

Engaging Citizens in Budget Decisions

Higher Ground Leadership In Transitioning Times



Janette Loveys

April 1, 2017

“People’s participation is becoming the central issue of our time...People today have an urge – an impatient urge – to participate in the events and processes that shape their lives”.

United Nations Development Program

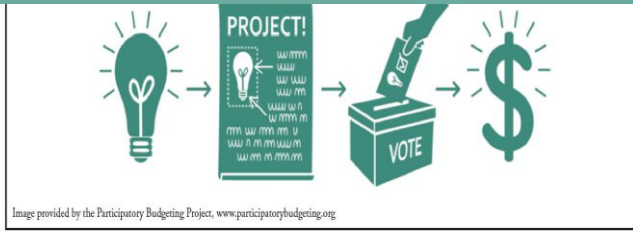


Engaging Citizens in Budget Decisions

- The beginning of the story....
- 1989, City of Porto Alegre, Brazil.
- Numerous movements in Latin America and Europe.
- 1997 Guelph, Toronto and building of networks in North America.
- Growth, evolution and a deeper international awareness.
- ...today, many have joined in the story creating new chapters along the way.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Difficulties and Field results achieved during the implementation of the PBP in three Local Units **Dejona Mihali** Project Cordinator



Participatory Budgeting: A Roadmap for Municipal Government



Participatory Budgeting: A Roadmap for Municipal Government
2014 National Student Thought Leadership Award
Gwen Hughes, Ryerson University, Master of Public Policy & Administration
66th IPAC National Annual Conference, Edmonton, AB

Participatory Budgeting in Canada

Josh Lerner - September 10, 2005



Alternatives Days Forum - Montreal



Participatory Budgeting: The Practice and the Potential

Abigail Friendly

PB Outreach Toolkit

A Guide to Engaging Underrepresented Communities in Participatory Budgeting



The Corporation of the City of North Vancouver City Manager's Department Media Release

SUBJECT: City of North Vancouver Selected for Innovative Research Project on Participatory Budgeting

DATE: July 30, 2004

The City of North Vancouver is taking part in an innovative research project on participatory budgeting.

A collaboration between the University of British Columbia and Community-University Research Alliance (CURA), the five-year project studies how citizen and community participation in civic budgeting and decision making can lead to enhanced local governance.



PARTICIPATORY
BUDGETING PROJECT

PUBLIC SECTOR
GOVERNANCE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY SERIES

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Edited by ANWAR SHAH





Participatory Budgeting (PB)

- ▶ PB is a process of democratic deliberation and decision-making, and a type of participatory democracy, in which ordinary people decide how to allocate part of a municipal or public budget. Participatory budgeting allows citizens to identify, discuss, and prioritize public spending projects, and gives them the power to make real decisions about how money is spent.
- ▶ PB processes are typically designed to involve those left out of traditional methods of public engagement, such as low-income residents, non-citizens, and youth.



Participatory Budgeting (PB)

- It often results in more equitable public spending, greater government transparency and accountability, increased levels of public participation (especially by marginalized residents), and democratic and citizenship learning.
- Most broadly, all participatory budgeting schemes allow citizens to deliberate with the goal of creating either a concrete financial plan (a budget), or a recommendation to elected representatives.



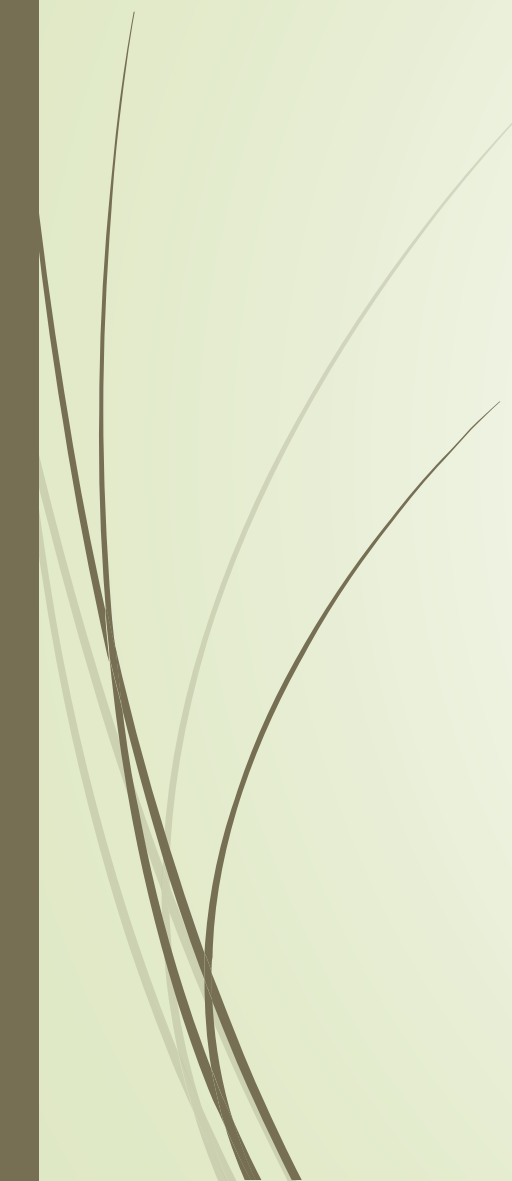
Participatory Budgeting

- Generally, any PB Framework has the following key steps:
 - 1) Community members identify spending priorities.
 - 2) Budget proposals developed and shared.
 - 3) Community members decide on funding allocations.
 - 4) Implementation, monitoring and reporting.

- Evolution of PB continues and there is now more of continuum and context setting required.

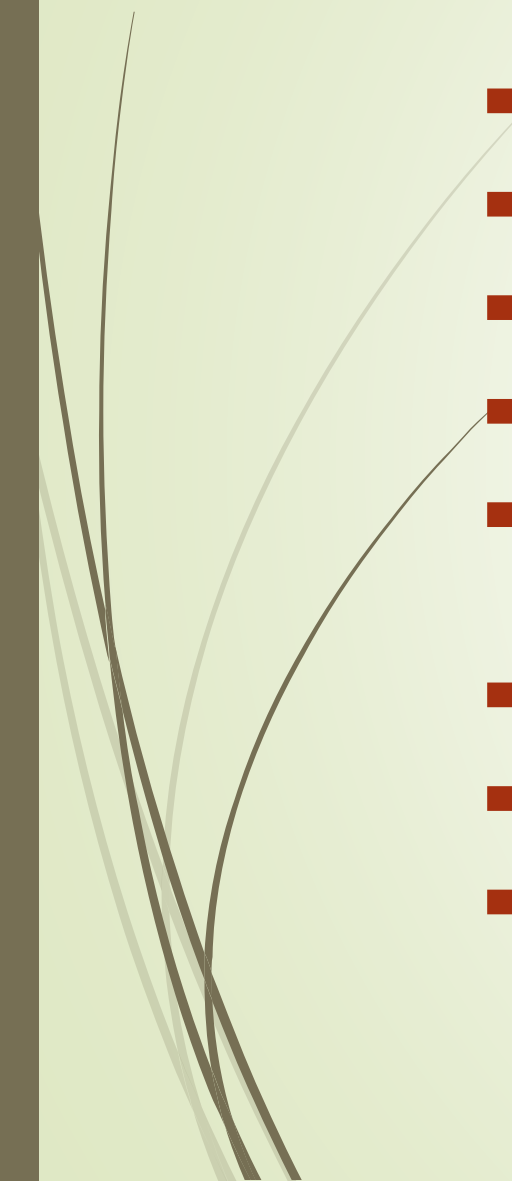


Fundamental Principles

- Inclusive, transparent, equity through process and community valued.
 - Participants are informed and empowered.
 - Respect for the roles in the process.
 - Respect for a collaborative decision making process.
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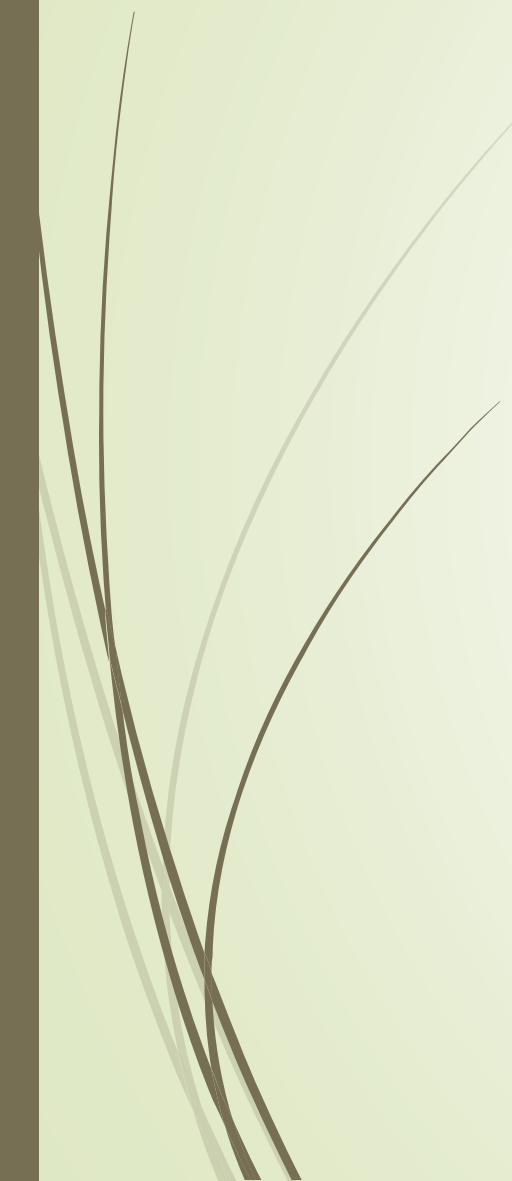


Role of Local Government

- ▶ Funder.
 - ▶ Focus on process built on principles.
 - ▶ Less control of the outcome.
 - ▶ Facilitator role.
 - ▶ Assisting in creating an environment of change and collaboration.
 - ▶ Policy development.
 - ▶ Can have a role in implementation of decisions.
 - ▶ Leadership, integrity and honesty.
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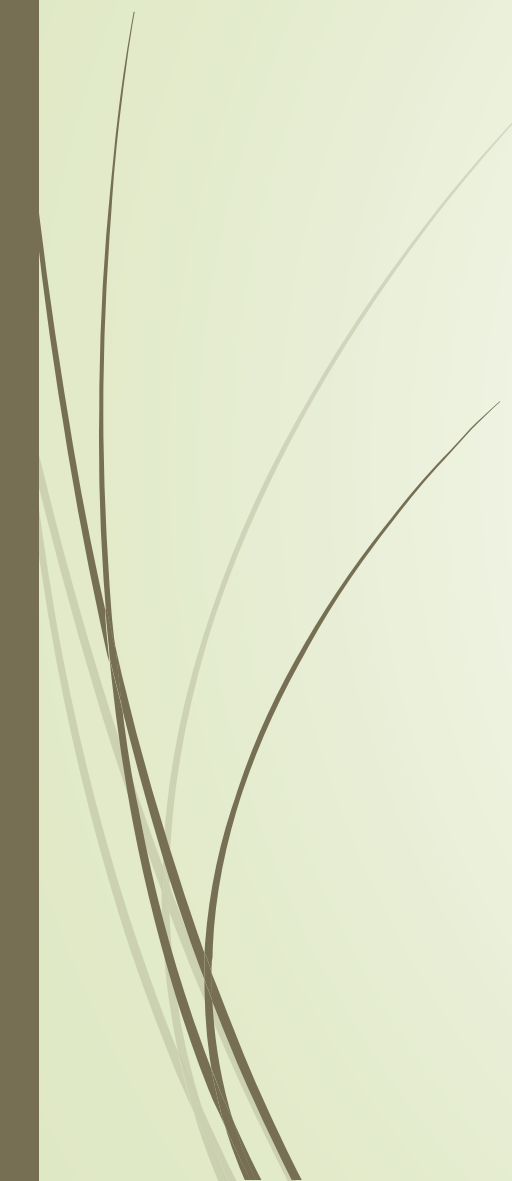


Question of Sustainability

- ▶ Leadership to flatten the organizational structure and make conscious ethical responsibilities to achieve the democratic goals.
 - ▶ While representation is a cornerstone to participatory budgeting, a group being so large has an effect on the efficiency of the group.
 - ▶ Participatory budgeting may also struggle to overcome existing clientelism.
 - ▶ Other observations include that particular groups are less likely to participate once their demands have been met.
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Question of Sustainability

- Slow progress can frustrate participants.
 - Lack of clarity of how decisions will be implemented and monitored.
 - Lack of policy integration and transparency.
 - Skills, confidence, access to information and use of language.
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Resources



- ▶ Josh Lerner and his team at Participatory Budgeting Project.
 - <https://www.participatorybudgeting.org/what-is-pb/>
- ▶ International Association of Public Participation (IAP2).
 - <http://iap2canada.ca/>
 - <http://www.iap2.org/>
- ▶ National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation.
 - <http://ncdd.org/>