

## **Participatory Budgeting Recommendations**

### **[Summary]**

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a broad range of approaches to increasing resident and community input into various aspects of municipal budgets where residents are provided with entry points at all stages of the budget process and are able to make decisions or provide guidance on which city projects are funded. PB initiatives vary widely in the amount of decision-making control that is given to community members and in the amount of money that is allocated to the PB project. PB projects also vary widely in scope, with most in the United States being neighborhood capital budget projects. The goals of PB include: increased transparency in how public funds are allocated; opportunities to educate and engage residents, particularly residents who are not engaged in the traditional budget process; increased effectiveness of municipal funding; and increased community control over municipal resources, particularly among historically marginalized groups and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.

### **[Recommendations-will sort into categories and re-order]**

- Have more focus groups with community leaders about the budget process and how they would like to be engaged
- Create a PB steering committee (ex. City of Durham)
- Engage with community centers about budget process and increase alder engagement with community centers
- Educate members of the community, including Black community leaders not already widely known, in detail about the budget process and City structures
- Investigate what shape PB would take in Madison specifically
- The City should pursue and fully resource a Participatory Budgeting program to bring people into the public policy process and address social justice issues. Start the process early.
- Engagement and collaboration with NRTs and the Department of Civil Rights in the budget process
- Continue to improve the new equity questions in the City budget process: make sure department and division heads understand the concept of equity, include mandatory open-ended questions
- Choose the key elements of PB programs in other cities to apply to Madison
- Provide alders with quarterly training on the budget process starting in January on how to be interactive when the budget season starts
- Engage with faith communities on the budget process
- [Budget for BIPOC communities-City of Seattle. What can Madison do in this regard? Request info from OCA, CDD]