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## Proposed Participatory Budgeting Projects

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Participatory budgeting brings people together to share ideas and vote on how to spend a portion of public funds to improve local communities. The City of Seattle launched its first participatory budgeting process in 2015 focusing on youth support and investments. In 2020, under the Durkan Administration, the city began a new participatory budget process to determine how to invest in programs and services that improve the safety and wellbeing of community members. The process focuses on engaging people from communities who typically are left out of government decision-making and budgetary processes.

City staff worked with community members to develop, design, and vet projects for feasibility while maintaining the integrity of the community-developed proposals. In August 2024, Mayor Harrell transmitted legislation to the Seattle City Council to authorize \$27.25 million to implement six participatory budgeting projects with existing one-time funds, including:

### Community-Operated Restrooms

COST	DESCRIPTION
<b>\$7.2M</b>	Seattle Parks and Recreation will partner with community to enhance cleanliness and safety at five public restrooms. Community organizations will be selected through a competitive process to provide attendant oversight of a minimum of 5 restroom sites. This includes operators attending to 2-3 existing, permanent restrooms, and 2-3 mobile restroom trailers. Restroom trailers will initially be placed in areas of identified need, informed by community engagement, with the ability to move to the areas of greatest demand.

### Mental Health Crisis Response

COST	DESCRIPTION
<b>\$2 M</b>	Funding will expand the Community Assisted Response and Engagement (CARE) Team to increase qualified mental and behavioral health specialists as first responders.

### Urban Farming and Food Equity

COST	DESCRIPTION
\$7 M	The Department of Neighborhoods in partnership with the Office of Sustainability and Environment will support the activation of up to five publicly owned greenspaces to lease for urban agriculture. Additionally, a portion of the funds will leverage existing local training models to support small-scale farming and food producers.

### Native-Focused Community Center for Youth

COST	DESCRIPTION
\$7.2 M	The Office of Planning and Community Development will support initial design and capital expenses for the creation of a community-owned and operated center focused on Duwamish cultural education and recreation for youth.

### Enhanced Housing Navigation Services

COST	DESCRIPTION
\$2 M	The Human Services Department, in partnership with the King County Regional Homelessness Authority, is expanding mobile-based housing navigation assistance. By improving access through Regional Access Points and the Coordinated Entry System, this investment aims to make it easier for individuals to find and secure housing, providing immediate and effective support for those experiencing homelessness.

### Youth and Young Adult Emergency Shelter Capital Fund

COST	DESCRIPTION
\$1.85 M	In collaboration with the King County Regional Homelessness Authority, the Human Services Department is funding vital enhancements, modifications, and repairs to youth shelters. These improvements will create more welcoming and supportive environments, ensuring young people have safe spaces during emergencies.

**Next Steps:** If approved by Seattle City Council, six city departments will receive funding to implement these community-selected projects either through competitive grant processes or within existing lines of business.