



NYC

Civic Engagement
Commission

Annual Report



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The Civic Engagement Commission (CEC) had another remarkable year of strong engagement with New York City residents. Our charter mandates are taking root in communities across the boroughs, and as participation grows and flourishes, we are measuring and learning about our impact and how to strengthen our work. The Commissioners, staff, and I are very excited to share the highlights of our past year in this annual report. It's a welcome chance to pause and take pride in our accomplishments and look ahead with enthusiasm for what we will be doing in the coming months.

Considering the impact by the numbers, this year, over 131,000 New York City residents voted in The People's Money! Leading up to the vote phase, we are thrilled that 7,069 New Yorkers participated in 90-minute Idea Generation (IG) Workshops to discuss ideas about community needs and proposed 3,738 solutions to their neighborhood challenges, 46 of which ultimately ended up as the project ideas on The People's Money ballots. Considering how busy New Yorkers are and all the competing demands on their time, this high rate of participation (a total of 636,210 hours across all participants) is a testament to New Yorkers' dedication to democracy and their community. We also saw a marked increase in participants' sense of civic efficacy and confidence after the Idea Generation Workshops. Through our post-workshop surveys, we found that over 85% of participants felt the education they received about the city budget was very or extremely effective. In addition, there was a 247% increase in confidence that they could help decide how the government addresses issues in their community, and a 269% increase in those who felt they could influence how public funds are spent! When people feel that the government values and hears their ideas, it boosts their belief in their own ability to positively shape their communities.

The Commission's ability to have an impact on the ground is undeniably tied to our deepening work with non-profit partners across the city. Every phase of The People's Money engages residents and community-based organizations. This year, we funded over 80 organizations, and worked with various libraries, schools, and older adult centers to host IG Workshops. The Commission also funded nonprofits to implement the projects selected in last year's process. Each project in turn reached more New Yorkers and demonstrated that participatory processes can and do have tangible outcomes. Mothers Matter, a project implemented by Multi-Assistance Resource Center (MARC) in Harlem, provided workshops and support for mothers concerning mental health, pregnancy, postpartum care, and breastfeeding. They connected mothers to housing, childcare, and mental health resources in their community. When MARC first started, they welcomed 47 mothers, and in just a few months, that number grew to 400 mothers!



One mother spoke of how the program helped her feel “stronger as a mom.” Another mother was able to find a new and affordable apartment for her family, and said, “This is the first time in a long time I feel like I can breathe. My kids have beds now, and I finally have a place where we can start fresh. MARC didn’t just help me find a home — they helped me find hope again.” By connecting residents with existing resources, MARC has fostered resilience and transformed the lives of its clients.

In addition to The People’s Money, CEC continues to connect with New Yorkers through the Voter Language Assistance (VLA) program, helping those who prefer to use interpreter support during primary and general elections. While the rates of participation vary greatly by the year of the election, the CEC has kept up with the demand for services. During the November 2024 General Election, CEC assisted 2,237 voters with language assistance, which was the highest utilization recorded by the VLA program in a single election. Across all years, the program has served over 8,000 voters. We also hosted 26 trainings for community board members this year, many of whom found the knowledge valuable for their volunteer service.

As American democracy continues to be tested in myriad ways, those who govern have a choice between respecting and embracing the diversity of communities or narrowing the opportunities to participate in decision-making to a select few. The Commission is choosing to design and deliver programs that embody an inclusive democracy. For those who choose the former, our programs are a portal to transform what democracy can become. We are growing the number of people who participate, increasing the diversity of participants, and restoring a sense of confidence and hope in the democratic process. The growth of participation in our programs makes clear that New Yorkers are resilient and they refuse to be bystanders. They actively seek out opportunities to connect with government, speak up, and be heard. We are grateful to be doing this work with so many New Yorkers at this time in our nation’s history.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'Dr. Sarah Sayeed'.

Dr. Sarah Sayeed

Chair & Executive Director

MISSION & CORE VALUES

The Civic Engagement Commission's purpose is to promote participation in civic life, enhance civic trust, and strengthen democracy in New York City. Our programs provide education and support to residents so they can take part in the decisions, actions and opportunities that affect civic life – the life of their neighborhoods, their community and the City at large.

The CEC believes that active listening is central to building relationships, understanding and trust with New Yorkers. We affirm our responsibility to lift the power and voices of underserved and underrepresented NYC communities. To build a more inclusive, fair, and just city for all New Yorkers, we ground this work in the following core values:

DIGNITY

We affirm the equal worth of all human beings regardless of identity or ability. We commit to being responsive to residents' needs and concerns, and to delivering our programs with respect and care.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We commit to being transparent and regularly sharing information with New Yorkers about our processes and decisions. We commit to welcoming feedback from the communities we serve and to include and consider that feedback as part of our decision-making processes.

COLLABORATION

We commit to working with communities and prioritizing their lived experiences. This is essential to solve our collective challenges. We commit to fostering spaces for dialogue and amplifying the voices and stories of community partners.

ACCESSIBILITY

We commit to work towards removing barriers to information and resources for our communities. We will promote justice for marginalized and underserved communities. We will communicate keeping in mind plain language, different abilities, and language access.

CREATIVITY

We believe creativity, play, and imagination are essential for a thriving democracy. We seek to honor everyone's story by using art, music, and storytelling to bring people together. We value promoting spaces filled with beauty, joy, and hope for all New Yorkers.

MANIFESTING COMMUNITY POWER

We commit to supporting community leadership. We will provide education about government systems and processes. These actions will allow communities to exercise power over decisions affecting their lives.

STAFF

Daniel Botting	SI Participatory Budgeting Coordinator
Leenda Bonilla	BX Participatory Budgeting Coordinator
Travon Butler	MH Participatory Budgeting Coordinator
Hillary Carelli-Donnell	Director of Participatory Budgeting
Anthony Carrion	Community Engagement Specialist - BX/MH
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Emma Dillon	Budget Manager
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Huma Khan	QN Participatory Budgeting Coordinator
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Justin Usher	Community Engagement Specialist - BK
Abby Walczak	Operations Lead
Barbara Williams	Director of Outreach and Volunteer Programs
JP Wojciechowski	Language Access Coordinator
Semira Zeru	Community Engagement Specialist - QN

We would also like to thank all interns, consultants, and former staff who supported our work and contributed to the accomplishments highlighted in this report.

COMMISSIONERS



Dr. Sarah Sayeed
Chair & Executive Director



Murad Awawdeh



Giovanni Barcenes



Eve Baron



Holly Bonner



Amy Breedlove



Natalie DeVito



Mark Diller



Edwin Maxwell



Joshua Ocampo



Lilliam Perez



Donna Veronica Gill



Mitchell Wu

COMMISSIONER'S PUBLIC MEETINGS

In FY 2025, the Commission convened six public meetings. The year began with the July 2024 meeting, where Commissioners unanimously adopted the Language Access Plan with revisions to expand language coverage and clarify contract award amounts. Later in September 2024, the Commission approved the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report, also by unanimous vote.

At the December 2024 meeting, Commissioners adopted the Poll Site Methodology Resolution to allow consideration of prior utilization to determine future services. Commissioners also heard about racial equity planning from the Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice. The following meetings in February and April 2025 focused on program updates, including the Voter Language Assistance Program, Participatory Budgeting (The People's Money), Community Boards, the Taskforce for Racial Inclusion & Equity (TRIE) Neighborhood Initiative, and Digital Equity efforts. The April 2025 public meeting featured presentations from Implementation Partner community organizations, including United Activities Unlimited, The Institute for Family Health, and Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation.

The Commission closed the year with its June 2025 meeting. Commissioners adopted the Poll Site Methodology Resolution to update the American Community Survey dataset that was used to determine language concentrations and interpretation services. Commissioners also received updates on major initiatives, including participatory budgeting campaigns, digital equity, and relational organizing. Across the six meetings, Commissioners provided critical guidance, adopted key resolutions, and deepened programmatic accountability while maintaining a strong commitment to transparency and community engagement.

PROGRAM DATA REPORTING

THE PEOPLE'S MONEY



THE PEOPLE'S MONEY

The People's Money, run by the NYC Civic Engagement Commission (CEC), is New York City's first-ever citywide participatory budgeting (PB) process. All New Yorkers aged 11 and older, regardless of immigration or incarceration status, are invited to decide how to spend part of the City's budget on projects to address needs in their community. City Council members introduced PB to New Yorkers in 2011, but The People's Money is different as it is citywide and utilizes Mayoral expense funding rather than discretionary City Council district-based capital funding. Mayoral expense funding can be used for funding community-based projects, programs, and services, and the citywide process allows all New Yorkers to participate, regardless of the council district they live in. Awards of expense funding present unique challenges for recipient organizations that CEC helps mitigate through ongoing dialogue and recommendations, including capacity building initiatives to plan for sustainability.

HOW IT WORKS

Each cycle of The People's Money is divided into four phases and takes two years to complete. The first three phases to determine winning projects run in one year, and the last phase to implement those projects runs in the second year. The first three phases include (1) Idea Generation, (2) Borough Assemblies, and (3) Voting. In the fourth phase, Project Implementation, community-based organizations take a full year to implement the projects that voters select. Below are brief descriptions of each phase:

- Idea Generation invites residents to in-person workshops to learn about the city budget cycle, identify community needs, and brainstorm project ideas through interactive activities and discussion. Residents are also able to propose ideas and projects directly on our online platform: participate.nyc.gov.
- Borough Assemblies engage 25 randomly selected, demographically representative volunteers in each borough to review eligible ideas, hear from agency experts, review data, further develop ideas, and select the ideas from the previous phase to be placed on each borough's ballot.
- Voting is open to all New York City residents aged 11 and older to vote on the projects that they wish to see funded and implemented in their borough.
- Project implementation begins with identifying organizations to implement projects through a competitive application process. We work with selected organizations to develop project plans and implement their projects, with monitoring and evaluation of each project.

In the next section, we will describe the projects that were implemented from the second cycle of Project Implementation, followed by an overview of the third cycle of Idea Generation, the Borough Assembly phase, and Voting.

The People’s Money Cycle 2 Phase 4: Project Implementation **(2024-2025)**

As a result of Cycle 2 of The People’s Money, a total of **20 community-driven projects** were selected through a citywide vote to be implemented by 20 community-based organizations (CBOs) across the city. This includes **5 projects in the Bronx, 5 in Brooklyn, 4 in Manhattan, 5 in Queens, and 1 in Staten Island** (Table 1) (See Appendix A for a list of all the Cycle 2 projects).

Table 1. Project Funding Allocations

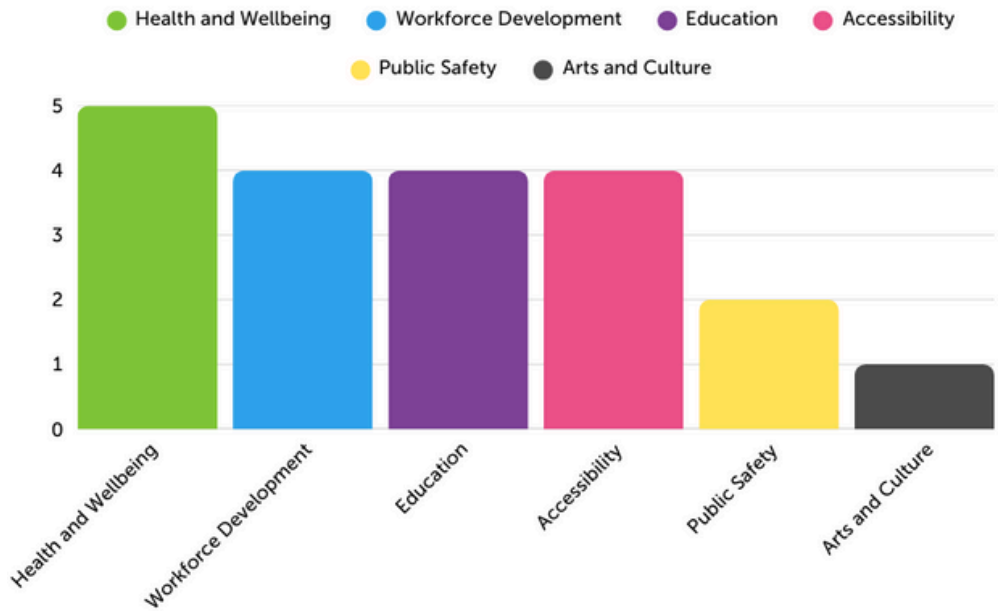
Geography	# of Projects	Funding Amount (per project)
The Bronx	5	\$174,000
Brooklyn	5	\$200,000
Manhattan	4	\$150,000
Queens	5	\$170,000
Staten Island	1	\$180,000

About Phase 4: Project Implementation

Project Implementation empowers community-based organizations to develop and execute community-driven projects that foster civic engagement, address local challenges, and improve the quality of life for New Yorkers. From August 12 to September 10 of 2024, the CEC ran an application process for CBOs to submit proposals to implement the projects selected by New Yorkers through The People’s Money’s last cycle.



Figure 1: Project Implementation Impact Areas



We received a total of **83 proposals** from organizations applying to implement the 20 projects. Cycle 2's projects focus on a wide range of topics, such as health & wellbeing (5), education (4), career development (4), accessibility (4), public safety (2), and arts & culture (1).

All projects were required to serve residents of Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity (TRIE) neighborhoods that were designated by the city.

Cycle 2 Project Outcomes and Highlights

The People's Money projects address critical needs that were identified by communities themselves and enhance local well-being. This is done by working directly with CBO partners, who are highly connected to communities to design, implement, monitor, and report back on their programming.

7,069

unique participants reached

542

workshops and community events

By directly involving community members in decision-making processes around funding projects, The People's Money addresses inequalities and mitigates gaps in services. This involvement ensures that the projects funded address the specific needs and priorities of the community and can lead to improvements in public services and civic infrastructure.

Based on a total of 99 monthly reports submitted by our partners from January to August, the most common project output conducted was the delivery of workshops and community events (Table 2).

Table 2. Type and Frequency of Reported Project Outputs

Output	Total Reported
Workshops	Total # of Workshops: 468 Total # of Workshop Participants: 4,409
Events	Total # of Events: 74 Total # of Event Participants: 2,574
One-on-One Consultations	Total # of People Who Received 1-on-1 Consultations: 944
Resource Distribution	Total # of People Who Received Resources: 2,364
Outreach and Canvassing	Total # of People Reached Through Outreach/Canvassing: 4,174

In total, partners held 468 individual workshops covering topics such as disability rights, financial literacy, employment readiness, mental health, self-defense, and more.

In addition to workshops, over 900 individuals were provided one-on-one support and/or case management. Partners reported providing individualized assistance for public benefits applications, housing advocacy, healthcare navigation, and accommodations paperwork. This type of service was particularly crucial for participants facing multiple systemic barriers. One-on-one interactions helped participants achieve concrete goals such as securing a stable place to live, accessing consistent food sources, or successfully enrolling in services.

“With the right guidance, I found the employment I was looking for. This opportunity has completely transformed my life, giving me a sense of purpose and stability.”

Project Participant, Language and Job Recertification for Immigrants

Our partners also conducted a total of 74 community events. These ranged from neighborhood resource fairs and wellness events to public forums and community-led panels. Specifically, events helped reach new audiences and build community awareness around disability justice, access, and available services. Several partners noted that events served as entry points for deeper engagement, particularly when co-designed with participants and held in familiar, accessible spaces.



I used to feel overwhelmed by my finances... I'm now able to plan for the future and save for things I really need. It feels empowering to finally be in control.

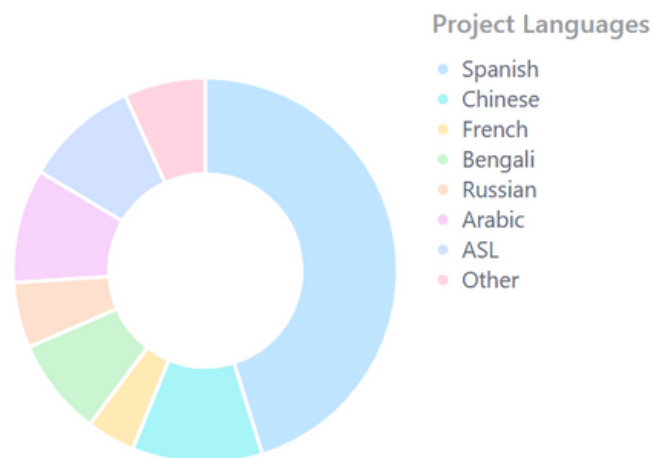
Project Participant, Resource Outreach for People with Disabilities



Project services were delivered in 11 languages, most commonly:

- Spanish
- Chinese
- ASL
- Arabic
- Bengali
- Russian

Figure 2. Language Services Breakdown



Projects Highlights



This is the first time in a long time I feel like I can breathe. My kids have beds now, and I finally have a place where we can start fresh. MARC didn't just help me find a home — they helped me find hope again.

Project Participant, Mothers Matter



In Manhattan, the Multi Assistance Resource Center (MARC) implemented the project Mothers Matter, which focused on providing wellness workshops, resources, and peer support to help mothers reduce stress, strengthen coping skills, and build healthier family relationships. Over the course of the program, over 400 mothers were served through structured workshop sessions, self-care and coping activities, and personalized follow-up support to ensure participants could continue practicing skills at home.

Participants reported reduced stress and stronger communication with their families, with one mother sharing she felt "better equipped to manage daily stress and communicate with [her] children." By combining skill-building with a supportive peer network, the program fostered resilience, strengthened family dynamics, and created lasting community connections among participants. By leveraging their monitoring and evaluation knowledge gained through CEC workshops, MARC was also able to secure grant funding to continue the project beyond the initial year of funding from CEC.

“ It pushed us to grow as an organization and reminded us that truly effective care is built on understanding, not assumptions. ”

Organization Staff Member, Mothers Matter Project

In Queens, Community Mediation Services implemented the Connectivity Program for Seniors project, which was delivered through 22 hands-on workshops focused on building an intergenerational community through community-building activities and increasing technological proficiency. Instructors provided step-by-step training and ongoing support, helping the older adults practice skills and build confidence. Through this initiative, more than 200 older adults gained the ability to communicate with loved ones, as well as learning and practicing skills such as writing and weaving. One participant named Rosa shared that learning to use her tablet allowed her to reconnect with family outside New York, an experience that transformed her daily life. By bridging the digital divide and building community through in-person engagements, the program reduced isolation and enhanced independence, creating lasting benefits for older adults.

“ I like the art classes because they make me feel calm and I can share my story. ”

**Project Participant, Creative Mental Wellness Program
for Families and Youth**

In the Bronx, the Bronx River Art Center implemented the Creative Mental Wellness Program for Families and Youth project. Across the reporting period, participants took part in 19 arts-based workshops that integrated cultural narratives, creative expression, and wellness practices. Activities included painting, drawing, and storytelling, and were designed to promote emotional health and self-expression. One middle school student shared, “I like the art classes because they make me feel calm and I can share my story.” Parents also reported observing improvements in their children’s confidence and stress management. By blending arts education with mental health strategies, the project provided participants with coping tools, strengthened family wellbeing, and built a stronger sense of community connection.

“

Having someone I can trust to help me with groceries and pick up my medicine has changed my life. Before, I felt trapped at home. Now, I feel connected to the community again and know there are people who care about me.

”

Project Participant, Errands for Older Adults and People with Disabilities

In Brooklyn, Kings Bay YM-YWHA implemented the Errands for Older Adults and People with Disabilities project, an initiative designed to address the everyday challenges faced by older adults, people with disabilities, and limited English proficient community members. Beginning with focus groups and community needs assessments, the project identified key barriers around mobility, food access, and social isolation. For this project, volunteers were trained and paired with participants to assist with essential errands such as grocery shopping, prescription pick-ups, and medical appointments. Across its implementation, the project served more than 500 older adults.

By coordinating transportation routes, ensuring culturally and linguistically responsive services in Russian, Chinese, Arabic, ASL, and other languages, and creating social gatherings alongside pantry events, the project fostered trust, dignity, and belonging. Seniors and people with disabilities reported feeling more connected and supported. Volunteers also shared that the work honored their own families and inspired long-term civic commitment. Ultimately, the project not only delivered food and errands assistance but also strengthened intergenerational ties, reduced social isolation, and built a more resilient community in South Brooklyn.

“

I'm enjoying the program. I feel welcomed and I'm glad to be able to learn more about what the program has to offer.

”

Project Participant, Building Success for High School Students

In Staten Island, the Building Success for High School Students project created a supportive pathway for young people to prepare for academic achievement and post-secondary opportunities. Delivered through workshops, mentoring, and individualized advising, the program helped students strengthen study habits, develop financial and career readiness skills, and explore future pathways beyond high school.

Participants reported greater confidence in their academic abilities, stronger motivation to pursue higher education, and a clearer vision of their goals. By combining practical skill-building with personal guidance, the initiative equipped Staten Island youth with the tools, support, and resilience they need to succeed in both school and life.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Collaborations with TRIE neighborhood partners expanded our partners' capacity for outreach as well as the project's alignment with community needs. In working together, our partners held joint events, shared resources, and created mutual referral systems that deepened local trust and engagement.

“ For the community in our TRIE neighborhood, where distrust exists, it's important that they see tangible results from their voices being heard, especially on local issues.

Far Rockaway Nonprofit Coalition (FRANC), TRIE Partner”

The top 5 ways that Implementing and TRIE Partners collaborated on the projects:

1. Resource Sharing
2. Project Promotion
3. Participant Recruitment
4. Forming Community Partnerships
5. Hosting or Co-Hosting Workshops/Events

“ Our [TRIE] partner(s) have been instrumental in referring potential participants to the program, helping us expand our reach and enroll new youth.

Ocean Bay Community Development Center, PB Implementation Partner”



Cycle 3: Participatory Budgeting

The CEC is committed to a responsive and dynamic learning process, and to adjusting our process to respond to these learnings in order to improve the quality of the participant experience and broaden our methods of engaging communities throughout the city. With the benefit of another year's experience and based on data collected through partner focus groups and participant exit surveys, the team made several adjustments to the process.

Phase 1: Idea Generation Workshops

This cycle, we launched our process once again with Idea Generation Workshops, awarding 166 CBO partners funding to host in-person Workshops for residents to learn about the city budget cycle, identify community needs, and pitch ideas for expense projects through interactive activities and discussion. From October 11th through November 19th of 2024, the CEC and our community partners hosted 502 of these Workshops across the city, engaging 9,586 residents.

Workshop Flow and Interactive Activities

During each Idea Generation Workshop, partners walked participants through a series of interactive activities designed to educate and provide opportunities for discussion. First, participants learned about the City's budget spending categories and played a trivia game to guess how much of the budget was allocated in that fiscal year to various impact areas identified by the CEC.

Then, the Sunny Plaza poster depicted a typical New York City park with various lamp posts that held signage to represent the different priority populations we aim to serve. Each table was given a poster, and residents were asked to place a sticker near the lamp post that was marked with a CEC priority population that they'd like to focus on for the duration of the Workshop. This helped residents determine which population they wanted to design an idea for, and also generated discussion about the needs and opportunities faced by certain groups in NYC.

Finally, an Idea Generation Playbook was shared with each group of participants. The Playbook contained one example project per borough for group reference, and idea submission guidelines and a final submission checklist for participants to review before writing down their final idea on their worksheet. The Idea Worksheet had an improved flow and was contained on one page rather than two for ease of submission by both participants and partners.

Idea Generation Session Outline:

Part 1: Introduction & Education on Participatory Budgeting

Overview: Introduction of the organization, the CEC, and the session's goals.

- The host organization, the CEC, and the goals/agenda for the workshop
- NYC Budget Trivia Game
- The People's Money PB Explainer Video
- Eligible Idea Brainstorm: People + Community Challenge + Heart of the Idea = Eligible Idea
- An example project that follows the recipe

Part 2: Idea Creation

Overview: Participants place their Sunny Sticker on a poster that shows a park with signs representing our priority populations. This represents the population or audience for whom they'd like to design a community project, program, or service.

Then participants discuss in small groups why they chose to put their stickers where they did, and what community they'd like to design an idea for. Prompted by the facilitator, participants then begin considering what programs and services would benefit this group they chose.

When they've completed the group brainstorming, they finalize the project, program, or service with their group and begin writing it on the Idea Worksheet.

Part 3: Closing and Next Steps

Overview: The Room Facilitator closed by displaying QR codes or handing out paper applications to those who request them for the following:

- Participant Exit Survey
- The Borough Assembly Video and Application (Everyone is invited to apply)

To increase the quality of the workshops and experience of participants, we trained all organizations in-person rather than online and provided materials in 12 languages. We held a separate training for Program Administrators and Facilitators, which allowed for more in-depth facilitation practice and role plays during the latter training. We also created an Idea Generation Explainer video that walks participants through the four phases of the process with footage from past projects and engaging animations. Additionally, we implemented a new Community Facilitator cohort with 25 individuals from our volunteer and Borough Assembly member network. These facilitators were trained to host Idea Generation Workshops at small nonprofits, libraries, older adult centers, schools, and more.

Residents were also able to continue proposing ideas and projects directly on our online platform, www.participate.nyc.gov. Of the 502 Workshops held, 173 were held in TRIE neighborhoods, which are neighborhoods with disproportionate health and economic disparities as identified by the City. New Yorkers submitted 3,728 ideas across the five boroughs. In order to address the limited internet access in some spaces where our partners were hosting Workshops, as well as to allow residents without cell-phones or data access to participate in our idea submission process, our partners prioritize idea submission on paper, rather than online.

After every Idea Generation Workshop, participants were asked to fill post-event surveys, and we received responses from 3,673 people (38% of participants). A majority of participants (89%) found the facilitation of the Workshops to be very or extremely effective, highlighting the success of our partnership organizations and facilitators. 85% of respondents found the education on city budget allocations and participatory budgeting very or extremely effective. This shows the significant impact on participants' overall all sense of involvement in government decision-making processes.

These Workshops also demonstrably improved participants' belief in their ability to guide and direct their city government. 91% of participants said they found the workshops very or extremely effective overall. Approximately 70% of respondents who indicated that they did not believe they could influence or direct their government answered otherwise after participating in an Idea Generation Workshop. These survey responses show the significant impact of the Workshop on participants' overall sense of involvement in government processes.

Idea Generation Partner Interviews

To improve the digital and in-person experience of facilitating Idea Generation Workshops, the PB Director and the Design Strategist held interviews with eight Idea Generation organizational partners to better understand their approach to facilitation and how to improve the experience for future cycles. We received support from the NYC Mayor's Office of Opportunity Community Compensation Fund to pay interviewees for their time. These interviews allowed us to identify pain points as well as valuable insights on how to improve the impact of Idea Generation. These interviews also uncovered that our partners value identifying community needs through Idea Generation as a benefit to their own organizational development.

Phase 2: Borough Assemblies

With the CEC's mission to deepen democratic engagement for NYC residents, the team continued the practice of integrating the principles of deliberative democracy in the participatory budgeting process. Civic assemblies, one form of deliberative democracy, have been used around the world and were incorporated into The People's Money in its first cycle. They use a randomly selected but demographically representative sample of a community to learn about local issues together, engage in deep deliberation, and develop informed policy solutions.

From January through February of 2025, Borough Assemblies worked together to develop and select the ideas from Idea Generation to be placed on each borough's ballot. We were thrilled to see a 200% increase in Assembly applications from the previous cycle, going from 500 to 1,500. Seeing the increased interest in participating indicated that people were excited by the process.

The CEC convened five Borough Assemblies made up of residents who applied online or in Idea Generation Workshops to represent their borough. This cycle's Borough Assemblies were made up of 107 residents in total across the five boroughs, which were selected through a sortition process based on five demographic categories: age, gender, ethnicity, race, and education. Borough demographic data was based on the 2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Data from the United States Census Bureau.

Based on overwhelming feedback from last cycle's Assemblies, where participants indicated that they wanted more time with the process, we increased the total hours spent in the Assemblies from 16 hours to 20 hours. The Assemblies held six meetings between January and February of 2025.

At the beginning of the Assembly deliberation process, each committee was given the ideas for its borough. These ideas had gone through review by the CEC staff to ensure they were eligible based on the criteria provided in the Idea Generation Workshops. This included 89 ideas for the Bronx, 100 ideas for Brooklyn, 84 ideas for Manhattan, 99 ideas for Queens, and 65 ideas for Staten Island. This year, we continued to involve the Task Force for Racial Inclusion and Equity (TRIE) neighborhood partners to provide information to the Assembly Members about services — or the lack thereof — in their neighborhoods. Integrating the on-the-ground experiences of the non-profit organizations with the lived experiences of Assembly Members allowed for more informed decisions about which projects best fit the needs of their communities. For the first time we were able to bring in city agencies to present to the members as a whole on their programs and services. The Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, Department of Small Business Services, Department of Youth & Community Development, Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice, Department of Parks & Recreation, and Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities shared information and details about what they provided and where. After five weeks of deliberation, considering the information they received from TRIE Partners, the city agencies, and the CEC, while also relying on their lived experiences, the Assemblies selected 10 projects per borough (except for six in Staten Island) to go on the final ballots.

Once each Assembly had narrowed down and selected ideas based on equity and feasibility criteria, the CEC prepared borough ballots that listed the project idea names and brief descriptions, and also included an exit survey on the back of the ballot to collect anonymous demographic information about the participants. We printed ballots and programmed an online ballot and exit survey. Lastly, we trained our community organization partners on how to collect votes.

At the end of the Borough Assembly sessions, we gave the members a survey to learn about their experiences. We received responses from 91 out of 107 total Assembly participants. The majority (80%) were confident that their recommendations would be implemented. In addition, 65% said they found the CEC to be very trustworthy, and 87% agreed that direct democracy, involving residents in decisions that affect them, is important.



Phase 3: Voting

From May 14 through June 25 of 2025, New York residents could vote for the ideas they wanted to see implemented in their boroughs. Residents could cast a single ballot for the borough where they reside. Only a certain number of projects are funded per borough, and the funding was weighted based on the borough population size and poverty level as follows:

- Bronx Ballot: The five projects with the highest number of votes will be funded for \$200,000 each, for a total of \$1,000,000.
- Brooklyn Ballot: The five projects with the highest number of votes will be funded for \$235,000 each, for a total of \$1,175,000.
- Queens Ballot: The five projects with the highest number of votes will be funded for \$195,000 each, for a total of \$975,000.
- Manhattan Ballot: The four projects with the highest number of votes will be funded for \$165,000 each for a total of \$660,000.
- Staten Island Ballot: The one project with the highest number of votes will be funded for \$190,000.

This cycle, we received \$4,000,000 for project implementation, which was up from \$3,500,000 in Cycle 2 but not back to our original allocation of \$5,000,000 in Cycle 1.

The People's Money Voter Engagement

Residents could vote online or in-person, in multiple languages, at balloting sites across the five boroughs. The CEC worked with 82 community partners, including 47 community-based organizations and 30 TRIE organizations, to conduct in-person and online outreach. The CEC also partnered with the city's three library systems — NY Public Library, Queens Public Library, and Brooklyn Public Library — to host ballot boxes or table-top QR codes to allow in-person voting online or by paper ballot at over 100 branches citywide.

Our partners and volunteers across the five boroughs launched a get-out-the-vote campaign to encourage as many eligible New Yorkers as possible to participate, and to meet them where they were. Partners hosted ballot boxes, voting drives, pop-up community events, and neighborhood canvases to support this citywide engagement effort. Across the city, our partners hosted 122 ballot boxes. Partners reported 183 public voting events where they popped up at public locations across the city to offer live voting opportunities. Partners also held voting sessions that were closed to the public in locations like older adult centers, schools, tenant association meetings, and more.

The CEC participated in five flagship events citywide to spread awareness, meet New Yorkers in the streets, and collect votes, including the Queens Pride Parade, the Museum Mile Festival in Manhattan, Bronx Week Parade and Festival, Dance Africa Festival in Brooklyn, and Staten Island Family Fun Day. In addition to flagship events that were supported by staff and volunteers, CEC also recruited volunteers as Participatory Budgeting Ambassadors, who were each responsible for collecting a targeted number of ballots. Their work and contributions are described further in the Outreach & Community Engagement section of this report.

These live vote-getting efforts were bolstered by a digital and out-of-home advertising campaign that placed ads across the subway system, both on subway cars and station platforms, as well as on social media platforms and in ethnic media outlets. The multilingual citywide advertising strategy yielded over 2 million impressions and over 17,000 clicks, reaching New Yorkers across the city via digital and ethnic media platforms. More details on this campaign can be found in the Strategic Communications section of this report.

Voting Results

NYC residents cast a total of 131,527 votes, including 112,946 paper ballots and 18,581 digital votes. The breakdown by borough is as follows:

- Bronx: 29,326 votes
- Manhattan: 21,528 votes
- Brooklyn: 32,176 votes
- Queens: 37,147 votes
- Staten Island 11,310 votes

Ballots were translated into a total of 12 languages: Spanish, Chinese (Simplified), Arabic, Bengali, Haitian Creole, French, Russian, Yiddish, Korean, Urdu, Italian, and Polish. People were able to vote in any of these languages at participate.nyc.gov or by paper ballot. In total, 31,559 ballots were cast in a language other than English. Of these, 18,879 were cast in Spanish, followed by 4,694 in Chinese (Simplified) and 2,231 in Bengali.

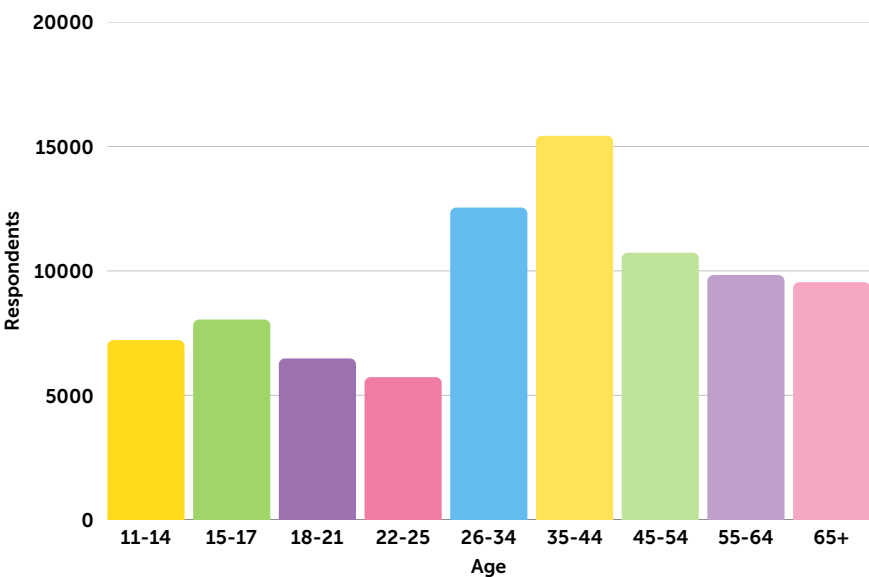
Survey Results

The CEC and our partnering organizations and facilitators administered an optional and anonymous voter demographic survey that was placed on the back side of the paper ballot, and as an optional prompt after completing the digital ballot. This survey — which helps us ensure that we are reaching our Charter-mandated priority populations — garnered an extremely high response rate overall, with 73% of voters choosing to complete it. In total, we collected 96,574 surveys. Of these, 18,581 were done online and 112,946 were done on paper. Participants completed surveys in 13 different languages (English, Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic, Bengali, Haitian Creole, French, Russian, Yiddish, Korean, Urdu, Italian, and Polish).

Age

According to results from our survey, the age group with the highest participation was 35-44 year olds (16%), followed by 26-34 year olds (13%), 45-54 year olds (11%), and 65+ year olds (12%). Another significant finding was that youth between the ages of 11 and 17 made up around 18% of voters.

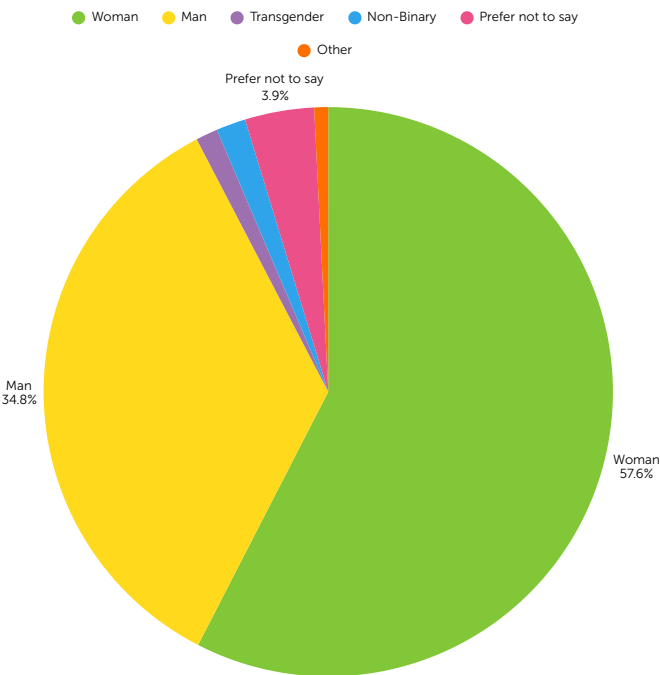
Figure 3. Survey Respondents by Age



Gender Identity

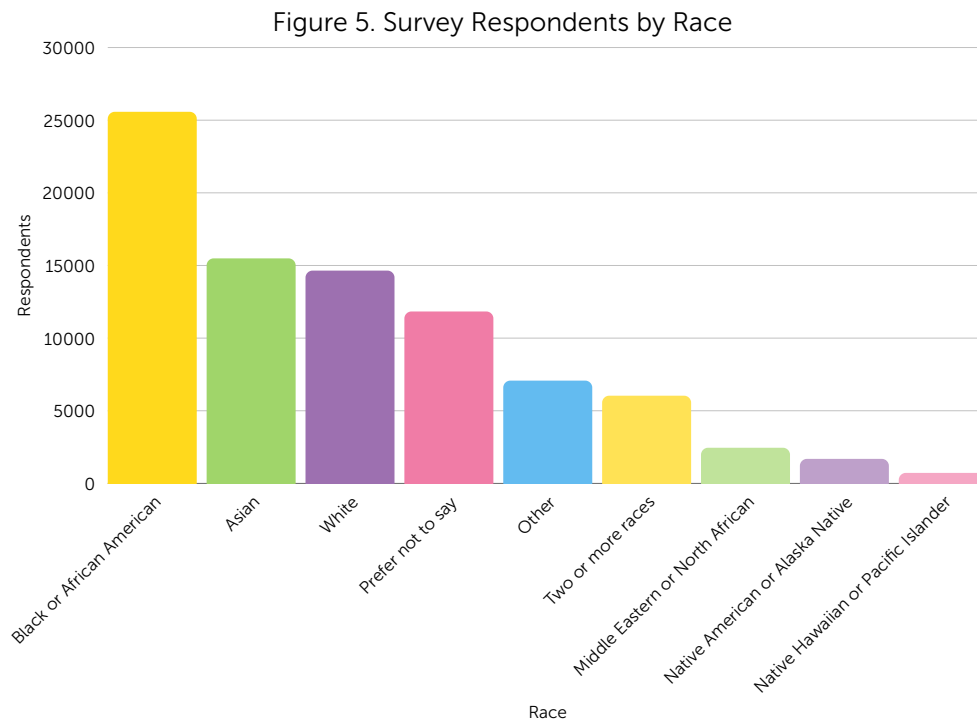
The voter survey results also showed that people who identified as women made up 58% of respondents. Additionally, approximately 2,500 (3%) survey participants identified as non-binary or transgender.

Figure 4. Survey Respondents by Gender



Race

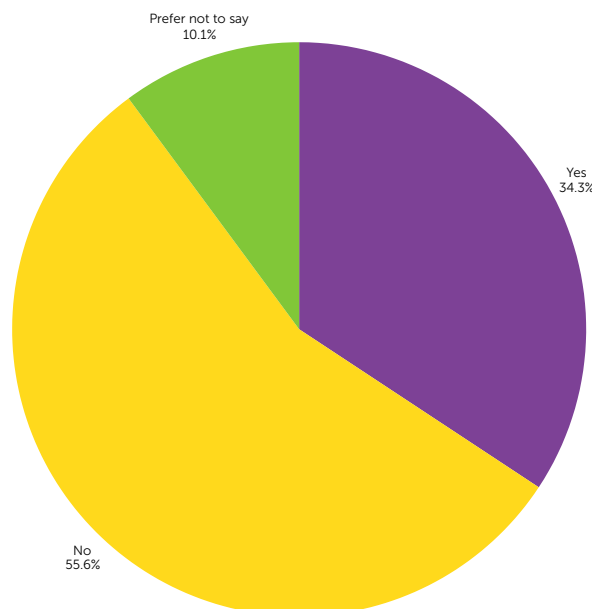
Approximately 30% of respondents identified as Black or African American, 16% identified as Asian, and 15% as White. 54% of respondents identified as a person of color, which for this question refers to the sum of Black/African American, Asian, Middle Eastern/North African, Native American/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. “Prefer not to say” was the 4th highest chosen category, with 11,000 participants (12%) selecting this option.



Ethnicity: “Do you identify as Hispanic or Latino?”

28.7% of respondents identified as Hispanic or Latino, which is a lower percentage than last cycle’s rate of 37.6%. We suspect — based on information by many of our CBO partners in the field — that this decrease could be due to the atmosphere of fear and threat of deportation, causing immigrants and non-naturalized residents to hesitate responding to government-administered surveys. 10% of respondents selected “Prefer not to say.”

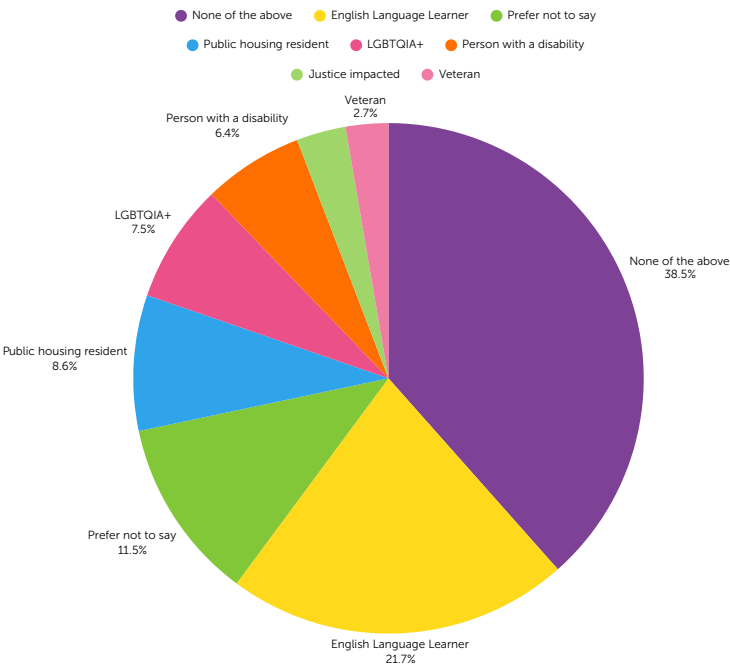
Figure 6. Survey Respondents by Ethnicity



Priority Population Reach

22% of participants identified as English Language Learners and 8% as public housing residents. Notably, 3% (3,471) of respondents identified as having been impacted by the justice system. 7.5% identified as LGBTQIA+ and 6% identified as a person with a disability. 11% of respondents selected “Prefer not to say.” Youth and older adults are additional priority populations, and we noted their participation in the Age section.

Figure 7. Survey Respondents by Priority Population



TRIE NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE



TRIE NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE

Program Goals

**Promote
Community
Building**

**Increase Access for
NYC Residents to
Decision-Making
Processes**

**Foster Collaboration &
Strengthen
Community Networks
(Coalitions)**

The Taskforce for Racial Inclusion and Equity (TRIE) was launched in April of 2020 in response to major health, social, and economic disparities revealed by the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on low-income communities of color. Using socioeconomic and health data from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Taskforce identified 33 Equity Neighborhoods as the priority focus for response and recovery efforts — also referred to as TRIE Neighborhoods. The TRIE Neighborhood Initiative is a yearlong partnership that invests in community-based organizations (CBOs) to strengthen civic engagement and local decision-making. The program, born out of the pandemic, was created by the Taskforce to address the disparate impacts of COVID-19 on NYC communities of color and support the development of community networks that could connect residents to one another and the city government.

Since its establishment in 2021, the Initiative has been run by the CEC in partnership with the NYC Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice and the Young Men's Initiative. This past year, the CEC awarded 30 CBOs to serve as TRIE Neighborhood Administrators (TNAs) across 31 out of the 33 TRIE Neighborhoods. During this program, organizations work to empower community residents to help shape city priorities and resources through civic education and participation in The People's Money.

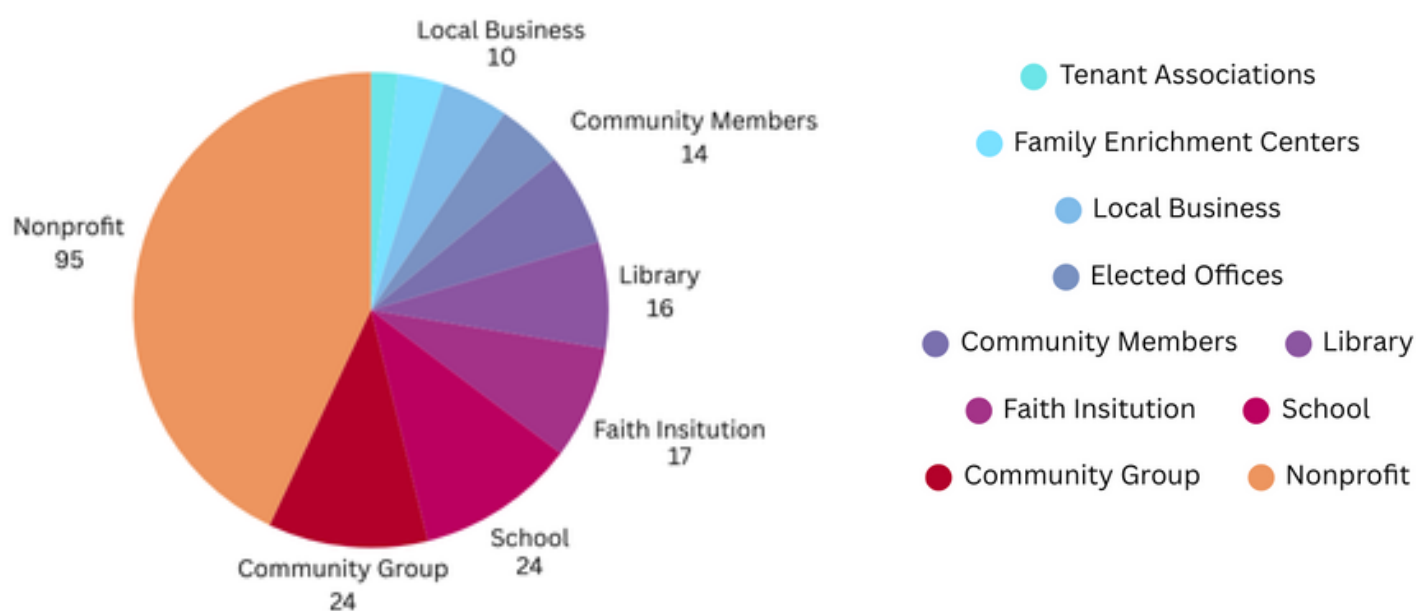
In TRIE Neighborhoods where there were partnership gaps, the CEC leaned on smaller-scale partnerships with participatory budgeting (PB) organizations to support community engagement and ensure residents' participation in The People's Money process.

Program Activities

Coalition-Building

From 2024 to 2025, TNAs built and sustained local coalitions with the common vision of creating a more inclusive and diverse democracy where residents feel empowered to participate in their communities. Coalitions in each neighborhood convened at least quarterly to discuss the needs of their communities, strategies for engaging residents in The People's Money, and opportunities to collaborate and share resources to strengthen each other's work. TNAs conducted over 120 meetings throughout the year, and overall TRIE Coalition membership grew to 225 partners from different fields.

Figure 10. TRIE Coalition Membership by Partnership Type



The diversity of TRIE Coalition membership speaks to their collective ability to reach NYC residents from all walks of life. Members contributed to the success of the TRIE program by attending coalition meetings, co-planning community events, sharing information with networks, and or offering in-kind services such as space, volunteers, and more to help the TNAs promote civic engagement and The People's Money.

Additionally, TNAs made meaningful investments into coalition-building by re-allocating over \$260,000 of the partnership funding across 30 coalitions for:

- Member stipends and/or honorariums
- Volunteer gift cards
- Coalition meeting event costs (venue and catering)

Our meetings have proven to be a valuable space for sharing information, resources, and learning opportunities that directly benefit our community. Without collaboration and collective outreach, many of these resources would remain limited to individuals within existing networks[...] The coalition plays a key role in bridging that gap.

TRIE Neighborhood Administrator

The People's Money

As service providers, trusted messengers in their communities, and conveners of local stakeholders, TNAs are deeply connected to the most pressing issues in historically underserved New York City neighborhoods. This positionality makes TNAs critical partners in our People's Money process, and offers an equity lens at each phase, from Idea Generation to Project Implementation.

Many participants expressed excitement about being involved in the session, emphasizing how meaningful it was to have their voices heard in shaping decisions about how New York City's expense budget should be allocated.

TRIE Neighborhood Administrator

Phase 1: Idea Generation

In 2024, TNAs successfully facilitated 168 Idea Generation Workshops across the TRIE Neighborhoods. In partnership with their coalition members, TNAs were able to engage over 3,700 unique participants in conversation about local issues and how to address them through expense projects. In total, the TRIE sessions generated over 1,300 ideas for projects to strengthen their communities.

“ It [Idea Generation] creates opportunities for more people and groups to plug in — showing how churches, restaurants, and other everyday spaces can become social impact labs or community think tanks. It expands where civic engagement can happen.

Brooklyn Level Up.”

Phase 2: Borough Assemblies

Data collected and summarized by TNAs was one of multiple tools Borough Assembly Members used to vet project ideas and determine what ideas to put on the ballot.

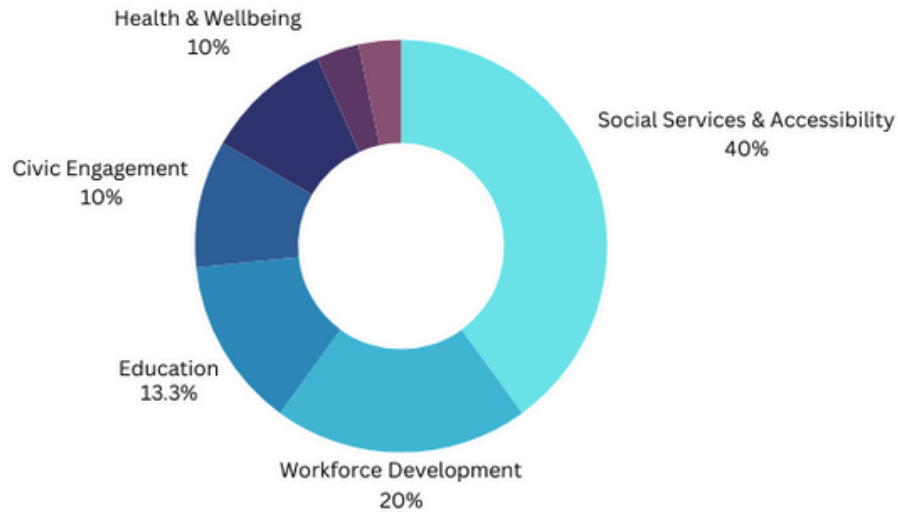
Using the themes that surfaced in their Idea Generation Workshops around local issues, TNAs facilitated dialogues with coalition members to build consensus and identify the top priority for their neighborhoods. The coalitions then produced community resource maps to highlight pre-existing resources and demonstrate where there might be gaps in resources and services related to various needs.

“ We incorporated needs assessment findings into discussions around summer youth programming and legal workshops. It also helped guide conversations with local partners on event planning and policy alignment, even if full implementation was paused.

Queens Defenders”

While priorities varied, the need for programming related to social services, accessibility, and workforce development was identified by over half of the TRIE Coalitions.

Figure 11. TRIE Community Priorities by Impact Area



The community priorities and resource maps were submitted to the Borough Assemblies for their consideration during the initial vetting of project idea packets. Then, the TNAs attended the third Assembly meeting to participate in a “Civics Fair” — an opportunity for the members to engage each TNA in discussion about the ideas they were reviewing and their relation to the top issues in the TRIE Neighborhoods.

“ We found the collaborative nature of the meeting to be a great experience[...] The civics fair activity particularly stood out, as it encouraged active engagement and showcased diverse perspectives, providing invaluable insights into pressing issues and potential solutions.

DSI International Inc.”

Phase 3: Voting

Diverse community partnerships and engagement strategies enabled the TRIE Coalitions to engage over 77,000 New Yorkers in The People’s Money Voting process. Their approaches to getting out the vote included:

- Meeting priority populations where they’re at: TNAs collaborated with and conducted voting activities at public schools, libraries, older adult centers, NYCHA developments, faith institutions, and more.
- Mobilizing volunteers: TNAs conducted over 50 volunteer activities, including door-knocking, canvassing high-traffic areas, and tabling at public events.
- Connecting with community boards (CBs): TNAs coordinated with their local CBs to attend general meetings, present on PB, and encourage members to participate and help to spread the word.
- Relational organizing to boost digital engagement: TNAs facilitated relational organizing events with their staff and coalition partners, utilizing the CEC’s digital toolkit to promote online voting.

Phase 4: Project Implementation

From 2024 to 2025, TNAs collaborated with the organizations implementing winning projects to envision ways of strengthening service delivery in TRIE Neighborhoods. The CEC conducted quarterly meetings to bring together both Implementation and TNA cohorts to exchange information about ongoing events and foster practice sharing around project implementation and community outreach. Many organizations took the collaboration beyond the virtual meetings and connected outside of the meetings to support participant recruitment for each other’s programs, attend coalition meetings, and co-plan workshops and events.

Civic Engagement Workshops

Through this initiative, the TNAs also promoted civic engagement through the CEC’s “Civic Engagement Is People Power” workshop.

In the workshop curriculum, the CEC plainly defines civic engagement as all the ways that people use their power to seek justice for their community, out of love for their community. This means that although civic engagement may take different forms, it is available for any individual or group that cares about something and wants to take action.

TNAs customized the CEC’s workshop deck for their different audiences using modules that provided a deeper dive into examples of civic engagement, including voting, advocacy & organizing, volunteering, and community boards. Our partners also made the workshops their own by incorporating different kinds of activities and discussion prompts to create opportunities for connection and group-sharing. Overall, TNAs engaged 730 participants over 44 unique workshops.

“The workshop was amazing. Through it, I was able to elevate and celebrate Black and Brown community organizers, highlighting the essential role they play in driving social change. This workshop affirmed that community is the foundation of any civil action. Without people power — without community coming together — there is no real progress. But when we unite, we create change.

Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement

”

Table 3. TNAs by Borough, Neighborhood, and Zip Codes

TRIE Neighborhood Administrator	Borough	TRIE Neighborhood	ZIP Codes
Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, Inc.	The Bronx	Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, and Bedford Park	10463, 10468
Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation	The Bronx	Belmont and East Tremont	10457, 10458
African International Collaborative Center (AICC)	The Bronx	Williamsbridge, Norwood, Olinville, Edenwald, and Wakefield	10475, 10466, 10467, 10469
Fordham in Community	The Bronx	Highbridge, Concourse, and Mt. Eden	10452
BronxWorks	The Bronx	Morrisania and Crotona	10460, 10459
Bronx Defenders / BLOC	The Bronx	Mott Haven and Melrose, Hunts Point, and Longwood	10451, 10454, 10455, 10456, 10455, 10459, 10474
Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club	The Bronx	Soundview, Clason Point, Castle Hill and Unionport	10472, 10473, 10461, 10462
N/A	The Bronx	Fordham and University Heights	10458, 10453
El Puente	Brooklyn	Bushwick	11206, 11207, 11221, 11237
Council of Peoples Organization (COPO)	Brooklyn	Flatbush and Midwood	11226
NIA Community Services Network	Brooklyn	Coney Island and Brighton Beach	11224, 11235

TRIE Neighborhood Administrator	Borough	TRIE Neighborhood	ZIP Codes
East New York Restoration Local Development Corporation	Brooklyn	East New York, Starrett City, and Cypress Hills	11207, 11208, 11239
Brooklyn Level Up	Brooklyn	East Flatbush	11203, 11210, 11225, 11226
The Flossy Organization	Brooklyn	Canarsie and Flatlands	11236
Bridge Street Development Corporation	Brooklyn	Bedford Stuyvesant	11238, 11205, 11216, 11206, 11221, 11233
RiseBoro Community Partnership Inc	Brooklyn	Brownsville	11212, 11233
The Circle Keepers	Brooklyn	Sunset Park	11220, 11232
Children's Arts & Science Workshops, Inc.	Manhattan	Washington Heights and Inwood	10032, 10034, 10033, 10040
Harlem Mothers Stop Another Violent End	Manhattan	Central Harlem	10026, 10027, 10030, 10037, 10039
Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service (LSA)	Manhattan	East Harlem	10029, 10035
New Harlem Renaissance	Manhattan	Morningside Heights and Hamilton Heights	10025, 10027, 10031, 10032
N/A	Manhattan	Lower East Side and Chinatown	10002, 10003, 10009, 10013

TRIE Neighborhood Administrator	Borough	TRIE Neighborhood	ZIP Codes
Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement	Queens	Queensbridge and Dutch Kills	11101
Unidad y Fe	Queens	Woodhaven and Kew Gardens	11421, 11419
Cityline Ozone Park Civilian Patrol	Queens	Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park	11419, 11420
Queens Defenders, FKA Queens Law Associates	Queens	Jamaica, South Jamaica, Hollis, St Albans, Rochdale, and Springfield Gardens	11412, 11423, 11432, 11433, 11434, 11435, 11436
Autism Society Habilitation Organization (ASHO)	Queens	Briarwood	11435
Community Mediation Services	Queens	Jackson Heights and East Elmhurst	11369, 11368
Fund for the City of NY/ Far Rockaway/Arverne Nonprofit Coalition	Queens	Rockaway and Broad Channel	11691, 11692, 11693, 11694
DSI INTERNATIONAL INC	Queens	Queens Village	11429
Commonpoint	Queens	Elmhurst and Corona	11368
Project Hospitality	Staten Island	St. George, Stapleton, Port Richmond, Tompkinsville and Mariner's Harbor	10310, 10303, 10301, 10304

VOTER LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



VOTER LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Voter Language Assistance (VLA) Program improves the civic and electoral participation of limited English proficient (LEP) New Yorkers by providing access to interpretation services at select poll sites citywide based on a publicly vetted methodology. The CEC provides services in the twelve following languages: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin), French, Haitian Creole, Italian, Korean, Polish, Russian, Urdu, and Yiddish. The language assistance provided through this program is supplemental to the language assistance already provided by the NYC Board of Elections.

Since 2019, the CEC has convened a Language Assistance Advisory Committee (LAAC). As of June 30, 2025, the LAAC comprised 19 members representing the language communities covered by the Voter Language Assistance Program. The LAAC continued to provide recommendations to the CEC on the implementation of the Program, development of outreach strategies tailored to each election, recruitment of interpreters, and vetting of outreach materials targeting LEP voters. The LAAC also assisted with vetting of translation materials for other programs within the Commission.

On December 6, 2024, CEC Commissioners passed an amendment to the methodology that allows the CEC to reallocate resources within or across program languages if utilization of services is zero or very low across three general elections at a particular poll site. On June 12, 2025, the Commissioners voted to update the Citizen of Voting Age with Limited English Proficiency (CVALEP) population with the United States Census Bureau 2019-2023 American Community (ACS) Survey 5-Year Data. Slight changes in the CVALEP numbers for certain languages had an insignificant impact on the percent share of services allocated to each language.

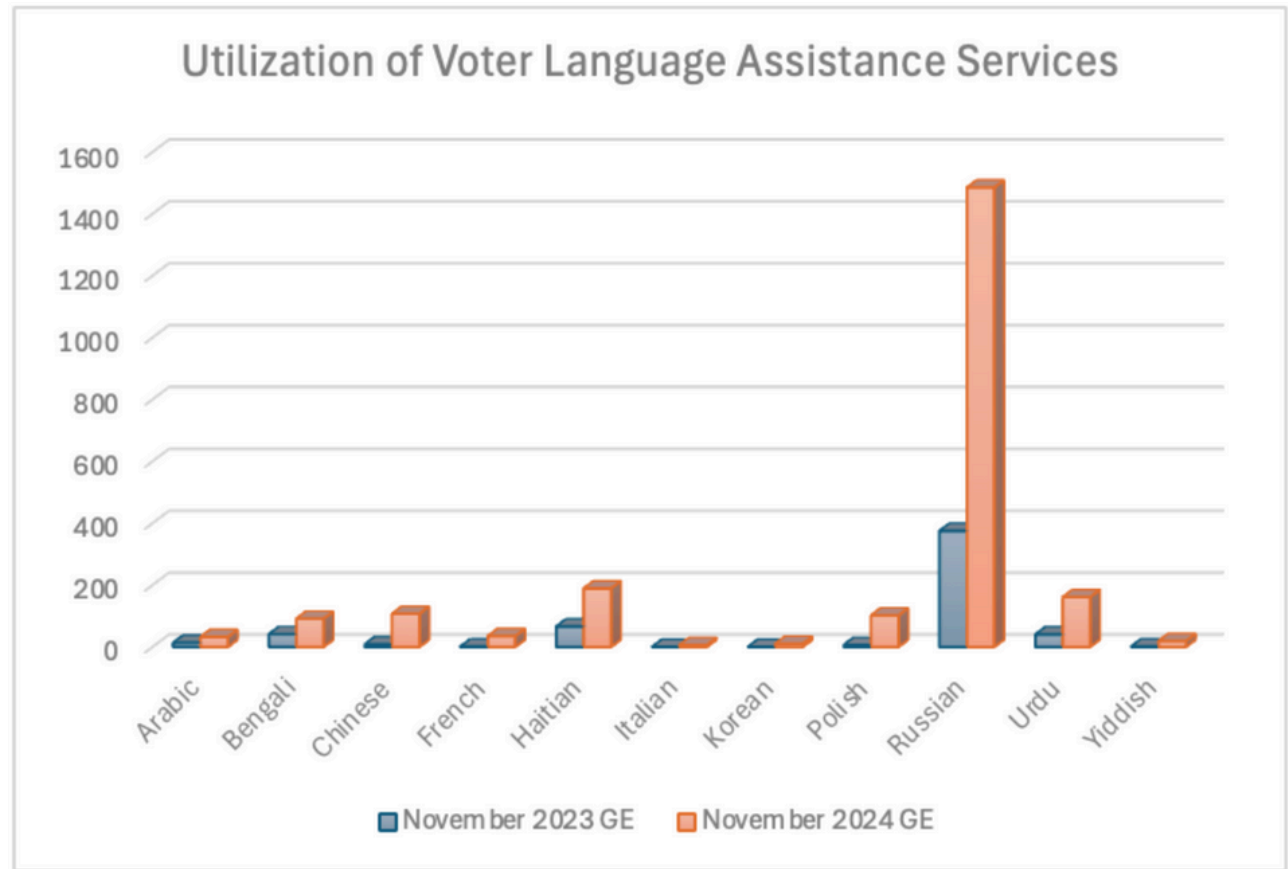
The Voter Language Assistance Program provided language assistance at select poll sites for two general elections and three special elections:

- November 2024 General Election
- March 2025 NYC Council District 44 Special Election
- April 2025 NYC Council District 51 Special Election
- May 2025 NY Senate District 22 Special Election
- June 2025 Primary Election

Using the approved methodology, poll sites were selected for services based on the number of limited English citizens of voting age residing in the election districts assigned to each poll site, as available in the American Community Survey. The number of poll sites served varied from one election to the next based on available resources.

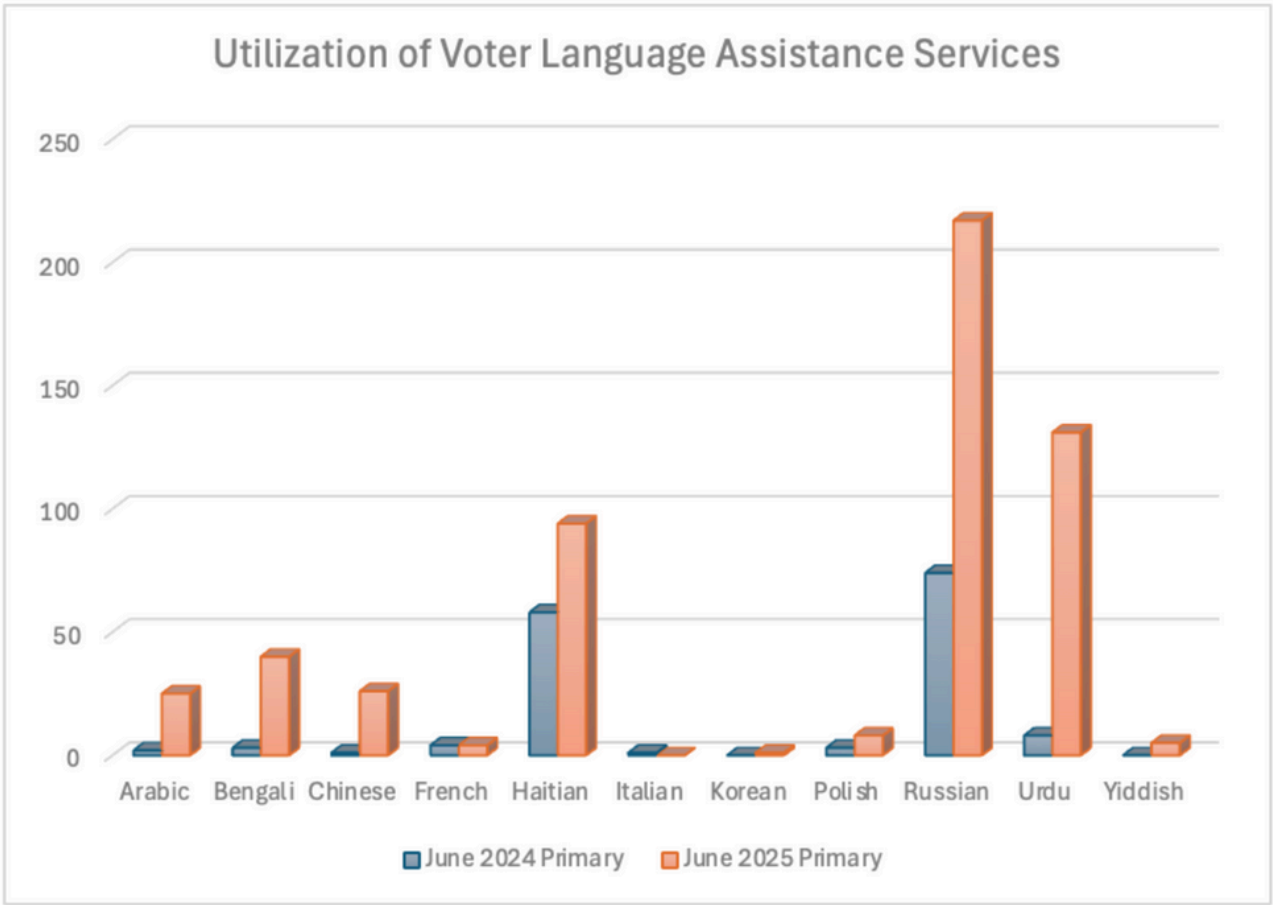
For the November 2024 General Election, the Commission provided language services at 22 unique Early Voting sites with a total of 40 language services and 86 unique Election Day poll sites with a total of 97 language services. A total of 2237 LEP voters received language assistance, while 47 received general assistance. Utilization rate for this election was the highest ever recorded by the VLA program in a single election. When compared to the November 2023 General Election, the November 2024 General Election utilization rate increased fourfold (551 voters received Language Assistance in the November 2023 General Election). The uptick in service utilization reflects heightened interest in the November 2024 Presidential Election compared to other election types. This supports previous observations that usage is closely tied to overall voter turnout, which varies based on the offices on the ballot. In the November 2024 General Election, New Yorkers voted for the U.S. President and U.S. Senate representatives. In contrast, the November 2023 General Election featured primarily City Council races — with competitive contests in only a few districts — along with judicial offices and ballot measures.

Figure 11. Voter Language Assistance Utilization November 2024 General Election vs November 2023 General Election



For the June Primary, the Commission served 26 unique Early Voting sites with a total of 46 language services and 90 unique Election Day sites with a total of 94 language services. A total of 551 voters received language assistance, more than three times the number of voters assisted in the June 2024 Primary Election (115 LEP voters were assisted in June 2024). The June 2025 Primaries included contests for various local offices, including Mayor, City Council, Borough President, Comptroller, and judicial roles. Most contests were decided through ranked choice voting. On the other hand, the June 2024 primaries determined the nominees for various key state and federal offices.

Figure 12. Utilization of Services in the June 2025 Primary Election vs the June 2024 Primary Election



The CEC continued to raise awareness of voter language services and voting rights — such as the right to bring an interpreter of choice to the polls — among language communities eligible for VLA services by employing a number of tactics, including canvassing and tabling at community events with the help of volunteers who speak VLA languages, digital outreach to community-based organizations, collaboration with other city agencies, and social media posts.

Paid ad campaigns that included placements in ethnic media outlets and hypertargeting of LEP voters eligible for VLA services were also implemented for both the November 2024 General Election and the June 2025 Primary Election.

LAAC members continued to conduct research on the language communities that they represent, helping the CEC identify important information that affects the implementation of the program throughout New York City. The LAAC members were also instrumental in vetting translated materials, recruiting volunteers, and identifying community events relevant to our outreach goals.



CEC piloted the first ever micro-grant program through a public Request for Information (RFI). A dozen community-based organizations conducted 13 in-language voter info sessions citywide, with the overwhelming majority of these workshops held in Brooklyn. Over 440 LEP voters received information in their language on Ranked Choice Voting, voting rights, including the right to bring an interpreter of their choice to the polls, and CEC's voter interpretation services. The VLA Program team provided the in-language content and trained facilitators.

In addition, partner networks and NYC agencies shared informational materials both on social media and at in-person events ahead of each election. The campaign featured a variety of newly developed resources, including a subtitled and narrated public service announcement (PSA), printed materials, and social media graphics — all available in Voter Language Assistance (VLA) languages and Spanish. These materials highlighted key voting dates, the right to bring an interpreter to the polls, CEC's interpretation services, and information about ranked choice voting.

To better serve the needs of limited English proficient voters in the future, more resources are needed in order to expand the level of services, as well as in-person and digital outreach for language communities covered by the Voter Language Assistance Program throughout the year. The Commission continues to receive queries from elected officials and members of the public about adding more languages and more poll sites, signaling that there is a growing awareness of the program and a need for interpreter assistance. The CEC continues to inform members of the public about their right to bring their own interpreter, since services are contingent on resources, and our methodology does not allow us to provide services in every language or at every poll site.

Language Access

Language access is a core component of the CEC's strategy to promote civic inclusion, with special emphasis on reaching limited English proficient (LEP) New Yorkers. As mandated by Local Law 30 (LL30), the CEC last updated its Language Access Implementation Plan in July 2024. This three-year plan outlines the CEC's Language Access Policy and details the processes for requesting and providing linguistic services, including the use of professional vendors for both translation and interpretation, and ensuring that outreach materials and public communications are available in multiple languages.

The CEC's approach to language access includes a framework for assessing needs (per LL30) and implementing services in accordance with these needs. This involves utilizing demographic data to determine language priorities, ensuring access to interpretation services at CEC public events, and partnering with community organizations and volunteers to facilitate outreach to language communities. The Voter Language Assistance Program and The People's Money participatory budgeting process both integrate language access components, providing translated materials and interpretation services to support universal participation. Additionally, the CEC provides training for staff and community boards to enhance awareness and effectiveness in delivering language services.

To continuously improve language access services, the CEC monitors the performance of its language access services, gathers feedback, and implements changes. This ongoing evaluation ensures that CEC's strategies remain responsive to the evolving needs of New York City's diverse population.

Table 4. Goals and Proposed Timeline for Language Access

Program Language Access Goal	Deadline
Develop CEC-wide translation style guide for all program lanes.	FY25/FY26
Create centralized request portal for language service requests	FY25
Expand training for new hires during the on-boarding process	FY25/FY26
Create of Language Access Methodology for The People's Money	FY25/26
Establish monthly Language Access office hours	FY25
Provide annual Language Access Training for Community Boards	Ongoing
Voter Language Assistance Program	
Contract vendor for Voter Language Assistance program for poll site interpretation	FY25

Language Access Achievements

CEC continued contracting with professional translation and interpretation vendors and a phone interpretation service to ensure high-quality language services.

Comprehensive Translation Services

1. All materials for The People's Money throughout the year were translated into Local Law 30 Languages: Arabic, Bengali, Simplified/Traditional Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Italian, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Urdu; we also provide Yiddish translated materials.
2. The Voter Language Assistance Program created ranked choice voting promotional materials, including videos, palm cards, and posters that were available in LL30 languages as well as Yiddish and Italian.

Interpretation Services

The CEC is committed to providing interpretation services, ensuring that programs are accessible to all New Yorkers regardless of the language spoken. Interpretation highlights for this year include:

1. Borough Assembly Members: 2 Spanish interpreters (Brooklyn and Staten Island)
2. All-Borough Assembly Meeting: 2 Arabic and 2 Spanish simultaneous interpreters with headsets

Community Board Support

The CEC continued to make over-the-phone interpretation available to all community boards through a paid contract with Language Line. We also provided support on best practices for finding freelance interpreters for various community boards.

COMMUNITY BOARDS



COMMUNITY BOARDS

Community Boards: Serving Members and Staff

Since the City Charter requires the CEC to provide training for community boards, we must work with city agencies, including the Department of City Planning, as well as the Borough Presidents, as much as possible. In the past year, we've expanded our training topics, and we updated our needs assessment survey. We also increased outreach to include individual board members and staff in an effort to include more people who can benefit from our resources. Daytime and evening sessions were included in order to give people more options for attending.

Innovations

At the beginning of 2025, we started experimenting with a different approach from the previous year. We began offering community board tailored trainings, in addition to the borough-wide options.

There was a continued interest in having parliamentary procedure workshops. Also, there was a call to build on the Conflict Resolution workshops held in the spring by offering De-escalation training. For the parliamentary procedure workshops, we decided to try something new: rather than hosting an online workshop for all board members and staff, in advance of the workshops we emailed every board offering them a unique session based on their needs. The first five boards to reply could pick a topic for an in-person workshop. We let them know we could only offer five due to budget constraints. Four boards ultimately took advantage of the offer.

For the De-escalation workshops, it was determined that they needed to be in-person as well, but limited to 25 people, and the workshops could be customized to the time and place of their choosing. We asked the Borough Presidents' offices for their preferences on who to invite, and they chose District Managers and Chairs since board leadership often handles conflict. This resulted in workshops for Brooklyn, Queens, and the Bronx. Finally, we had both trainers — one for parliamentary procedures and the other for de-escalation — meet with focus groups made up of board members and staff. They held a discussion to make sure the boards' needs were met during the workshops. These innovations proved very popular, allowing for custom workshops and serving boards in a way that serves them best.

Workshop Statistics

For 2024/2025, the CEC hosted 26 trainings on 11 topics with 8 partners for community boards. These trainings were determined by a previous Needs Assessment survey and an interest in serving boards on a more individual basis. Partners and topics are as follows:

- Brooklyn Parliamentarians – A review of parliamentary procedures in relation to the following topics: Effective Meetings, Importance of Committees, What's in Your ByLaws.
- Independent Budget Office – They provided an introduction to the city budget & review of the preliminary budget.
- Office for Economic Opportunity - These workshops introduced members to the Equity NYC map and how to use it.
- Commission on Human Rights – A workshop designed to teach people the rules and regulations against housing discrimination and what to do when confronted with it.
- Department of Buildings – Discussing the service the Department of Buildings provides and how to access and deal with issues related to your buildings or those in the neighborhood.
- Dept of Housing Preservation and Development – Intro to Home Ownership. The process for buying and the responsibilities of owning a home in NYC.
- Yuko Ichikawa – De-Escalation: How to handle a situation where someone is disrupting a meeting while ensuring your safety and theirs. Designed for Board Chairs and District Managers.
- Department of Records and Information Services - This provided an overview for Board staff on how to handle paper and digital records according to city regulations.

Attendees Workshops Response

One of our new workshops, De-escalation training, was very popular. These were personalized trainings for board staff and executive teams. This new approach brought us closer to the people we are trying to serve. Thirty-seven people attended the sessions, and thirteen answered the satisfaction survey. Ten of them said the session was of “very high quality,” and twelve said that the training helped them “connect to their colleagues.”

Select comments include: “Very well presented,” “Related to the participants,” and “This will be great for folks with anger issues.”

Why I Joined the Community Board Video

In the fall of 2024, the CEC produced a video that talks about why someone joins a community board. Real board members share their daily experiences in a mockumentary style. In an effort to increase awareness about what community boards do and also increase awareness for the open applications, we posted and promoted the video on all social platforms, uploaded to TaxiTV in the winter, and asked other city agencies and community boards to share.

See the video here: [Why I joined the Community Board](#)





“This was a million times better than other training programs I’ve attended in the past. Very human.”

Anonymous, Conflict Resolution Workshop

“This training caused me to think differently about how I share information with others. This was a real awakening! Thank you, facilitator.”

Anonymous, Disability Etiquette and Awareness Workshop



Looking Ahead

For FY 2026, we will approach the workshops offered in two distinct ways. First, given the term limits going into effect soon, we want to offer basic skills and information sessions in the fall. We will collaborate with the Borough Presidents’ offices to identify topics that they consider important to help give the new members the skills they need. In the spring, we will continue with the custom workshop approach. We will continue to hold meetings virtually and at different times of the day since that has proven popular. For the time being, workshops will continue to be in all boroughs. Doing post workshop surveys with board members and staff helps us better understand if we are meeting their needs and how we can improve the content to reflect the work of the members. These will be integrated into the ending of workshops to increase responses and ensure content is aligned with needs of board members.

Overall, we will continue to work with all boards to find ways for them to be involved in The People’s Money and to promote the VLA program and resources.

Partnerships

In FY26, we will continue working with the Future of Community Boards Working Group to develop resources that they see as vital to the growth and success of their boards. With the same goal in mind, we also want our partnership with the Borough Presidents to continue to grow. They can help us gain access to all their boards and have insights into what workshops are most needed.

Within the Administration, we will continue working with DCAS to help all board members gain access to NYCLeads. Having members be able to take the EEO trainings required of city employees has been a goal for the past three years, and we hope to achieve it this year.

DIGITAL EQUITY & INNOVATION

DIGITAL EQUITY AND INNOVATION

The CEC's Digital Equity Team (DET) was created in the Fall of 2024 to achieve several outcomes and enhance the Commission's digital resources. The DET works to engage New Yorkers in participatory democracy by leveraging technology and innovation in ways that are transparent, inclusive, accessible, and sustainable. The Team also helps build the technical capacity of the NYC Civic Engagement Commission to design, implement, and manage digital services, while implementing the best practices of service design. Additionally, the DET collaborates across program lanes to increase the technical capacity of the CEC staff to design and implement digital outreach as well as tech-enabled in-person outreach.

The Team — led by the Commission's Chief Information Officer, Oscar Romero — consists of staff specialized in technology, design, public affairs and communications, and data analysis. The DET's work is grounded in the following values:

- **Technology for Equity:**
 - Technology is not neutral and can therefore exacerbate inequality, which is why policy, oversight, and regulation are needed to ensure equity.
- **Building for the Future:**
 - City challenges are seen as opportunities for innovation, if testing is done responsibly and collaboratively with the public.
- **Digital Accessibility & Affordability:**
 - Ensure that digital accessibility does not reinforce the inequities of the physical world.
- **Collective agency & Community Self-determination:**
 - Communities closest to problems are best equipped to surface solutions, and all communities have a right to digital self-determination.

Human Centered Design

Human-Centered Design (HCD) is a mindset and methodology that puts people at the center of how we design services and programs. At the Civic Engagement Commission, we define it simply: the people who use our services or participate in our programs directly inform how those services and programs are designed. HCD ensures that we are not only building something that works, but something that works for all New Yorkers. It prioritizes the lived experiences of New Yorkers over purely technical or operational fixes and ensures that solutions are based on real qualitative and quantitative evidence, not just assumptions. It challenges us to meet the dynamic needs of New Yorkers while creating experiences that are accessible, meaningful, and rooted in trust. Dignity is at the core of CEC values, and human-centered methods help us put that into practice.

Our first step in embedding HCD was to create shared processes for evaluating how programs are delivered, using a systems thinking approach. To support this, we introduced team-wide debriefs after each program phase. A central tool is the Service Delivery Blueprint — a visual map of each step and touchpoint in a program. In debrief sessions, staff contribute reflections directly onto the blueprint. This input is synthesized and shared back with the team, creating space for collective learning — not just delivery.

We also use Participant Journey Maps, which focus on the user experience. Paired with service blueprints, these maps reveal how different processes interact, where service gaps exist, and how participants experience impact. This is especially important at the CEC, where multiple stakeholders engage in different ways, from public participants to community partners to CEC staff.

Participate Migration and Technological Developments

Another focus of the Digital Equity Team this year has been upgrading participate.nyc.gov — the website for its participatory budgeting process, The People’s Money — to a new version of Decidim, an open-source platform collaboratively built and maintained by a global community of volunteers. Decidim offers powerful tools for participatory democracy, including participatory budgeting processes like those run by the CEC.

The upgrade brings improved accessibility, privacy, and security standards to the platform. Its mobile-first, low-bandwidth-friendly design ensures greater usability for New Yorkers with limited digital access. Additionally, the site now better serves users with visual, cognitive, mobility, and auditory disabilities, thanks to inclusive visual design and code compliant with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

This transition also included a change in hosting: participate.nyc.gov is now hosted internally by the City of New York. Along with the addition of Technology Strategist Sonia Putzel to the team, this move gives the CEC greater control over the site’s development pipeline — enabling both internal improvements and more effective collaboration with external consultants. The result is a platform that can be more fully customized to meet the needs of New Yorkers, laying the groundwork for exciting new features and civic engagement opportunities.

The addition of the Technology Strategist has also deepened our collaboration with both the Decidim community and other governments using the platform. These partnerships have facilitated not just the sharing of technical expertise but also a meaningful exchange of real-world insights on participatory processes across cities and countries.

Data Analytics and Dashboards

Data analytics and dashboards played a central role in supporting the Commission's mission this year through data-driven insights and transparent reporting. We utilized tools such as Microsoft Excel, Power BI, Google Analytics, Looker, and ArcGIS. With these tools, the team was able to transform large, complex datasets into actionable insights for the Commission. Analyzing our vast datasets was beneficial because it allowed us to make data-driven decisions and identify trends that we otherwise could not have found with basic data tools.

This year, the team developed and maintained several dashboards and databases that displayed program participation and website engagement throughout the cycle of PB, as well as in other program lanes. These tools enabled staff to track real-time trends, assess performance metrics, and make evidence-based decisions. For example, this year we expanded on the capabilities of the interpretation of The People's Money's Voting phase ballot data, along with the voter survey, by enacting data models that connect the data in a unique way to see intersections between projects voted for and other demographic information. This helps to inform outreach efforts and provide insights on how we can better interact with such a diverse population, whether it be digitally or at one of our in-person events.

Strategic Communication and Marketing

In an effort to further engage New Yorkers with The People's Money, the Civic Engagement Commission developed a new campaign slogan for this year's participatory budgeting process titled: You Pick, We Pay - Decide How to Spend Part of the City Budget. This change in language was developed with the belief that we needed to speak more directly with New Yorkers and clearly communicate our call to action. CEC staff convened over several weeks to discuss potential options for the slogan and reflected on some of the information presented from partner interviews of the need to clearly communicate our ask to New Yorkers.

We continued the evolution of the Sunnies through our campaign, in collaboration with The People's Creative Institute, to have them not just located in the city but at iconic locations for each borough. Borough-specific graphics were created showcasing our new Sunnies throughout the five boroughs to further integrate their connection to everyday New Yorkers. Deciding our locations, we thought of what spaces residents would feel connected to. We asked our staff for their thoughts on locations and some of the options mentioned were the Unisphere at Flushing Meadows Park in Queens, Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, and the Staten Island Ferry.

Additionally, we wanted to expand our efforts in engaging New Yorkers to vote online in The People's Money. To advance these efforts, we developed new assets to integrate into our marketing strategy. This year we designed Sunny decals, which are 24x48 inch posters that can be posted onto walls, doors, storefronts, windows, and more. We shared these with partners, local businesses, schools, community centers, and agencies in an effort to engage folks even when staff may not be actively present. These decals had a call to action inviting residents to help decide how to spend part of the city's budget via scanning a QR code that would take them to our online platform, participate.nyc.gov.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Outreach and Community Engagement Team's main accomplishments this year included:

- Supporting The People's Money program to manage funded partnerships during Idea Generation
- Monitoring civic engagement workshops for the TRIE Neighborhood Initiative
- Canvassing outreach for community members who may benefit from the services of the Commission's Voter Language Assistance Program

Engagement Specialists were also responsible for recruiting and managing volunteers and Community Facilitators who assisted throughout The People's Money process.

Idea Generation Partnerships: Tier 4

During Idea Generation (IG), there were four funding tiers for community-based organizations and nonprofits to offer different levels of commitment and support to engage New Yorkers in submitting ideas through Idea Generation Workshops. The four tiers are as follows:

- Tier 1 - Citywide Demographic Partner provides the most funding (\$15,000) for organizations with 501(c)3 or M/WBE status to host 8-10 Workshops across at least three boroughs, focusing on a specific demographic group.
- Tier 2 - Borough Anchor offers less funding (\$9,000) for organizations with similar eligibility requirements to host 6 Workshops in a single borough. Both of these tiers require organizations to train their own facilitators and lead their own Workshops.
- Tier 3 - Language, Faith-Based, and Community Anchor offers \$4,500-\$7,500 to host 3-5 Workshops in a specific neighborhood, targeting faith or language communities.
- Tier 4 - Open Call Single Session Host provides a smaller grant of \$1,000 to host a single Workshop for a historically marginalized or underserved group, with the key difference being that the CEC provides the Facilitator, removing the training requirement for the organization.

Tier 4 partners were managed by the Outreach Team and were responsible for securing a venue for their IG Workshop, setting up the room, and recruiting 20 to 25 participants. A total of 85 Tier 4 hosts conducted 98 IG Workshops throughout the five boroughs. Although hosts were only required to conduct one IG Workshop, a few Tier 4 hosts conducted multiple IG Workshops with their respective communities. The Outreach Team was responsible for managing the matching of Facilitators to Workshops and ensuring follow-through from each partner and Facilitator.

This year, for the first time, CEC recruited a cohort of 27 Community Facilitators to deploy to the single-session Idea Generation Workshops. Each Community Facilitator was to travel to and from an IG Workshop within their borough, facilitate the entire Workshop, and fill out a report with transcriptions of all ideas generated from their session. The Community Facilitators received \$40 per hour and were paid in a single lump sum at the conclusion of Idea Generation.

Please see the table below for a breakdown of figures by borough:

Table 6. Number of Facilitators, Hosts, and Workshops by Borough

Manhattan	
# of Community Facilitators	5
# of Tier 4 Hosts	21
# of IG Workshops	29
The Bronx	
# of Community Facilitators	5
# of Tier 4 Hosts	26
# of IG Workshops	29
Brooklyn	
# of Community Facilitators	7
# of Tier 4 Hosts	18
# of IG Workshops	20

Queens	
# of Community Facilitators	7
# of Tier 4 Hosts	13
# of IG Workshops	13
Staten Island	
# of Community Facilitators	3
# of Tier 4 Hosts	7
# of IG Workshops	7

Community Facilitators

11 of the 27 Community Facilitators from Idea Generation returned in the Voting phase of The People’s Money to bolster voter outreach efforts. During the 6-week vote period (May 14 through June 25 of 2025), a Community Facilitator — as a trusted CEC representative — facilitated in-person vote sessions with both school and non-school partnerships. Community Facilitators were tasked with collecting votes, building relationships, and promoting The People’s Money in communities throughout New York City in order to increase voter participation and public awareness. The responsibilities and compensation varied depending on whether the vote session host was a school or a non-school partnership.

The 11 Community Facilitators conducted 29 vote sessions throughout the five boroughs, 15 of which were with school partners and 14 of which were with non-school partners. The Community Facilitators generated 1,363 votes (967 online and 396 through paper ballots) with the school partners and 335 votes with non-school partners for a total of 1,698 votes.

PB Vote Ambassadors

A Vote Ambassador is a volunteer who conducts in-person outreach — canvassing, tabling at events, etc. — in communities throughout New York City to increase voter participation in The People’s Money.

Eligibility & Requirements were as follows:

- Applicants who fulfill any or all of the criteria in the CEC’s [Vote Outreach Priority List](#), including the following:
 - Applicant resides or frequents neighborhoods listed in our geographic priority list;
 - Applicant is a member of or has a special relationship with priority population(s), and/or
 - Applicant has proficiency in the language spoken by a priority language community
- Prior volunteer experience in conducting in-person outreach:
 - Tabling
 - Canvassing

During the total 6-week vote period, there were 23 Vote Ambassadors: eight in Manhattan, two in Staten Island, three in the Bronx, five in Queens, and five in Brooklyn. Collectively, they performed outreach to and collected votes from 3,907 New Yorkers. The Team was also able to leverage many relationships that our Community Engagement Specialist for the Bronx and Manhattan, Catherine Gao, has built with the Asian community to recruit Ambassadors and collect votes.

Voter Language Assistance Volunteers

This year, the Team launched its inaugural volunteer cohort for the Voter Language Assistance program, with the goal of increasing knowledge of voting rights in communities that are limited English proficient (LEP) with the help of volunteers. The program kicked off with a bootcamp training, then volunteers went into communities under the guidance of the CEC’s Community Engagement Specialist for Brooklyn, Justin Usher, and canvassed, tabled, and participated in a social media day of action. The 15 volunteers came into contact with more than 600 New Yorkers in the borough. Languages covered included Arabic, Bangla, Haitian Creole, and Russian in accordance with the area’s most spoken languages.

Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony

The Spring volunteer season concluded with a volunteer appreciation ceremony held on June 26, 2025, at the Gibney: Agnes Varis Performing Arts Center. The event welcomed over 40 attendees, including volunteers, their families and friends, and CEC staff. Guests enjoyed food, shared reflections, and celebrated the Ambassadors' contributions. Each volunteer received a certificate of completion and a giveaway bag as a token of appreciation. CEC staff also delivered remarks and extended their gratitude for the volunteers' service.

In addition to these activities, the Outreach Team has proudly participated in and even held speaking roles in programs that supported at-risk youth, Juneteenth celebrations, Girl Scout events, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) events, the Mayor's Office of International Affairs Junior Ambassador completion ceremony, and dozens of Civics 101 workshops across the five boroughs. The Team is in high demand as it shows that the people of New York want to learn how to be civically empowered.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

NYU Gov Lab

To address its charter mandate to "increase civic trust," the Civic Engagement Commission (CEC) formed a key partnership with NYU's GovLab. This collaboration was critical in developing a practical, analytical framework for understanding and measuring civic trust, a concept that is not defined in the NYC Charter.

The partnership with GovLab enabled the CEC to create a framework that empowers city officials to move beyond abstract discussions of trust and focus on concrete, measurable indicators. This research resulted in the publication of "[Making Civic Trust Less Abstract: A Framework for Measuring Trust Within Cities](#)", which provides a structured approach for city agencies to:

- Assess: Conduct a baseline assessment of trust indicators.
- Analyze: Identify the causal drivers of trust or distrust.
- Act: Design and evaluate targeted interventions to improve how New Yorkers engage with city services.

This strategic partnership provides a new, evidence-based tool for city government to strengthen its relationship with New Yorkers. It has been successfully applied to key initiatives, including the citywide participatory budgeting program, The People's Money.

Data & Society

The Civic Engagement Commission (CEC) partnered with Data & Society to address the critical issue of public input in government technology procurement. As government technology increasingly impacts New Yorkers' daily lives and access to services, this partnership was established to ensure that technology decisions are democratic and shaped by the communities they are intended to serve.

The collaboration resulted in the publication of "[Gear Shift: Driving Change in Public Sector Technology through Community Input](#)," a primer that advocates for a fundamental shift in how government agencies approach technology purchasing. The report highlights that the most impactful time to seek community input is before a procurement process begins.

This partnership is a cornerstone of the CEC's mission to reconfigure power and ensure that technology decisions affecting public life are not just technical, but are driven by community needs and democratic input. The primer provides specific tactics and a framework for agencies to prioritize community engagement in their technology initiatives.

OECD Gov2Gov Challenge

The Civic Engagement Commission (CEC) was selected to participate in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Government-to-Government (Gov2Gov) Innovation Incubator. This incubator fosters cross-border collaboration among governments to solve shared innovation challenges. The CEC was chosen as a "solution provider" for its success in promoting equitable digital participation and engaging low-income and diverse communities across NYC in over 12 languages.

As part of the challenge, the CEC partnered with the Federal Government of Brazil and the Greater London Authority to address key questions on digital engagement, including: how to ensure meaningful participation and move beyond tokenistic engagement, in addition to how to overcome geographical and social barriers to reach marginalized communities.

This partnership has allowed the CEC to strengthen its relationships with the governments of Brazil and London, directly leading to improvements in the CEC's digital outreach and its participatory platform.

Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity - Service Design Studio

This year, the CEC collaborated with NYC Service Design Studio through their Designed by Community program (DxC) on a pilot in the Project Implementation phase for FY26. DxC is a community-led approach to designing local services. The Studio partners with one community-based organization and six community fellows — residents with deep roots in the neighborhood and shared lived experience with those the project serves — to create hyper-local solutions using community-centered service design. This year, CEC and DxC co-developed a solicitation to select this one community-based organization through The People's Money Project Implementation selection process. Next year, this community-based organization will be working with DxC and the community fellows to develop and implement community-centered service design for the selected participatory budgeting project.

Community-centered service design develops solutions to complex challenges by grounding them in the lived experiences of the people most affected. Rather than being designed for communities behind closed doors, services are co-designed with community members who would use those services, recognizing them as experts. This approach considers people, processes, communication, and technology as interdependent parts of a solution, and, crucially, it redistributes power to those who have historically been excluded from decision-making. This pilot will provide an additional \$80,000 in funding provided by DxC, and will serve to inform potential strategies to better integrate community design approaches into future implementation phases of The People's Money process.

The New School - Project Cycle Management Capacity Building Framework

To support the organizations that are implementing projects from each cycle of The People's Money, CEC works with the New School to deliver monitoring and evaluation workshops. The impact assessment framework includes an extensive Project Cycle Management curriculum that builds capacity of non-profits to systematically track and measure the impact of their work. These trainings in turn build the organizations' ability to apply for longer term funding beyond the expense funding CEC provides for one year.

The workshops were designed and facilitated by Mark Johnson, a Professor of Practice at The New School who specializes in monitoring and evaluation. Professor Johnson has worked in numerous development spaces such as emergency relief, refugee resettlement, and humanitarian aid for organizations like the International Rescue Committee, Center for International Rehabilitation, United Nations, and Human Rights Watch.

This year, each implementing organization was required to have at least one staff member attend a series of 12 workshops and then apply the PCM framework to the implementation of their project by producing specific assignments including stakeholder mapping, a logical framework, and pre and post surveys for the project.



"[The PCM workshops] were helpful in helping us feel supported and learning how to build out a project from start to finish, giving us a better understanding in how to measure and evaluate impact in the work we do."

The People's Money Project Implementation Partner



Ideas 42

In our first and second cycles of The People's Money, we received consistent feedback from community partners conducting Idea Generation Workshops that they struggled to engage young adults in the sessions. Surveys that we collected indicated the same. Even though, on the whole, young adult participants indicated that they found the Workshops empowering, there were still a significant percentage of young adults who were not actively participating.

These concerns led us to partner with Ideas42, a nonprofit that uses insights from behavioral science to build better systems and policies. Between March 2024 and January 2025, Ideas42 — working independently and in collaboration with the CEC — identified and diagnosed this concern, engineered and piloted a new Idea Generation Workshop format to address the problem, and analyzed the results to see how successful they were.

Ideas42 reviewed survey data and interviewed CEC staff, workshop facilitators, and young adults who had participated in Idea Generation in order to identify and diagnose the problem. They found that:

- Young adults struggle to generate ideas in accordance with the expectations of the program.
- Social norms discourage advocating for personal causes and voicing disagreement.
- The structure of the Idea Generation Workshops do not maximally engage young people.
- Young adults expect The People’s Money projects to have minimal impact due to skepticism about government effectiveness and limited awareness of past ideas that have become successful projects.

In the third cycle of The People’s Money, Ideas42 — in collaboration with the CEC and a citywide partner, the New York Public Interest Research Group — piloted five new Idea Generation Workshops with young adults at Bronx Community College, Queens College, Hunter College, Queensborough Community College, and Brooklyn College, with a revised format aimed at addressing these concerns. This pilot session format redesigned the session structure to focus on more engaging elements that encouraged creativity and brought more humor and fun into the Idea Generation process. It focused more on highlighting past successes from The People’s Money and prompted participants to think about the things they care about in preparation for creating a project idea, among other changes.

Anecdotal feedback from facilitators and young adults in attendance that had previously participated in Idea Generation indicated that participants were attentive and actively participating during newly created brainstorming games such as “Worst Idea in the World” and “My Future Utopia,” as well as during city budget trivia exercises. Participants found the sessions engaging, with 75% indicating that the session overall was either very or extremely engaging. However, participants still found it difficult to generate ideas, with 73% reporting that it was moderately difficult or harder to come up with ideas for The People’s Money. Overall, participants found the session went well, with 95% of participants stating that they are likely or very likely to recommend the session to friends. Over 70% stated that they agree or strongly agree that they have a say in how public funds are spent through The People’s Money.

We are incorporating the findings and recommendations from this pilot to inform the upcoming cycle's approach, as we believe sessions that increase participation for young adults are likely to increase active participation for all participants. Adjustments to this cycle's facilitator guides and structure include an updated format to facilitate individual and group idea brainstorming, a video highlighting an example of an implemented project from the previous cycle, and a redesigned Final Idea Worksheet.

People's Creative Institute

Our ongoing partnership with artist Yazmany Arboleda began in 2021 through the Department of Cultural Affairs Public Artist in Residence Program (PAIR). This year, the outgrowth of this partnership resulted in the creation of The People's Creative Institute (PCI), and a 501c3 status retroactive to 2023. Once again, PCI partnered closely with the CEC in 2024-2025 to animate democracy through art, dialogue, and collective imagination. Together, we collaboratively designed civic gatherings and public activations that placed culture at the center of participatory democracy.

A central contribution of Yazmany's work are his creative and playful assets, including 'Mama Sunny', an inflatable voting booth, Sunny branded graphics, two 12 ft tall dancing puppets, and The People's Bus. The People's Bus, the inaugural project of the PAIR/CEC collaboration, is a NYC Corrections vehicle transformed into a vibrant mobile community center. The People's Bus travels to all five NYC boroughs to promote CEC programming through the celebration of New Yorkers' resilience, create joyful interactions, foster trust, and create employment and community opportunities for artists in underserved communities. The interior ceiling of the bus is made of 8.8 million recycled beads representing NYC's 8.8 million residents.

Citywide Convenings

- The Creative Future of Direct Democracy — December 12, 2024 — Museum of Modern Art
 - Hosted at MoMA's Celeste Bartos Theater, this gathering convened artists, activists, civic leaders, and community members to chart a five-year arts and culture strategy for the CEC and TPCI. Participants explored opportunities for cultural institutions to strengthen the city's direct democracy initiatives, envisioned a long-term future for The People's Bus, and discussed potential public-private partnerships.
- 3D: Dreams, Dollars & Democracy — April 30, 2025 — The Public Theater
 - This one-day conference brought together community organizations, artists, youth leaders, civic practitioners, and scholars to imagine how local direct democracy can drive systemic change. Through participatory sessions across three tracks — "Ideas & Deliberation, Campaign & Coalition Building, and Sustainability & Capacity Building" — attendees shared strategies for strengthening community voice, coalition power, and project sustainability. Additional programming included a showcase of community-driven participatory budgeting projects, a mock assembly simulation, a multimedia exhibit of The People's Money, and a panel on "The Role of the Arts in Direct Democracy."

Borough-wide Engagements for The People's Money

To promote the voting phase of The People's Money, TPCI activated communities across all five boroughs through creative outreach and celebratory public art. With puppets, inflatable voting booths, and The People's Bus, we created joyful entry points for civic participation at cornerstone cultural events:

- Brooklyn: BAM DanceAfrica (May 24, 2025)
- Queens: Queens Pride Parade (June 1, 2025)
- Staten Island: Fatherhood & Family Fun Day (June 7, 2025)
- Manhattan: Museum Mile Festival (June 10, 2025)

These activations reached thousands of New Yorkers, transforming civic engagement into a shared cultural experience.



Expanding Creative Infrastructure

The People's Creative Institute's (TPCI) scope of work with the CEC also encompasses the creative infrastructure required to sustain the following programs:

- The People's Bus Maintenance & Design: Regular upkeep and creative enhancements (graphic wrap updates, solar panels, mosaic and costume preservation, puppetry elements, multimedia equipment, accessibility upgrades) ensure the bus remains a vibrant and functional mobile civic hub.
- Campaign Design & Branding: Creation and evolution of graphic assets, spatial design, environmental graphics, and creative materials that extend the reach of CEC campaigns. This includes refurbishing beloved civic icons such as the Sunnies and Mama Sunny, ensuring consistent visibility across the city.
- Strategic Planning: Convenings with CEC staff and community stakeholders to shape long-term civic engagement strategy, recruit and support participatory budgeting advisory council members, and cultivate partnerships across the arts, education, and funding sectors.
- Workshops & Facilitation: Hands-on community workshops designed to expand civic literacy, deepen cultural exchange, and support the goals of programs

Key Learnings and Next Steps

From these collaborations, several priorities have emerged:

- Expand Mobile Outreach: Build on the successes of The People's Bus and pop-up activations through digital storytelling and temporary installations.
- Deepen Partnerships: Strengthen collaborations with cultural institutions, schools, and funders to sustain programs that center community voice.
- Elevate Advocacy: Position arts and culture as essential tools for civic participation, particularly in underserved communities.
- Invest in Capacity: Secure funding for research, evaluation, and organizational growth to expand our geographic and demographic reach.

Experiential Learning Opportunities at the CEC

America On Tech

America on Tech (AoT) program model is a multi-layered pathway that creates opportunities for students to engage technology skills-building and professional opportunities from high school to college and/or career. AoT's work aims to achieve four goals for young people: development, mentoring, network and access. The Civic Engagement Commission partnered with America on Tech to position two young undergraduate students in paid fellowship to support the CEC's Digital Equity Team.

Ruhr Alliance Transatlantic Fellowship Program

Every year, top students from the University Alliance Ruhr (TU Dortmund University, Ruhr University Bochum, and University of Duisburg-Essen) are annually selected to acquire hands-on experience as Transatlantic Ruhr fellows. The fellows participate in a summer school on topics such as entrepreneurship, global markets and regional labor relations and a leadership skills seminar in New York City while gaining hands-on experience during their internships at companies and international organizations. The CEC partnered with the Ruhr Alliance and the German Chamber of Commerce to receive 2 fellows for 8 weeks to support CEC's programming.

Americorp

In partnership with NYCService, we successfully recruited and onboarded two Americorp members to support our work at the CEC. These members became valuable and integral members of the CEC team, providing much needed additional capacity to our data analytics efforts as well as the evaluation process of our implemented projects, including ongoing reporting on progress and supporting organizational deliverables for awarded and funded projects selected by New Yorkers as a result of the The People's Money process.

ROADMAP FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

ROADMAP FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

In the coming the fall season, the Civic Engagement Commission will proudly launch its fourth cycle of citywide participatory budgeting, provide language services to voters for the fifth general election for citywide positions, and, for the fifth year, offer trainings to community board members to strengthen their volunteerism. We will continue to strengthen partnerships with community organizations that support Participatory Budgeting, Project Implementation, neighborhood coalition building, civic engagement education, and in-language voter education. The outreach team will build civic awareness through civic engagement workshops, expanding connections with organizations and entities that are not currently funded, canvassing to raise awareness about elections and voter language services, and strengthening the pool of volunteers who support outreach and engagement for our programs.

We will continue to integrate and scale partnerships with community organizations. The TRIE Neighborhood Initiative currently includes 225 partners across the City who are members of coalitions in each of the 33 TRIE neighborhoods. We will continue to build collaboration between TRIE organizations and Borough Assemblies so that Assembly Members are informed about equity gaps and can draw on this knowledge as they deliberate on project ideas. In addition, TRIE coalitions will collaborate with The People's Money Implementation Partners as they conduct neighborhood needs assessments to tailor their project implementation and support marketing and outreach for programs and services. This will ensure local projects have a strong, sustained support network as they are being implemented. Additionally, Implementation Partners will support outreach for the Voting phase of The People's Money. Finally, we will look for avenues to continue sharing stories of projects implemented from last year's cycle to help New Yorkers understand their impact and the effects of participatory budgeting on services and programs.

The Commission's 2025 pilot funding for in-language ranked choice voter education workshops helped make inroads with voters who need language assistance to raise awareness of CEC services. We will continue this pilot for the November election, working with a minimum of one organization for the 11 languages we cover. Many of these organizations are already working with us on participatory budgeting, and we will continue to share translated assets to promote in-language voting in The People's Money.

The Commission is also a leader in building community capacity and organizational capacity for the long term, beyond one-time funding with expected deliverables. In partnership with The New School, we have integrated program logic models, monitoring, and evaluation into the Project Implementation strategy. We believe this training is essential for organizations to develop sustainable programs that can be funded beyond the initial one-year expense funding. We also developed a training for TRIE Partners on monitoring and evaluation. CEC will continue to work with The New School to deliver the Project Cycle Management curriculum to our Implementation Partners and now TRIE Partners, turning them into self-sufficient leaders who can effectively manage and evaluate their own programs.

Similarly, CEC will continue to explore and expand opportunities to cultivate civic leaders. With support from NYC Service, we will continue to host AmeriCorps members and integrate volunteers to expand our engagement and outreach. We will continue to work with trained and paid community facilitators who will run Idea Generation Workshops. We will also be launching a pilot Community Engagement Ambassador Academy, an 8-week workshop series for a small cohort of volunteers to deepen their understanding of civic engagement and their role as local leaders.

In the year ahead, the Commission will also continue to integrate data into our decisions to tailor programs and advance equity. From the thousands of ideas that people have submitted over three years, to exit surveys from Idea Generation Workshops, focus groups, and interviews with organizations about programs, CEC is accumulating a wealth of data that needs further analysis and that can be shared with the public. We will be exploring ways to share the Idea Generation data, including through hackathons and NYC Open Data Week. We will also analyze The People's Money voter survey data to better target our outreach, particularly given the impressive participation from youth (18% of participants aged 11-17) and the high number of ballots cast in languages other than English (31,559). Data collected from The People's Money Voting phase, as well as data collected by the Implementation Partners themselves, will continue to inform decisions about neighborhoods and populations to reach with The People's Money projects.

We will continue developing tailored approaches to different audiences. For example, insights from research done by Ideas42 and supported by the NYC Behavioral Design Team at the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity, will be integrated into Idea Generation Workshops to increase the engagement of New York City young adults (ages 18-24 years old). Similarly, we are leveraging data and research to deepen our own participatory design practices as well as extending that knowledge to our organizational partners. In a new pilot with NYC Opportunity's Service Design Studio, one of the Implementation Partners will experiment with participatory program design. Community board members will have greater access to workshops that are customized for their borough and community boards.

We will be working closely with People's Creative institute (PCI) and our Artist in Residence Yazmany Arboleda. His initial Artist in Residence project with us in 2020-2021, The People's Bus, and the Sunnies (created in 2022), continue to inspire and awe New Yorkers to become engaged with the Commission. PCI staff also support our event and meeting planning and execution, and we are very grateful for their partnership.

Because of changes in state law, the Board of Elections will increase coverage of Chinese in Staten Island and Bengali in Brooklyn. As a result, and to keep our services complimentary, CEC will no longer be covering those languages in those boroughs. We will also look more closely at voter utilization data to enhance efficiency and use of allocated resources for the November election.

We are excited to begin another busy season of engagement to strengthen grassroots engagement and bring even more New Yorkers into contact with civic engagement opportunities. The democratic trends of our nation call for all of us to deepen the government's commitment to listening to diverse voices and renewing participatory governance. The Civic Engagement Commission's work is becoming increasingly important in this trajectory of democracy rebuilding, and we are proud and hopeful that our work positions New York City as a leader in democratic innovation.

APPENDIX



The Bronx Projects:

1. Job Training for Young Adults and Adults in Trade Work
 - Implementing Organization: Change Food for Good
2. College Prep and Career Readiness for Youth
 - Implementing Organization: Kingsbridge Heights Community Center
3. Creative Mental Wellness Program for Families with Children
 - Implementing Organization: Bronx River Art Center (BRAC)
4. Slashing Bronx Hunger and Boosting Knowledge About Healthy Eating
 - Implementing Organization: The Institute for Family Health, Bronx Health REACH
5. Youth Activity and Enrichment Program with the Arts
 - Implementing Organization: Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club

Brooklyn Projects

6. Life Prep for High School Students 101
 - Implementing Organization: Neighbors in Action (NIA)
7. Language and Job Recertification Information for Immigrants
 - Implementing Organization: Raising Health Partners
8. Errands for Older Adults and People with Disabilities
 - Implementing Organization: Kings Bay Y
9. Path to Success: Positive Money Habits
 - Implementing Organization: Brownsville Community Justice Center
10. Home Repair Liaisons for Older Adults
 - Implementing Organization: Elite Learners Inc.

Manhattan Projects

11. Mothers' Matter
 - Implementing Organization: Multi Assistance Resource Center (MARC)
12. Restorative Justice Education for Youth
 - Implementing Organization: The Harlem Fund
13. Self-Defense Education for Women
 - Implementing Organization: Malikah
14. Resource Outreach for People with Disabilities
 - Implementing Organization: Center for the Independence of the Disabled NY (CIDNY)

Queens Projects

15. Healthy Meals Partnership

- Implementing Organization: Commonpoint

16. Youth Empowerment After-School Workshops

- Implementing Organization: Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation

17. Connection Resource Center

- Implementing Organization: Queens Community House

18. Bridging the Skills Gaps: Job Training for High Schoolers

- Implementing Organization: Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement

19. Connectivity Program for Seniors

- Implementing Organization: Community Mediation Services (CMS)

Staten Island Project

20. Building Success for High School Students

- Implementing Organization: United Activities Unlimited (UAU)

Appendix B: FY23-FY24 TRIE NEIGHBORHOOD ADMINISTRATORS

Organization		TRIE Neighborhood	Zip Codes Served
Bronx			
1	BronxDefenders	Mott Haven and Melrose	10451, 10454, 10455, 10456
2	BronxDefenders	Hunts Point and Longwood	10455, 10459, 10474
3	Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice	Soundview, Clason Point, Castle Hill, Unionport	10472, 10473
4	BronxWorks	Morrisania and Crotona	10456, 10459, 10460
5	Bridge Builders	Highbridge, Concourse and Mt Eden	10452
6	Fordham In Community Collective	Fordham Heights and University Heights	10453, 10458
7	Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation	Belmont and East Tremont	10457, 10458
8	Kingsbridge Heights Community Center	Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Bedford Park	10463
9	African International Collaborative Center	Williamsbridge, Wakefield, Edenwald, Norwood, Olinville	10466, 10467
Brooklyn			
10	Bridge Street Development Corporation	Bedford Stuyvesant	11205, 11206, 11216, 11221, 11233, 11238
11	El Puente De Williamsburg	Bushwick	11206, 11207, 11221, 11237
12	East New York Restoration LDC	East NY, Starrett City, Cypress Hills	11207, 11208, 11239
13	Women's Empowerment Coalition of NYC	Sunset Park	11220, 11232
14	Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island	Coney Island and Brighton Beach	11224, 11235
15	Council of Peoples Organization	Flatbush	11226
16	RiseBoro Community Partnership	Brownsville	11212, 11233
17	Brooklyn Level Up	East Flatbush	11203, 11226

18	Haitian American Caucus-US, Inc.	Canarsie	11236
Manhattan			
19	Good Old Lower East Side	Lower East Side and Chinatown	10002, 10003, 10009, 10013
20	Children's Arts & Sciences Workshops	Morningside and Hamilton Heights	10025, 10027, 10031, 10032
21	Harlem Mother Stop Another Violent End	Central Harlem	10026, 10027, 10030, 10037, 10039
22	Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service	East Harlem	10029, 10035
23	Children's Arts and Science Workshops	Washington Heights and Inwood	10032, 10033, 10034, 10040
Queens			
24	Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement	Queensbridge	11101
25	Commonpoint Queens	Corona	11368
26	Community Mediation Services	East Elmhurst	11368, 11369
27	Autism Society Habilitation Organization (ASHO)	Briarwood	11435
28	Unidad y Fe	Woodhaven	11421
29	Cityline Ozone Park Civilian Patrol	Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park	11419, 11420
30	Community Mediation Services	Jamaica, South Jamaica, Hollis, St. Albans, Springfield Gardens, Rochdale	11412, 11423, 11432, 11433, 11434, 11435, 11436
31	DSI International	Queens Village	11429
32	Far Rockaway Arverne Nonprofit Coalition (FRANC)	Rockaway and Broad Channel	11691, 11692, 11693, 11694
Staten Island			
33	Project Hospitality	St. George, Stapleton, Port Richmond, Tompkinsville	10303, 10304, 10310

Appendix C: LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Voter Language Assistance Program Utilization				
June 2025 General Election				
EARLY VOTING				
Bronx				
Language	Site Name	Site Address	Zipcode	Voters Served
Bengali	JHS 127 The Castle Hill School	1551 Castle Hill Avenue	10462	5
Chinese*	JHS 127 The Castle Hill School	1551 Castle Hill Avenue	10462	2
French	William H. Taft High School	240 East 172 Street	10457	0
Brooklyn				
Language	Site Name	Site Address	Zipcode	Voters Served
Russian	Boro Park Center Rehab	4915 10 Avenue	11219	0
Yiddish	Boro Park Center Rehab	4915 10 Avenue	11219	1
Bengali	Brooklyn College- West Quad	2946 Bedford Avenue	11210	1
Haitian	Brooklyn College- West Quad	2946 Bedford Avenue	11210	0
Russian	Brooklyn College- West Quad	2946 Bedford Avenue	11210	0
Urdu	Brooklyn College- West Quad	2946 Bedford Avenue	11210	4
Russian	Carey Gardens Community Ctr.	2315 Surf Avenue	11224	6
Arabic	Council Center for Senior Citizens	1001 Quentin Road	11223	0
Russian	Council Center for Senior Citizens	1001 Quentin Road	11223	2
Bengali	Ed R Murrow HS	1600 Avenue L	11230	0
Russian	Ed R Murrow HS	1600 Avenue L	11230	1
Haitian	Erasmus Hall HS	911 Flatbush Avenue	11226	0
Russian	FDR. High School	5800 20 AVENUE	11204	0
Yiddish	FDR. High School	5800 20 AVENUE	11204	0
Haitian	Flatbush YMCA	1401 Flatbush Avenue	11210	2
Arabic	Fort Hamilton HS	8301 Shore Road	11209	0
Russian	Fort Hamilton HS	8301 Shore Road	11209	0
Arabic	Harway Youth Center Gym.	2739 Harway Avenue	11214	0
Italian	Harway Youth Center Gym.	2739 Harway Avenue	11214	0
Russian	Harway Youth Center Gym.	2739 Harway Avenue	11214	3
Russian	Knights Of Baron De Kalb Inc	3000 Emmons Avenue	11235	1
Polish	McCarren Play Center	776 Lorimer Street	11222	0
Russian	Neshama Community Services	301 Seabreeze Avenue	11224	4
Urdu	Neshama Community Services	301 Seabreeze Avenue	11224	0
French	PS 68 JHS	956 East 82 Street	11236	0
Haitian	PS 68 JHS	956 East 82 Street	11236	7
Arabic	Sirico's Catering	8023 13 Avenue	11228	0
Italian	Sirico's Catering	8023 13 Avenue	11228	0
Russian	Sirico's Catering	8023 13 Avenue	11228	0
Italian	St. Dominic R.C. Church	2001 Bay Ridge Parkway	11204	0
Russian	St. Dominic R.C. Church	2001 Bay Ridge Parkway	11204	1
Yiddish	Taylor Wythe Comm Ctr	80 Clymer Street	11249	0
Russian	Yeshiva Lev Bais Yaakov	3574 Nostrand Avenue	11229	2

Queens				
Language	Site Name	Site Address	Zipcode	Voters Served
Urdu	Creedmoor Hospital	79-25 Winchester Boulevard	11427	0
Polish	Gottscheer Hall	657 Fairview Avenue	11385	0
Polish	Rego Center Community Room	61-00 97 Street	11374	1
Russian	Rego Center Community Room	61-00 97 Street	11374	3
French	Rochdale Village Community Center	169-65 137 Avenue	11434	0
Haitian	Rochdale Village Community Center	169-65 137 Avenue	11434	3
Staten Island				
Language	Site Name	Site Address	Zipcode	Voters Served
Chinese	Holy Rosary Par. Ctr	44 Bionia Avenue	10305	2
Russian	Holy Rosary Par. Ctr	44 Bionia Avenue	10305	0
Chinese	Our Lady of Pity	1616 Richmond Avenue	10314	0
Korean	Our Lady of Pity	1616 Richmond Avenue	10314	0
ELECTION DAY				
Bronx				
Language	Site Name	Site Address	Zipcode	Voters Served
French	Bronx County Supreme Court House	851 Grand Concourse	10451	0
French	Hostos Community College	120 East 149 Street	10451	0
French	IS 232	1700 Macombs Road	10453	0
Bengali	Parkchester South Condominium	2059 McGraw Avenue	10462	0
Bengali	PS 119	1075 Pugsley Avenue	10472	11
Bengali	PS 47 John Randolph	1794 East 172 Street	10472	6
French	PS 64 Pura Belpre	1425 Walton Avenue	10452	0
French	William H. Taft High School	240 East 172 Street	10457	4
Brooklyn				
Language	Site Name	Site Address	Zipcode	Voters Served
Russian	Bay Academy-IS 98	1401 Emmons Avenue	11235	2
Bengali	Bhavaanee Maa Mandir, Inc.	239 Mckinley Avenue	11208	2
Yiddish	Boro Park YM-YWHA	4912 14 Avenue	11219	3
Haitian	Brooklyn College Roosevelt Hall	2900 Bedford Avenue	11210	1
Arabic	Christ Church Bay Ridge	7301 Ridge Boulevard	11209	0
Yiddish	Community Board 12	5910 13th Avenue	11219	0
Russian	Ed R Murrow HS	1600 Avenue L	11230	1
Haitian	Flatbush YMCA	1401 Flatbush Avenue	11210	17
Haitian	IS 395/PS 109	1001 East 45 Street	11203	2
Yiddish	IS 71 -Juan Morel Campos	215 Heyward Street	11206	0
Polish	JHS 126	424 Leonard Street	11222	0
Russian	Kings Bay Public Library	3650 Nostrand Avenue	11229	0
Russian	Marlboro Memorial Post	300 Avenue X	11223	5
Polish	McGuinness Sr Ctr	715 Leonard Street	11222	3
Italian	Muslim American Society Youth Center	1933 Bath Avenue	11214	0
Russian	Neshama Community Services	301 Seabreeze Avenue	11224	12
Russian	PS 101	2360 Benson Avenue	11214	0
Haitian	PS 115	1500 East 92nd Street	11236	9
Russian	PS 128	2075 84th Street	11214	7

Yiddish	PS 131	4305 Ft Hamilton Parkway	11219	1
Haitian	PS 152/PS 315	725 East 23 Street	11210	6
Yiddish	PS 157	850 Kent Avenue	11205	0
Arabic	PS 170	619 72nd Street	11209	5
Russian	PS 177	346 Avenue P	11204	0
Bengali	PS 179	202 Avenue C	11218	6
Arabic	PS 185	8601 Ridge Boulevard	11209	0
Italian	PS 186	7601 19th Avenue	11214	0
Russian	PS 188	3314 Neptune Avenue	11224	10
Yiddish	PS 192	4715 18 Avenue	11204	0
Russian	PS 195	131 Irwin Street	11235	0
Russian	PS 197	1599 East 22 Street	11210	9
Russian	PS 206	2200 Gravesend Neck Road	11229	5
Russian	PS 209	2609 East 7th Street	11235	4
Urdu	PS 209	2609 East 7th Street	11235	0
Russian	PS 216	350 Avenue X	11223	8
Urdu	PS 217	1100 Newkirk Avenue	11230	81
Yiddish	PS 223 IS	4200 16th Avenue	11204	0
Russian	PS 226	6006 23rd Avenue	11204	0
Russian	PS 234 IS	1875 East 17 Street	11229	6
Russian	PS 238	1633 East 8th Street	11223	3
Russian	PS 254	1801 Avenue Y	11235	1
Arabic	PS 264	371 89th Street	11209	6
Haitian	PS 269	1957 Nostrand Avenue	11210	26
Russian	PS 286	2525 Haring Street	11235	13
Russian	PS 329	2929 West 30th Street	11224	4
Arabic	PS 331	7002 4th Avenue	11209	8
Korean	PS 346	1400 Pennsylvania Avenue	11239	1
Russian	PS 52	2675 East 29th Street	11235	4
Haitian	PS 6	43 Snyder Avenue	11226	15
Haitian	PS 68 JHS	956 East 82 Street	11236	3
Italian	PS 682	50 Avenue P	11204	0
Russian	PS 682	50 Avenue P	11204	0
Russian	PS 90	2840 West 12th Street	11224	10
Yiddish	PS/IS 180	5601 16th Avenue	11204	0
Russian	Seacoast Towers	1311 Brightwater Avenue	11235	6
Russian	Shorefront YM-YWHA	3300 Coney Island Avenue	11235	1
Urdu	Shorefront YM-YWHA	3300 Coney Island Avenue	11235	45
Russian	St. Brendan Senior Apartments L.P.	1215 Avenue O	11230	5
Russian	St. Edmund Preparatory HS	2474 Ocean Avenue	11229	11
Russian	St. Marks School	2602 East 19th Street	11235	8
Arabic	Telecommunications HS	350 67th Street	11220	2
Bengali	Transit Tech HS	1 Wells Street	11208	9
Russian	Trump Village Bldg 3A	444 Neptune Avenue	11224	3
Russian	Warbasse Bldg 4	2770 West 5th Street	11224	31
Italian	Water View Tower	2630 Cropsey Avenue	11214	0
Russian	Water View Tower	2630 Cropsey Avenue	11214	1
Russian	William E. Grady CTE High School	25 Brighton 4th Road	11235	5

Queens

Language	Site Name	Site Address	Zipcode	Voters Served
Polish	Holy Cross RC Church	61-21 56 Road	11378	2
Polish	IS 93-Ridgewood	66-56 Forest Avenue	11385	1
Russian	JHS 157-Stephen A Halsey	63-55 102 Street	11374	10
Italian	JHS 226-Virgil I. Grissom	121-10 Rockaway Boulevard	11420	0
Urdu	PS 115-Glen Oaks	80-51 261 Street	11004	0
Arabic	PS 122-Mamie Fay	21-21 Ditmars Boulevard	11105	4
Polish	PS 153 - Maspeth Elementary School	60-02 60 Lane	11378	1
Russian	PS 175-Lynn Gross Discovery School	64-35 102 Street	11374	7
Urdu	PS 191-Mayflower	85-15 258 Street	11001	1
Russian	PS 206-Horace Harding School	61-02 98 Street	11374	2
Italian	PS 20-John Bowne	142-30 Barclay Avenue	11355	0
Haitian	PS 34-John Harvard	104-12 Springfield Boulevard	11429	3
Polish	PS 49-Dorothy Bonawit Kole	79-15 Penelope Avenue	11379	0

Staten Island

Language	Site Name	Site Address	Zipcode	Voters Served
Chinese	IS 2 George L. Egbert	333 Midland Avenue	10306	1
Chinese	PS 13 M.L. Lindemeyer	191 Vermont Avenue	10305	13
Chinese	PS 52 John C. Thompson	450 Buel Avenue	10305	1
Chinese	PS 57 Hubert H. Humphrey	140 Palma Drive	10304	4
Korean	PS 58 Space Shuttle Columbia School	77 Marsh Avenue	10314	0
Chinese	PS/IS 48 William G. Wilcox School	1050 Targee Street	10304	3

Note: Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)

Appendix D: VOTER LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Program Eligible Language	CVALEP Population [1]	Percentage Share
Arabic	17,576	7.8%
Bengali	13,834	6.1%
Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin)	12,908	5.7%
French	10,772	4.8%
Haitian Creole	21,518	9.5%
Italian	14,698	6.5%
Korean	4,858	2.2%
Polish	13,774	6.1%
Russian	84,308	37.3%
Urdu	11,679	5.2%
Yiddish	20,317	9.0%

Appendix E: COMMUNITY BOARDS ATTENDANCE - BOROUGH BREAKDOWN

Partner	Workshop Topic	Date	Number of Participants					
			BX	BK	MN	QN	SI	Total
Brooklyn Parliamentarians	Effective Meetings	10/22/2024	12	12	9	12	3	48
	Effective Meetings	12/5/2024	4	4	5	5	2	20
	Importance of Committees	10/24/2025	7	9	3	4	2	25
	Importance of Committees	12/3/2024						26*
	Effective Meetings	3/20/2025	0	0	12	0	0	12
	Effective Meetings	4/2/2025	42	0	0	0	0	42
	Effective Meetings	5/15/2025	0	0	43	0	0	43
	What's in Your By-Laws	5/28/2025	42	0	0	0	0	42
Office for Economic Opportunity	Introduction to Equity NYC Mapping	11/13/2024	4	5	5	3	0	17
		11/19/2024	2	7	2	0	3	14
		11/21/2024						8*
Independent Budget Office	Intro to the City Budget	10/28/2024	7	5	3	6	0	21
		10/29/2024	4	3	2	1	0	10
		11/4/2025	7	5	10	4	2	28

***Note:** For both the Brooklyn Parliamentarians' "Importance of Committees" workshop on 12/3/2024 and the Office for Economic Opportunity's "Introduction to Equity NYC Mapping" workshop on 11/21/2024, only the total number of participants was reported. The breakdowns of participants by borough are accordingly left blank for those two workshops.

Partner	Workshop Topic	Date	Number of Participants					
			BX	BK	MN	QN	SI	Total
Commission on Human Rights	Housing Discrimination	12/22/2024	2	2	1	0	0	5
		12/29/2025	3	7	3	0	0	13
Department of Housing Preservation and Development	Tenants: Know Your Rights	1/23/2025	9	1	2	0	0	12
		1/30/2025	9	7	4	2	0	22
	Energy Efficiency and Solar Power for Homeowners	1/15/2025	5	8	2	2	1	18
		1/28/2025	4	6	3	2	0	15
Department of Buildings	Intro to Department of Buildings	1/13/2025	2	5	7	2	2	18
Yuko Uchikawa	De-Escalation for Board Leadership	3/31/2025	0	12	0	0	0	12
		5/5/2025	0	0	0	17	0	17
		6/5/2025	18	0	0	0	0	18
Department of Records and Information Services	Record Keeping Protocols for Community Board Staff	12/9/2025	5	5	1	4	2	17
		1/10/2025	5	14	7	4	0	30
TOTAL			199	123	134	78	19	553