget Delegates with support from the Facilitator Working Group. A total of 18 project ideas made it to the ballot.

## WHAT MAKES A PROJECT IDEA ELIGIBLE?

Project ideas must take place in the boundaries of the City of Seattle. Budgets for proposed capital project ideas (to build new facilities or to renovate existing facilities) must be between \$2-7.2 million dollars. For ideas about programs and services, the budget cost window has been set between \$500,000 - \$2 million dollars.



### HOUSING & PHYSICAL SPACES

Housing diversity and the need for more Black-led residential and Black-led commercial spaces came up often in community research.



### YOUTH & CHILDREN

Childcare and out-of-school time supports were big priorities for several teams, particularly for children facing systemic violence and trauma.



### CRISES & WELLNESS

There's strong support for alternatives to the currently harmful 911 and crisis response system-- staffed by trained and skilled community members w/lived experiences.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The urgent need for economic relief to address the the triple crises of COVID-19, economic recession, and systemic racism.



### MENTAL HEALTH

New culturally responsive and caring mental health networks led by people with lived experience are needed. A new, equitable payment structure is required to ensure people receive proper care by appropriate healers.



# THE PROPOSALS



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT

# Q: Affordable Housing/Physical Spaces with a Mental Healthcare Lens



for Historically Economically  
Disadvantaged Communities

**Cost Estimate:** \$2 Million

**Focus Area:** Housing and Physical Space

**Who is centered:** Unserved and underserved people, with priority given to historically disadvantaged people in the housing space

**Proposal:** This is a community-driven initiative aimed at providing housing navigation and assistance services to those in need. Through this project, we seek to support individuals to secure stable housing through both known and untapped resources.

Funds will be used to develop and refine housing navigation and assistance programs based on needs assessment findings. They will also be used to implement outreach campaigns and educational workshops to connect with the community about housing. Once these steps are complete, the project will begin offering housing navigation services, rental assistance, and other support programs to eligible individuals and families.

Special emphasis shall be put on supportive services for Tiny Home Villages. For the project, the first priority will be navigation into permanent housing followed by navigation into Tiny Homes. Thirdly, the initiative will provide navigation support towards Safe Parking spaces.





# R: Community Run, Community-Led 24/7 Public Restrooms and Hygiene Stations

**Cost Estimate:** \$7.2 Million

**Focus Area:** Housing and Physical Space

**Who is Centered:** Unhoused populations in the city of Seattle; neighbors and communities throughout the city of Seattle; tourists who visit the city of Seattle; People who utilize public transit on a regular basis.

**Proposal:** More spaces in the city locations that have free accessible public restrooms and hygiene stations for people to relieve themselves and have access to disability safe restroom spaces. This proposal will create community based, community run 24 hour hygiene stations and restrooms. Communities are invited to be involved to actively offset maintenance costs.

This proposal will triple the amount of 24 hour toilet facilities and hygiene stations in and around the city of Seattle. Instead of giving funds to entities that are already doing same or similar, funds and responsibility will be given to communities who are open and willing to run facilities by cooperating with their neighbors as well as the homeless. The entities who are already providing hygiene/shower stations are in limited areas. By involving communities and community members, neighbors, friends, as well as the homeless can participate and combine forces to create safe 24 hour facilities that are well cared for.

# H: Free Indoor Skate/Community Center



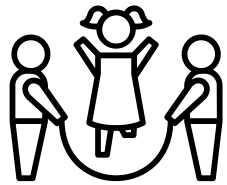
**Cost Estimate:** \$7.2 Million

**Focus Area:** Housing and Physical Space

**Who is Centered:** Underserved communities that need a safe, fun and free place to come together.

**Proposal:** A space to foster community connections in a way that is accessible to everyone by creating a free/low-cost indoor skating rink. Historically roller rinks have supported underserved communities for decades as a low cost way to bring people together. This third space will be the foundation for community to gather and access resources.

# **G:** Investing in Youth-led Late-Night Programming



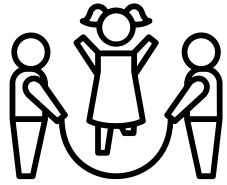
**Cost Estimate:** \$600,000

**Focus Area:** Youth & Children

**Who is Centered:** Youth 13-18 living in the South end of Seattle and Low income Youth

**Proposal:** Youth need more safe and fun activities to do at night, especially on the weekends. This proposal will provide added funding for organizations that will partner with Seattle Parks and Recreation's Late-Night Programs and relying on youth leaders to plan, participate, and perform in late-night events for youth spanning from Seattle's Central District to Rainier Beach. These events would include performing artists, food, entertainment, art installations for youth 13-19. They would also provide youth an opportunity to develop their event planning, marketing, and performing skills.

# **B:** Transforming Justice: Unlocking Hope, Healing, and Empowerment for the Next Generation



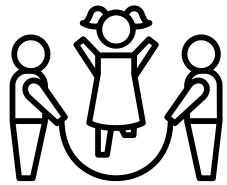
**Cost Estimate:** \$2 Million

**Focus Area:** Youth & Children

**Who is Centered:** Black, Indigenous, and people of color youth and families disproportionately impacted by systemic harms and policing; with emphasis on youth impacted by carceral systems, foster care, houselessness, food instability, and racism.

**Proposal:** This project would fund Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Sole Proprietors, & Youth Organizers with fiscal sponsorship to provide healing and restoration groups for youth aged 13–24 to revitalize the transformative justice landscape in Seattle by providing both restorative & transformative justice educational spaces to reimagine systems, provide harm reduction resources/services, and center and amplify the voices of BIPOC youth and families most impacted by systemic injustices and policing.

# C: Duwamish Centered Youth Programming and Center



**Cost Estimate:** \$7.2 Million

**Focus Area:** Youth & Children

**Who is Centered:** Youth and families facing challenges such as redlining, underfunding, food insecurity, climate injustice, data erasure, and disinvestment in community programs and services, are the primary focus

**Proposal:** A community center designed for urban native youth and the wider community. While the primary focus is on supporting youth, the center will be open to all. It will serve as a vibrant hub of activity, facilitating connections within the urban native community, while also extending a warm welcome to individuals from diverse backgrounds.

The Center will serve as a hub for youth empowerment, cultural preservation, and community cohesion. By nurturing the potential of urban native youth, preserving Indigenous heritage, and fostering connections between diverse community members, it will contribute to a stronger, more inclusive community.

# P: Supporting Our Community: Wellness and Safety Services



**Cost Estimate:** \$400,000

**Focus Area:** Crisis & Wellness

**Who will be centered:** the global majority, individuals subject to systemic disparities, living in neighborhoods with food deserts and low-ranking hospitals.

**Proposal:** Support collaboratives and programs that specialize in providing safe access to harm reduction and testing services. Provide funding for the following: safe disposal of used syringes, access to sterile syringes and other safer use kits, wound care supplies, hygiene products, narcan/naloxone supply, safe sex supply etc. In addition, allot funding to testing administrators for free service access to STI, HIV, Hep C (people without active symptoms), wound care training, administering naloxone training and programs. Additional investment in risk reduction counseling services including referrals to no-cost/low-cost, accessible medical and mental health care. Existing exchange programs and community centers services already exist, however they need more stable investment. Prioritizing these established programs is of the utmost importance.

# T: Here to Help



**Cost Estimate:** \$2 Million

**Focus Area:** Crisis & Wellness

**Who will be centered:** Traumatized members of communities historically targeted for violent behaviors by oppressive systems, especially law enforcement.

**Proposal:** A program to build support systems and safe spaces for members of marginalized communities, who study after study show they are disproportionately at risk of grievous or deadly harm in times of trauma. Such communities need a network of mutual aid groups, neighborhood peer support, and mental health professionals who come from similar backgrounds to counsel and train in self-protection, so that the lasting effects of trauma can be channeled in healing directions.

Trauma is a widespread, harmful and costly public health problem. It has no boundaries with regard to age, gender, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, geography, sexual orientation, or disability. Trauma is especially widespread in marginalized communities, as the systems of oppression are themselves traumatic, and the history of these oppressions have a compounding effect on the communities over generations.

This proposal would fund community groups who can best determine the approach that is most beneficial to their communities. Emphasis would be on holistic, evidence based practices using both professional trauma counselors and local neighborhood-level mutual aid groups equally.

# **A:** People Not Police Crisis Response Team - Community Safety and Communications Center



**Cost Estimate:** \$3.5 Million over two years

**Focus Area:** Crisis & Wellness

**Who will be centered:** Members of historically/systematically oppressed, marginalized, and at-risk communities. Persons in crisis, housed or unhoused.

**Proposal:** The People Not Police Crisis Response Team will assist marginalized, historically underserved, or at-risk community members who are experiencing crises (and help them to connect with support afterward), without law enforcement involvement.

Marginalized community members are more likely to be harmed when police respond to mental health crises, public outbursts (usually need- or trauma-driven), or behaviors not always explained or understood. A culturally competent, trauma-informed, compassion-based, peer-supported response promises better outcomes, long and short term. When a call comes in, a trained therapist/ social worker, nurse/ doctor peer with lived experience will be the first on site.



# U: A Comprehensive Shelter System Co-Created by and for Young Adults to Ensure Stable Housing



**Cost Estimate:** \$2 Million

**Focus Area:** Crisis & Wellness

**Who will be centered:** Homeless Youth and Young Adults and other young people who fall through the cracks of larger non profits due to an array of reasons and circumstances

**Proposal:** Historically Homeless Youth and Young Adults (HYA) come from aging out of the foster care system, failed adoptions and/ or running away from unsafe living situations. Many of them are wary of congregated and larger HYA shelters. This proposal is meant to increase safe spaces for HYA to access services they have identified are needed, specifically dormitory style or communal living with independent apartments that are co-designed with HYA.

The recent creation of the Social Housing PDA lends itself to this kind of project, in tandem with a direct-service agency that has experience with affordable housing maintenance. POD-apartment-like or Dorm-like structure might provide both the privacy and the community that residents may want and need for strength based shelter system that is created by and for the HYA themselves.

# S: Seattle Technical Inclusivity Initiative



Cost Estimate: \$500,000

Focus Area: Economic Development

**Who will be centered:** mainly the Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities. The project aims to eliminate race, age, gender, or physical abilities limitations in the Tech sector's hiring process because most tech career centers program only provide Tech jobs training and/or placement to individuals under 30 years old, and most often in favor of the desired groups of people highlighted previously.

**Proposal:** The tech sector has been in dire need of a fresh approach that goes beyond traditional training programs to increase participation from communities that have been targeted by systematic and institutional racism, but tackles the underlying issues of institutional racism and ethnocentrism that plague hiring in the government and tech industry.

The proposed program will provide:

- 1) Paid internships in technology jobs in the government entities that have strong anti discrimination policies and corporations that are willing to eliminate racial, ethnocentric, and other institutionalized biases built into their recruitment and hiring process;
- 2) Growth for the labor pool by eliminating age restrictions and recruiting individuals who are seeking to change their careers or learn technology skills that will not be soon replaced by AI;
- 3) Start up funds for graduates and technical assistance fellowships and mentorship to establish their own businesses and exercise as independent contractors.

# F: Urban Farming and Food Equity for Underserved Populations



**Cost Estimate:** \$7 Million

**Focus Area:** Economic Development

**Who will be centered:** Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities; Individuals living in food deserts and census tracts with the highest levels of economic and racial inequality based on the Racial and Social Equity Index; Populations that have been historically underrepresented in farm ownership in Seattle and denied access to real estate; BIPOC populations and communities have been identified as important recipients for food equity programs

**Proposal:** This project will lease vacant and underutilized green spaces for food community food production. By providing land, space and start-up money for several urban outdoor and indoor farming and distribution centers, this proposal will create new community owned, self-sustaining BIPOC businesses in food production, packaging, distribution and marketing. It will provide access to fresh food for isolated populations and provide a training incubator to train a new generation of small scale farmers.

According to the City of Seattle's Environmental Justice fact sheet on food values: "The City of Seattle must address the historical disinvestment in BIPOC communities that have exacerbated an ongoing lack of access and affordability to land ownership for housing and growing food."

# K: Silent Depression Economic Relief Fund



**Cost Estimate:** \$500,000

**Focus Area:** Economic Development

**Who will be centered:** The project aims to assist populations from communities identified using the Racial and Social Equity Index (RSE). The RSE index combines data on race, ethnicity, and related demographics with data on socioeconomic disadvantages and health disadvantages and is used to aid in the identification of geographic priorities for City programs, planning efforts, and investments.

**Proposal:** Provide supplemental emergency income for individuals and families in crisis. A one time grant of \$1,000.00 will be distributed to 400 families:

1. Funds would help individuals get over financial bumps and provide some lasting financial benefit. Examples of these bumps include but are not limited to: emergency car repair; fees for drivers license or professional license; car tabs, union dues, emergency child care, eviction prevention, work tools.

2. Recipients will be interviewed during the last month of the project to determine the impact of the funds on their lives. Research has shown that many families, especially those in the Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities are one paycheck away from financial disaster and/or homelessness (59% of families according to one study).

3. This program could possibly be integrated with existing City programs that are administering similar programs that provide emergency funds for rent, utilities, and other necessities.

# **N:** Seattle Community Cash Bucket: A Community Trust for Generational Wealth Building



**Cost Estimate:** \$7.2 Million

**Focus Area:** Economic Development

**Who will be centered:** Individuals and families classified as American Descendants Of Slavery (ADOS) and living below the poverty line. The project will be used as supplemental income to guarantee that those individuals get out of the low income bracket.

**Proposal:** Seattle Community Cash Bucket (SCCB) aims to invest in land acquisition, and property ownership to operate business that will generate cash for communities that have been targeted by systemic and institutional racism and denied them traditional homeownership, access to capital, education, and employment.

SCCB will purchase and renovate existing businesses such as gas stations, coffee shops, corner stores, and fruit and vegetables markets, that will be the community owned businesses, run by the community with the goal to redistribute the profit within the community in question. The generated dividend will be used to either buy more businesses and/or invest in affordable housing to continue generating more dividends for member cash distribution.

# J: Mental Health Navigators - Community Safety and Communications Center



**Cost Estimate:** \$2 Million

**Focus Area:** Mental Health

**Who is Centered:** Domestic Violence Survivors and individuals facing crisis/navigating post-crisis

**Proposal:** The Community Safety and Communications Center will fund grassroots organizations to provide Resource Navigators that would complement existing mental health/crisis support services. The Resource Navigators would provide continuity across services and agencies in accessing support.

Resource Navigators will provide wrap-around services to people from historically exploited communities through a healing-centered and engaged lens.

Navigator/After Care would consist of:

- Resource Navigators providing continuity through resources and education acting as stewards to guide through processes
- Culturally-informed: relevant support rooted in existing relationships etc. (community led etc.)
- Holistic/Seamless support from touch/crisis point through after-care across service providers/agencies

# **M:** Harmonizing Communities: Community & Culturally- Curated Wellness Initiatives



**Cost Estimate:** \$2 Million

**Focus Area:** Mental Health

**Who is Centered:** Black people, Indigenous people, People of Color and Youth

**Proposal:** This proposal would fund grassroots organizations to plan, curate, host their own community wellness initiatives and events that would improve quality of life such as:

- Pop-up events
- Drop-in services
- Community-centered events
- Interactive wellness-informed activities
- Beauty, nurturing & therapeutic circles
- Holistic medicine, meditation, & movement
- Personal development, financial wellness, life skills
- Intergenerational healing

# D: Mental Health Matters: Healing-Engaged Support for Historically Exploited Communities



**Cost Estimate:** \$2 Million

**Focus Area:** Mental Health

**Who is Centered:** Historically exploited communities

**Proposal:** This proposal would fund restorative and healing-centered projects for mental health and behavioral health providers based in historically-exploited communities to provide culturally appropriate and informed community mental health coverage, access and supports such as:

- Monthly clinics, pop-ups in communities
- Provide culturally-based mental health services.
- Provide basic needs support (rental/housing assistance, bus passes, gift cards, grocery vouchers, etc.)
- Assisting and identifying priorities from historically exploited communities
- Funding behavioral and mental health education for culturally-informed and appropriate providers



# **E:** In My Feels - Funding for Behavioral Health Programming & Support for Youth and Young Adults



**Cost Estimate:** \$2 Million

**Focus Area:** Mental Health

**Who is Centered:** Black people, Indigenous people, People of Color, Youth, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and More Community Members

**Proposal:** This proposal would fund projects by identifying providers for youth and young-adult oriented behavioral health programming in historically-exploited and excluded communities consisting of:

- Peer/Grief Support Groups
  - Youth transitioning
  - Restorative/Healing circles
- Programming
- Training
- Youth Leadership Development
- Mentorship

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following groups for their essential contributions to this community-led process:

The People's Budget Steering Committee

The PB Community Jury

The People's Budget Delegates

The People's Budget Working Groups

Outreach and Lived Experience Working Group

Budget and Facilitators Working Group

The Restorative and Proactive Safety Working Group

The Seattle People's Fellows

The Seattle Office for Civil Rights

City of Seattle staff and

The greater Seattle community



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special thank you to The People's Budget Community Engagement Partners:

- Abundance of Hope Care Center
- BLKMAMAS
- Colorful Communities LLC
- Community Passageways
- Danitra Hunter
- Duwamish Tribal Services
- Somali Family Safety Task Force
- Sync Seattle
- The Elite Collective
- Washington Multicultural Services Link
- Rhapsody Project
- Liberated Village
- Skate Like a Girl
- East African Community Services.





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