

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING



Brainstorm
Ideas



Vote to
Fund Projects



Improve Your
Neighbourhood

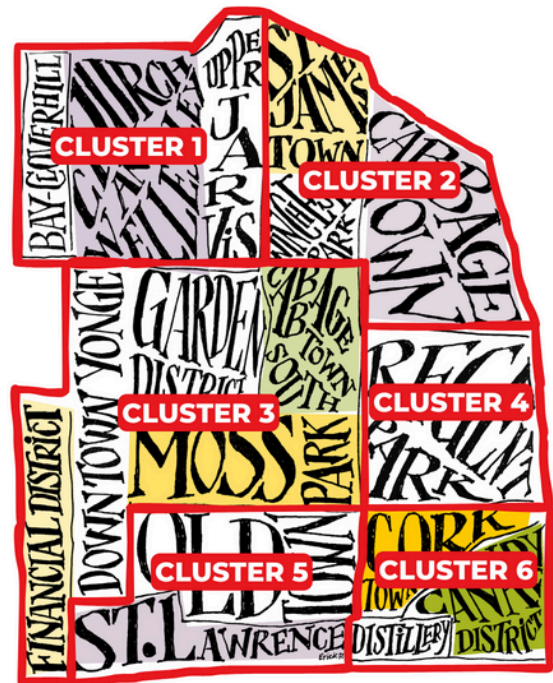
2024 PB - Cluster 3 Impact Report

Cluster 3 - East of Yonge Street, South of
Carlton Street, North of Queen Street, West
of Parliament Street

- Cabbagetown South
- Downtown Yonge
- Garden District
- McGill-Granby
- Moss Park

Phases:

1. **Idea Collection:** April 12, 2024 - June 30, 2023
2. **Feasibility Review:** July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024
3. **Vote to Fund Projects:** October 1, 2024 - October 31, 2024
4. **City Council Approval:** November 1, 2024 - February 8, 2025



Background

What is Participatory Budgeting?

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a system of direct democracy where residents ideate, suggest and then vote on how funds are spent to improve their community. The most rewarding experience for Ward 13 is when residents witness a project go from an idea to reality.

Origins of Participatory Budgeting

Participatory Budgeting started in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 1989, as an anti-poverty measure that helped reduce child mortality by nearly 20% after large portions of voted funds went into sanitary infrastructure. Since then PB has spread to over 7,000 cities around the world and has made its way to the City of Toronto.

Councillor Chris Moise introduced PB to Toronto Centre for the first time in 2023, following the lead of Councillor Shelley Carroll who has successfully run participatory budgeting in her ward since 2015 using an in-person voting and project champion model, funding 21 projects and counting.

Every day, our office receives emails and phone calls from residents with ideas and suggestions for streetscape, parks and other capital improvements. We wanted to create an opportunity for residents to submit ideas, and rally neighbourhood support to fund capital infrastructure projects through a process that offers transparency and accountability.

Our Approach

14 Neighbourhoods within Six Clusters

In Toronto Centre, we have 14 neighbourhoods, so we divided the ward into six groups of neighbourhoods (Clusters) to ensure we can properly manage and facilitate local processes as well as complete successful projects in a timely manner.

These six groups of neighbourhoods were grouped into what we in the councillor's office call Clusters based on geographic proximity from each other, size, population, density and the reasonable accessibility for residents to enjoy these facilities upon completion.

Participating neighbourhoods are selected on an annual basis depending on funds available from Section 37 Community Benefits, the capacity of city staff and my team and active capital projects already underway. These funds have been collected from developments to pay for capital costs of community infrastructure, and cannot be used for operational costs.

Launch and Ideation Phase

Our office launched the first-ever Participatory Budgeting (PB) initiative in Ward 13 on April 12, 2024, with an information session which outlined the process, what qualifies as a capital project and the reasoning behind why the budget for each neighbourhood was set at \$750,000.

Another goal of this session was to educate our constituents about where these funds come from and how new Ontario legislative changes to Community Benefits Charges will impact future funding for neighbourhood improvements.

After the information session, we took PB on tour and hosted several in-person engagement sessions in parks, community centres and at community events to promote this new and exciting initiative and encourage residents to get involved by submitting their ideas.

Local neighbourhood associations, community groups and Business Improvement Areas also got involved and helped to promote PB as well as submit their own project ideas.

Feasibility Review

Once ideas were collected from residents, they were reviewed by City staff for costing and feasibility analysis.

Our office combed through every idea submitted to extract and summarize their intent, assigned each project a unique identification number for easy referencing and sorted and grouped them for City divisions to review.

City divisions including Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Transportation Services and Heritage Preservation Services conducted a feasibility analysis and provided cost estimates for each project.

Official explanations were given to ideas that did not advance to the voting phase because they were deemed unfeasible. The projects that did not make it in this process were either costed beyond the allocated budget by staff, or out of the scope of PB. These ideas are then sorted into our transportation review process or our ward-wide proposals process.

Projects that were deemed feasible needed to be summarized so that they were easily understood by residents as they voted. We included the original idea below the summary for full transparency.

Voting Phase

The next step was to allow community members to cast their votes for the projects that they wanted to be funded. Voting opened on October 1, 2024.

Residents who lived within the Cluster 3, could select and vote for multiple project ideas that they wanted to be funded and which fit within the total budget allocation of \$750,000.

After the voting period concluded on October 31, the votes were automatically tabulated by the system and the results were instantly made public.

City Council Approval

To release and allocate the Section 37 Community Benefits for the successful projects, a Members' Motion will be submitted to City Council.

Once approved, the allocated funds are included in the respective division's 2025 Capital Budget or released to appropriate external partners such as Business Improvement Areas to deliver the projects.

Once the funding has been allocated, the successful projects are posted on the Toronto Centre Projects website as individual project pages, similar to the construction of parks.

More detailed information about each project, its scope and expected benefits as well as an approximate timeline will be posted and updated so the public can track the progress of their capital project from the beginning right to the very end - the ribbon cutting.

Summary of Outcomes in Cluster 3

- **19** people attended one of our in-person engagements.
- **24** ideas were submitted in total.
- **14** ideas were deemed feasible.
- **7** ideas were deemed feasible but outside of the PB process.
- **3** ideas were deemed not feasible, out of scope of PB, or exceeded the allocated budget.
- **\$750,000.00 CAD** was allocated for Cluster 3.
- **\$ 2,067,730 CAD** was the total cost of all feasible ideas.
- **254** votes were cast.
- **7** project ideas were funded.

Funded Projects in Cluster 3

#1



Allan Gardens Cafe Tables and Chairs

Cafe Tables and Chairs for Allan Gardens

Budget: \$50,000

Number of Votes: 98 Votes

Short Description: This idea proposes to install 7 sets of tables and 7 sets of chairs as seating areas outside of the Allan Garden Palm House. These tables and chairs will be chained to the ground to offer flexibility and security for park users who want to enjoy a coffee.

#2



10 Decorative Planters on Dundas between Jarvis and Parliament

10 Decorative Planters on Dundas Between Jarvis and Parliament

Budget: \$40,000

Number of Votes: 97 Votes

Short Description: This idea proposes to decorate Dundas Street East between Jarvis and Parliament with large-size planters. Planters must be supported by storefront business with approval from Transportation Services.

#3



Allan Gardens Dog Off-Leash Area Enhancement

Allan Gardens Dog Off-Leash Area Enhancement

Budget: \$350,000

Number of Votes: 97 Votes

Short Description: This idea proposes to improve the Allan Gardens Dog Off Leash Area by increasing shade, adding water fountains, installing astroturf, increasing seating, and additional lighting.

#4



Planting of More Trees on Ontario Street
Between Gerrard and Dundas

Planting of More Trees on Ontario Street Between Gerrard and Dundas

Budget: \$150,000

Number of Votes: 75 Votes

Short Description: For the goal of additional trees on Ontario Street, this idea proposes to cut 4 concrete openings along Central Neighbourhood House for 4 additional tree plantings.

#5



Commemorative Tree Planting for Ray
Fillion (GDRA)

Commemorative Tree Planting for Ray Fillion

Budget: \$2,530

Number of Votes: 67 Votes

Short Description: This idea proposes to plant a tree in memory of a recently deceased long-term members of the Garden District Resident Association (GDRA) and their years of dedicated work in the community.

#6



Mural at 237 Gerrard Street East (Stanley's
Variety)

Mural at 237 Gerrard Street East (Stanley's Variety)

Budget: \$50,000

Number of Votes: 64 Votes

Short Description: This beloved location has been the target of graffiti and tagging. This idea proposes to decorate the current East-facing wall of 237 Gerrard Street East (Stanley's Variety Store) with a mural. This project is contingent upon permission from the property owner.

#7



Wampum Belt Crosswalk at Allan Gardens

Wampum Belt Crosswalk at Allan Gardens

Budget: \$80,000

Number of Votes: 57 Votes

Short Description: This idea proposes to paint and install the Dish with One Spoon, and Two Row Wampum belts at pedestrian crosswalks around Allan Gardens. Consultation will be made with the Indigenous Affairs office and Friends of Allan Gardens.

Report summary

- 24 Participants between April 12 - June 30, 2024
- 273 Participants between October 1 - October 31, 2024

Participants timeline

Total participants

286

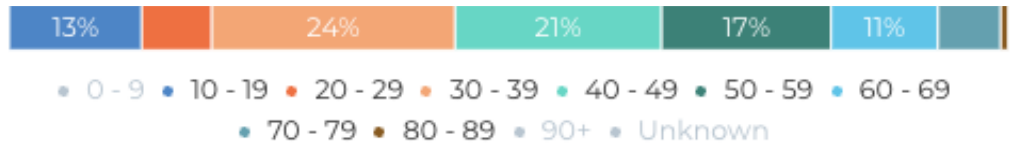
Participation rate ⓘ

26%



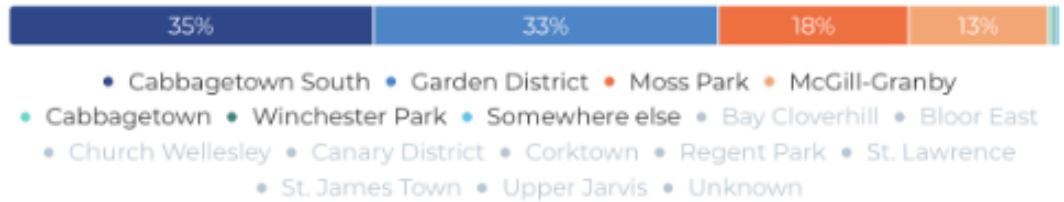
Participant Summary

Users by Age



Participatory budgeting 2024 engaged a total of 286 participants in Cluster 3, reflecting a diverse spectrum of age groups. Among the participants, 36 individuals were below 19 years of age, while 19 fell within the 20-29 age bracket. The largest group consisted of 66 participants aged 30-39, followed by 59 participants between the ages of 40 and 49. Additionally, 46 participants were in the 50-59 age range, 29 in the 60-69 age category, 17 between 70-79, and 2 in the 80-89 age group. This wide age distribution demonstrates the program's inclusivity and the ability to cater to a broad range of participants, contributing to its overall success and a rich, intergenerational experience. This engagement report demonstrates that utilizing digital technology such as QR codes, virtual voting, virtual submission, and a mixture of in-person promotion yields a diverse demographic that has a larger focus of working age in Cluster 3, Cabbagetown South, Downtown Yonge, Garden District, McGill-Granby, and Moss Park.

Place of residence



Inputs and Comments

Inputs	Comments	Votes
24	94	552

