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NYC Civic Engagement

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»» Good morning everyone now calling to order, welcome everyone in the audience with us in the audience and here with us on line, thank you for taking the time to be with us and of course all the Commissioners.

And thank you for helping us meet quorum, also thank you to our team members, Abby, and all of the staff, who when have been working on gathering information for this presentation.

I'll be starting by taking attendance to make sure we have a quorum here, also part of the attendance-taking I want to announce that Commissioner resigned effective July 10 due to his increased workload and, strains on his time I just want to thank more Morad for his service and entire city of New York for his tireless advocacy for New Yorkers especially during this very challenging time. We're working with the Mayors office of appointments to find a new Commissioner.

To be able to fill that vacancy. We were also notified the speaker appointed a new counsel to serve her name is Samirah Zeerah she was not able to attend in-person today however she will join virtually we'll ask her to say a few words of introduction after we take

attendance.

I'm going to call attendance now, Giovanni Barcenés.

»» Bar convenient. Holly Bonner, Alie are you online. Amy Breedlove.

Amy Breedlove, are you online?

»» She's on they are just figuring out.

»» Amy's there, okay.

»» Yeah.

» Aicha Cisse.

Commissioner Natalie DeVito.

»» Present.

»» Commissioner DeNora Getachew.

»» Present.

»» Commissioner Donna Veronica Gill?

»» Present.

»» Commissioner Edwin Maxwell.

»» Present.

Commissioner Joshua Ocampo? —

»» Here.

»» Oh, you're here, okay great.

»» Commissioner Frank Perez.

»» Here.

»» Commissioner Mitchel Wu.

»» Present.

»» Commissioner Samirah Zeerah.

She's not on line yet. For the record for anyone who is new my name is Dr. Sarah Sayeed I'm one of the Commissioners appointed to the Civic Engagement Commission I'm also the Chair and executive director. And for anyone again who is new we're live streaming this meeting, as part of the open meeting guidelines.

And want to thank our partners GBTC sight and sound for supporting the video and our captionist for supporting the captions.

And I always like to just go over basics of open meeting guidelines because we are doing a public meeting the way that we run this public meeting again for people who don't know is subject to the opening meeting guidelines for the state.

And open meeting guidelines essentially cover the ways in which the public gets informed about how govern. Is operating and the decisions that it is making. And we all know that there's so many different levels of Government and there are a lot of decision making processes

and programs that are constantly operative and the public isn't very well-informed about all of the different things that are happening. So, open meeting guidelines are center framework; is a framework to help promote transparency and Government and help raise awareness about how Government operates by creating meetings like this that people can participate in and or observe through video recording afterwards.

And essentially, there's public meetings there is also public hearings. Public meetings like this are a space where we just conduct the business of the office in a way that is public, where people can observe. And public hearings actually allow for the public to offer testimony on a given decision that we're trying to make. Our public meetings are set up a — integrated public comment period at the end. It will be open period where people can sign up to comment if they want. We're really not required to do that in a public meeting, but West Virginia that option because as Civic Engagement Commission we want to make sure we're continue to go provide that kind of space.

Hi, welcome.

»» Hi »» this is * a civic engagement meeting you're welcome to join us.

»» Not quite — why I'm here but they told me come here.

»» Sarah Sayeed: Abby maybe you can help —

»» So, on the program our policy and issue that we cover as a Civic

Engagement Commission, it is civic engagement and we know that for a Government to create solutions, meaningful solutions to policies and program challenges at community space, we must work with communities directly and hear about their lived experiences in coming up with solutions and community engagement should be prioritized by Government for any challenge or issue that they are trying to address and our issue at large is community engagement itself. So, part of what we do in this meeting, these meetings is to share information about our programs how we're doing in engagement and bringing public into decisions as appropriate where we're trying to decide direction of our programs and the Commissioners as members of the public are here to also help us make those decisions.

So, that's a brief summary of what we're doing here and for members of the public who are here with us we welcome you to sign up and join our mailing list. You can do so online at NYC dot govern forward slash civic.

Engagement you can find the tab get involved and sign up for news letter list you'll be able to keep in touch with what we're doing and hopefully, bring people out to these public meetings as well.

So, in order to run the public meetings with do have some instructions about technology again this is, this will not be new for people who have heard it before, but for those who haven't —

Just good to know that during the meeting we ask for in-person participants to keep your microphone muted and for online

participants also mute your mic to minimize background noise.

And please feel free to unmute and let us know when you would like to offer some feedback or questions related to the content of what we're presenting.

Just a note since I'm facing away from the screen I cannot see if you're raising your hand. So o I well come to you just unmute and speak up if you would like to say something.

Also the team sometimes just text me, which is fine as well.

But just wanted to mention that.

And we will on the public comment period if you want to make a comment you can let Abby know if you're here in person you want to make a comment you can do that, also if you're online you, you can text or email you can email, — civic engagement at NYC dot gov or text.

We'll call on you in the order that we received your request.

You may sign up until 12:00 to make a comment.

»» Okay?

»» And if you're here, — I don't think members of the press are here so I will skip that, just a quick overview of agenda we're not voting on any policy or program this meeting. This meeting will largely be a summary of our programs and we will give time for Q&A after each summary.

And we will first approve the minutes from the last meeting, then

we have want to give see if Samirah Zeerah is on, we also have introduction of new team member then we'll get right into the program.

So, Samirah Zeerah, are you on — —the virtual meeting to introduce yourself?

»» Sarah Sayeed: Okay —

Okay. Samirah Zeerah is not yet available so we'll keep the meeting going here and the next person I'm super excited to introduce is our very own Chief of Staff Joy Ray if you can come up — wait, last mic doesn't have a mic, maybe just — next to it (LAUGHTER).

»» And I want to just read a brief bio of Joy, joy is dedicated public servant New Yorker spent her career working in felon profits in govern city Government over the past, five more years she has supported operations, planning and special projects in organizations that have been working at intersection democracy and digital organizing leadership role that's stand up America and public. Joy spent nearly a decade working in city govern in New York. She was an assistant director out reach talent development Mayors office of appointments with where she hoped to grow more diverse talent pipeline for the city and create professional develop program for city employees while serving as special assistant at the Manhattan district attorneys office she helped to develop one of the country's first implicit bias

training programs for.

»» Barnard College and masters public administration from Wagner — NYU she's a proud daughter active member of her communicate knit Brooklyn where she resides with her partner in a very eccentric hub, Thank you Joy.

»» (APPLAUSE) .

»» There's a lot to go through so thank you for that welcome and I'll keep it brief this is incredible for commissioners I'm very excited to have a chance to work with you so happy to join this incredible team and to do this work which is some of the most important work I imagine, improving my skills talent and time to, so just really excited to be here and thank you!

»» Welcome.

»» (APPLAUSE) .

Paragraph photograph

»» Joy started with us on July 6 and we're definitely looking forward to her leadership to strengthen our internal frameworks for human resource management, budgeting operations and to help really build stronger team communication and collaboration across all of the different teams that we have within the CEC.

Our first item on the agenda is just to approve minutes from our last meeting you should have copies of the minutes in your — should have received them online and in your folders if we can just turn

to the minutes and ask if someone would like to make a motion to approve the minutes.

»» Motion to approve the minutes —

»» Sarah Sayeed: And for anyone who is online if you're participating virtually, and you have the ability to for your participation to count towards quorum because you are on line due to a disability or extraordinary circumstance you can unmute your microphone so we can hear your vote.

All in favor of approving the minutes please say aye.

»» Aye.

»» Any opposed please say nay.

»» Are there any abstentions on the minutes?

Great. Motion to AA prove the minutes passes photograph paragraph, with a unanimous vote thank you * now we're going to turn to program updates starting with participatory budgeting then moving into voter language assistance and community board trainings.

As I said you'll have a chance to ask questions for each segment of the presentation. So our first segment is; update on the project that's are being implemented as part of last year's TV cycle, cycle 3 I will can Lauren to come up say a few words about how that is going then — from the last fellows which Lauren will also introduce so Lauren the floor is yours.

»» Lauren: Hi everyone my name is Lauren here on behalf of project and implementation team.

»» Your Mike isn't working.

»» How about now.

»» Lauren Handy, on — I'm just going get into some updates.

So, just to give a brief overview right now in terms much where we're at the projects are in full swing they'll be winding up coming here in the fall for now they are still going strong. I've included here we have some get tricks overviews what's going on to total it out so far partners ran 220 workshops held 51 community events provided resources to 1,500 and counting people and projects are being implemented in more than ten languages currently in total, we served just about five thousand New Yorkers so far which is super exciting on the next slide — we have a breakdown of those numbers, would be curious to see how it plays out by borough in terms of who served number of workshops and people who received resources or one-on-one consultations you can find that here.

And then, to give a little personal insight into some of the impact of the projects are having here we have some testimonials that I'll read and some pictures from a few different projects.

So, one participant shared was in young parent support classes project. I didn't know where to start looking for a job but with your help I was able to find work in a school now I can support my family and I feel more confident.

And another participant from the learn to grow — food project which has been implemented with our — populations down in east side China

town shared since I started taking this class I've been cooking every day and been feeding my neighbor this means a lot because no one has taken the time to come to our community to talk to us about nutrition.

Then, you can see here pictures of our other projects.

Then a very exciting announcement we have something we've been working on this summer with our media team is building a video for each project. You might recall those Commissioners who were here last year with we did the video series as well. The videos aren't released yet but coming up next Commissioner's meeting I hope they'll be ready and we'll share with you whenever they are released. They'll lead to our playlist on YouTube page and sharing out with social media we hope you'll help us amplify videos great way for us to communicate back to New Yorkers so they can follow the thread of each project and see what's happening in their borough and get some real-time updates on the projects and it's a great asset as well for the partner that's we work with it is really rare that they, they get to have a professionally produced video which allows them also to showcase the impact of their work it helps them sustainably find other sources of funding great school for them to use for that. With that I'm going to turn it over to a partner, the services — design studio for the new commission herbs present one of our projects is, out of 20 fellowship pilot we're doing with service design studio.

It's called design by community. So together we pointed the people's design by community I'm going to turn over to the interns from their

office. Thank you guys so much.

»» (APPLAUSE) .

»» Also remind people — we would like to hear the update since what has happened since that time.

»» Yes.

»» Thank you.

»» The floor is yours.

»» Hello —

»».

»» Hello everyone my name is — Thomas I'm a fellow at the design stud yes.

»» I'm also from the design studio —

»» Next slide please.

As mentioned before, our peers Richard D and services design studio, talk to you a little bit what's going on with people's money and USC.

Next slide.

We can keep going.

So, once again this is between people's money and design by community.

So pilot to inform how future person's money projects might incorporate community led planning for implementation at scale.

And just very quickly, partners and we hire 6 community get owe that's are going to lead research and co-design a program that will then exist within that community.

As you know the traditional processes there's an idea generation, there's assembly there's voting.

But then GYC jumps in with extra funding and support with the six fellows we hire to then design a program.

Just to give you overview of the foundation we're working with. So we're working to develop a youth entrepreneurship program within Harlem within Neighborhoods of Morningside Heights Hamilton heights and central Harlem this is the bones we were going to build upon as far as to understand how we can reach the youth and teach them how to start a business.

They can learn financial literacy and financial skills they can create a business of plan to bring their ideas to life.

And these are our fellows, our mazing fellows we work with this cohort.

And I'm going to pass off to — palmer.

»» What the implementation actually is I wanted to show you all what the last year has looked like in practice. We began by setting the stage and building some context actual before jumping into the research fellows did secondary research. They reflected on their lived experiences and what though knew about the community and collectively built this question.

So the question is how might we energize how we move to expand the entrepreneur mindset by building relationships, cross collaboration and — the Harlem community.

This question — on the foundation of all the resource that's came after that, when the fellows wanted to decide who they wanted to speak through. They decided to talk to people who would be directly impacted by this project. And so, Harlem youth, 18 to 25 and are legal entrepreneurs already navigating a business in Harlem, which key roots —

Before going into the community Harlem design this had using they collectively dropped 85 yes questions for the community to better understand what entrepreneurs and youth say as ideas aspirations or as motivators. Not only that but to build on Harlem's existing legacy.

Around so when they went out into the community with these 85 plus questions the fellows used work shops and interviews as research methods to talk to the community and in all they talked to 380 Harlem community members engaged 5 Harlem-based organizations and compensated 3, 30 40 dollars to the community for their input.

After getting all of this data from the community, which was a lot, the fellows came back and analyzed this data made sense of it by building key insights and used those insights to develop recommendations for the program that — Harlem would finally implement.

So as an example we learned that the youth wanted autonomy on their

career and lives as opposed to just working for somebody else even if that meant not earning them a million dollars so that really helped us expand our definition of success and build a program that has multiple entrepreneur pathways and not just catered to one. I'm going to pass it back on to Janelle for her to show what we used all those insights for.

»» Thank you so much, Anna, where we are now.

Already. With all of those insights foundation that's came out of the surveys and workshops, the fellows came up with an implementation plan. So it's a plan detailed plan describing how, how can provide community input and insights how they input the program.

With this plan includes recommendations around values legibility who we want to serve accessibility considerations how the program is going to be delivered, various learning goals support system for the participants within the program. How we're going to promote it which what is the out REACH looking like how we plan to sustain the program for the long haul.

This is the existing program that Cambio the it expands ,6 to 12 months, they are unpaid throughout the program there are opportunities for mentorship and limited real world experience.

So, followed by all the insights recommendations that the fellows offered us we now have an expanded entrepreneurship program that is divided in two sections fundamentals and advanced so with this participants are going to be compensated for their time in both

sections.

There is intentional involvement of family and friends throughout the processes but following the key fundamental process — session, it ends in a pitch they do deliver to your friends and family. There's intentional opportunities for mentor ship throughout for both sections then there is also financial workshops for participants to build their finances personally and in the business sector. Ultimately, there's a huge emphasis on real world education that spans within the Harlem community.

So, here we have some quotes that came out of our interviews that came out of our fellows so this program should become a part of the community not just a service delivered to the community. Someone else said Black and Brown youth come from variety of different backgrounds, qualities like flexibility autonomy and gratitude are crucial. While these may not fix generational trauma they help youth imagine new ways of creating not just as a response to trauma, but future where they can create out of want, not out of need.

Many young people do not have access to or advisability of local entrepreneurs who share similar experiences and interests. Providing community role models entrepreneurship becomes more attainable and relatable. It is important to expose young people to various industries whether they are interested in them or not.

So they can develop a sense of ownership and make informed decisions about who they are in and the legacy they want to leave.

And to today, I handed out — implementation plan you can take a look at. This includes all of recommendations all the thoughts all of our amazing fellows. Ss today we actually have one of the fellows presented, Bianca, I will have Bianca.

»» Hello, Bennett, she/her pronouns I'm from the Bronx New York but my home my culture my family they are from Harlem that is one of the reasons I decided to be the — fellow.

Is.

»» Can you give us an opportunity to answer 3 or 3 prompts.

»» Yeah I would love to tell you a little about my connection to the Harlem community. A little background about myself I grew up in the New York State foster system from age 2 to 21, age out. And identity and belonging was really important tore me especially in trying to figure out who I was, and, — in my community doing my research I always realized Harlem was home and it has a big cultural ancestral connection to me. My friends — brought the head start program to the grant projects where my family is from religious and spiritual connections through Saint Lukes church my place of worship I've always been connected to Harlem even though being from the Bronx right across the way. Harlem I saw people that looked like me and I wanted to be part of the programs, where people supported my dreams and efforts, people that looked like me that is a little about my connection to Harlem. I think the most meaningful things I learned from Harlem community doing this research is that —

Harlem entrepreneurs active as well as young people interested in entrepreneurship they don't see a distinction between making money and helping people. It's really important for young people entrepreneurs at that — not by separate goal it needs to be intertwined because when you think about Harlem connection to history it has always been connected to helping others supporting communities, and I think that was really important through the research and the conversations we had with people from Harlem. Because when we think about business, entrepreneurship it is either for profit or you're doing non-profit effort but there's opportunities to do both.

I think it's really important to promote that in our communities especially for our young people who have social entrepreneurship opportunities and they want to make money, but they also want to also help community and solve issues they see that was probably the most meaningful heard in our conversations, I think the biggest take away and skill I've learned is the ability to sit back and listen as a person with lived experience, in many different ways also a person who is very connected to the Harlem community, I can find myself at times saying hey I know what my community needs. I'm a part of this community. It is easy for me. However, when I was growing up back in the day I'm not going to say my age it is very different than what young people are going through right now the lack of access they have — the lack of safety, their issues today are very different

than what I have gone through it is important for me to sit back and listen to what young people are saying yes I may resonate with something they are saying to access accessibility but their experience is not my experience. I think it is really important listening to community I.U. listen to various different experiences because you don't want to get into a place you only listen to one and that informs your decisions because you might not be meeting everyone's needs. Then if I can do — why our community centered programs design by community is important. For me, I think one of my quotes on here as well. It is one thing to create a program or service, it is another thing to involve communicate knit the service because you give them a sense of ownership and belonging into those things.

Especially in like very talked about Neighborhood like Harlem. I'm going to be very — gentrification is real in our community it's is very clear that Harlem has a lot of value that area itself. But, Harlem is Harlem because of the people who make Harlem. That investment in the people that is going to be what helps Harlem thrive and I feel as though from the invest in culture when we invest in belonging and identity and communities that help make Harlem, Harlem. That is when we create sustainability that is when we allow community members to not only be a part of what they process but to lead on the conversation that they have in their communities. That is when makes them say hey this program did a lot for me how about I give back to the young people

who are part of this program as well where I say I'm at — business I may as well give back to my community and have my business in that community so it is really important for sustainability getting community engaged I think that is huge civic engage in people involved.

Is really investing in the people I think that is why it is really important to have centered programs like this because it meet people where they are and allows communities to have a voice and the changes in their community so — yeah, that's all I have to say.

»» (APPLAUSE) .

»» This will conclude —

Thank you so much to the Civic engagement commission for this very valuable partnership and helping us build a legacy of community programming. Second cohort was in 2023, and this cohort is now come — in 2026. We have the next cohort coming up in 2027 and we're very grateful for the continued partnership that we have.

And please keep in touch if any of you are interested in joining the youth entrepreneurship program, that will be coming up — please follow them on Instagram there's a news letter as well scan the QR code to stay in touch with future cohorts design by community, please fill in the interest form that is on the right hand side you are good.

Thank you so much.

»» (APPLAUSE) .

»» Thank you so much we can actually if you wouldn't mind staying for a few minutes that ways if commissions have any questions either about general projects implementations or Camio labs and service design studio, let us know if you have questions, anyone have any questions? Or feedback —

»» Thank you for sharing sounds like very value-driven. Passion driven project that is centered around community and community investments particularly for the young people I heard terms about sustainability and so forth I just want to ask, how are you measuring impact? I want to hear that from you, obviously fellows and projects and trainings and mentorship I saw all of that on larger model but want to hear what are your, five, ten impacts you want to see from this impact, thank you (Mitchel Wu).

»» Hi, initiation to see you all from last time I was in the slide deck remember me. How are we measuring impact I think important thing to note this is first time we're collaborating with the CEC on this implementation process we did this fellowship cohort in a bubble but now we're thinking how can we expand citywide collaboration those values and community engagement, those values of community-led programming here in New York City. Just want to caveat this is very new experience that's why we're so excited to talk to you how we're

mesh Ewing impact this the this is the first time we're doing it we're being really intentional thinking about the effect of this program on the organization on how, labs who is not here today I think you met someone last time from camio labs.

We're measuring the impact that organization will have in implementation process this is entirely new process for them.

And that will happen — the fellows Biank led this amazing research put together the executive summary we gave you all. Now comU is going to start launching the program that these fellows, in the last year we'll be working closely to see what those impacts are. I think the goal of this is getting community buy in as early as possible.

Having somebody take a survey be like you can inform what this program will be like we're going to keep in touch with the folks down the line I think to answer your question, — thinking about how can we retain our connection to the community also support the organization that is going to be implement this go program — does that make sense?

»» Okay.

»» Sarah Sayeed: I guess I have a slight follow-up on that too, which is I think from a — largely Government and engagement process, we have a challenge in government that people are brought to the table and get feedback or give their opinions on things that feedback doesn't always have a through line. And — came in and were providing

feedback don't always know what is happening with the feedback I think in think being impact and talking about how this formative research is informing the shape of the program and outcomes I think that is what we're beginning to show as a through line. Like, here's how CAMIO took the feedback here what's they did with it here's what they took or didn't take here's what they tried and here's what worked so you should just follow that I think it's a really good model of how things could be done differently. When we are taking —

»» Exactly the packets we gave you all with the program model all of the findings from the research will be shared back with the community too. So making it sustainable communities can use this information know where — the data is going.

Also I did want to mention I think 395% of the people we engage — fellows engage through focus grouped an surveys were interested in being a part of the program. Biank personally talked to you a lot actual entrepreneurs from Harlem that were like I would love to be a mentor. So; sort of like treating those connections for the implementation of the organization early on we received a lot of interest in —

»» Mitchel Wu: I heard you guys did assessment piece implementation just wanted you all to be mindful which you want to measure, there's a lot here everything from engagement to community partnership to education so there's a lot of different, factors that need to be

tracked I want you all to be mindful what you think is important and what you want to take out of it in terms of what measures would be —

»» Yeah of course thank you so much your expertise is hugely helpful there's a metrics sheet, in Google drive definitely tracking things we'll definitely make sure we're intentional and, partnering — and early on, in growing this program.

»» That was really important thank you so much for that.

»» Sarah Sayeed: Commissioners online do you have any questions or comments?

Its.

»» That was very moving to hear you talk about your experience I really wanted to thank you it was very, very touching I think one of the most powerful things two things that really stand out is how you connected the entrepreneurship and community angle I think it is really important framework for this entire program as it is developing and then I wrote down that getting people — invested in people.

We will share parts of what you said certainly in other and amplify this work in other ways — so thank you so much.

»» I did want to mention, Bianca amazing really, we're grateful to have her, we do have one other fellow coming he got a little delayed

and, going to be here at 12 I'm not sure how flexible, if you wanted to hear from another fellow, — who is a running a little late.

»» No problem I don't know if there are constraints the person needs to leave but we can try to figure out.

»» He will be here around 12.

»» Okay.

»» Okay, maybe by the end at the end of the segment on participatory budgeting, can just go back to your presentation.

»» Thank you so much, thank you all.

»» Thank you!

»» (APPLAUSE) .

Sarah Sayeed: We're going to move into now participatory budgeting vote page and some of the strategies and preliminary data that we have about the vote phase.

Vote phase.

I'm going to talk a little of the overview and I'm inviting Hayden and — well to come up because you'll be presenting opt pieces relevant to discuss you're welcome to come up as I'm talking.

If you all remember we had talked about 3 pillars of the vote phase and strategies if you will.

We have been over the years working with contract had partners, * who do get funding.

To help us connect with communities during, idea generation sessions as well as the vote phase. These are partners in the neighborhoods of the task force racial inclusion and equity.

There are networks organizations we also work with partners helping us reach specific populations citywide as well.

And in addition to these contracting partners we really do a lot of fantastic work really as trusted messengers connecting face-to-face with New Yorkers they collect so many paper ballots so we're really proud and excited and grateful for that pillar and that leg of the stool.

There are other types of partnerships that we've been also intentionally developing, one is our digital engagement strategy to promote online engagement handed — paper ballots then we have a whole universe of people in New York City, organizations networks, that we are partners with and they are not contracted. That we built a relationship with, to support this work and those spaces include things like having our flagship events some of you came out to those events. We're doing one in each borough then working through the library system, partnering with your public library, to get individual branches to host ballot boxes and host paper ballots as well as the QR code available for anyone who wants to do it online.

We do have a partnership with the New York City public schools, civics for all schools are also touch points for our partner who's are working in the task force, inclusion Neighborhood.

We started this, live cultural partnerships working with the people's creative institute Yasmoni artists and residents, including — of the arts (name) flushing town hall that was first time we did this partnership volunteer ambassadors.

We had over 303 volunteer ambassadors collected ballots went to houses of worship.

They went to different public events to ballots we worked with our agency partners as well to promote engagement as example department of youth and — development, their program participants.

Finally our team itself did a lot of events work and out reach teams Chief of Staff and all of you, the Commissioners helped us as well.

You all attended events you shared this voting online and also collected paper ballots as well which; — out there I went out to some things as well to collect paper ballots there was a lot of positive engagement with the program and so, I'm going to invite darwell to share a little more about the communications angle and maybe share a little about what other strategies we use and not everything I spoke about is summarized about, will be — for the next meeting as well I will turn it over to darwell.

»» So thank you.

Before we talk about the will just show overview you can see we took bit of different approach this year with our campaign design we really wanted to high light, the projects and really make them essential to the story where people should engage in the people's money. We

did photos we took photos some of our current — and really wanted to see the benefits of voting in the people's money because they can see the impact in their communities.

Another thing we did this year that was pretty new, branded ballot boxes every part contracted or uncontracted was given a box with similar brand designs, to get familiarity with the program we learn sometimes folks in the last year, folks sometimes would participate but not know they were participating in the people's money we reel really wanted to make our branding and programs a lot more consistent to all of our assets.

Here you can see a brief overview of our advertisement we have ads on bus shelters we did Subway, digital videos through languages, English, Spanish and Mandarin. We also did many acts — Facebook citywide and also English Spanish, Mandarin as well.

One thing we also took a different approach this year we really wanted to leverage social media, pop culture trends to kind of get people more — to take civic engage from the a very bureaucratic standpoint to something that felt more connected to the community social trends how to say a certain phrase in different tones. There's a trend popular like saying voting people's money act like you're disappointed surprised or sarcastic. We also did one we leave leveraged I don't know if you're familiar with love island. Very popular — show to try to get New Yorkers more invested maybe folks are not in the civic space but sort of see civic engagement as part

of their community we really try to expand our strategies in that way.

We had some new partnership and collaborations one really exciting was, with — creamery in Harlem our partnership that was really cool not only unlimited edition ice cream flavor called the people's money — but also out — stores really emphasizing idea different community spaces can be used as hubs for civic engagement and small and local businesses, we're continue to go expand that we were even able to have district 19 Brooklyn one of our partners coordinated their own school competition across several middle schools in the district. And we were — sponsor ice cream party for schools we wanted to give — to the school as they were ready to have a big day I was excited to — have them feel rewarded for participation in people's money paragraph we collaborated with five local influencers they were each different in their different niches, leveraging different tactics, one of the connected influencers wasn't necessarily political or Government-specific one, Salima beauty fashion influencer, video — to vote for the people's money. Johnny eats, NYC food influencer he did an ice cream tasting of people's money flavor and also voted in the street. On the street — also did interviews what would you do if you have access to 4 million dollars really leveraging different kinds of components and ideas of how the people's money is, with the communities to use their niche and — storytelling how they think people should engage with our program.

Lastly, we had kind of organizational collaboration as well — we did a social media reel collaboration with them.

Why vote they did youth-led video series youth were saying if I had access to X amount of money this is what I would want in our community for bank NYC they promote video on social media and the hospitals; was able to share their — across examination their internal network so kind of really leveraging a lot of internal external strategies to get more folks engaged and involved with the people's money.

»» (APPLAUSE) .

»» Hello everyone I'm Hayden and excited to share outcomes from phase three people's money.

We translate all of our Borough ballots into 11 languages in addition to English. Those are (listing (listing languages) available online and on paper translating, helps reduce language barriers and for more folks to be able to participate in our process and help decide how, the public funds are spent.

Commissioners might recall the last meeting we talked about a workshop we held in partnership with the center for artistic call— — we held four our partners to learn about how to think through smart goals and strategies for integrating creativity and to learn about engagement over 80% workshop participants agreed that these workshops help them to develop — for their GTests this spring they applied idea very practical ways.

From improving their ballot box signage and visual delays, collaborating with cultural institutions and organizing community events.

3 a couple — partners about how these workshops translate they share how, through the smart goals able to develop stronger out reach plans.

Recruit and train their volunteers earlier.

And partner with museums such as the MET and the Whitney engaging perspective voters in conversations and talking about engagement and why it's important.

To youth our pop ups and over all awl just demonstrating how civic engagement can be exciting and inviting.

»» Here are some stats from our partner engagement this year. Sarah spoke to you earlier, but we worked with over 90 paid organization organizational partners this year including 32 TRIE Neighborhood organizations who are — utilize their whole Neighborhood mid to high of 2000 each.

11, implementation partners also helped get out the vote this year in addition to 49 PB partners.

And also, just excited to high light we were able through partner engagement n-unpaid partnerships which over 80 public libraries over 100 public schools, 50 houses of worships in addition to multiple elected officials and adult centers really exciting to be able to continue to grow our network of paid and unpaid partners and broaden

out reach to New Yorkers.

Together with our partners we were able to host almost 3 hundred; events citywide and place over 150 ballot boxes at locations in every bore borough.

»» Our partners engaged over 25,000 voters in, language other than English.

Which just communities led to language access and reaching folks where they are at. 75% of our voters reported that they were new to the people's money.

Which is always an interesting statistic. It is exciting showing that we're continue to go reach more people beyond our regulars.

But we also think that we can continue to do a better job of linking our phases and the volt that's participate in idea generation sessions.

So, that there's sort of a continuum understanding participation process.

And maybe that number might go down.

Then I said to share some of the preliminary vote tools on the next slide.

So this year we were able to reach 134,504 New Yorkers in our process with over 50% of these votes being collected by our initiative partners which is important high light to Democrat straight critical role our organizations play in organizing the members and communities to participate in the process of course we have a really strong

showing across all the boroughs.

With I believe Queens coming on top of the of mote votes, 37, 720 total votes.

Of course we love to celebrate achievements of our past phase we're already in the works of preparing for our next cycle. So these next two slides will be a little bit about, quest for information that we have.

So first up we are look to go recruit small number of communicate community based organizations that have citywide reach. Either network or membership organizations that can reach across the five boroughs connect out reach for our idea generation phase and our vote in the spring.

If funding — 33,000 for these organizations depending on the number of idea generation sessions and, able to achieve goals there.

Our five for the people's money partnership is, live as of right now until August 3. And the partnership will be from September to July, one year commitment those roles basically are hosting same number of idea generation sessions in the fall from October to November then of course attending facilitation trainings going to our vote phase training and going out to vote in the spring of 2027.

Next up we have also launched our TRIE Neighborhood initiative in the next slide.

We are looking for one additional TRIE Neighborhood organization to join our cohort of TRIE organizations based in the Bronx TRIE

Neighborhood forward ham University heights you can learn more —
(website) .

The funning for our TRIE organizations is up to 60,000 dollars for partnership. And it is inclusive of funding to support your coalition development building and sustaining coalition for the entire year to engage people in the people's money for idea generation sessions getting out to vote. Education workshops as well as piloting collaborative community project in partnership with your coalition members to help achieve a more local approach to our implementation in the spring.

So, this, R 5 is open now till August 13 there is information on the application about info sessions coming up, same partnership timeline from September to July of next year —

Thank you so much.

»» Thank you so much.

»» (APPLAUSE) .

»» Questions?

»» I have a comment, people with low vision can barely see any of this because of the color.

They can't see it.

So that was just an observation — yes — observation that people with low vision and problems like that — cannot see this because

of all of the color that's in it.

Other than that, I think that, the presentation was actually extremely good.

I wanted to ask you, because of the increase in the people's money do you think it had anything to do with social media and the people because I know a lot of people had voted but they had no idea what they were voting from now there's a name and it's out there and focused, now they are thinking this is the first time. When in fact they have already done it, but it wasn't as public or published, or advertised as it is now.

So, I think that's a great idea that where they are finding out about us, in all the ways they possibly can.

They can vote in various different ways as well because, when we just had online voting and no paper ballots or ballot that's were not in different languages, it was very hard to get people to vote because of all of these restrictions I actually think it's a great idea you guys expanded and gotten further into the process as opposed to the vote.

Thank you!

»» DeNora Getachew.

»» Thank you so much for the presentation it is great I jumped in Commissioner mid cycle to get into the experience was really impressive I felt like I became a poster's child for the people's

money which was great time in Brooklyn thank you for allowing me to join.

As to the launch of the next cycle are you interested in — you said recruiting, citywide refer to collaborate is that something you want us to be promoting, is there a public — because we love to — across the city.

»» Absolutely thank you for the question.

»» We would love any recommendations or leads you might have.

Paragraph or any support in getting forward for both and we can send you all the links the direct links and the graphics for social media —

»» Thank you.

»» Perfect.

»» Thank you!

»» Sarah Sayeed: Does anyone online have a question?

»» Natalie, yeah.

»» Thank you. Natalie DeVito: I'm very interested to discover whether we have some increases the numbers look impressive.

But I know I was a part of a very large civic engagement summit and it was a great deal of interest there from youth and older people.

But I have course have watched the numbers, — a great deal over

the past several years I would — if we don't have increases then we don't have increases but it if sounds like using influencers this time was a great idea hoping — to talk about thank you!

»» Thank you for that question yeah, we were able to, — our last vote totals, the small increase I do think it is in part due to the growing understanding and awareness building of the CEC thanks to some of our digital engagement to your point. I also think there are a couple of components from this year and last year that affected our partners vote engage in public.

We had a lot of partners talk about difficulties meeting people in public spaces because folks communities in New York City particularly the one that's we prioritize in our process, are ultimately being targeted and I think there's a lot of work to be done and extra effort on part of our partners to create safe spaces for folks to be willing to have a conversation about what this process is.

And so, I hope that as the years continue we can continue to build that trust. And do whatever within our control as city agency as partners trusted messengers in our communities to get folks excited and understanding of the importance of this type of work.

But it is a great point and we do have hopefully ways to grow over the next few years in terms of our engagement.

»» Sarah Sayeed: Thank you so much for that Natalie I really appreciate you pointing it out. I think, for us we really welcome

Commissioner partnership on this, — it is clearly there's a need in the number of people who are every single ballot we collect, reflects attraction it is either mostly human interactions one-on-one people collecting paper then there's the online interface.

We have including we can do so much more with more funding and we'll get into — to advocate for that I also think there is opportunities for us to learn from these experiences and think about strategies that are perhaps different from what we're doing. So, I think to expand on — reach there is a lot of rich opportunities to learn, we're also trying to be thoughtful about not changing too much year to year because that is another thing that has to get managed. So just keeping growth and building it building the plane I guess soar to new heights.

Would love to continue talking to you about it the next meeting we'll share a little more about these are all preliminary results still number crunching and contributions are solid as far as the vote count we'll also be inform informing you about the announcement for the results because we'll be announcing the winning project that's coming up in the next couple of weeks we'll be sharing that announcement with you to help us all amplify the outcome and to show people what their participation resulted of it.

Any other questions?

if no questions I would love to give the floor back to the final

presentation.

»» Thank you.

»» Hello again.

We're keeping you all in your toes we're going back to design by community you guys met Bianca before now we're shaking it up and we have William here.

»» Hi William.

»» I also want to put William on-the-spot and say it was his birthday yesterday.

»» Happy birthday.

»» I'm happy to read it (OFF MIC) of my screen. As mentioned William worked closely with Biank and other three fellows on reading the executive summary we handed to you all I just want to give William the floor and have him talk about his lived experience maybe you want to start out with your name, your back ground your connection to Harlem and William does so many cool things I'll let him name a couple.

»» William: Thank you my name is William Evans I'm institute transformative mentoring where we work with system impacted men and women who work mentors and — we provide training for many organizations throughout New York City so they are better informed about their own triggers so they can ensure better for young people.

My experience over the years also launched in Bronx and Harlem by

the New York Neighborhood — where they also provide mentorship for Black and Brown — in my experience with if the XC over the last few months have been really informative really allowed us to engage folks on the ground doing work in Harlem young boy mother passed 9 years old I was introduced to Harlem in my early years.

There's a rich culture there. That many folks overlooked because the folks on the ground, that had families that had a has been living there for years are really doing awesome work in the neighborhood alone. When we had opportunity to really engage these folks who have small businesses or small gardens or who is just in community showing up, we were able to remind them that we all look in and watching. When we had the opportunities to interview the folk who's don't have storefronts and those that do — large organizations part of small organizations it allowed not only, to me but other folks who Harlem — to be processed to be the better understand the type of work they are doing on the ground.

I think many times when we forget — sort of like remembering the mom and pop shops and understanding how, type of impact they have in the community these interviews allowed us to — rein gauge folks who have been doing the work for many years and never recognized it allowed us to better understand how these folks also show up as mentors but lack the opportunity to actually engage.

»» I do also want to add that William has such a strong networking

— up until the point we were doing like these, playing the focus groups and the surveys we were going to do, and fellows we have more people that we can talk to, we didn't have enough budget for the amount of people that William was able to connect us to that is something I really want to spotlight we couldn't have learned from the community without these AA mazing connections was there anything that stood out to you — by doing the interviews I know you spoke one-on-one.

»» What stuck with you.

»» Sort of what I just touched on you have folks that is doing work in communities and any small sessions of Harlem who never had the opportunity to actually engage young people.

You have folks who have started businesses and really want the opportunity to work with young people, by — doing interviews and introducing them to the idea the concept being able to work with young people that also stood out for us.

I any even throughout their time, although short period of time so many other people who wanted to be part of the conversation and many volunteers just to be a part even without the conversations — but I always — as collective we always believe in being able to compensate people for their time and the information they shared, even though — folks still wanted to work, I think that with a was the unique part of this process was seeing how many folks are willing to just be a part of young people's lives.

»» William is s—also intergenerational advocate how can we bring everybody to the table and make sure the young new kids are getting connected with the entrepreneurs of Harlem.

Okay, — next and last question, what was the biggest takeaway skill or value that he gained from the experience?

»» I feel like — I'm a big art fan me being able to be part of the research and seeing the process that definitely put the different pieces together.

We have fun with it right us being able to write down the different companies, different organizations and different booths around in Harlem and see it actually being put to the book — —for us that part of the research was always profound —

»» Sarah Sayeed: Thank you so much! This is really great does anyone have any questions?

Anyone online?

»» Me again Natalie so much.

»» William thank you for your great work.

»» Natalie DeVito: I wanted to I guess make a statement and ask a question with it.

My question involving some anti violence programs and credible messenger programs at the events and it appears to me, anyway that these current administration — values this work maybe more than any

administration before and I do also understand it to be — this isn't coming from the administration but from people that don't understand the work quite, it seems there's a difficulty in quantifying the impact and I know that that sort of for folks who are not familiar with credible messenger work it is almost like hey, trust us, this may have an impact but sometimes we're talking about the impact that is like — in this — violence this doesn't happen. Or the conflicts that don't happen. And that's a really hard — that's really hard thing to measure.

So, my question to you are you finding some more exception now, this administration — appears to me if you have a different experience that's fine. The value of this work and have you ever found a way to sort of quantify that for anyone who is asking you're asking them to, let's say buy into this work or support this working. Have you ever found a way to really paint the picture of how much of an impact this makes; thank you so much.

»» Thank you. Thank you.

»» I'm sorry —

»» Donna Veronica Gill: Being a credible mention myself and going through IBM I understand not having been impacted by the criminal justice system just going through the program as an older adult, it was impactful for me.

The reason that I went to it is because I felt that we needed to find a way to talk to get the community involved in people who are returning citizens.

Because no one ever talks about them, no one wants to engage with them. But you expect them to live in the community and it is — into a community that is very alienated to them that's why I went to the program because I needed to know how this was going — how people were feeling.

Trauma-informed all of these things was very important to me. Paragraph with Natalie saying if the current administration is more — understandable * of what's going on I understand the sensibilities are there

But we also have to understand that these things will happen.

Through out a lot of Mayoral institution — it may not have been the same way, but it is things that is necessary and we have to think about this is important because we have a whole segment of our society that no one wants to talk about, but everybody wants to police for lack of a better word.

But you're not engaging.

So, — thank you.

»» Sarah Sayeed: — Lauren.

»» Hi — thank you so much by the way, I just wanted to jump in quickly

there's been a couple of questions how we're measuring the impact of this fellowship in collaboration with Dbbc and to set the stage a little bit this first portion essentially of the project which has been in collaboration with the service design studios essentially been a very in depth needs assessment process community engagement process.

Then from there, starting in this fall we will then engage our portion of the work with Camio labs they take all of the findings created by wonderful fell from there they will start to create impact measurement plans and use of course the recommended design plan, I forget — the term you guys used.

»» Implementation plan. Yeah they'll take all of that and also go through the curriculum doing the monitoring evaluation course.

So, essentially all of this is to inform and see what can happen when we stretch out that needs assessment period and do a really in depth community engagement process so that is why some of the questions might be a little unanswered right now in terms of impact measurement but we really appreciate all of your input.

»» Thank you.

»» Thank you!

»» Thank you so much!

»» (APPLAUSE) .

»» Sarah Sayeed: I understand Abby we do not have anyone signed up for public comment this means we can take a little more time and don't have to rush with the rest of the presentation. So I'm going to — invite Amelia to come up while — I understand Senora you're on the line would you like to say a few words and introduce yourself.

»» Thank you, it's great to be here and also my fellow Commissioners staff and everyone for joining us today I'm looking forward to working with all of you.

I'm is not going to get too much in my background I don't want to take up too much time.

Briefly I want to go over decade of experience, and community and civic engagement partnerships Government higher education and non-profit sectors currently I, am beauty director of interagency affairs at administration for children services so, yeah, excited to get started and work alongside all of you just to move in this work forward thank you all so much!

»» Thank you Samirah Zeerah.

»» Great, now we're going to turn over to, Anina to talk about what we've been doing with outreach during primary and providing language services —

»» Thank you, good afternoon, nice to see you all again my name is Anina.

Going to start out talking about out reach and educational efforts for the primary.

For the June primary educational resources in 14 languages you see 14 — our website had information all 14 languages.

That we provide services in plus in English.

We had multi language visual toolkit with content and graphics and sample so copy in all 14 languages plus English. We developed, palm cards, PowerPoint for our community partners educational e vents.

We also handed out, the tri-fold which was available — (languages) in addition to other languages.

We developed a new asset multi lingual asset to use in our social media.

As well as link NYC kiosks you will see a screen shot that have multi language asset alongside the tactics —

Resources.

In terms of our partnerships with community organizations we held 15 educational work shops in language ,14 community partners, they integrated over 5 hundred voters in their language.

You will see the breakdown of languages, on the current slide, so we had 3 sessions Arabic with partners, — Brooklyn and Queens three Russian all three Brooklyn two in — both in Bronx — two in Queens one in French, one French session in the Bronx one Polish in Brooklyn

— Korean——island and one Asian Creole in Brooklyn.

We were especially excited about two of these partnerships.

One was the — the Brooklyn library became part of this partnership and held the workshop in Russian, in ship — bay which is heavily Russian majority area.

And also partner with——first time ever that serve — in the — park or city wide.

In terms of our language assistance advisory committee.

They continue to work hard alongside myself and my team to get the worked out about, languages and services.

They sent out news letters. LAAC, their e-mailing lists to send out information about the June services so; for example, there are — for English, — for Polish send out news letters to thousands of recipients of different information from different language communities.

In terms of tabling three languages advisory committee members they tabled and handed out information in three different languages.

Arabic, Korean and — two of our language community members — they held work shops in Arabic and Polish respectively. Several did canvassing in Italian Arabic and French in different boroughs.

Additionally, two of them recorded, video messages in languages and were made part of our multi language tool kit. All of them — new assets advice on canvassing strategies for the out reach team, minimize email collectings and the networks.

In terms of paid ads, there were 4 tactics that were employed for the June primary, radio, digital print and meta ads it so it was a combination of those.

I wanted to point out that — new tack tick, because it's not — (digital media).

The specs of this digital publications, language and change vary from one publication to the next it is hard to update and get everything up and running and sent to the vendor, which in turn sends to publish sayings in time to run those ads.

Because everything hinges on when we get the information from the board of election and when we get the poll site lists ready.

But anyway, on the next slide we see just catch a glimpse of the new digital access we developed so we had visual assets one in Russian — Arabic updating Polish French, Creole.

Just to recap we provided services last three days early voting period for June 19 through June 21, June 109 only being the day of services for Yiddish, across the Board our teams were present in 50 poll sites we provided total of 86 language services for early voting.

While on election day we had interpreters one hundred poll sites and three of those sites had more than one language service so total 103 language services.

— hard working and beautiful bilingual community members that serve as interpreters.

In terms of utilization, we're still finalizing doing a last round

of quality assurance, but we believe total of 308 voters assisted, which is not great, for this primary but — and close more or less close to June — lower but I would say comparable to that.

Happy to answer any questions inch any questions for the primary out reach interpreter program?

The language access meeting that we did — anyone online have any questions?

»» Moving on.

As announced in the last of last public meeting on May 18, we held a con screening we call building power across language communities, centering language community ins New York city's civic life we brought together about one hundred — organizations from the agency.

We brought together close to one hundred representatives from community organizations, our direct service providers for language communities in New York City.

City officials as well as ethnic — representatives and engage practitioners.

We had two panel discussions. One was about power through protections Mayors office of — affairs, the New York State general attorney for voting rights was on that panel. As well as representative from New York immigration coalition.

The second panel was about voting education, advocacy and we had on the panel representatives from (names of towns in New York).

Now the high light of that event were not the panel discussions. Panel members but the fact that we brought together thousands of organizations that participated in small group discussions.

They basically brainstormed they talked to each other and from those small group discussions they serviced each of these groups so they were organized in languages based on the languages.

They serviced the barriers to what— they see barriers to voting but not only, whatever they see working and what they have done more towards empowering — New Yorkers and immigrants in New York City to be part of the civic life.

In voting but not only voting so, in terms of common barriers, when it comes —

Next slide.

Some common barriers that participants surfaced when it comes to voting election participation; they said that language literacy and inadequate translations were one of the barriers to voting in election participation.

The stress of Government in candidates, confusion as to how the process works.

Cynicism about counts, socioeconomic barriers and immigration fears.

Now we try to say when we summarize this, we try to stay as close as possible to the language they themselves small groups input into the survey, the questionnaire we developed to guide the small group

discussions.

In terms of — barriers beyond voting, there was a lot of overlap with voting, but couple of things that also surfaced.

Were lack of knowledge, public meetings such as community boards, et cetera. No language access. And discomfort with attending public meetings or events.

What's working.

So, they all agree there are things that are working. Right.

They said that things that are working on the ground in terms of getting people to I mean — New Yorkers and immigrants.

They said the things that are working are combining civic engagement, and educational events with other events such as events about, fears about benefits, culture shows — ESL programs food distribution et cetera.

They said that using or working with trusted community leaders events organizations also works to get the message across to educate people.

So, conducting outreach through cultural institutions language schools faith leaders and media something that works.

One of the things they mentioned was making transportation accessible for voters.

Access to poll sites next was pairing physical materials with in-person interactions so, in addition to having paper ads targeted areas, — papers, video messages door knocking and phone banking does

work well paired with the actual ads.

And also distribution of materials that community has like barber shops salons which differ from one community to the next.

It's not the same across the board.

They also pointed out that social media communities like, WhatsApp groups are really powerful in getting the word out, about elections and opportunities for civic engagement.

Also, meetings in-person meetings with interpretation of kind dates running for office would be helpful. Is help envelope getting people excited about participating in election.

We also ask that — they think would help encourage more immigrants and more voters to participate in the intercity plight, they said education is — on voting rights what's on the ballot why it is important to people. More reasoning and research is needed they said community partners city Government should do more listening why people don't show up.

So that then we can design impactful solutions next they recommended exploring variation among across different communities.

Something that came up over and over again is that, — communities is not a mono lith these change — from one community to the next.

So, they recommended exploring — of every community in New York City to understand the full breadth of complexity and variation in like how do they get the news where do they conk grate and what is impactful to each of these communities.

Is next they recommended meeting people where they are.

They pointed out lots of older language populations, like seniors listen to radio while young populations use social media such as TikTok or — used across the board by senior adults or youth.

They also recommended more brands or brands for community organizations to conduct out reach and finally, they recommended exploring new audiences or target segments of the populations such as youth doing more to getting them involved in New York City life and how do we do that. How do we get youth get more involved.

That was a high level of review, about what the convening was about everybody was excited it was — a successful meeting. The feedback was amazing.

We're hoping to turn this into an annual event, NYC commission where we're establishing some continuity and have this network of community organizations come together year after year together with the Civic Engagement commission and other city partners to explore how we're doing in terms of enabling more and more LEV voters immigrants to be part of New York City life. But also how we should work together to do more and it's never enough I guess but this was a good stepping stone, I guess and I'm hoping that we can carry on with this meeting — or in the future.

»» Thank you so much. Nila I don't know if you want to acknowledge anyone in the audience.

»» Yes —

»» Somi is part of our language advisory committee she was — she represents the Arabic speaking community of New York City, she has been on — for a while now, thank you for coming and I'm grateful for her contributions over the years as well as those of other dozens of other life members over the years and she is a power house in the Arabic speaking community.

Across the city but especially in Brooklyn and yeah we're grateful to have her contributions over and over again.

»» Thank you so much. Nila.

I think there's Commissioner Samirah Zeerah is raising her hand unfortunately unless your question is a burning question, we're kind of really tight on time and we have another guest presenter so I want to keep, the presentations going, do you have a burning question or a quick question? And we can transition, Benjamin if you want to come up — just stay until —

»» No just a quick question sorry may have missed this — but, so, one of the things or recommendations from the convening was importance of trusted community organizations and year-round engagement which I think is very important.

I'm just curious how is the commission thinking about strengthening and maintaining these partnerships between election cycles rather than primarily engaging in them during the election periods?

»» I think — I'll just answer really quickly, I think we're exploring how we think about civic engagement broadly I think this is an entry point.

»» We have an entry point and — because we just have to keep it moving.

We have an entry point to work with us through these CVO work shops CBO work shops Nila will be working how we think about civic engagement more holistically this was a first meeting so there be a lot of thought going to what we do in between and, nila will also be working with the team as well on this if you want to add anything.

»» Yeah, just wanted to — add a little bit to that.

We first piloted the R five with community organizations back in June 2025, this partnership is fairly new and it is run like biannually for every election. We're looking to transition into an annual cycle now, where we announce, we put up — we select partners for the whole year and build education curriculum that is not centered not only on the election date, election rounds but also gives more holistic overview of what our civic engagements voting rights independent of when an election is run the way it's been run till now, our need to get out about our services we do not know when our service where our services will take place until five weeks into the election we're still figuring that out, but yeah a significant — we don't know when we'll be providing services from one election to the next based on the methodology, how we — the community without confusing them but also, to let them know where the service is, in

the end of the day which is the goal of the voter language, the voter languages in the program. Right.

»» Thank you —

»» Thank you so much.

»» Benjamin if you can speak briefly, I think we may need to extend the meeting just by a few minutes sorry about that.

»» Is that working? It doesn't have a little thing on it so okay if it is working.

»» Quickly just little community board up date, the sessions that we did since January. Over the course of the September to January we did 11 topics 34 sessions but these were this year.

Total attend total attendance, 343 people came to the workshops with 782 registered so, sort of a standard drop off for free registrations about 42% of people registered came you can see a big breakdown of the boroughs.

We'll have information about that, generally people find most of them — and that's it for community, updates.

»» Next year we're going to start working more closely with the borough president offices most of these as you know are Zoom citywide some of them are dedicated for particular community board. Some are live, so, trying to increase —

You've heard couple of times in past meetings to go onto the next

topic about our better public meetings NYC and couple of you here — talk to them but tomorrow night we have participatory inclusionary inclusive democracy NYC some people signed up for that look forward to seeing threw. Which is sort of mid-point report where the research has been. And hopefully to generate excitement for where it's going to go.

Oh, I also had to mention can we back up our city council testimony. My colleague, we were asked a couple of months ago to testify to the gov ops state legislation committee of the council, chaired by our friend Gale Brewer mostly there were two of these bills about community boards one for district manager term limit limits and one to have council members have actual appointments.

Hours for boards. But didn't offer opinion for the two bills for the council to decide we testified about little more detail than I just gave about our work shops we've done attendance and the responses and our engagement with the community boards, brief testimony, but always nice to talk to council.

»» Thank you.

»» (LAUGHTER) .

Onto tomorrow.

— from Toronto Nick here, come opup we'll be going a lot more detail with some performance tomorrow, but he will give a quick overview for those who cannot make if about what our findings have been so

far.

»» Thanks so much appreciate you taking the time at the end of the day here I'll be very brief just want to give update where we are on the project I'm here with my colleague, Christopher — from the national civic league working on, a better public — project here are 7 key findings from the report we'll talk about this tomorrow at our community event at the forum. We have a pretty good turnout so far I think there is something like 170 RSVPs should be a pretty good discussion. And the idea behind that is, we want to come back to the community to sort of be transparent what we've learned we've had a lot of conversations with CEC members community board members, district managers a few elected official staff.

We have a score card, 7 different type — communicate it bores NYCHA Commissioners boards, and a bunch of semi structured interviews here where we are 7 key findings I do have the report so that is at some point we can probably share.

It is still in the draft phase it's not final. So finding one a lot of these are very familiar to you all but one of the themes we've heard is that there's a lot of civic energy within communities so, if you look at Neighborhood organizing, cultural groups, faith-based institutions schools library programming a lot of this exists and I'm referring mostly to how institutions connect to these obviously, the CEC does connect to a lot of these orgs even at the community

board level it can be disparate so there isn't necessarily overlapping integration as much connection to civic energy we can think how we connect to that energy within the community the various organizations.

The next one is very traditional meeting format we heard that I know a lot of you are familiar the format itself is one way sort of communication. We're speaking before the board members, it doesn't invite itself to a lot of dialogue, I will talk a little about that later on there's a tension around that with the way that public meetings operate they are not necessarily dialogue-based so that can limit your ability to sort of have meaningful conversation about issues.

The next one, we want to think about equity inclusion, requires outreach when we get to public meetings some of the challenge is around the legalese or technical language how we present that think being plain language thinking of working families timing of meetings, meetings at noon, at night on week ends how are yes we think being meeting, meeting spaces where are we locating these meetings are we rotating meetings where they happen in community so we can encourage people to come to them community boards I'll mention this later.

They are interesting in the sense that they are very rooted and they rotate in a variety of spaces but other formalized — even CEC doesn't necessarily get to some of these so thinking about the different ways that we think about inclusion to get to where people are.

This is an interesting one that needs to be elevated in the conversations I don't think a lot of folks at least community boards think of the work they are doing as innovative I would say it is quite interesting to hear a community board, host a community pot luck to feed people before a meeting happens I think it is quite interesting to think how they have an issue based specific town halls where 150 people show up for them. I find it interesting some meetings are held by they are bilingual they have public comment submissions there's a myriad of innovations or things happening best practices I think need to be captured better because we're just not really aware of all the things that these boards are doing to share these he across all of the boards

Are they aware of what they are doing how can we create the learning across them there's a lot of interesting things that are happening that we can build awareness on.

One of the things thinking about those that differ yourself or community board members or district managers one of the big challenges that we heard is a lack of onboarding specifically community boards you get thrown into the mix there's a loss of institutional memory sometimes.

Really we want to think about what is the standardized procedures processes manuals trainings and learnings that can help people integrate be the near the roles but also share learning one thing I did hear in the CEC and other community boards how we collaborate

and think strategically beyond meeting setting we have committee structures, sometimes there's not a lot of opportunity to think about where do we go from here as a body as a sequence as a structure. A lot of it is really formalized within our meetings but we're not thinking beyond what is the agenda that kind of connects to one of the next slides themes.

There is a tension between governance and participation obviously. We're operating under state sunshine laws or Charter mandated we have very legal requirements but agendas very rigid. The tension there is that we have to navigate going through a lot of businesses there's a lot of things happening but the flip side is that, it leaves us very limited opportunity to converse so the tension is how do we think about doing what we need to do for business but how do we have a conversation to learn where we want to go or what the priorities are.

Navigate this go tension I think is part of the work we want to think about in the theme of a better public meeting. That tension between governance and participation.

So, the last one is I will highlight specifically CEC I will note a few things really interesting to be here in-person grateful to see a few thoughts I've talked to online you're live streaming you have a bunch of accessibility considerations, but we've heard, the timing or the way you're located, and the public presentations aren't necessarily always here.

So, how do we enhance the ability to participate and get people involved in some of the thoughts are.

We might want to think about going back to some of the initial priority which is listening tour how do we get into community board how do we leverage the Commissioners in community events more (more) how do we think about coordinating the fragmentation of community boards I'm not trying to say this is like a — role that has to happen. It is more like how do we convene people to share best practices how do we help train, continue building on that I think really a lot of opportunities for the CEC to be a connector of the sequence of Neighborhood governing that happens here there are real opportunities I think some of the report points to this I point to a few of these how we document how we support hybrid participation, how do we create pure learning network how do we digitally engage people for their ideas.

Few strategic — here how do we move beyond public hearings only we have public hearings obviously these are important. But is there a way to think about making these public hearings a little more deliberative or participatory with the public. How do we build stronger community board capacity. These boards are incredibly strained CEC strained but how do we think about the tools we can to build capacity of a really interesting network of community boards that could utilize that support.

Then how do we design these meetings very specifically around

different types of participation one thing that will be fun tomorrow we'll have a civic arts performance. The civic arts performance is really walking a mile in each other's words our partner from perfect city allows people from the gallery and the crowd to come up and participate city council members Mayors they see how the dynamic operates at a public meeting. How do we talk to each other. So, different ways in thinking about how we make things fun even.

Which we can mix it up.

Some of the things that we've been thinking about as project goals, so, how do you curate a situation — best practices library.

So, we have this already where we circulated to some community boards would like to get more just with two responses we had detailed enough to showcase this could be a tool to circulate to the rest of the community boards to say, this is how we host a how we did a mixer between new and old members this is how we host the community pot luck, et cetera.

Establish peer learning network I really this is an opportunity to build on the best practices what if we convened a few dozen community board members and managers or CEC staff to think about peer learning what are the lessons challenges, what do we want to pilot and do. Another is the possibility.

Of leveraging digital engagement platform with such a large scope and cash — of 59 boards one of the ways we want to think about how we systematically capture community input maybe that's — to think

about digital platform I have a few in mind we have partnerships with the fellow, I'm thinking the possibility of hosting a special CEC meeting I'm putting it out there this isn't required but what if we thought about the possibility of something like that where it is more deliberative conversation and different from the board that we have and how do we structure that.

Then work towards community board best practices it would be good to work with I think we're going to work with a couple of boards on just leveraging something innovative in a specific community board and maybe the lessons learned can apply to others so that's kind of where we're at we'll talk a lot about this tomorrow. This is just the initial, we're at the initial phase we can do the research now thinking strategically and gathering input where we want to go with this information.

»» Thank you very much.

»» One minute. Thank you.

»» It's been great working with perfect city and his team over the last few months all of this is coming from the people we've talked to this is not us sitting in a little room with 4 people talking about ways to improve meeting it is all information coming from the community.

We'll do more research good turnout some of the stuff does move forward we learn new things in coming months this is midpoint thing I think people are really interested in deeper participation deeper deliberation community boards huge topic, stressed — you said 59 of them ,59 ways, a lot of ones we've talked to are really new looking at new things so —

Thank you.

»» Thank you so much. Thank you.

»» (APPLAUSE) .

»» Thank you, we're excited about tomorrow to see some of the Commissioners out there as well.

»» Sarah Sayeed: Just to wrap up the meeting I appreciate the people staying a little bit longer just wanted to note that the next meeting will be September we will be reviewing the annual report and voting on the annual report it is important for as many Commissioners to be here as possible. New York nor had a preliminary conversation about revisiting bi laws we'll soon introduce that to the Commissioners because, we started a version of bi laws but never voted on it I think it's a good moment to go back where we left off and pick up on that.

So that's what is coming up in the next couple of meetings.

Likely the next meeting will be either the last week or the week before the last week of September.

»» Sara, this is Amy can we look at the Jewish holiday calendar.

»» Yes, yes.

»» I'm sorry, yes?

»» I think there is someone who wants to make a comment.

»» Sorry go for it — we can stay a little longer sorry I didn't realize.

»».

»» Thank you for trekking out here from Brooklyn.

»» I'm the CEO of women's power of New York City also a LAAC member almost five years.

So in the beginning I want to say thank you so much for the opportunity to meet with the people to talk about their experiences.

And as someone who had been working with my community for over 15 years making sure our community are civically engaged.

One of the biggest challenges yes the city has been trying to do their best.

With all the resources and we're very, very lucky to have language access like — they have been trying to bring people together and also to listen to people's problems and try to solve these problems.

But still, the Government still, this level and our community is this level.

It's because it is very hard when it comes to language access there are many many — dialogues and Arabic dialogues we have like over 25 — even if we can translate in one, let's say in the — even if people read it, still some people can not read even Arabic.

That's the situation I have been seeing we've been trying to do videos we've been working very closely with, — doing amazing work we appreciate her and her support and compassion of this work.

But still I see a lot of barriers and biggest barrier is, — level. People even if we tell them they are right making sure they can bring someone from their family to translate for them, or even translate everything differently, talking to people and sending text messages like, phone calls still there is always something.

The biggest things that people, doesn't understand there is always election.

Even if we just send them to vote voter registration time they think that they vote. They don't understand there's election, they have to go in-person to vote.

I think only the election is when it comes to the president election. When we keep talking to them and trying — again, funding is a big thing because we need like work — income we cannot do it before the election and——that doesn't work for our community that is why when it comes to women's empowerment coalition the heart of our program,

is civic engagement making sure people learning English but understanding what does — English mean and how they can vote how does the system work because this is very important.

And bring it to — their own language we have like people in our organization interpreters who speak Spanish and Mandarin and also now we have Russian speaker.

But we are making sure that everyone is understanding their own language.

Green, I feel like the most important things now is thinking about funding.

To make sure that all of these organizations have the funding they need to have these time of programming that build civic engagement understanding in our community thank you so much.

»» (APPLAUSE) .

»» Thank you so much. Does anyone have any quick questions or comments for Samirah Zeerah?

»», — wrote something in the chat.

»» Thank you for the testimony we heard from other communities written and spoken languages including dialects education pose issues —

This is brilliant using influences — something else sorry.

»» That was different before Amy yeah.

»» I just remember when we —

Had different community members come in and talk to us about their languages, I can't remember specifically what the language was, I believe it was a Southeast Asian language. Where the testimony was to me really impactful because she spoke about the lack of education for women specifically, and it their inability to express themselves in a written language.

And that that would pose issues with voting. So, I think if we start to catalog some of these barriers, to entry into voting — we could start to possibly solve some of them but thank you so much for this testimony and the issues you brought forward and the work that you're doing thank you so much.

»» Sarah Sayeed: Thank you really important point literacy is something we need to look at, across the board including literacy in English because it does impact how people engage civically and what they are able to read even a bus schedule or community meeting schedule or, all of that is impacted by the literacy so that is — should be looking at more. We've been trying to think more about plain language and how we're communicating, brought training to staff with service design studio on plain English but there is always more work to do there. Appreciate everyone for staying a little longer and I wanted to just.

Ask for a motion to adjourn the meeting?

»» So moved.

»» Motion to adjourn.

»» (LAUGHTER) .

»» Second.

»» Okay great motion to adjourn has been seconded and all in favor say aye.

»» Aye.

»» Any opposed?

»» Say nay.

»» Okay, great the motion passes and I'm going to call this meeting to adjourn.

Thank you so much and we'll see you all in September!