

>> Thank you so much for your patience.

We can go and get started.

I will call the meeting to order.

And I want to welcome everyone.

The people here in person.

Thank you so much.

We appreciate the time you have taken from your busy schedules to be with us.

We would like to begin by thanking Abby, thanking the commissioners, and thanking the team for helping us gather and arrange all the information for this meeting.

And to get us started.

We're going to take attendance.

Gio Barcenés.

>> Present.

>> Holly Bonner.

>> Present.

>> Eve Baron?

>> Present.

>> Natalie DeVito?

>> Present.

>> I think -- Natalie, for some reason, we are unable to hear you.

We will mark you present.

>> I'm here too.

>> DeNora I know is out.

Donna, is out.

Josh?

>> Present.

>> Frank Perez?

I think is running a little late.

Mitch Wu, can't make it.

Samirah, nice to see you.

Nice to see you.

My name is Sarah Sayeed, and I am the chair.

Today, we are live streaming the meeting.

And I would like to thank sight and sound for being a steady presence in the public meetings in helping us to be accessible, and also to the captioners.

They are helping make the meetings more assessable as well.

So, usually, for anyone who is not available, I would like to go through basics about the open meeting guidelines meant to promote transparency in government.

And we are working as a commission to conduct our programs and processes in a more transparent manner and to make our commissioners and residents more aware of how we do the work.

So as much as possible, the commissioners and residents in New York City of the decisionmaking in the city and how we design our programs.

And public meetings in general are meant to be open to residents to learn about how city government is operating.

We welcome you to sign in, if you're here in person or join our mailing list online.

You can do it by visiting [NYC.gov/civicengagement](https://nyc.gov/civicengagement).

If you click get involved, on the left-hand side of the page, you can see where you can sign up to get a newsletter.

We do have general guidance on tech for those who are here for the first time.

I will go through that.

We ask people to mute your microphone and turn it off when needed.

And commissioners, unmute when you need to speak.

There is -- you can sign up for -- to make a comment if you haven't already.

You can do that by 12:00 p.m.

To submit a public comment, if you haven't signed up, you can either let Abby know if you want to do it while you're here.

Or submit your name information to info@civicengagement.nyc.gov or text 917-587-9103 by 12:00, and we will make sure we call on you.

We have a few people who signed up before the meeting, so I will call on them during the time.

Okay.

Now, let me see.

I did attendance.

So we are going to move into approving the minutes.

So in the last meeting, we just focused on program updates.

We did not vote on any resolutions.

So let's just go through to approve the minutes from July.

And everyone should have the minutes either in your inbox or if you are here in person.

Any correction to the minutes presented?

Gio?

>> I was also not present at the meeting.

So I cannot --

>> Okay.

Okay.

So is there a motion to approve the minutes?

>> Motion to approve.

>> Second.

>> Second.

>> Okay.

Everyone in favor, say aye.

>> Aye.

>> Natalie, I'm not able to hear you still.

Maybe you can put your vote into the chat since we're having a challenge.

Can someone just check the chat to make sure that we have --

(Inaudible)

>> There is a captionist online.

Actually, we have -- there's seven of us.

So we need one more person to be able to vote on this.

Okay.

Good, thank you, Natalie.

All right.

Okay, so we have -- we have our minutes approved and we can move forward with the agenda for today.

Okay, so today's public meeting, as you are familiar, each year, we present a report to commissioners and the city requires the commission to submit the annual report to the mayor and city council.

And during the annual presentation, we've generally done more detailed slides.

-- included in the annual report, which the commissioners receive by the meeting in order to review and vote on it.

This year, what we're looking to do is create more of an opportunity for public engagement related to the report and our work, and to have less of the slides for the presentations, to make this -- you know, create an opportunity for the interaction for the people present with us either in person or online.

So we will not have any resolutions to vote on, separate from the annual report.

And what we'll do is go over briefly what the charter expects us to report in the annual report, and each program area will make a brief presentation.

During the presentation, you can -- commissioners will be able to ask questions, provide edits to the annual report, and then we will move into the public comment section of the meeting.

So, before we get into the presentation, I just wanted to explain a little bit about the charter, what it requires us to report.

Just for general awareness.

It is not extensive.

But there are minimum requirements and the commission is free to report additional information.

If we just do what the charge is required us to report, the annual report would be very short.

Right now, it is -- let's see how many pages -- it's over 80 pages right now.

So, we do want to make sure that we are reporting on more than what the charters asks us to do.

But essentially, if we can go to the slide on what is required to report, and the charter tells us we are required to submit by September 30th, and we are required, each program, certain minimum requirements to report.

For participation requirement, it's the number of people, and any voluntarily disclosed demographic information which we get from the exit survey that we administer after people get in the process, they are also an expectation that we should report on the number of projects that people voted for, how we did outreach for participation, recommendations for changes, and anything else that we think is relevant.

And then, the next slide, we have reporting for voter language assistance.

We need to report on where is the poll site and recommendation for limited English voters and any information.

And finally, community boards, we are on the number of community boards that utilize the training and resources broken up.

And any recommended changes.

And some of these things you will see in the presentation today.

But you will not see details included in the annual report.

That will be made available online for the public as soon as we submit to the mayor and city council.

On the next slide, we just have some guidance about how we are going to engage with the public during the presentation.

So we are going to be using Mentimeter.

If you are not familiar Mentimeter is an online platform that lets do you live polling and gathering feedback live during a presentation.

And what we want to do is create an opportunity for members of the public to submit questions or comments during the meeting.

What you can do is visit [MENTI.com](https://www.menti.com) and enter a code.

Enter code 66842393.

Or you can scan the QR code that is in the next window.

Oh, it's up on the screen.

And you will have an opportunity -- the screen is up.

You will be able to enter your questions and feedback.

During public comment, we will go to the screen and see what people entered and what kind of feedback they provide.

So that is how you join the Mentimeter, and now we can move in the annual report summary.

We are going to call on the team members in the order that they are listed on the agenda.

I think maybe some people are with us virtually as opposed to in person?

Hill is here.

Is Anila here?

Anila, are you online?

Okay.

Well, we will tackle that when we get to it.

So, let's start with the presentation.

Hill, you can come up.

I do want to thank the public affairs -- Sofie, the public affairs coordinator.

-- the process takes several weeks and we have to chase people down, and chase people down.

And -- the team is involved in actually writing the report.

We do make sure we have a unified voice.

We are hoping to submit to the city council this week.

So Hill, the floor is yours to get started on participatory budgeting.

>> I'm ready.

Good to see you this morning.

Will the slides -- there they come.

Just a couple slides on how we did last year on the people's money.

And -- --

>> After you speak, yeah.

>> First, I will just say -- metrics.

Next slide please.

So -- partners and some of them -- the positions across the city that partnered with us on the people's money.

-- over 11,000 residents engaged in New York City.

You can see, 473 workshops overall in the five boroughs and we were able to get 2,213 ideas.

Workshops and online.

That is the combined total.

In the assembly, we had 1,163 applicants, folks who are planning to be out of their assembly.

Of course, we were able to select about 120.

But that was a great number of applicants that we had.

Recruiting last year.

-- so that is 20 hours total.

That is 20 hours in each borough.

We spent time -- finally selecting -- and facilitators and members with us, were 133 people.

So 133 people spent 20 hours with us over the course of January and February.

Facilitated by our team.

The outreach team as well as the people in the boroughs.

And still on this slide.

So looking -- last year, we had 134,418 votes, which is great.

This is an increase from last year.

Which was 131,521 to be precise.

And engaged -- managed by the outreach team.

-- partners listed.

Contracted.

And just the votes that were cast in languages, we had 26,115 of those.

So -- statistics.

-- participants report 50% -- adds a result of participating workshops.

And in terms of -- we had participants that were working with the team.

That is about 18%.

We will have to go back to double-check that.

We will go back to participants.

So the next slide.

Okay.

So these are some -- cycle 4 --

(Audio distortion)

-- facilitated, and that was.

-- and we have about a --

We worked with a design and research group.

In the previous cycle, and work with young people to develop some research questions around how we can make the idea of generation workshops more effective.

And universally, and also for young people, and what we learned there is a lot of things, and mainly, we should add a road map for how to come up with ideas, and that road map turned into over the course of the research, that we worked with ideas and it's a group exercise that moves us away from the individual idea submission.

So that was great.

And it really helped people in core competencies and able to pivot, and find areas of common ground and move people along the general assemblies.

So that is great.

Also, we moved from a schedule of six meetings which we did in year three to a schedule of four meetings.

But we kept the time at 20 hours to -- so that people could have as much time as they needed and wanted to discuss all the ideas and come to consensus on which to move forward, and that was a decision we made based on attendance.

People requested from the previous year there be longer sessions.

But fewer of them.

But we did that, and we were able to get better attendance overall from the participants in the borough assemblies and it was easier to schedule over six for people, and they got the benefit for being able to be together on the weekends.

So that was a positive takeaway, and one thing to highlight, there was a lot of highlights this year, but one thing to lift up was that we partnered with five CIGs, cultural institution groups across the city.

I can try to rattle them off here.

Oh, they are written there.

Flushing town hall, BRIC, Snug Harbor, Musco, and the Bronx museum.

They did a digital push as well for the vote phase, and we are excited to continue that into year five, and just represents another way that we are prioritizing the arts and making sure the arts community is involved in our biggest phase.

So those are my highlights.

Open to questions.

>> Thank you so much.

I will just try to make this a little more organized.

The question -- first I will ask if there are any questions from commissioners on this section?

And then if you have edits to anything in this section in the annual report, we can share that as well here.

Does anyone have any questions for Hill about participatory budgeting this year?

Donna?

>> Yeah -- sorry.

Thank you.

The 11 to 17, 18% increase, do you think this is a result of the partners that we use to get them to be involved in participatory budgeting?

And that is the first question.

And we use a number of different partners.

You said it went well.

The synergy with the public and the groups, how was that?

You know, fostered, manufactured?

And allowed to flourish?

And are we going to be using it going forward?

>> Thanks, Donna, for the question.

I will check on this.

I'm in the sure if it was an increase from last year on the youth.

So I will double-check on that.

But -- granted, we are combining two categories.

Because the way we ask people about their age is -- I don't think the category is 11 to 17, but we combined two to say, okay, most people are falling within this age range.

All that to say, yes, I think it is partners that go in schools and afterschool programs.

So one way we encourage partners to reach the vote goals is to go and meet audiences where they're at.

Our captive audiences, and one of those is schools, obviously, and a lot of partners have pre-existing activities or running school programs.

That being said, yeah, I think it's a result of the partnerships and where they're going to get votes.

But of course, when we're out in the public doing our CEC engagement, we also see that young people are really excited to come up and see the bus, see the giant puppets.

And more excited when they realize they can actually participate.

So it's both that and I think the captive audience piece.

On the second part, could you say more about what you mean with the synergy with the public and the partners?

>> You know, sorry.

Partners are an entity within themselves.

Sometimes you find the public don't want to engage with, you know, individual groups or things like that.

Because they feel that participatory budget is something they do with the city.

And if they have to engage with, you know, a private -- well, not private, but individual, they're thinking it's taken away from their experience.

So that's -- that was actually the meaning of that question.

>> Thanks for that clarification.

Yeah, I see what you mean.

So it's both that and the opposite actually.

We find -- one thing with that that we tried to do is forefront who is the civic engagement commission in all of our slide decks that we share with folks.

That is the first couple slides.

Who are we?

What do we do?

What is our presence in the city?

What is the charter mandate?

That is the first thing we ask our partners to forefront.

And this year, we also on the sign-in sheets created a column where folks can sign up for the CEC newsletter and they get the email.

So there is a way we are trying to bridge the partnership whatever it is, common points, and us.

But also, you know, part of the reason we utilize the partners and they are so important to us and crucial to the work overall, often times it's the inverse where perhaps people are reluctant to cast a ballot that is coming there a government agency and give any personal information, although we don't ask for much.

We just ask for the ZIP code and some demographic information, as opposed to the map program that asks for people's address, and apartment number, things like that.

Never the less, we find there is reluctance to give personal information to the government, and even so, the partnerships bridge that.

Because people are used to coming to an ESL class or a mental health workshop or these things at the partner location.

So they are really trusting of the partner.

And then the role of the partner becomes also to help bridge and help them understand they're a partner represents the civic engagement commission.

So it's an interesting play on that, and we are trying to grow our -- the recognition of the CEC logos and our work beyond just the partners.

Because I think largely, that is really the way we've been recognize.

But this year, anecdotally, staff and myself, interacting with residents at the five flagship events we had across the city, people said, yeah, we remember you from last year.

So there is a building upon year over year, people remembering us.

So that's good.

>> Thank you for this work.

I just have a question.

The impressive number of borough assembly applicants.

Over 1100 is really impressive.

But it seems like we take just about 10% of those to serve.

I'm wondering what we do with the applicant pool so that they are continuing to be engaged in other work.

>> Yeah, thanks for that question.

It's a good one.

Well, we offer them an opportunity to engage in other parts of the phase and sign up for the newsletter of course, always.

So we have an ambassador opportunity, different type of engagements that might not be as deep as the borough assembly one, which is the deepest one because they spend the most time in a room with us.

There are other lanes, and works on engagement and what it looks like, and maybe it will come up later in the presentation for people.

So if they are not able to do this, what can they do instead and what are the next steps for people?

And the first thing being, you know, reaching out to them and offering them the student to sign up for a news late -- news letter to stay engaged.

That is something we are thinking about.

I know the executive level is thinking of that in if they land on the website.

They can understand what the different engagement opportunities are, and say if they are not able to jump in on this one, what the other lanes are -- I will also say that part of the reason it's so high is because we recruit from the idea generation sessions.

And as you saw, there were 11,000 people who were in the IG session.

So it's just under 10% of those who applied.

But that is primarily where we get the applicants.

So, that being said, during the idea generation session, they are also provided with here are other things you can do with the civic engagement commission, one of them being sign up for the applicant pool.

>> Yeah.

Samirah?

>> Hello.

My question is about the borough assembly selection process.

I understand that residents are randomly selected through the third party.

Do you know who is responsible for conducting that selection?

I don't see it listed on the annual report.

And also, what safeguards are in place to ensure that the collection process is equitable?

>> Good to see you.

Thanks for the question.

Yeah, so our partner does the selection process, the borough assembly members, and in particular, Bailey Flanagan what we worked with, our data scientist who is running the process for us and with us, in partnership for the past four years, I think.

Is that right, Benjamin?

Two years?

Wasn't she part of it before?

Okay.

So the foundation.

And yeah, the safeguards, Benjamin can speak to it more, and I offer the opportunity for Benjamin to come up and speak more on this.

But it's a foundation that has been in place and serves various entities across the country and across the word in providing a process in which members can be randomly selected to represent the demographics of, in our case, a borough, in other cases a school, or a nation, to represent it and ensure there are representatives.

Benjamin can speak to it more.

But we were instructed last year not to use the demographic criteria.

So we used other criteria.

Language spoken other than language at home.

Age, education level.

Income and housing status.

Good thing I have Benjamin here to speak on this.

So while we did offer residents, you know, the question of various racial ethnic demographic questions, we used the Proxies that I just mentioned.

And we matched what would have been the demographic criteria with the proxies.

And they were really close.

And we saw that putting them side by side, we actually got close to the demographics of the borough, using the Proxies.

>> I will ask -- try to keep us moving.

Are there edits on the annual report on the PB section?

I think there are certain things we can implement based only the questions and I will mention those really quickly now.

I think we should include who was supporting on the sortition process.

I think we should include whether there was an increase in youth participation from last year?

Because we did implement a new strategy.

Though it's not always clean, the statistical association whether our recruitment led to the increase in numbers, but we can include that data.

And then I notice that in the end -- in this section, we did not mention the number of people who actually applied for borough assembly.

So let's make sure we add that in.

Those three edits.

Are there any other edits to the report?

Sorry.

>> I was thinking, it's a question of the selection entity.

So I think it's important to know who is actually doing --

>> Yeah, so right now, we are working with MIT to help us assign -- or select a random number of applicants for each borough.

So we can make sure we include that.

Gio?

>> Testing.

Cool.

I was also thinking about was -- I saw that we had 9% of the votes being online votes.

And I think this year, there was so much on the online platform, and digital engagement.

So I'm curious if it went up from 7% to 8% last year to 9%.

I know that is 9% of the entire votes.

But if we are making more investment on digital outreach and access and equity, we should kind of see how many more online votes we are getting as well?

>> Yeah, well, it's an unfortunate truth, but it actually went down this year.

Because we had a struggle with the domain.

So there was an issue with the dot IO, the voting platform domain, and there was blockages in the firewall from some different service providers, internet service providers.

I think Optimum was causing problems.

And we caught that a couple weeks in, people using Optimum internet, and we had to shift the platform to a different landing page.

So I think actually that contributed to a decrease.

I think we had something like 11 or 12 actually percent last year.

And this year, 9.

So yeah, I mean, it's theoretically next year going to be resolved since we will stop using the dot IO domain and start fresh.

And this year -- yeah, I think digital engagement continues to be a juggernaut for us.

It's always the case that we get way more paper engagement because we use paper ballots on the ground, meeting people where they are, rather than the digital blast.

But we are going to keep working on the digital equity team to continue to better our platform, our voting platform and make it user friendly and get in digital spaces this year.

So we are hopeful we will get beyond what we did in Cycle 3, into cycle 5.

>> Any commissioners have a burning passion to help us with online engagement, we welcome your -- we should convene and discuss some of the strategies there.

>> Just a little input on the online thing --

>> So the next thing, talking about volunteer engagement.

If you can please come up.

Maybe -- so now, we are moving in the volunteer section.

Commissioners, write down edits.

I will try to keep us on track on time, which we may still -- yeah.

Barbara?

>> Good morning, everyone.

Good morning.

We can do better than that.

Good morning, everyone.

>> Good morning.

>> My name is Barbara Williams, and I'm the director of outreach engagement, and this is my outreach team.

I would like to introduce my team.

Justin Usher.

>> Hello, good morning.

>> Borough?

>> My borough is Brooklyn.

>> I'm Jasmine from Manhattan.

>> Good morning, I'm Joe from Queens.

>> We just started with us.

So let's welcome him to the team.

I'm very proud of the team because we began one year ago, the community ambassador engagement academy.

>> So this initiative started as an outreach team initiative for January through June, 2026.

The CEAA is what we call it.

>> Actually, we're going to cover the second half.

Because we reported to you on the first half.

So this is to close out the first half.

>> My apologies.

So our goal for this initiative for spring cohort 2026 is to focus on strengthening volunteer engagement through a training program, supported through the NYC service funding.

Le and in total, we aim to have 11 opportunities enrolled.

10 completed the workshop.

Three in Queens, two in Brooklyn, two in the Bronx, and two in Staten Island and two in Manhattan.

And older adults, two for Brooklyn, two for Queens, in total, four adults for our CEAA program.

>> So as you can see from the flier on here, this is a seven-week course.

The classes are actually taught by the outreach team.

And the seven weeks is facilitated by our own Dr. Sarah Sayeed where the students show off their final product.

And they work with us for six months and they become people's money ambassadors.

This is all done virtually, and as you can see, these are the students that graduated in the spring cohort 2026.

We are actually taking applications right now until October 2nd.

So if you know anyone who is new to civic engagement, we are looking for people who want to become leaders in the community.

We are actually taking applications right now.

If you look in your bags, you will see the flier for -- that's right.

Go into your bags and you will see the flier.

We also give you a little treat with the journal that you see that we're going to give out to students.

And miss Amy, if you can read your journal, the cover of your journal?

>> For every voice, may this journal ignite your civic story and spark courage.

>> What we're hoping is you will use this journal during this year as commissioners to write your journey during this year.

Okay?

Thank you?

Next.

>> I just want to make one comment if you don't mind.

I'm very pleased to receive the bag.

I did call into Abby this year when I was getting off the subway in Brooklyn, and saw a woman with her bag.

And because we were just passing, I didn't have a chance to speak to her, other than to say, I really like your bag.

And so, I just want to let you know that I think you already know this, but also, affirm that having these bags and having our name out there is really a positive thing.

And she was quite pleased to be recognized to have the being.

Soy just wanted to relay that story.

>> Thank you.

Thank you, commissioner.

Next slide please.

>> Hi again.

So one of the updates we made with the CEAA curriculum was to make the way for the government to become more practical and easier to connect with.

And we added information about how a bill actually becomes a law.

And we use the School House Rock I'm just a bill video, and it gives a video how legislation moves through the government, and we also connected that -- with a real-life example how Barbara, our director, worked closely with assembly member Stefani Zinerman on detecting monitoring for infants.

And that was included in the senate of New York state.

And epilepsy bill in New York 59139.

The bill was passed in the New York state senate in June 2026, and I was sent to the assembly where it's sitting in the health committee.

The reason we use that example is that civic engagement is not only how we understand the government.

But also, if you are facing an issue, you can reach out to your assembly members or elected officials for yourself or your family, for your community, explain the problem and then advocate for a solution.

So overall, we made the curriculum more focused to the local government, and showing people practical ways they can participate and engage with the government themselves.

>> So what we're finding out is that people are loving the fact that it's through our lived experience and their lived experience that they are learning a lot.

This is really exciting, this is cool.

And just -- when they heard the schoolhouse rock video and saw it on the screen -- and I saw the faces light up when we mentioned it, you know, they get really excited about that.

So, you know, it really makes people happy to be a part of the program.

Next slide.

>> I would like to introduce the performance for the PB vote ambassadors, 32 seats available for five boroughs, CEAA ambassadors.

31 seats filled, Bronx, 7, Manhattan, 7.

Queens, six, Brooklyn, 7, and Staten Island, 4.

And we have volunteers conducted outreach with houses of worship, veterans and their families, unhoused and food pantries, and older adults and the total number of votes per board row.

Bronx, 1,336, Brooklyn, 10,034.

Queens, 760.

Manhattan, 1,288.

Staten Island, 227.

And city wide, 4,855.

And Manhattan is the top one.

So, it's from my borough.

Thank you, everyone.

And for outreach together with ambassadors, it really did very good, hard work and great work in that cycle.

Thank you, everyone.

>> So once again, we are very excited to bring to you the third cohort.

So if you know of anyone you would like to refer, anyone who is new to the world of civic engagement, please let us know.

The applications close on October 2nd.

And we will start reviewing applications next week.

This is my team.

And Abdul, welcome to the team, and welcome to the commissioners.

Thank you so much for having us.

>> Thank you.

Let's take a few questions about this section from commissioners.

Yeah?

>> First off, I want to say I love the new update.

I love that you include information on how a bill becomes a law and also inviting an elected member.

I think it's a really good idea.

So good job on that.

>> Yeah, we actually added a couple things that's not listed here.

We actually added a training for communications with veterans and their families to that as well.

And we'll be doing a workshop in the fall.

Because when people do projects, they need to know how to do funding as well.

So in the fall, we'll will offering a workshop that shows them how to apply for grants as well.

>> Other questions?

Yeah?

>> I have a quick question.

Thank you, Barbara.

A question I had, week seven on the flier is for final project development and presentation.

From the last cycle, were there any notable projects to amplify?

What were the projects made by the 15 students?

>> I can't member any offhand.

But I can look back and get back to you on that.

>> Of course that would be awesome to add to the report as well too.

>> Okay.

>> Yeah?

>> Great stuff, thank you.

Here we go.

I just wondered if you are doing social media recruitment for this cohort?

You know, if there is any way for commissioners to amplify that for you?

>> Yeah, we started doing social media.

We did it on my page.

We did it on the social media pages for the commission.

And it's been shared and people have been liking it.

It's been going -- we're not viral yet.

But -- people have been sharing it.

Yes.

>> Any other questions on this?

Are there any edits to this section?

I think you recommended adding something about what kind of projects they might have worked on.

So that is something for us to add quickly.

Anyone else have any edits to the outreach section?

Okay.

Thank you.

>> Thank you.

>> Thank you, outreach team.

Next, we have -- who is next?

Haydon talking about the task force inclusion.

And I used an acronym that I didn't explain.

MIT, Massachusetts institute of technology.

Haydon?

>> Good afternoon.

My name is Haydon.

I'm the program manager for the neighborhood initiative.

Can you hear me?

Awesome.

Program coordinators in the neighborhoods hardest hit by COVID to create and sustain engagements that helps folks find and make a difference in issue that care about their communities.

The TRIE neighborhoods that we work with play a part in ensuring that the most marginalized New Yorkers are represented in the people's money process.

The next slide, I will just highlight some key outputs from the people's money.

So for idea generation, our TRIE partners were able to gather over 4,000 New Yorkers across almost 200 workshops in their TRIE neighborhoods.

They were responsible for over 800 ideas that were generated through phase one of last year, and 220 boroughs for the applicants.

And responsible for 68,000 of the votes, 50% of the city wide total, and really impressive and speaks to the organization's reach through their diverse coalitions.

And finally, something that I think was exciting and new from last year was our implementation collaborations.

This year, we matched all of your TRIE organizations with the cycle project in the TRIE neighborhoods to work on an activity they designed together to create access to the money projects to the TRIE audiences.

So that manifested through co-designed workshops, project activities, research fairs, referrals and volunteer days of angst.

So that was a really successful change that we made to our program last year, which resulted in over 32 collaborative people's money project activities.

Next slide please.

And then of course I wanted to highlight some outcomes related to coalition building.

So over the course of last year, our 32 TRIE organizations convened over 230 coalition members collectively.

And they hosted over 130 coalition meetings throughout the year to -- at first, define their own goals and expectations for one another in the TRIE partnership to identify priorities for their own unique communities and to execute on their strategies for getting folks involved in the people's money, as well as other civic engagement opportunities.

The civic workshops they customized.

They did over 37 workshops.

Engaged 800 people to talk about what civic engagement is and what it could look like in their neighborhoods.

And to note, over \$400,000 of their TRIE awards was in development.

That is stipends for organizations, volunteers, engagement incentives, way to make it more sustainable and accessible to local stake holders.

At the end of the year, we asked for some feedback from our partners and we are excited to say that 100% of our TRIE organizations agreed or strongly agreed that working in coalition helped to strengthen their capacity, not only to meet the people's money deliverables but also to address emergent community needs.

So the quote I have included in here was an anecdote from Rodney, our partner at the boys and girls club in the TRIE neighborhood in the Bronx of S&P Sound view where we talks about in the springtime when the community faced a real crisis, where they had a shooting in the community and he talks about how through their coalition infrastructure, they were able to quickly respond working with partners to provide mental health services at community centers that was organized by them, and the quick response was because of the foundation they had built through the TRIE partnership.

We have been working with them for two years now, going on three, and we're excited to continue to build the foundation that allows our partners to be responsive, not only in times on of crisis, but also every day opportunities to allow community members to take action on the things that are impacting them.

And that is all I have to share with you all for today.

I will take any questions.

>> Thank you, Haydon.

Any questions?

On this section?

Commissioners?

Donna?

>> Sorry about that.

Thank you.

I was wondering if you could include the names of the different community organizations that are working with you.

Because I see Kips Bay, and I'm like, that is not a TRIE neighborhood.

Because the name is confusing.

It doesn't say Caster Hill or Sound view.

And I thought, 21st street that is not TRIE.

So I think if we included the name or some of the areas, it might be a little clearer for people to understand the types of neighborhoods we are actually talking about.

And things like that.

>> Yeah.

Thank you, commissioner.

Yeah, we will include a table I believe in the appendix.

But it's a good point in the quotes to also include the TRIE neighborhoods of the partners we are quoting.

Thank you.

>> Anyone else have a question?

Yeah?

>> I understand that this was started because of COVID-19 and the designation of the TRIE neighborhood.

But I want to bring forward maybe it's the time to talk about the fact there has always been systemic issues in the neighborhood, and COVID was used at that time to identify the neighborhoods, I think leaving covid in the background and pulling forward just the neighborhoods and the issues.

So that is something for the commission to talk about internally.

But I wanted to bring that forward.

>> Thank you.

>> Thank you.

Anyone else?

Yeah?

Gio?

>> Do we know what the TRIE neighborhood categorization, how long does it last?

Is that something we will continue to come back to for a decade or 15 years or until the neighborhood has been revitalized in other ways?

Just curious about the TRIE neighborhood that is six years post-pandemic.

>> I can take that.

Do you want to answer?

No, I think it's a negotiation.

We were assigned to manage the partnerships and the coalitions, and this work is really coming out of the assignment of neighborhoods really coming out of the task force for racial inclusion and equity.

That task force is now embedded in the city charter as something that will be continuing.

So I think the designation of neighborhoods and what it signifies and what is being tracked about the neighborhood investment is something that the city is going to need to continue to discuss, and since we are in this space, we are kind of champions the cause internally about how to move forward on this discussion.

But it's a really important point, and we can also take back internally that the commissioners raise this question.

You know, in a public meeting.

So, any edits on this section?

I had a few just based on what people said.

One thing is, I think the quote, designated the TRIE neighborhood.

I want to make sure we are cross-checking that the data in the deck is in the report.

Because I'm not certain that it has been included.

So let's just make that a -- across the board cross-check.

I think those are the two things that I had.

Okay.

Thank you.

Thank you, Haydon.

And a reminder to people who are on the Mentimeter, we encourage to you add questions and feedback.

The next is Lauren on the project implementation data.

And the floor is yours.

I have not been keeping track if any commissioners online have questions or feedback.

So after this round, raise your hand and someone from the team can flag for me if there is a hand raise online.

Thank you.

Lauren.

>> Hi, everyone.

My name is Lauren Handley.

I am representing -- can you hear me?

Okay, there we go.

Good morning, everyone.

My name is Lauren.

I'm represents the project implementation team for the People's Money today.

We are going to give you an update on what is happening with the 20 projects.

So for -- you might be familiar already as commissioners have heard some of this before.

But to give a brief overview of the project distribution per borough and funding amounts.

Anyone who isn't familiar, we are 20 projects and five in the Bronx, five in Brooklyn, four in Manhattan, five in Queens and one in Staten Island.

It runs from 165,000 to 250,000 per borough.

Next slide.

We had seven development projects, four education, four social services and accessible and three focused on well-being and four on arts.

Next slide.

Great, so now we're going to give you an overview of what happened in the project so far, and what has been served and how.

Cycle 3, we served 6,098 people to the projects to date.

They go until October.

So this is to date reporting, rather than complete for Cycle 3.

Through 289 workshops delivered by the partners and 59 community events were held.

And they focused on Topics financial literacy, arts, employment readiness, tenant rights, nutrition, and 1,400 individuals were consulted on their needs, and 1,600 people were connected with critical resources.

Next slide.

And then unfortunately, we don't have time to get a highlight from every project.

We wish you could.

But if you are curious, we have a what's in your borough video series on the YouTube page.

I encourage commissioners to check those out.

But to give a high it will, a very unique project this year was healthy food and literary nights for individuals.

This was Bronx health reach in Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Bedford Park, Williams Bridge, Norwood, Olinville, Edenwald and Wakefield.

And talking about connection and conversation with community members and talking about topics such as this particular quote came from an event I attended centered around pride month and being an immigrant.

So the books presented sparks conversation in the communities and brought people together to discuss over food the themes that the book centered on, which is really unique.

And the next slide, I believe we have a photo.

And so this is served over 300 people, and they held their events at various locations, faith centers, schools, parks, libraries and universities as well.

And through attending, each person left with a copy of the book.

The goal was to encourage reading at home, reading with families, discussing books within your community.

I believe that is our last slide for project implementation.

>> Thank you so much, Lauren.

Are there any questions on PB project implementation?

Are there any edits to the section?

(Inaudible)

>> Yeah, thank you very much.

Great.

Well, thank you to the commissioners, and like I said, if you want to read more about each project, they are on the website and on the YouTube page.

Highlighted in the what's in your borough series, and in is one highlight per borough you can see.

>> I think for edit, we may want to consider the suggestion that included the neighborhood.

>> Yeah, we can include --

>> The quote pullout.

>> Yeah.

>> So we know which neighborhood it's in.

And yeah, thank you.

>> Okay, great.

Thank you.

>> Okay, our next presenter is Anila.

Voter language assistance.

>> Good afternoon.

To all.

Commissioners.

And colleagues.

And partners.

So in 2026 fiscal year -- next slide please -- we served voters with limited English proficiency on our methodology in three elections.

Two more regular elections, November 2025 general election, and the June 2026 primary.

We covered services, the February 2026 essential election in Brooklyn.

Next slide.

In terms of utilization, we served almost 2,000 voters this past fiscal year.

We served 1,559 voters in the November 2025 general election.

And 365 voters in the June primary.

If compared to the November 2021 general election, which was again a mayoral election, local election, we observed almost a twofold increase in utilization.

And then the June primary, with 365 voters, if compared to the June 2022 primary, it represents a 16% drop compared to the local primary.

Next slide please.

In terms of CBO partnerships or partnerships with community organizations, we conducted a total of 28 workshops in the past fiscal year.

The workshops are in language, as you all know.

The first pilot partnership was back in May and June of 2025.

So we have been building on that pilot to strengthen the partnership.

A total of 1,100 voters with limited English proficiency that are eligible for our services and our priority to geographies, they received information on key election dates, voting rights and services, directly from their trusted community organizations, people who are -- worked with these people with voters with limited English proficiency communities day in and day out.

And of course, the language assistance adviser committee added to the efforts.

Some of our language community adviser members conducted their own canvases and the workshops in the languages and communities they represent.

Next slide please.

I should note that one of the things that the people and director this year, the -- the convening we had in May bringing together hundreds of community organizations,

practitioners, city officials as well as ethnic media for building the power across languages convening was a great success.

It took a lot of effort, but we were able to bring the people together to discuss the barriers and the solutions they recommend to bringing voters with limited English proficiency.

But not only the populations in New York City, closer to civic engagement opportunities and making sure that they become a part of our civic life, not only part of the economic and -- yeah, so this was a great success.

We're hoping to replicate it -- I mean, to hold it again next year and make it an annual event where we're building year after year and trying to bring up -- come up with practical, concrete ways to build this partnership and have this community organization and supporters support our work and have a role in promoting civic engagement opportunities for immigrant and language communities.

That is pretty much it for me.

Any questions?

>> Any questions about voter language assistance?

Anyone on line have any questions?

Commissioners?

Are there any edits to the section?

(Inaudible)

>> Okay.

Okay.

Thank you, Anila.

Oh, Donna?

>> Thank you, Anila.

It's -- great job.

The civic power across languages, I'm truly impressed with that, and going forward, I feel like this is a way to access the communities and the people that service those communities and have inclusion in that.

We had -- what was his name?

Ahmad with immigration.

He was on our commission.

So he started some of this.

So actually, this is a good progression of this type of work going forward.

Especially in the climate that we have right now where people feel like their voice is not heard or people are not looking out for their interests.

>> Yeah, I mean, the barriers are real, and interesting things that came up from this small group discussions that we facilitated for each of the communities that covered for the come, and socioeconomic barriers are very well for the communities, and act saying information for voting and civic engagement for the community.

There are language barriers for sure.

So it's important we keep it going.

>> Are there any edits on this section?

I just want to note one edit for the discussion about the June primary.

While it is true that the overall rate of utilization dropped over time, it's interesting to note that in the graph you have shared in the report, for some languages, utilization actually increased.

I want to make a note of that in the text.

Specifically, it was for Bengali, Arabic, French, there was slight increase over time.

So make sure we add that qualifier in the report.

>> I think you're right.

And for Russian, there was a drop.

>> Yeah, for the largest -- the larger language communities, there was a decrease.

>> Thank you so much.

>> Thank you.

All right, our next and final, last but not least, about community boards, and there is so much that is written up in the annual report that we have not covered today.

So Benjamin, the floor is yours.

>> Thank you.

Nice to see everybody, in the audience.

I want to acknowledge the three Americorps members, raise your hand.

>> I was going to include them later.

>> Yeah, community boards.

Yeah, next slide.

Yeah, so this actually, I have come up with a few edits to this already as we move forward.

So we'll see if we want to do those.

I want to include, we list all the actual trainings we do in the report, but we've also -- here, listed the actual partners we have.

You can see the variety of people we use from existing city agencies to a lot of CBOs and other partners.

Unified court system is new this year.

We brought back Yuko Uchikawa, we have added as well.

A really exciting group of people and we look forward to partnering with them as we move forward over the coming year.

Next slide.

You'll see a breakdown of every workshop and every borough in the appendix of the report, and I think it's really interesting to note here the amount of people that register as opposed to attending.

I think you have a lot of issues when you do free online events.

They like to sign up.

I have done it myself.

Sign up and not gone.

We really do want to increase that number.

Obviously, people get the notices, 875.

We want to increase that.

How do we get this to actually show up for the online Zoom will be an issue we try to tackle over the coming months.

Just listed there some of the most popular ones by registration and attendance.

We have a couple -- we did the community land trust, we only did one last spring, but they are coming back for a couple more soon.

So that was a popular one unto itself.

Next?

Something we talked about a few times here is the better public meetings work.

Some of the most interesting work we have been doing the last few months.

Some of you were interviewed for that.

We had the July 22nd live event in Columbia, and we also added -- Columbia is going to be working with us on a regular basis, with Brennan center, CUNC, and the institute for state and local government.

So after that July 22nd event, they all heard about it and want to be part of it.

And that is really exciting and the Columbia world projects the will continue to be a partner.

And October 8th, next week, we have our first online peer to peer group with these listed -- the community boards.

We might get a few more after that.

Before we get to that.

And hopefully that group will grow, and we'll start to share things that people are innovating with in their boards.

And as well as -- with each other and then maybe spread the word.

That will be an online resource as well, and the Zoom call.

That is the slides I had.

>> Thank you, Benjamin.

Are there any questions or edits?

To this section?

Donna?

>> I don't have any edits to the section.

But I may have a suggestion.

As to attendance.

The time may be a factor.

Because some -- most of them are during the day.

I know you had some in the evening.

>> Yeah.

>> But in the evenings, there is also community board meetings.

So sometimes they can't join because they have to go to board meetings.

So Fridays are usually nothing.

So that's something to think about.

We don't have board meetings on Fridays.

So Mondays through Thursday is usually filled with all kinds of stuff.

So you might want to think logistically when do you want to have meetings?

I know the partners, you also have to deal with them and their time, and when they have -- but the New York project is great.

>> They asked us when we wanted --

>> They will meet any time.

>> Things like that -- yeah, I'm sad to see it's not a lot more involvement in these wonderful topics.

Because I usually try to attend.

>> Yeah, no, thank you.

>> But I will reach in the district managers more and to the actual members more.

Because what happens, you send the notice to the district manager.

And then they put it in the list and send it out to the board members.

But it doesn't touch the board members because they get so much email any way.

So this just gets lost.

And they don't see it as a resource.

So you might want to reach out to members themselves in a way.

You know, just like a brief note or something saying this is what we do.

This is what is available.

And just have individual members -- that conversation with them.

Bus district managers usually don't broadcast your service enough.

>> All right.

If I could just -- the timing is definitely crucial for these.

We do offer noon and 6:30, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

But yeah, we can look at other times.

I'm not sure how many people on a Friday night want to come listen to urban PED -- yeah, we don't have access to 3,900 individual emails obviously.

We do keep -- if they sign up for email, individual members, we keep that and mail to them directly as people sign up with the option to opt out of course if they don't want to hear from us directly.

So we are trying to build that list.

>> And the relationship with the board are the --

>> -- president.

>> Yeah, they help a lot.

We asked for that.

They don't share that.

They share DMs and pretty much that is it.

But they help promote events as well.

>> We can talk about how to get a more comprehensive lists.

Are there any edits on the section?

I want to make sure from my end, make sure we are referring to the appendix in this section for the data.

So I think that's our full presentation of the annual report.

We did say we were going to move the public comment section up into the meeting.

It is actually at the exact time it would have happened if we didn't see it, which is the last half hour of the meeting.

So we do have some people who had signed up to make comments.

And I'm going to call on them now to see if they're here, and also Abby, if -- thank you, team.

Is Abby here?

If you can text me any of the names and share with me what you did before, that could be helpful.

(Inaudible)

>> Okay, great.

First, I'm going to call on Danielle Mowery.

If you are here, you can come up to make your comment.

Let's -- I think you have been in enough public hearing so you know the time and stuff.

>> Thank you.

Hi, everyone.

Do I have this close enough?

Am I close enough?

Great.

So I'm Danielle Mowery.

I do this with -- I have been a part of the participatory budgeting and civic engagement partner.

And people's money, and I do it as a partner.

But I'm here today from my own capacity, and I want to talk about what the experience is for me, and what I value from PB and what should be highlighted and I'm happy to answer questions as well.

Because I can talk about PB all day.

I love it.

So with that premise, I really feel that the building of engagement and community, the ongoing involvement, the exposure to new individuals and current concerns is really valuable as well.

I go into schools a lot.

I go to older adult communities.

Different various groups.

We also work when we are able to do with English as a second language school, and to hear what people are concerned about, all the issues about affordability or kids want to be in unions.

You know, crisis in housing.

This is all very, very, very apparent five years ago.

And you know, participatory budgeting, you could hear it from high school students.

And old people.

And you could hear it in ways that were touching their lives directly.

And some of the ideas that have been bubbled up in workshops I have been in have made it and a lot of them have touched on housing, have touched on unions and job skills for younger people.

And also, you know, just all sorts of issues that come up.

And people really feel like when you go into the workshops, and again, I'm speaking from the heart, they feel like the city is slipping away from them sometimes, and this gives a feeling they are being heard and they can have impact.

There are lots of students I deal with who say they feel like they can't stay in the city that is their home and that is concerning.

And they will bring up issues too they are sharing with Nair community.

While they are sitting in their classroom, they will talk about an idea they want to implement and it gives them issues they want to talk about in their life, and they will talk in detail about what section 8 will and will not cover, and why their family had to move, and the teacher is like, why do you know that?

And the student is like, we found something that fit the parameters of what we are dealing with, and the student says, my rent is raised and I haven't seen my mother when we are both awake at the same time and I miss her.

And it strengthens the fact that the city is delivering more programs and services that we had a chance to share and vote on but they are strengthening their connection with one other and the belief they can make a difference.

So I feel that participatory budgeting, it sounds like it's a wonderful activity that the city does, but I feel like it's so much more, and we don't really know the ripple effect it has.

And I hope you all understand, and I think you do because you wouldn't devote the time and energy do you to it.

And I feel it brings a lot of leader facilitation as well.

There are people in the community that are speaking up or they are taking the idea I always tell my workshops.

Don't let this idea just be in this room.

Take it to your city council member and take it and organize it and it gives them power to do it and give them structure and input how that is possible.

It allows too, the organizations to expand partnerships and -- like, not just the partnerships.

The organizations that are participating in the workshops.

But also the partners that implement the projects.

It's a route for experimentation for the city.

It's a route to see what works and what doesn't.

It's a chance for nonprofits to be strengthened and to have capacity building, which is so crucial.

For some of the no profits, the budget they get to get an idea, it's transformative.

It gives them a chance to exist in the communities.

Again, another way that it's powerful in ways that are not easy to quantify but are so crucially important.

I also find that something that I love working with, the CEC, the whole team is very receptive and there is a lot of back and forth and idea sharing.

I know I started having students get out the vote, student vote ambassadors at union square academy, and it's a chance to earn money and get out and engage.

But their engagement with people, again, it's not just about getting votes.

They are engaging in the community, and speaking to people is a lot of them that they will say.

I started talking to somebody I don't know or I talked to my neighbor.

Or I talked to my grandfather, and explain to them what it was and what I was doing and what they should vote on.

Again, the different ways of quantifying it, I don't know always grasps fully the impact that PB has on people, and I just really -- I love it.

And I also think that one thing I do hear from people, and I would love for to you keep it in your hearts as well.

Because I do fund-raising and communication with nonprofits, and this is always in my heart as well.

People are like, why isn't there more money?

And you know, they look at -- you do the presentation on what the city budget is, and you are like, you get to decide this much?

And they are like, why?

Where is the money?

Why can't you decide more.

And the different ways that they use it to strengthen the city.

They can be expanding where it's implemented.

And they can do it more to train people and to involve people and train people.

And all levels, I feel strongly, I feel like the CEC should really have money more for the projects and just in general.

The things they do is just so, so crucial.

It's just knitting people together in a way that you don't just being on social media or holding meetings or sending out emails.

So that is pretty much it.

I have a lot more I can say and I'm happy to answer questions.

I do want to add one thing about the online voting this year in particular.

I feel a lot of people didn't want to submit phone numbers because they are fearful of I.C.E.

I have seen bags in the wild, and people have been happy when I comment on them.

>> Thank you so much, Danielle.

>> Sure, thank you.

>> Next, I'm going to call on Eaton Davis-Lopez who is online.

The floor is yours.

We're having trouble hearing you.

>> Hey, are you able to unmute your phone maybe?

We're having trouble hearing.

>> I'm going to -- let's see if you can get the technical issue worked out.

I'm going to go to the next person and come back to you.

And if it still doesn't work, you are welcome to -- if you have something written out, you can send it to Abby and Abby can read it.

Because we have about 20 minutes left or less in the meeting.

So the next person who signed up to comment is Steven?

Someone?

The audience, you signed up to commend?

Stephanie?

Stepped out.

Okay.

Do we have anything that we want to share on the Mentimeter?

Benjamin, do we want to put up the screen while we're -- okay, this was a strategy we experimented with to try to get live participation during the meeting, and there wasn't anything entered.

So it's kind of like our question that we had before about how -- what are the strategies to increase online participation.

This was an experiment.

We could have all kinds of hypothesis about why no one entered into the Mentimeter?

>> Yeah, I agree with increasing participation.

But I have to go back to the comments that were made and also our mission and core values.

Building community and reaching each other face to face is really important in this work.

So while I do want to see us increase our reach, at the same time, I would like to put in a caveat that online civic engagement, we need to look at what that is achieving.

Because it is a one-sided participation.

And there's not dialogue and there's not community.

So that is something that I would like to just put out there.

In our discussions about online reach.

>> Thank you for that insight and comment.

Appreciate it a lot.

How are we doing with Eaton's access?

Okay.

And is Steven Chen back in the room?

Okay.

Since we are unable to connect at this time, I think I'm going to -- because I'm time, I'd like to move us to voting on the annual report.

So considering the edits we discussed which we will work to incorporate, could I have a motion to approve the report for submission with the edit?

Abdul?

Oh.

Oh!

(Inaudible)

>> Okay, is there a motion to approve the report for submission with the edits integrated?

>> I make a motion.

It's on, right?

>> It is on.

>> I make a motion.

>> Do I hear a second?

>> Second.

>> And also, do we still have commissioners online?

>> Yes.

>> Okay, great.

So all in favor of approving the annual report for submission, please say aye.

>> Aye, with edits.

>> With the edits.

>> Any opposed?

Okay, great.

So thank you, commissioners.

We will make the edits.

We will update the document and send it to you all.

We will also submit it and post it online.

So thank you so much for approving that.

And I have a couple very quick updates for what's coming up before we wrap up.

I'm going to do a final ask about Eatonia and Steven before I move to program updates really quickly.

No?

(Inaudible)

>> Okay, okay.

Great.

Okay.

So a couple -- just coming up things and things we've done for your awareness.

Our national voter registration day, we did our annual voter registration event near NYU where we shared about civic commission and our work, and we were part of dancing for democracy event at Abolitionist Place.

And the Americorps members that are part of the team, welcome.

And currently, there is a request for applications for organizations to implement the participatory budget projects.

We will share that so you can share it.

The final information session is on October 5th.

And the request for information closes on October 28th.

Community board trainings are starting October 21st with HPD presenting updates to their five-year plan where we live to FIES housing discrimination and take action to advance housing opportunity.

We are on October 8th working with a peer to peer learning exchange for community board members.

October 6th, we are co-sponsoring the Brooklyn borough resource fair to promote voluntaries.

This will include a panel discussion.

Idea discussions will start on October 14th and continue through November 18th.

Of course the November election is coming up.

Early voting begins October 24th.

The language access advisory committee will be meeting October 14th to work with us on promoting the services and our outreach team will also be going out, canvassing with support with volunteers to promote the services.

And lastly, the commission on government efficiency, a charter commission, launched a campaign, vote on faster involvement, which is essentially promoting awareness on the five bat lot proposals.

We will integrate information in the training for interpreters and supporting the commission on government efficiently to raise awareness through our own social media newsletter.

Our next meeting is likely -- we haven't set a date, right?

Early November or -- sorry, early December or mid-November is probably likely.

We are probably -- we will be careful about the Thanksgiving holiday scheduling.

And we will talking right now about experimenting with a different format for the November meeting again to try to bring more people in the room and create more an interaction exchange with the public.

So just wanted to tee that up for commissioners as well.

Is there any other comment or announcement or anything else that commissioners would like to share?

Natalie, if you have got anything -- sorry I haven't been asking you periodically.

>> It's okay.

Thank you.

>> Okay.

Yeah, I can -- we can send you information on email about the events and the RFIs and other things that are coming up.

Okay, well, I thought we were going to run over.

Apparently, we have -- still have a little time to spare.

(Inaudible)

>> It will be either mid-November or early December.

But we're supposed to meet on a bimonthly cadence, so the next meeting should be technically November.

But we will compare everyone's schedules and see how we're doing.

>> Chair, may I ask a question?

Can you just clarify again the annual report, who is the audience for that?

>> That's a very good question.

Very good question.

And you know, we have been talking about this internally.

The primary audience is the mayor and city council, because that is what we are told we should address the annual report for.

However, we do want to make the document available and readable for the public.

So we are working on trying to make sure that it's -- it is written in a way that is available to the public.

But it will take a lot of work to get there.

You know, and I think this has been a process not just in the annual report, but I think overall, the communication, trying to make it more plain language, plain English focused.

We have yet to talk about how we translate the documents as well.

And even accessibility.

The team and I were talking about accessibility of the report.

Do we have a PDF -- there is a PDF reader for people who are visually impaired in up but some parts might be tough to navigate because there are images.

But I want commissioners to know there is on our to-do list of things we are monitoring and trying to improve.

But it's definitely a work in progress.

>> Thank you for that.

I would just like to say that I think throughout this, what is interesting about our commission is our mission and core values.

And the softer side of what we do, it would be great throughout the report to bring that in and some of -- you know, some of that is being accomplished throw -- through the quotes and other things, and as well as pictures.

But if there is a way to integrate that, and a way to show that we are always checking back to accomplish the mission and the core values.

And also, while I understand visual impairment and difficulties with that, I also -- I would like to put forward to get more info graphics.

It is very text heavy.

Especially in the voter access portion.

There are ways, and I thought there was -- someone providing some of that skill set to the commission.

But it would be really great to have more info graphics, and those then become very easy to publish out and easier to access the information.

Especially, this is a data-heavy document.

>> Yeah, I would love to talk to you more about that and see -- get more suggestions on that.

Because I think we're constantly looking for ways to make things more readable and, you know, as we were listening to the team, I just felt like there was so much work that we have done that isn't probably even noted here.

So it's hard to strike that balance.

But yeah, one way to keep up with the work is to attend more of our meetings.

Because we do have reporting throughout.

I understand from Abby, there is someone online who would like to offer a comment.

Since we have a few minutes, and in the interest of promoting the public, we would love to give you the floor.

Not sure if you can introduce yourself.

>> Good afternoon.

My name is Shai.

I'm part of the community board member 5.

I just got elected to the position.

I just wanted to say this commission has been very informative about what the city is doing and how the budget works.

I'm just wondering, how can we be more involved in the meetings?

And there is a Facebook group or Instagram group that you guys have that you can do for the community so we can try to all have access, if that's possible?

>> Yes, thank you so much.

So one thing you can do, Shai, and sign up for the newsletter which will tell you about the different activities.

We always have a social media -- we have at NYCCEC on Facebook and Instagram and X.

What am I missed?

And LinkedIn.

Are we on TikTok?

Not yet.

And YouTube.

So you can follow us in the community in those spaces.

And we would love to stay in touch with you.

Through all of those different ways, and if you don't already know Benjamin, who works with the community boards and J.P., please do email us at info@civicengagement.NYC.gov.

>> What borough are a part --

>> What borough are you are?

>> I'm in the Bronx.

And nice to meet you, Benjamin and what?

>> J.P.

>> Yes.

Okay.

Gio?

>> Yeah, we spoke a little bit about this, but I think also in terms of making the report more accessible, an executive summary of the report would be great.

It's an 80-page report.

I think it's in the report, but maybe extracting it into its own two or three pager.

But I think we can share it easily among potential partners.

One partnership I will highlight in the report is the sugar hill ice cream.

And they had a People's Money flavor this year to get the vote out.

So if we can go to Chip City or sweets and treats and say, look, we engaged 130,000 people, and we would love to partner with you on a cookie.

I think that is a great idea this year.

And that is why I bring it up now.

Just putting it out there.

>> Yeah, thank you so much.

I wrote sort of an introduction, which is not -- try to summarize but not YIET a summary.

I appreciate that suggestion.

Thank you.

Yes?

>> So this is not about the distribution of the report to the public or anything.

But in reference to our earlier speaker who talked about how important and valuable the process is and how it would be great if we had more funding for participatory budgeting, I'm wondering if it's appropriate to have -- to say, you know this is what we established.

We are going forward above the charter responsibility in inclusive ways and we really seek more funding.

I think a case needs to be made for a bigger piece of the budget.

And Frankly, I would love to go even beyond just the budget to think about how to get people participating in assembling around legislation, legislative efforts, and I know if anybody in New York City has expertise, it's starting here.

So I think the report could be a platform to launch.

>> Thank you.

Thank you so much for that.

Yeah, one of the things -- one of things we are looking to do more of this year is to brief our agency partners and that includes O and B about all the work we have been doing, because

I think it's important for the city colleagues to understand what the funding that is allocated is going to do.

So I appreciate that suggestion a lot, and we will definitely be following up on that.

And on going, as you know, we have all agencies and offices have negotiations about the budget, and we are definitely, you know, trying to be thoughtful and strategic about making the asks throughout the year.

So we will definitely continue that, and I like the suggestion of including the annual report and impact as part of that conversation.

Thank you.

Okay, so now we are at time.

Oh, Samirah?

>> I want to add on that the commission and the values of the CEC.

Just something we can think about in the future when we look back at this report, what evidence will show that CEC actually strengthens the trust and participation?

How you actually measure civic trust.

Not that we just held workshops.

And it is valuable.

But how do we actually strengthen civic trust?

What does it look like?

Something to consider.

>> That is a beautiful suggestion.

We are going to be five years coming up for city wide participatory city budgeting.

And one of the things that we could do is plan ahead for what's the story we want to tell in the end of the year and make sure we are building in the metrics and narrative around that, and I think it would be really cool.

Because we are trying to be intentional about bringing in the measure, and next year's annual report, let's make sure we integrate something about that.

Thank you.

Okay.

Could I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

>> Motion.

>> Second.

>> You can yell out.

>> All in favor?

>> Aye.

>> Any opposed?

>> Oh, thank you, Natalie.

No one is opposed to it.

Ending this meeting.

So we are going to end the meeting.

Thank you so much, everyone.

Thank you to the members of public who came to sit with us.

We appreciate your presence.

>> Thank you.