

Participatory Budgeting Digital Toolkit for Youth Delegate Committees

About Participatory Budgeting (council.nyc.gov/pb):

Every year, City Councilmembers in NYC set aside funding for projects that are proposed and selected by constituents. Community members volunteer as delegates to take ideas suggested by their neighbors in the district and turn them into concrete proposals to put on the final ballot. My project would provide a digital toolkit to encourage more youth participation and to support the work of youth delegate committees.



About the Digital Toolkit:

This project utilizes emerging technologies to involve a team of youth directly in the political process—helping them to learn more about city government and their role as constituents, and to experience firsthand the impact of their voice in civic matters that they personally care about. Through these “connected civics” principles¹, the toolkit would bring about key changes in attitude and knowledge, along with the recognition of useful skill development, in order to address young people’s potential lack of enthusiasm around civic engagement and motivate them to continue their participation in the public sphere far into the future. Toolkit components would include:

- Project management templates
- Resources and interactive templates to support development of the ballot proposal
- Resources about other funding sources, in case the proposal does not get funded through Participatory Budgeting
- Social features and other activities, supporting peer-to-peer connection and recognition of participant accomplishments

Primary Outcomes	Indicators	Evaluation Sources/Methods	Inputs	Outputs
<i>Change in attitude:</i> individual & group efficacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention • Positive response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention rate compared to other youth programs • Participants’ social content • Feedback from youth, including likelihood to participate again 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth librarian volunteers as facilitators • Library facilities, platforms, and equipment • DOE-issued devices 	At least one annual youth-related proposal for the Participatory Budgeting ballot in each district with youth delegates
<i>Change in knowledge:</i> government machinations and community	Improvement in youth-created deliverables and language	Youth-created deliverables and social content from the end of the project, compared to the beginning		

¹ Ito, M. (2015, April 20). Connected civics and learning. *Connected Learning Alliance*. <https://clalliance.org/blog/connected-civics-and-learning/>