

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING



**Brainstorm
Ideas**



**Vote to
Fund Projects**



**Improve Your
Neighbourhood**

2023 PB - Zone 6 Impact Report

Zone 6 - East of Parliament Street, South of Queen Street, North of Mill Street, West of the Don Valley Parkway

- **Corktown**
- **West Don Lands**
- **Distillery District**

Phases:

1. **Idea Collection:** May 25, 2023 - June 30, 2023
2. **Feasibility Review:** July 1, 2023 - September 30, 2023
3. **Vote to Fund Projects:** October 1, 2023 - October 31, 2023
4. **City Council Approval:** November 1, 2023 - February 8, 2024



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 Zones

In Toronto Centre, we have 14 neighbourhoods, so we divided the ward into six groups of neighbourhoods (zones) 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 zones 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 May 25, 2023, 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, 2023.

Residents who lived within the zone 6, 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 2024 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 Zone 6

- **50** people attended one of our in-person engagements.
- **10** ideas were submitted in total.
- **5** ideas were deemed feasible.
- **5** ideas were deemed feasible but outside of the PB process.
- **0** ideas were deemed not feasible, out of scope of PB, or exceeded the allocated budget.
- **\$750,000.00 CAD** was allocated for Zone 6.
- **\$1,030,000.00 CAD** was the total cost of all feasible ideas.
- **77** votes were cast.
- **4** project ideas were funded.

Funded Projects in Zone 6

#1

\$100,000



Interactive public art
below the King Sumach Plaza Belt
interchange, like the
Fash Lights in Chicago

BRING TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC ART TO
CORKTOWN'S KING-SUMACH PLAZA BELT

ChrisMoise.ca/PB

Bringing Technology and Public Art to Corktown King-Sumach Plaza Belt

Budget: \$100,000

Number of votes: 65 Votes

Short Description: The idea proposes to install additional colourful LED lighting throughout below Richmond and Adelaide highway interchanges, along the King Street corridor.

#2

\$300,000



PARKETTE AT KING/QUEEN TRIANGLE

ChrisMoise.ca/PB

Parkette at King-Queen Triangle

Budget: \$300,000

Number of votes: 58 Votes

Short Description: This idea suggests turning the small green space at the intersection of King Street, Queen Street and River Street into an official parkette. Funding will go towards facility upgrades to recognize the green space as community space.

#3

\$80,000



INSTALL IRON TREE GUARDS
THROUGHOUT CORKTOWN

ChrisMoise.ca/PB

Install Iron Tree Guards Throughout Corktown

Budget: \$80,000

Number of Votes: 57 Votes

Short Description: This idea proposes to install Corktown-themed tree guards throughout Corktown locations from Berkeley Street to River Street and from Shuter to Front Streets including King and Queen Street. This would include 10 locations to have tree guards.



Planters Along Bayview Avenue Bi-Directional Cycle Tracks

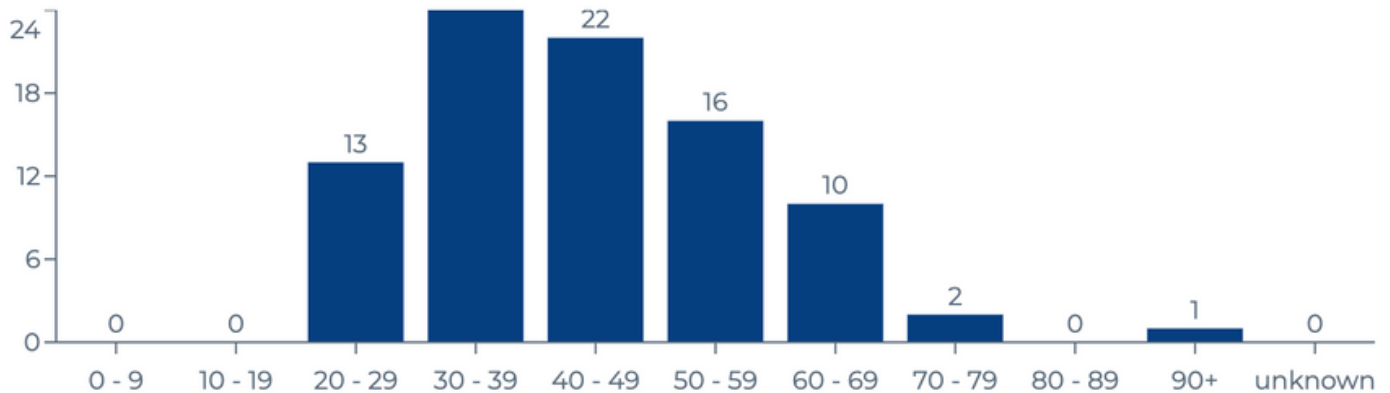
Budget: \$150,000

Number of Votes: 50 Votes

Short Description: This idea proposes to beautify the old parking laybys along Bayview Avenue which are no longer in use due to the installation of the bi-directional cycle tracks. Funding will go towards the installation of permanent planters.

Participant Summary

Users by age



Among the participants, no participants were below 19 years of age, 13 fell within the 20-29 age bracket. The largest group consisted of 24 participants aged 30-39, followed by 22 participants between the ages of 40 and 49. Additionally, 16 participants were in the 50-59 age range, 10 in the 60-69 age category, 2 were between 70-79, and 1 participant was known to be above 90 in age.

In-Person Public Engagements

- **Corktown Commons:** 40 people engaged
- **Cooper Koo YMCA:** 10 people engaged

