

# PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING



**Brainstorm  
Ideas**



**Vote to  
Fund Projects**



**Improve Your  
Neighbourhood**

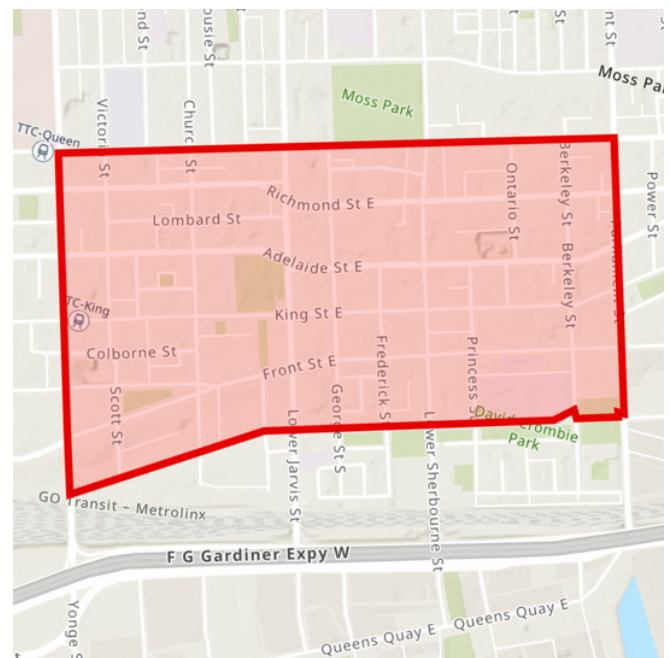
## 2023 PB - Zone 5 Impact Report

**Zone 5 - East of Bay Street, South of Queen Street, North of The Esplanade, West of Parliament Street**

- **St. Lawrence Neighbourhood**

### 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 5, 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 5

- **45** people attended one of our in-person engagements.
- **40** ideas were submitted in total.
- **20** ideas were deemed feasible.
- **5** ideas were deemed feasible but outside of the PB process.
- **15** ideas were deemed not feasible, out of the scope of PB, or exceeded the allocated budget.
- **\$750,000.00 CAD** was allocated for Zone 5.
- **\$2,314,700.00 CAD** was the total cost of all feasible ideas.
- **87** votes were cast.
- **12** Funded Ideas

## Funded Projects in Zone 5

#1



**PUBLIC REALM BEAUTIFICATION**  
ChrisMoise.ca/PB

### Public Realm Beautification

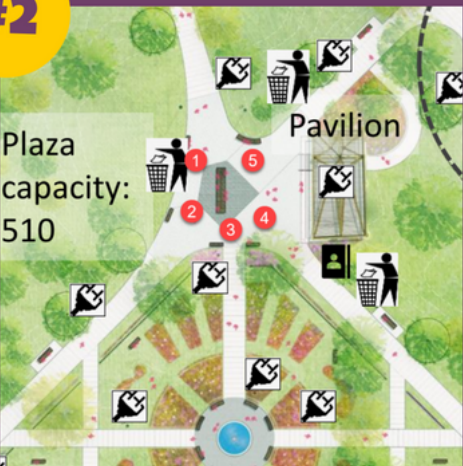
**Budget:** \$50,000

**Number of Votes:** 50 Votes

**Short Description:** The idea proposes hard planters for more growing spaces as part of public beautification.

Transportation Services staff have reviewed this proposal and determined it is feasible as long as the planters do not impact pedestrian, cyclist, or road traffic.

#2



**CAFE TABLES AND CHAIRS FOR ST JAMES PARK PLAZA**  
ChrisMoise.ca/PB

### Cafe Tables and Chairs for St. James Park Plaza

**Budget:** \$20,000

**Number of Votes:** 54 Votes

**Short Description:** This idea looks at purchasing 5 cafe tables, 2 chairs each (10 chairs) for the plaza in St. James Park. Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff have reviewed this idea and estimate that further investigation would be required.

#3



**BEAUTIFYING CITY OF TORONTO GARBAGE RECEPTALS**  
ChrisMoise.ca/PB

### Beautifying City of Toronto Garbage Recepticals

**Budget:** \$20,000

**Number of Votes:** 48 Votes

**Short Description:** This idea proposes to upgrade garbage receptacles with public art around St. Lawrence neighbourhood. StreetArtTO has reviewed this proposal and given permission for the installation of the vinyl-wrapped and art-customized garbage receptacles for future projects should this idea be successfully funded.





## Proposal for Seating Plaza at 109 Front Street East

**Budget:** \$150,000

**Number of Votes:** 47 Votes

**Short Description:** The idea proposes more street furniture in the public realm location of 109 Front Street on the plaza between Jarvis and George Streets. Additional overrun costs will be later discussed between the BIA office, the private property, and the councillor's office.



## Public Realm Beautification

**Budget:** \$400,000

**Number of Votes:** 45 Votes

**Short Description:** This idea proposes to replace any sick or dead trees in the St Lawrence Neighbourhood area, ensuring soil and the surrounding environment. Transportation Services has reviewed this idea and estimates that each tree will cost about \$10,000 to replace since it is surrounded by specialty paving. 40 trees will cost \$400,000 including materials and labour.



## Heritage Street Signage for Original 10 Blocks of the Town of York

**Budget:** \$5,000

**Number of Votes:** 42 Votes

**Short Description:** The idea proposes additional heritage street signage to promote the visual identity of heritage and cultural assets of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood. The banners would be erected on King Street East along the north boundary of the original ten locations. Transportation Services staff estimate the 12 banners would cost approximately \$5000 including materials and labour.

#7

\$80,000

STREETSCAPE / PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS

ChrisMoise.ca/PB

## Streetscape/ Public Realm Improvements

**Budget:** \$80,000

**Number of Votes:** 40 Votes

**Short Description:** The idea proposes more picnic tables, cafe tables and chairs, chess board tables, and ping pong tables to be installed in high-traffic public spaces. Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff has reviewed this proposal and estimates that we allocate \$80,000 for the project. Approximately \$20,000 for each location.

#8

\$800

MORE BIKE PARKING NEEDED - ST. LAWRENCE MARKET

ChrisMoise.ca/PB

## More Bike Parking Needed - St Lawrence Market

**Budget:** \$800

**Number of Votes:** 38 Votes

**Short Description:** The idea proposes to have more bike parking around the general vicinity of St Lawrence Market. Parks, Forestry, and Recreation and Transportation Services staff have reviewed this idea and estimate that it would cost approximately \$800 per unit including materials and labour.

#9

\$1,500

HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT SIGNAGE FOR STREET SIGNS.

ChrisMoise.ca/PB

## Heritage Conservation District signage for street signs

**Budget:** \$1,800

**Number of Votes:** 37 Votes

**Short Description:** The idea proposes for additional heritage street signages to promote the visual identity of the heritage of St. Lawrence Neighbourhood. Transportation Services staff have reviewed this proposal and estimate it will cost approximately \$300 per sign or a total of \$1500 for all 5 street signs including materials and labour.



#10

\$800

**MORE BIKE PARKING NEEDED-  
BERKELEY AND THE ESPLANADE**    
ChrisMoise.ca/PB**More Bike Parking needed- Berkeley and the Esplanade**  
**Budget:** \$800**Number of Votes:** 35 Votes

**Short Description:** The idea proposes to have more bike parking around the general vicinity of Berkeley street and the Esplanade. Parks, Forestry, and Recreation and Transportation Services staff have reviewed this idea and estimate that it would cost approximately \$800 per unit including materials and labour.

#11

\$800

**MORE BIKE PARKING NEEDED- ST  
JAMES PARK**    
ChrisMoise.ca/PB**More Bike Parking needed- St James Park**  
**Budget:** \$800**Number of Votes:** 35 Votes

**Short Description:** The idea proposes to have more bike parking around the general vicinity of St James Park. Parks, Forestry, and Recreation and Transportation Services staff have review this idea and estimate that it would cost approximately \$800 per unit including materials and labour.

#12

\$800

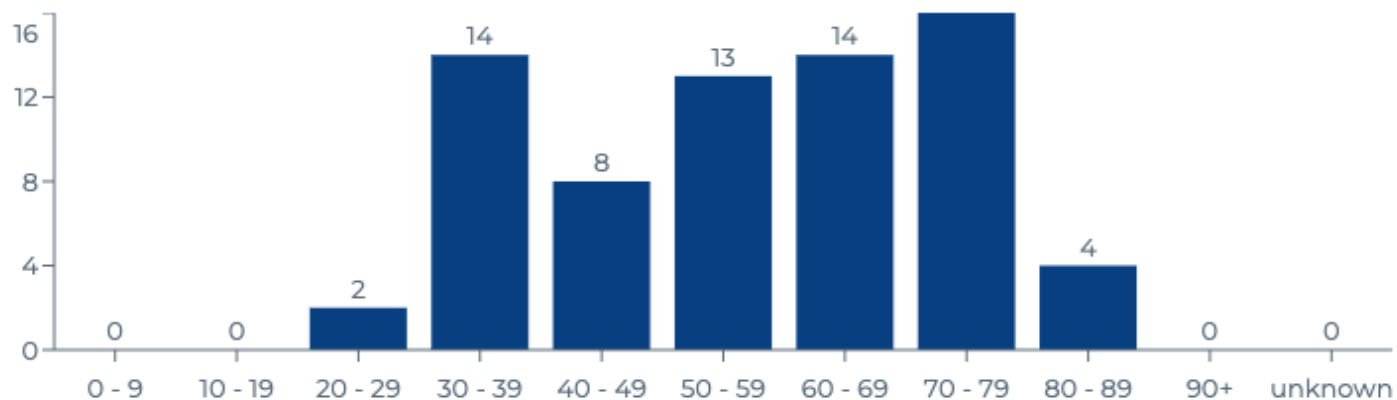
**MORE BIKE PARKING NEEDED-  
BERCZY PARK**    
ChrisMoise.ca/PB**More Bike Parking needed- Berczy Park**  
**Budget:** \$800**Number of Votes:** 33 Votes

**Short Description:** The idea proposes to have more bike parking around the general vicinity of St James Park. Parks, Forestry, and Recreation and Transportation Services staff have reviewed this idea and estimated that it would cost approximately \$800 per unit including materials and labour.



# Participant Summary

## Users by age



Among the participants, 2 fell within the 20-29 age bracket. The largest group consisted of 16 between 70-79, 14 participants aged 30-39, followed by 8 participants between the ages of 40 and 49. Additionally, 13 participants were in the 50-59 age range, 14 in the 60-69 age category, and 4 in the 80-89 age group.

## In-Person Public Engagements

- **St. James Park:** 40 people engaged
- **St. Lawrence Community Centre:** 5 people engaged

