SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS

YOUR VOICE, YOUR CHOICE

Your Voice, Your Choice is a participatory budgeting process in which Seattle residents decide how to spend a portion of the City's budget.

Your Voice, Your Choice is currently focused on **Parks & Streets**. This is an opportunity for community members to directly decide how to spend $2 million of the City's budget on small-scale physical improvement projects in Seattle's parks & streets (i.e. crosswalks, medians, flashing beacons, sidewalk repair, curb ramps, park benches, trail improvements, etc.).

Small-scale improvements can include:

- Any physical project up to $90,000
- Examples of street projects might include low-cost sidewalks, flashing beacons, curb bulbs, curb ramps, raised crosswalks, traffic circles, median islands, low-cost sidewalk repair, etc.
- Examples of parks projects might include accessibility improvements, trail/path maintenance and upgrades, park benches or tables, natural area renovations, minor playground improvements, etc.

WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?

Participatory Budgeting is a democratic process that was first developed in Brazil in 1989. It is now practiced in over 3,000 cities around the world including Chicago, Boston, New York, and San Francisco. Participatory budgeting focuses on engaging people who have not historically been involved in government or budget processes and lets community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget.

The initiative began in Seattle in July 2015 when Mayor Ed Murray and former Councilmember Nick Licata announced the launch of a citywide youth participatory budgeting process called Youth Voice, Youth Choice. In 2017, the program was opened up to involve all Seattle residents. Each of Seattle's seven council districts will vote on how to spend $285,000 for small-scale improvements to streets and parks within their district.

Seattle Neighborhoods

Strengthening Seattle by Actively Engaging All Communities

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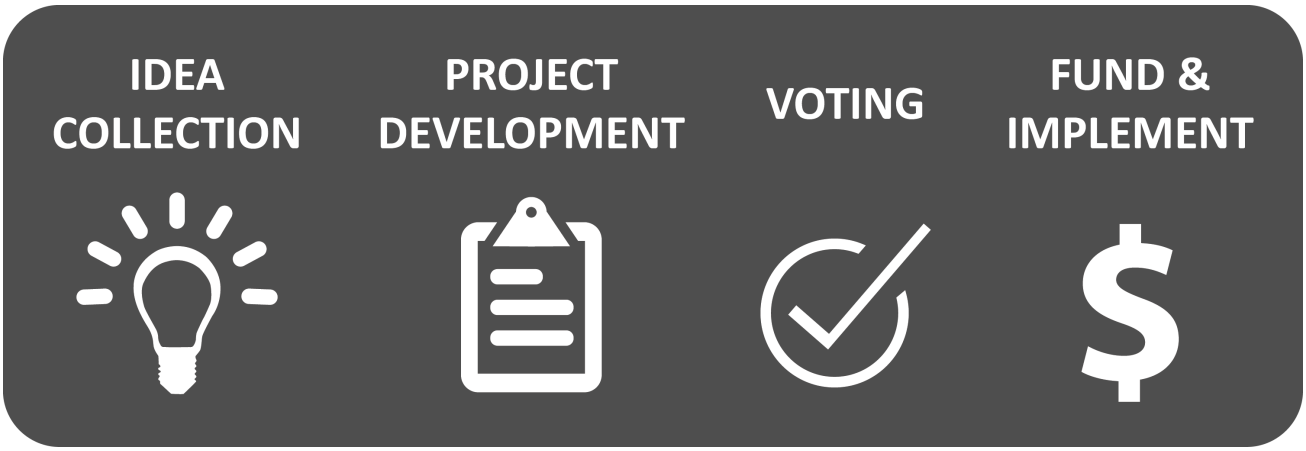
HOW TO GET INVOLVED

There are several ways for community members to get involved in the Your Voice, Your Choice process. We've tried to make it as simple as possible for Seattle residents to get plugged in. Explore our various involvement phases:



Idea Collection

Community members brainstorm and submit potential project ideas to be funded. Anyone is welcome to propose project ideas. Ideas may be submitted online or at various public outreach events.

Project Development

Project Development teams are formed in each of the seven council districts and are responsible for turning submitted ideas into concrete project proposals. Anyone is welcome to join the project development team in their district.

Your Choice: Voting

Community members vote on their top projects within their individual council district. Anyone can vote on projects in their district!

Fund & Implement

Each council district will select the top vote-getting projects that amount up to $285,000. City departments will implement the winning projects the following year.

CONTACT INFORMATION

YOUR VOICE, YOUR CHOICE

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