



District 39 **PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING**

**Cycle 14
OFFICIAL ZINE**



Created by District 39 PB Delegates

WHAT IS PB?

- **Participatory Budgeting also known as PB is a democratic process where community members decide how to spend a portion of government funding.**
 - **This form of public democracy allows us to delegate where and how tax dollars are being spent.**
 - **District 39 is one of the first City Council districts in the United States to implement this form of direct democracy.**
 - **In this process, \$1.5 million dollars is allocated towards Capital Projects (Infrastructure), and \$50,000 dollars is allocated towards Expense Projects (non-profit programming).**
- **How to Vote?**
 - **On our digital ballot or with a physical ballot at an in-person vote site.**
 -
 - **You are able to select your top 3 Capital projects AND your top 3 Expense projects.**

GLOBAL CONTEXT

NYC is the birthplace of Participatory Budgeting in the United States. This year 24 Council Members across the city are asking residents how to spend \$24 million in capital funding

The Moldova Water Security and Sanitation Project is a \$50 million dollar, 5 year project (2022-2027) with the goal of increasing access and capacity of safely managed water supply and sanitation services to rural areas and towns





CAPITAL PROJECTS

The following projects are Capital Projects managed by New York City agencies, including repairs for parks, libraries, and schools.

You may vote for your top 3 projects.



**Cycle 14
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**LIGHTS,
CAMERA,
VOTE**

PS58 Auditorium Upgrades

What we hope for..



What we have:

PROJECT: Upgrade and modernize the audio visual system and install accessible seating in the school auditorium.

BENEFIT Enhance performances, assemblies and events ensuring clear sound and visuals

BENEFIT: Create a better experience for all students, families and community members.

BENEFIT: Accessible seating will ensure that individuals with mobility challenges have a comfortable and inclusive space to fully participate.



These upgrades will transform the auditorium into a more functional and welcoming gathering space for the entire school community



RESULTS: Music Performances, Theatre, Storytelling, Game Nights, School and Community Assemblies, Talent shows, Parent Workshops

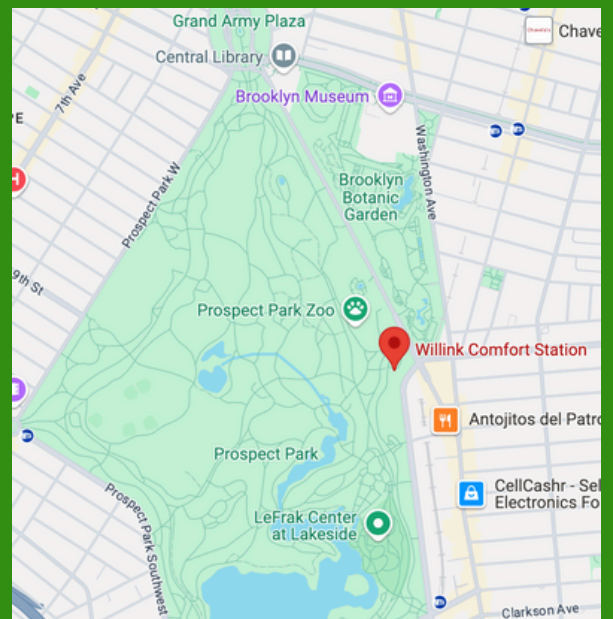
COST: \$350,000



HISTORIC WILLINK RESTROOM RESTORATION

BACKGROUND

The Prospect Park Children's Corner is one of the most beloved destinations for families, and is home to the Carousel, Lefferts Historic House and Zoo. This heavily trafficked facility has not been restored since 1991, and is in need of a full upgrade; including a new roof, lighting, plumbing, mechanical and electrical systems, and new gender-neutral restroom facilities. While the project is partially funded, additional funds is needed to finish the work.



COST	\$500,000
LOCATION	Willink Comfort Center
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	This \$4 million renovation project seeks to restore the facilities. While an overall restoration is needed, the scope of this proposal covers much needed finishings including interior furnishings, fixtures, and finishes for the restored restrooms.

Fix 3 Broken PS 282 Bathrooms

The PS 282 Park Slope elementary school plumbing was installed in 1962 and has only been patched since. Our idea is to renovate 3 child bathrooms that are in most need of repair. Stalls, toilets, and urinals are broken. The walls have holes in them. This is a safety issue (a toilet exploded on a para while in use); a privacy issue (students need stalls with functional locks, especially important to those entering puberty); an access issue (students cannot flush the toilets or get to a working toilet in time to go to the bathroom in an appropriate place); and an equity issue (PS 282 supports a diverse population, including students who are housing and food insecure, and a larger population of students with special needs). We have 574 students and 44 teachers, and these bathrooms are also used by our afterschool partners, such as Imani House, Brooklyn Seeds, and Impact Coaching Network; neighborhood sports leagues, like SFX; and the local voting community on voting days.



**A kid went #2
in a urinal.
There was
nowhere else
to go.**

**Toilets don't
flush. Stall
doors don't
lock.**

**TOTAL
COST:
\$450,000**

**Some urinals
and toilets
permanently
out of order**



NEGLECTED TO BRILLIANCE!

HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA UPGRADE

TRANSFORM THE JOHN JAY EDUCATIONAL CAMPUS LIBRARY INTO A MODERN MEDIA CENTER WITH ESSENTIAL TECH AND A PODCAST ROOM, BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE FOR 2,500+ STUDENTS TODAY!

\$450K
CAPITAL
PROJECT

The John Jay Educational Campus, serving over 2,500 students across four high schools, lacks a functional library—devoid of books, computers, and essential academic resources. Despite high student demand, severe NYC library budget cuts and DOE funding limitations have widened the technology gap, leaving many without the digital tools necessary for coursework, research, and college preparation.

This project will transform our outdated library into a state-of-the-art media center, equipped with computers, digital workstations, and essential technology to support student success. The space will also feature a podcast room, offering students the chance to explore digital media, journalism, and creative storytelling. The main goal is to bridge the technology gap and ensure that all students, regardless of socioeconomic background, have access to the tools they need to succeed in an increasingly digital world.

**LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR AND
USED BY ALL SCHOOLS DAILY +
ELECTION POLL SITE**



Children's Corner Path Upgrades



location of the Prospect Park Zoo, Carousel and Lefferts Historic House

Our beloved Prospect Park Children's Corner paths are in **poor repair**, making them prone to flooding and **not passable**. They are also **inaccessible for strollers and wheelchairs**. This project would make the paths accessible and improve drainage.



\$750,000 of capital funding through Participatory Budgeting can FIX this!!

Improve Children's Corner path system to make it more accessible

Repair park's drainage system over time to reduce flooding in the future

Replace an old drinking fountain at Children's Corner



BCS Lower Gym

Renovation and Expansion

Our school's lower gym needs critical updates to improve functionality and accessibility. This project would include demolishing the unused shower room built decades ago, which has not been used for years. Removing it will allow for a much-needed expansion of the locker, storage, and gym area. This would create a more functional and efficient space for physical education, sports teams, and student activities. These upgrades will improve accessibility, safety, and the overall experience for all students.



Cost: \$750,000

Location: Brooklyn Collaborative Studies

Description: Renovate the lower gym by demolishing the shower room and expanding the locker and gym area for a better student experience.

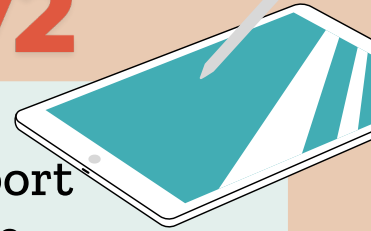


Power up!

MODERNIZING TECH ACCESS IN MS 51 AND PS 372



Upgrade tech at **MS 51 & PS 372** to support personalized learning, arts and language programs, and digital testing for 1,500+ students



MS 51 and PS 372 are facing technological barriers that limit their ability to deliver personalized instruction and conduct essential assessments.

MS 51, the district's largest middle school, needs updated tech to efficiently administer crucial assessments like MAP testing and state exams. Testing currently disrupts learning over multiple days due to device sharing. The school also aims to better equip its arts programs and facilitate international cultural exchanges and language learning through improved technology access.

PS 372, a fully inclusive elementary school, needs technology upgrades to support its differentiated learning model. Better technology would enable teachers to provide individualized support, especially in classes that combine special-education and general-education students.

\$300K

for Smartboards, laptop carts, tablets, cameras, and more



EXPENSE PROJECTS

The following projects are Expense Projects, managed by local non-profits.

You may vote for your top 3 projects.



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Launch Women Owned Businesses in Kensington!

The Women's ESOL and Digital Literacy class at PS 179 will host a series of financial empowerment workshops designed to help women start small home businesses. They will partner with Sakhi, a gender-justice organization with deep roots in the community, to bring this series of tailored workshops to the women of the wider community.

\$12K
EXPENSE
PROJECT



They will learn practical and financial skills needed to monetize existing skill sets and contribute to their families' financial well-being from within their more traditional roles as homemakers. The women of this class developed this idea over the last few years to answer a need that they see in their community!!



In Partnership with
SAKHI
FOR SOUTH ASIAN SURVIVORS

Brooklyn Conservatory of Music Presents



Youth Drumming at Gowanus Houses

A 12-week youth percussion class (pre teen and teen) with buckets and hand percussion for young people living in the Gowanus Houses, the largest NYCHA development in District 39. Classes will provide students with an immersive experience of playing percussion in a group setting and learning rhythmic patterns from diverse styles and traditions. The class will culminate in a public summer concert, with students playing alongside faculty will perform at an outdoor summer concert!

Cost: \$8000

Location:
Gowanus Houses



Living with Water

**COST:
\$19,000**

A locally made video about how neighbors can work together to mitigate the impacts of rainwater flooding!

Why do we need this video?

From the coastline, from rain, from runoff, or the sewer itself....flooding is affecting us. As renters, homeowners, and everyone who loves this city we need resources that teach us how to prepare and bring us together as neighbors to work together to protect our neighborhoods.

Gotcha! And what's it about?

The video will explain a few easy ways to protect your home, your block, and ultimately each other from the impacts of flooding. A few examples include: using rain barrels, tending to tree pits, and creating/tending to rain gardens.

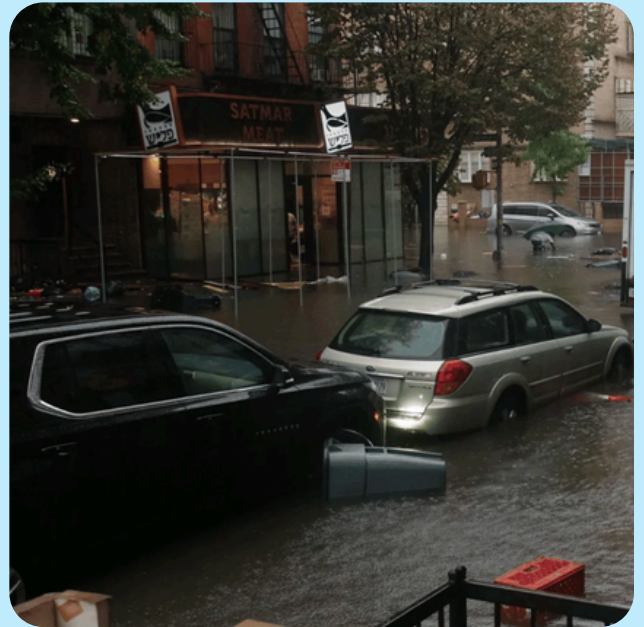
Okay! But why \$19,000?

The making of the video itself will be an educational experience and will involve local residents. It won't be your average tutorial, but a creative, collaborative, and informative resource made by Fourth on Forth Avenue, The City Sponge, and Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP).

What happens after its made?

The video will be shared far and wide! This video will support D39 but more importantly, our fellow 8 million neighbors.

It will be shared with council members, city agencies, community organizations, and of course, on social media.



SUPPORT THE ARTS IN OUR COMMUNITY GARDENS



Today the arts
need your
support more
than ever!

The IDEA

Brooklyn Arts Council facilitates music performances & artist-led workshops at free public events hosted by 3 community gardens

Project DESCRIPTION

What are 2 key elements that contribute to the culture of a thriving community? Access to greenspace and celebration of the arts. This project seamlessly combines the two. Every year our community gardens organize cultural events that are free & open to the public. This project will supply artists for a variety of community events & hopes to bring a greater quality & diversity to the gardens' existing arts programming for the community to enjoy and be inspired by.

What TYPE OF EVENTS?

- Music Performances
- Children's programming
- Storytelling, Writing, & other artist-led Workshops
- and more!

Examples of past events hosted by the gardens



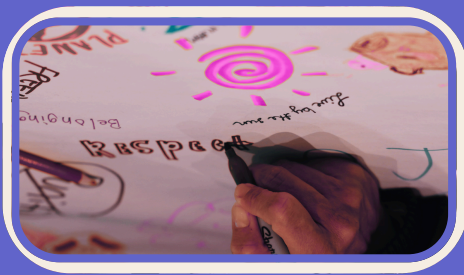
Locations:

- 6/15 Green - **Park Slope**
- East 4th Street Garden - **Kensington**
- Prospect Farm - **Windsor Terrace**

Cost: \$20,000

Project Partner:

BROOKLYN ARTS COUNCIL



The Circle Keepers



Youth Voice For Justice! Youth Participatory Action Research

What We'll Do:

Present youth-led Youth Participatory Action Research programming engaging middle and high school students across D39 youth in restorative justice education, research methodologies and civic participation aimed at solving problems of peace, justice, safety and belongings in their schools

Why We'll Do It:

Youth are not the problem, they are the solution! As such, we need to provide youth with the tools needed to create long lasting change both at the interpersonal level, by training them as:

- 1) peer mediators for conflict resolution, 2) as community organizers for healthy school culture shifts and 3) as researchers for systemic policy creation alongside elected officials.



Where & When:

We will partner with Boerum Hill School for International Studies as a hub where we will host a weekly after school meeting from 3:30pm-6pm. The programming will be free of charge for schools and students and will act as a way to build inter-school collaboration and meaningful project based learning opportunities for youth.

How Much: \$20,000

1. We will allocate the funds to:
2. Pay for educators' salaries!
3. Provide stipends to youth participants!
4. Purchase healthy and nutritious snacks!
5. Book community building and educational field trips!
6. Offset program logistics costs for supplies, and more!

FREE SUMMER ARTS FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES



daily visual arts
& design workshops

WHAT: First Flight is a free, full-day summer arts program designed specifically for Brooklyn children entering 4K from low-income families.



acting, music, movement
activities

WHY: This program also provides critical support for working families, easing the burden of summer childcare.

PLUS: Early exposure to the arts has been proven to strengthen literacy, social-emotional learning, and problem-solving skills.

COST
\$10,000

LOCATION
Prospect Park
Picnic House

PARTNER
White Bird
Productions



FREE YOUTH PROGRAMMING FOR LOCAL FAMILIES AT CAMP FRIENDSHIP

Cost: \$20,000

Duration: Saturdays, Sept. 2025-June 2026

What: Access to sports and art helps young children socialize and build leadership skills in a safe and community-minded environment. High school students will have a chance to increase their work experience and build out their resumes. All students will get access to tutoring and homework help.



Why: Extracurricular activities are expensive! But they play an important role in giving parents a breather and giving kids a chance to delve into things they're interested in. We will pepper in academic support to help our kids reach their goals.



growing gardens nurturing children



Looking at soil, butterflies, seeds, plants through seasons, plant use in textiles, medicine and food, the project will provide a robust series of class sessions to 1st, 2nd, 3rd graders and hands-on workshops for school garden volunteers and families in order to support the development of school gardens in Windsor Terrace and Kensington (PS130, PS179, PS230). This is a collaboration of Garden Train and Old Stone House.



SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Cost: \$19,500



SUPPORT LIBRARY STORY TIME

Support Brooklyn Public Libraries Storytime Hour!

📍 Where?

Brooklyn Public Library branches: Park Slope, Pacific, and Windsor Terrace

📖 What?

Help fund 5-7 additional Storytime Hours per branch to foster literacy, creativity, and community for young readers and families.

💵 How much?

\$9,000 total (\$3,000 per branch) to hire hosts, artists, and performers who will make Storytime vibrant and engaging.

🌟 Why?

These branches have the highest attendance and engagement, ensuring your support reaches the most families!

📖 Invest in literacy—support Storytime today!

Bklyn
Public Library



ENJOY FREE OUTDOOR MOVIES WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS



PROJECT: Rooftop Films will conduct a free film screening in three diverse neighborhoods of City Council District 39. Rooftop Films will work with community partners to organize a movie night to bring neighbors together for a shared cultural experience and to strengthen community bonds.



SPONSOR: For almost thirty years, Rooftop Films has promoted community-building through its annual summer film festival, affordable audio-visual equipment rentals, and support for independent filmmakers. Last year, Rooftop Films, located in CD 39's Gowanus, screened 133 films at 21 locations across all five boroughs of New York City.

LOCATIONS : Rooftop Films will screen a free movie at these three plaza locations like Kensington Plaza and 5th Avenue & 4th Street in Park Slope.

COST \$18,600

Funding will cover event expenses including staffing, licensing and permit fees, porta potty rentals, equipment and its transportation costs.

