NYC CEC MEETING 112922 930A

[Captioner standing by]

>> Hey, Sarah.

>> Can you hear me Abi?

>> Yes.

>> Okay. Also for closed captioning, we have a link for people to go to. I thought I would mention that.

>> Can you still hear me okay?

Abi? Can you hear me?

>> I'm muted, yes, I can hear you. Sorry.

>> My computer gave me a warning about my speakers or something, so I wanted to make sure.

>> Okay. I can hear you.

>> I'm in browser mode. Isn't there a way to change my background.

>> I think so. Browser mode is glitchy and slow.

>> It's not giving me options to do that. So annoying.

>> I went, I clicked on the meeting link and it prompted me to download the app. And then it allowed me to make the change. So maybe try to click on the meeting link, do you have the app downloaded on your device?

>> I don't and I don't know because it's a city computer if it's going to let me.

>> I just did it on mine, my computer from -- it wasn't downloaded. I had to reformat the computer recently.

>> I'm going to try.

>> Hello.

>> Hey, Ben.

>> Hello.

>> You can hear me, right?

>> Yeah.

>> My settings are weird on this computer.

>> How are we doing on quorum so far?

>> I think we have just Anastasia and Jose.

Anyone else?

>> I think we have to wait a few more minutes. We only have the three of us.

>> Yes I think people are slowly joining.

>> Great.

>> Seems like people are trickling now.

>> Are people joining on teams or something?

That is weird.

We have to figure out how the calendar business works.

>> When I send a calendar invite, it creates a teams --

>> I've experienced that myself.

>> Hello Mark.

Hi holly, hi Mitch.

>> Hi everybody.

>> Hi everybody.

>> Good morning.

>> I think we need one more, or eight.

Maybe we're good now.

I think we have eight, right?

Two, three -- four, five, six.

>> Yeah. There's a bunch of people joining now.

>> Seven, eight, I think we're good.

If they're coming in, I'll give it a few more minutes.

>> We have at least nine.

Not sure who Colin user is.

>> That's me.

This is (indiscernible).

>> Oh,.

>> Oh, I think people are going over to teams.

So, Anila, I know you posted in the chat, if you can do it and remind them again, it would be helpful.

>> I also put a message in teams as well.

>> Thank you for doing that.

>> We're at quorum, right?

>> Yes.

>> I'm going to begin the meeting.

So I'm calling to order our commissions public meeting, and we are live streaming as part of the open meeting guidelines.

I want to welcome everyone today including anyone who may be participating through the live stream.

Thank you for taking the time to join us for this meeting and also to the CEC team for all your hard work in helps coordinate and preparing for today.

And as I usually do, I'll go over technical assistance information as people

know we usually have audio enabled for the commissioners.

We ask that you mute yourself if you're not speaking, and we would love to have your video camera on if possible.

And to everyone else, this session is being recorded, and we welcome you to leave your camera on or off as you wish.

Though, as I said, we definitely encourage participation with camera on, and participants are going to be muted on entry, and we will enable audio for participants during the public comment period.

And we will be calling the last half of the meeting as you recall is typically reserved for public comment and we will be calling on participants in order that they have registered prior to the meeting.

Abi I'm not sure that anyone did e-mail to register.

However, if you haven't signed up and you're a member of the public and would like to provide comment, you can sign up until 12:00 p.m.

So in order to sign up, you should type your name and affiliation into the chat to offer public comment.

And if you're dialing by phone during the meeting and don't have a computer monitor, you can text your name and affiliation to 917 -- to offer public comment that number again is (917)587-9103.

And we will be calling on participants by name in the order that the name was received via chat or text after people that signed up earlier.

Live captioning is enabled through a link.

I believe that link has been posted in the chat.

Correct?

>> Yes.

>> Okay.

Awesome.

Thank you.

And we also welcome everyone, anyone who is with us today for the first time or not already signed up for our newsletter list.

We would love to have you on the list.

I will drop that into the chat as well.

If I can find my chat function.

Oh, there it is.

Sorry.

Okay.

And the thing I want to mention, if you are a member of the press, we would love to connect with you, so please do share your contact information

through the chat.

And our director of communications will reach out to you afterwards.

I'm going to begin the meeting by taking attendance.

And please just say here when I call on you.

The first -- I'll do this my last name.

Murad.

Baron.

>> Here, good morning.

>> Good morning.

Holly boner.

>> Here, good morning.

>> Amy Breedlove.

>> Here, good morning.

>> Hi.

Natalie DeVito.

>> Here, good morning.

>> Hello. Mark Diller.

>> Here.

Good morning.

>> Hello.

Donna Gill.

Anthony Harmon.

Jose Hernandez.

>> I'm here.

>> Hi.

Michael Nussbaum.

Is Michael here?

Lilliam Perez.

Annetta --

>> Hi good morning I'm here.

>> Lilliam, okay.

Great.

Annetta?

>> Good morning.

>> Hey.

Anastasia, I know you're here.

>> I'm here.

>> And Mitchel.

>> Here.

>> Wonderful.

Anyone who is new, my name is Sarah Sayeed. I'm the chair and executive director.

Everyone should have the agenda for today.

After we approve the minutes, we will pick up the discussion where we left off in the last meeting.

Where we were talking about our methodology for poll site language assistance and then we will go into exciting updates from a very busy past couple of weeks in the program space.

So, I'm going to begin with reviewing and approving the minutes.

>> Has everyone received the minutes?

And if you have received them, are there any additions or corrections to the minutes that we presented?

>> Received, no notes.

Natalie.

>> Hearing none, I move to approve.

>> Second.

>> Second.

>> Great, all in favor of approving the minutes from October?

>> Ay.

>> Any -- okay, great.

Any opposed, say neigh.

Okay.

Hearing no opposition, we will move forward with approving the minutes from October.

Next we're returning to the discussion of the amendment to the methodology.

Everyone should have received a version which is a word document with proposed changes to the methodology.

And just a refresh our memory, I want to go through what we discussed last time.

We were reviewing the proposed methodology for poll site language assistance and as everyone knows, we were doing this because we were tasked in 2020 when the commission was first announced we held a public hearing to create the initial methodology with public input and then beginning September 2022, we are tasked with reviewing and updating this methodology at least every five years, you know.

It could be more frequent than that and we were reviewing and the methodology with language that allows the commission an option to use utilization data to decide how resources are allocated and I'm again going to drop the methodology amendment that was approved into the chat.

And the approved resolution currently reads that the commission, it's the last, I guess, section of the amendment reads the commission shall review the utilization of poll sites after each cycle and report on utilization on an annual basis. The commission shall consider utilization data in preserving services or reallocated resources from underutilized sites under the following circumstances.

In the event the application of the methodology -- to be served for any particular cycle, the commission shall consider retaining such site space on available resources. It may consider reallocating resources from another poll site within the same language or another language when a poll site has been served over three election cycles with a zero or minimal utilization across all three cycles.

And as you remember, the way that we define the time frame for considering this utilization data through using the word cycle sounded pretty vague. And where we left it is that we were going to try to come back and be more specific.

Natalie volunteered to research the use of the word cycle to see if there was consensus among election experts so we can make a more informed decision.

And Natalie, I know you spent a lot of time reading about this, so I want to ask if you would like to sort of give an overview or of what you saw.

>> Yes.

>> I can also as you are doing that, I'll put into the chat what you had shared in terms of like New York state election law, the charter, and BOE annual reports were the spaces you sent us.

I'll put that into the chat.

>> Wonderful.

Thank you.

So, election cycles are defined differently.

An election cycle can be one election to the next election, but even the word election is in state and city law so that the New York state election law and the city charter both just refer to elections.

I was unable to find specificity where an election cycle is defined in a particular way.

So, I went about -- again, the city charter and New York state election law

were both referred to, so I went about trying to see if we could determine if we had an obligation or responsibility to fully define elections.

For example, we would not want to codify each election to mean each election for each office on the same day.

And then there is some, there are occasions where an election cycle is, there are some occasions when elections are at the state level and they're combined with the city level elections and judicial districts and so on.

All of this to say when we circled back with the law department we found that the language that we shall consider as the commission we shall consider election cycles to be, let me say we have an obligation to consider election cycles which will generally be understood to be a general to a general. However, that means one general election to another general election can take us across a span of two years at times.

If there is a special election, sometimes that can take us from one election to several months later.

So, we do have an obligation to consider elections, the usage of poll sites from one election to another.

There will be sometimes when that election cycle will be a yearlong and sometimes it will be two years long.

And it will depend on which offices are up at a particular time, and if there is a resignation or a vacancy in an office, et cetera.

We do have -- we have the discretion to use reasonable judgment without having to specifically create a number of months or years or we get to respond to the changing face of election cycles.

Again, we shall consider, and if two elections are very close together, we are not obligated to say, well, you know, for the past three elections, this poll site has not been used and maybe we know that these elections were a special election, tiny election, and no state level election or federal level election.

We get to use our reasonable judgment to consider them if we are going to make some changes to poll site access.

Does that all make sense?

I've been trying to use language carefully so as not to misconstrue anything.

>> Do people have questions or comments?

Thoughts for Natalie.

>> Yeah. I think -- thank you very much Natalie, by the way.

That's a lot of work and a lot of round and round the mulberry bush on that one.

When I'm listening to you, what I'm hearing is there is a lot of, you know, let's call 'em not fixed elections.

>> Correct.

>> Fixed is not a good word to use for elections, but, you know, they're not -- they're special or there is something different about them.

And then there is the generals, and the generals seem to be the -- I'm going to use the word -- fixed.

They have a specific time and, you know, reason for that election.

>> And schedule perhaps.

>> Schedule, that's the word I'm looking for.

Sorry.

It is still I guess early in the day for me.

What I'm thinking is that as the commission, we should, I believe, consider the generals because they are scheduled and they are specific and not really listen to the noise of the specials.

That is what I would suggest coming out of what I just heard.

>> So, I think that's a very valuable guideline for us to focus on while not being painted into a corner that we must, right, the word must is not there.

It's that we shall consider but not that we must only limit our evaluations

to generals.

We could have general elections across six years.

That means a general election at the federal level and state level.

That does happen sometimes.

We could have as large a span as six years that we're evaluating in we obligate ourselves to only stick with generals.

We don't want to be inflexible if we should learn and no from our expertise and our care and concern that we have communities that are in need.

I would like to pour out a very arbitrary example if I may.

If we had three elections, all general elections, where a poll site had an URDU interpreter.

Across the three elections, it was underutilized, we use our expertise and common sense and knowledge of civic engagement to see that these three elections while general elections were perhaps not, they weren't pertinent to a particular district where Urdu interpreters were very much in demand, and we don't want to miss the opportunity where we have learned of another poll site where they're begging for assistance and we don't have the resources. All that to say, I think you're right that we focus on general to general, and use common sense, expertise to make sure we're not forcing ourselves into a corner where we

cannot reallocate resources if we know that an interpreter was not needed at a particular poll site over six years doesn't really tell us the whole story.

Does that make sense?

You're on mute.

>> Yeah. I didn't know if you were asking me specifically or the commission.

The only thing is that I would defer to Mark in a way.

Legally, I just I feel like we need to have parameters on this legally.

And then some way to interpret if we need to, so some leeway but I don't think it should be super loose.

I guess, you know, general to general but I don't know Mark what are your feelings?

>> Thanks.

I'm still, I think that the proposed change makes sense to me for a couple of reasons.

One is that while there's an appropriate focus on the word election, and I think that the, what's been offered is helpful, and avoids the, sort of the angels dancing on the head of a pin interpretation of what a cycle is.

>> Yup.

>> So we get out of that business, and I think that is a good thing to do.

The thing that reassures me is the word consider as opposed to the word election.

It mandates us, the staff, we get to take the credit but the staff does the hard work.

As it should be, right?

It mandates that the staff consider.

It doesn't mandate that they change, it just means you have to think about things and look at numbers and have a check in.

While every election might be a little more frequent than I would think would be necessary, it doesn't mean that you have to have a complete overhaul after every election.

It just means that you have to check in and probably do what you would do anyway which is to see how did we do.

I'm encouraged by the change.

I'm not troubled by it being overly specific because it all modifies the word consider and I think we had a good conversation about that last time.

I think that is where I would come out.

Thanks for asking.

>> I agree.

That word specifically in the language really did make everything fall into place for me.

Having poured over the city charter, the state election law, what are we dealing with here. Once we codify some language, we are obligating ourselves and that word consider is a beautiful one because in support of our charge to consider, we have got this beautiful poll site methodology presented to us already.

We have the confidence going forward that we have the means to carefully and mathematically consider without some arbitrary opinions here and there.

>> And since Amy I'm sorry to jump back in, but I'm reminding myself that 20 years ago, I had a lawsuit over the word consider.

There was an -- yeah.

Believe it or not.

It had to do with Babar.

The licensing of Babar.

So there is actual federal precedent on what the word consider means and reasonably it means what you think it means.

You have to engage your brain and think about what it is that you are

being asked to evaluate.

It does not mean you have to approve or disapprove anything. There's a lot of latitude, but in that case, the court said that if, as long as there is the indicia of good faith, you satisfied the requirements of what it means to consider.

The opposing party did not engage in good faith and there was consequences but that proves the point that the word consider has meat on its bones even if they are flexible.

There's a metaphor to mix.

>> Thank you both.

I think I'm stuck on that we still have cycles in the language and not defining what cycles are.

Is that an issue.

>> In the proposed change, and I think you may have, you should have received a document that shows in track changes.

What we're saying we will do and essentially we are just going to drop the word cycle. And replace where it says -- does everyone have this, by the way, the word document with the tracked changes.

>> I looked at the link you sent.

>> What I'm talking about now, the one, the link I sent is the language

that we approved in the last meeting.

So, we can move into if everyone is, if no one else has questions or thoughts about what Natalie shared, we can move into what we're proposing to do as a solution.

>> Yes.

I think Mark shared his screen.

I don't know if that is viewable to others.

>> Thank you for doing that, Mark.

>> So this is the proposed change, and essentially at the top we are saying that we will review the utilization of poll sites after each election as opposed to each cycle. And similarly the word cycle is replaced in the middle as well.

So, just to read the full text out loud, would someone like to do that?

Mark would you read that out loud?

Or I'm not sure.

Mark?

Can folks hear me?

>> There we go.

I'm trying to unmute when sharing my screen is not that easy.

Okay.

So it reads utilization.

We're only talking about paragraph 12.

Utilization, the commission shall review the utilization of poll sites after each election and report on utilization on an annual basis.

The commission shall consider utilization data in preserving services or reallocating resources from underutilized sites under the following circumstances: In the event that application of the methodology results in a well utilized site being dropped from the list of sites to be served for any particular election, the commission shall consider retaining such sites based on available resources. In addition, it may consider reallocating resources from another poll site either within the same language or from another language when a particular poll site has been served over three general elections with zero or minimal utilization across all three general elections.

>> I apologize.

I didn't see those amendments.

That makes sense based on the conversation we've had.

>> Discrete anyone else have comments or thoughts about what we're proposing to do.

>> Only that I want to thank everybody for that input.

I want to thank Abi for her help in connecting with the law department.

While it might seem that in some ways we left well enough alone, the minor tweaks to the language here allow exactly what we are looking for.

We're looking for good faith, we're looking for reasonable assessments, we're looking to use methodology, we're looking to never make it about one person making some kind of summary judgment on making changes.

I believe this is a beautiful construction to allow us to do what we need to do, stay flexible and also stay accountable to each other and to the people.

I really do want to thank everyone who worked on this and who is taking the time to consider this at this point for how important it is.

>> A hundred percent.

Thank you Natalie for taking time out to do the research and share with us all and be a thought partner in the discussion with law.

I do want to note that as you recall because election, the poll sites are determined for each election we may have, you know, situations in which we won't even get to a poll site being on our list for three election cycles. I think that is another thing to keep in mind.

What happens, you know, on the ground or in, you know, in the world of

designating election sites is another constraint in and of itself on how we apply the methodology because if we don't have a cycle in the mix for three years, we would not be able to even consider that to drop it, you know, for low utilization.

Or to keep it for high utilization.

So I think this is super responsible and thoughtful.

>> Can I ask a question for clarification?

>> Of course.

>> This is in addition it may consider reallocating resources from another poll site either within the same language or another language when a particular poll site has been served over three general elections.

So that would mean roughly 12 years?

>> No it would be three, three November elections. I guess, yes, yes.

I guess.

No, actually no.

It is every, it is three years because it is every three, every election.

I don't think we said it was a general election.

Did we?

I'm sorry, I'm blanking.

>> The three general elections in New York City or New York state cannot

be more than six years because we have congressional elections every two years.

And we have not specified what level of election we're talking about.

Often you have a general election that combines say governor with Congress but there is always going to at minimum be a congressional election every two years and a general election could happen on the next year for let's say a mayor or city council or something. That too is a general election.

So we've got maximum of six years, and it could be as minimum as three.

>> You're right, right.

Yeah.

Thank you.

I think you were talking earlier Natalie also about how the word election itself is not an exact definition.

>> Yeah. I felt in the end like if it was good enough for the state of New York and the city of New York, then it is going to be good enough for us, how about that?

>> Yeah. Does that answer what your question Jose?

>> Yes, absolutely.

I just the term general election, it's vague enough as it is.

I didn't know if it was pertaining --

>> Presidentials.

>> Federal or state, including state.

>> Yup.

>> I have a question for Natalie.

I'm curious about the last word, minimal.

What was the discussion around that.

>> We didn't revisit that for today's proposed amendment.

We talked about it a little bit during the public hearing.

We haven't exactly defined what minimal means.

>> Do we feel like there's a need to do that?

>> How do we know?

What are the parameters.

>> Go ahead please.

>> Go ahead Natalie.

>> I'm hearing you Annetta and I want to say that where my confidence increased is in these checks and balances of reassurance that we're talking about.

We're considering, we're again there is not one person making a unilateral

decision.

I'm going to use a, I'm going to paraphrase a term from a legal case everybody has heard of.

You know it when you see it.

Again, if we had one person here who was the arbiter of what minimal means, that could be a concern.

But we have a number of heavily considering folks looking at this.

If minimal is not defined but we have these well thought out poll site numbers and spreadsheets and methodologies and these things are presented and we collaborate and consult with each other and vote yay or nay I think minimal is going to be both relative and obvious.

Maybe there's a poll site for three elections that never utilize this interpreter that we've been able to provide.

On the other hand, I want to say there's a reason we send interpreters at all to certain poll sites. It is not just because of, it's not just because we're looking at the demographics of a neighborhood I imagine and throwing an interpreter to a particular poll site. Folks are requesting interpreters and we have limited resources and are responding accordingly.

As I say in sum, minimal maybe is not defined but among a group of

people who are reasonable and voting and speaking objections and concerns, I don't know that it has to be defined at this time.

>> That makes sense.

Thank you.

I appreciate the reminder.

>> Any other questions or comments?

I want to re remember that we were discussing minimal in the context of appreciating that, you know, even one person who may have served by our program, you know, is, we would not necessarily want to lose that person, you know, and that was a valuable service that we were providing.

And at the same time thinking about all of the different languages we're trying to serve.

A poll site that may have been, you know, we're providing interpreters and consistently has, like, one or two or three or some version of minimal is open for discussion about how we are reallocating services to a well utilized site that's being dropped all together from the methodology when we apply it.

Looks like people are still going to the teams link.

If someone could attend to that from staff, that would be super helpful.

So, if there is no other discussion about the proposed change, are we

ready to make a motion to approve the amendment?

>> So moved.

>> Is there a second.

>> Second, seconded, second.

>> All in favor of approving if you could say ay.

>> Ay.

>> Any opposed?

Say neigh.

Okay. Awesome the amendment is now approved.

And we will send that out to you in approved form and also post it to the website.

I think Murad is on the call as well, right?

I think I may not have heard you when I called attendance as well as Donna.

So I just want to make sure that we have that for our records, Abi.

>> Yeah.

>> And I don't know if Anthony or Michael came on since we started.

>> No Michael said he couldn't come in today.

>> Okay.

Great.

Thank you.

All right.

So in the next part of the meeting, we will go through some pretty exciting updates from our program (indiscernible) so I'm going to turn it over to the team and we're going to go back to the deck to take you through some changes or sorry some updates.

And we, I'm going to, I think we're starting with participatory budgeting.

That will be updates will be provided by Wendy Benjamin and Drashti and November elections and texting, did I miss someone.

>> I think the order is slightly different on the PowerPoint.

[MULTIPLE SPEAKERS]

>> Everyone feel free to jump in when it is your turn and please introduce yourself and what you do, your role, title for CEC and go ahead and take it away with the presentations of programs.

>> Great.

Let me, I'll share my screen and manage the PowerPoint so people just let me know when you want me to move a slide.

>> Thank you Abi.

>> One second.

>> Okay.

Everybody can see.

As Sarah mentioned, we will hear from our poll site team and I'll go over briefly a text (indiscernible) the vote from the November election and then participatory budgeting, our community board trainings and then basically like future strategic planning.

We went over that already.

Okay.

Amy, are you able to --

>> Yeah.

>> Great.

>> Good morning everyone.

My name is Anila, and I'm the poll site language services director at the CEC.

So the November general election went very well.

Poll site services were delivered as scheduled.

A hundred percent of services delivered on the last two days of early voting, November 5th and 6th and election day, November 8th.

We provided 135 language services at 100 poll sites were unique locations.

We're still processing voter assistance data, but preliminary data shows that we are on track to break the November 2020 general election voter assistance record.

Next slide please.

>> Sure.

>> So, this is just visualization of the distribution of poll site language services by language.

You can see Russian has 47 poll sites and it is our top language service.

And Korean only had three sites, and the smallest number of poll sites.

Next slide please.

This is the location of our early voting poll sites on Google map to help you visualize where early voting poll sites were.

The colors you see is just grouping in clusters which we use to better coordinate services through supervisors for each of the clusters.

Next.

This is the election day poll site map.

As you can see, it is a lot busier.

Overall, three-fourths of the poll sites were located in Brooklyn.

Next.

I ahead of the election we worked as a team with the outreach team, the communications director, and Abi to reach out to language communities.

We translated and distributed CC and (indiscernible) cards.

>> Sorry.

Okay.

>> We translated and distributes CEC and CFB palm cards at dozens of events attended by our eat reach team.

We updated the participate website with poll site list.

We developed a, the communications director developed a social media tool kit that was made available to the LAAC community boards, and other partners.

We had a social media plan developed for CEC's own social media channels and we implemented that.

We also placed ads in ethnic media and ran a paid social campaign.

We held a virtual Russian language forum.

Our outreach colleagues coordinated with Sheepshead Y and Russian speaking LAAC members. Finally we launched a new PSA which was shared widely on social media, taxi TV and other places.

Next.

This is just some snapshots of the footage but we have the video here.

Next slide please.

And we will try to play it for you.

>> Yeah. I might have to change -- hold on. I might need to change the settings on my end for a second. I needed to switch the audio so just one second.

>> I want to praise Abi again for being like the emcee and the media guru.

You do help support everything that is going on here.

So thank you.

>> Thank you so much.

I want to ask, I think it was Amy who texted me.

I think you saw this video.

I wonder if anyone else seen this short video anywhere out there in the world or if this is your first time.

>> Yeah. This was playing in the New York City taxis.

>> Oh. That's beautiful.

That's wonderful.

>> I'm dropping the will I think in the chat.

It is on YouTube and all 12 language versions are on YouTube as well.

>> Okay.

>> That way you can watch it on your own time.

It is 60 seconds long.

>> I think that might be easier.

So I can in order for me to share my audio, I have to download something --

>> I can try to share it.

>> Let me see.

>> Share content, it will ask like audio as well.

>> Oh, really?

>> Yeah. It's like a second step which is fine but because I'm using a different computer, I would need to download something.

>> Do you want me to try or not at all.

>> If you want to try, I can start, like, prepping for -- actually maybe we could come back to this.

>> Do you want to just hit play or you already know this is not going to work?

>> I can see, if you want to see it without audio, we can do that.

But I know it is going to --

>> You can try to share directly from YouTube.

>> Sharing direct from YouTube might work.

>> I think it more an audio thing with WebEx.

>> For the sake of, yeah.

[VIDEO]

>> Amy.

Oh, you're clapping.

That's great.

Yeah.

This is an evergreen video so we can keep using it.

So very exciting.

Okay.

Is that it with the --

>> That's it.

Just want to say thank you to -- our communications director for leading the effort on the PSA.

>> Abi, you're next, I think.

>> Yes.

Let me reshare my screen.

I will go over text banking and we can dive into PV.

Okay. Great.

Thanks everybody.

So just to recap, for the November election we also did some get out the vote or GOTV text banking with some of our volunteers.

Essentially, I held a couple different virtual training sessions and also texting sessions with some of our, and recruited volunteers to help us send out text messages to New York City voters across the city.

If you're not familiar with text banking, basically we use a platform called hustle where we have a list of public voter information records, and it creates basically we can send automatic messages to everybody on this list using like a separate phone number.

It's a really cool and easy way to get messages out to a large amount people in the community.

So for the text bank, I did a shift on the Thursday and Friday before the general election from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and I had volunteers helping me on Monday before election day.

We had 23 people text banking throughout these days.

12 of which were public volunteers.

And certainly, you know, for elections moving forward, we will probably be recruiting volunteers for this work and also potentially for other CEC programming.

Just to give a sample of, this is the initial text message that we sent to people.

It's like, hey, my name is blank and I'm a volunteer.

You can vote early or on election day and it asks like if they speak any of the languages that we service.

And out of that, we received a handful of folks who noted they speak a language other than English and our responses, replies were in that language with links again on like our participate website and also a link on how to find their poll site.

And we were able to message, you know, over 200,000 New York City voters, which is great.

Again, we're hoping in the future, we can continue to expand this type of work.

And that's all, my general recap.

Does anyone have questions before we move to PV.

Okay.

>> Thank you Abi.

I'll get started with the updated from city wide participatory budgeting. Good afternoon my name is Drashti, she/her, participatory budgeting director.

I had the pleasure of working with our contracted community partners throughout phase one and the future phases.

I will start with highlights from phase one, which is idea generation session that's ran from September 12th when we launched in The Bronx all the way through November 18th. These are final statistics of what we did.

We had 523 idea generation sessions conducted throughout the city.

This is in conjunction with partners as well as some session that's the CEC ran independently such as those on Rikers Island at the neon center in Jamaica for youth impacted by the justice system as well as the five borough session tour that we did.

Throughout the sessions, we engaged 12,344 New Yorkers in these sessions whether virtual or in person, which has really excitingly exceeded our preliminary projections and goals for the sessions.

Just to give a bit of a glimpse of the breakdown of how this was

conducted.

16.8 percent of the sessions were conducted virtually by partners. 17.6 were located physically The Bronx.

16.3 percent in Brooklyn.

20.8 percent in Manhattan, 22.9 percent in Queens and 5.5 percent in Staten island.

You can see a few pictures on the right from the partner sessions.

We have a lot of them, so I'm sure I can pass our Google drive folder in case you would like to look at more pictures. I want to talk more about partners on the next slide. This is, of course, by in large possible through community partners.

We had 82 partners and I remember talking about the tiers in a previous meeting.

As a recap, in tier one we have 33 partners that were focused on the tree equity neighborhoods. Tier two, there were 14 demographic partners with specific experience in the following demographics. Tier three we had seven borough -- and we had three in Staten island and tier four were open call partners 29 of them who told us, you know, which neighborhoods and populations they wanted to focus on.

And the scale of which they can get residents engaged. You see the different types of incompetent substitutions there.

We're excited for that, having that built this strong community and garnered a lot of their feedback.

On the next slide, I'll talk a little bit more about another form of highlight which is that, you know, we created all these materials for the first time that city wide PB started with these materials from scratch of understanding ways that we can get community members involved and learning about the city's budget in interactive and fun ways, not just a one way presentation that a lot of sessions are held in.

We're super proud of the materials we created and learned a lot. Speaking of learning a lot, on the next slide I'll talk about the feedback that we received from our partner organizations.

This was particularly super important for us as the first year of doing city wide PB, it was crucial we maintain forms of communication throughout the session, so we've had partners fill out event reports per event so we could learn immediately from how they are doing and pivot throughout the process.

We've also had feedback sessions with partner organizations in which they gave us such useful feedback that again is pivotal for an important for the first

year.

So in terms of materials, partners really appreciated having, you know, detailed facilitation guide that they could follow and adapt as necessary for their audiences. Partners enjoy the use of the contribute cards -- it was an effective tool and also used as an ice breaker and ways to build in incentive such as Ralphs.

Partners did recommend providing variations of the activities. Instead of physical trivia cards, have an option to build in a Kahoot game, especially young people can dial in through the phone and you can see scores and things like that.

Another useful suggestion that was provided was incorporating a variation of the project worksheet into a listening module noting that some community members had a difficult time writing their encapsulating there are idea on to a worksheet.

The facilitator could listen to people's ideas and write it down themselves and incorporate and put more emphasis on, you know, collectively brainstorming ideas and anything about it.

And then doing the follow up of writing it down.

A partner did mention some new material that we could incorporate for

future years, including a short of cheat sheet on a city budget 101 process that participants could take home as well as a visual poster of some sort that can be placed in the physical room on project ideas categorized as expense versus capital. When people are working on projects, they can walk around and for a recap get that information.

Partners are recommended reducing the amount of post session forms. We had participants, it was optional, of course, but facilitators had to pass it out, the application for the next phase of the process as well as an exit survey.

They recommend consolidating questions, being more concise and providing QR codes so folks instead of paper could just take the code and scan it with their phones and fill it out online there or on the way home.

On the next slide, we have feedback in terms of the session format.

Partners found the virtual sessions, it was interesting.

We had some, you know, folks depending on who they were and what audiences they were focused on give different feedback. Some thought it was engaging to have that option.

You could use Zoom technology to mimic some of the terms such as an online poll creation and have that trivia raffle spinning tool you can use.

But others found it difficult at times to retain audience members attention

on Zoom, especially because of after two years of a pandemic, it was pretty difficult to get people excited to be in a virtual session.

Another point some partners found the timing to be a bit of challenge.

They appreciated the abundance and careful thought of a two hour session. They noted that in some instances when they went to schools and when they were invited to certain sessions they were given a specific time frame of you only have one hour, 45 minutes with this group of people.

They recommended providing even though, you know, there was flexibility in the guide, they would recommend providing set variety of the guides by timing that we kind of decided you should cut this or that out instead of having them decide to figure out what was essential to keep in the shortened time frame.

And finally, partnered really appreciated the hands on nature of the sessions and learned it was important to have various floaters in small group facilitators. A session with more than ten people could not be run by one person. People have follow-up questions and need one on one support at times with their specific projects.

Partners learned that quickly that it was helpful having either volunteers or other staff present to help with that.

With that I'll pass it to Wendy who will talk more about the evaluation tools we used throughout the process.

>> Thank you Drashti.

Good afternoon.

I'm Wendy, senior advisor for the Civic Engagement Commission.

I would like to give you all just a preview of some of the evaluation tools we used and a preliminary preview of some of the demographic indicators, initial findings of our phase one.

I will note we closed our first phase last week and we're still culling through the data and will share out some of the initial findings of who participated in the process. I will note that we asked all of the community partners to fill out facilitators reports and that was the primary mechanism of gathering information about how many events were held, number of participants, locations, ideas submitted and qualitative information so we could understand what were the challenges and the successes.

How they used the materials and the effectiveness of the materials not just from the experience of the participants but the facilitators themselves.

As Drashti walked through the verbal feedback that we received, we have a lot of information that we can use to go back and look at how we can improve

the process for next year.

The exit survey that Drashti referred to is our participant survey.

We got a 30 percent response rate.

That participant survey we ask questions to assess sentiments or people's reactions to the sessions as a whole, the activities, the information that was shared.

Questions around race, ethnicity, identity, gender and socioeconomic indicator, and also what was the level of involvement people had in civic engagement activities prior to the session.

We're still culling through the data.

We made broad categories.

Just based on that information, it looks like about 12 almost 13 percent did indicate necessity had not been involved in any of those activities prior. It's a sense of being able to engage people who may not think of themselves have been engaged in community or civic engagement activities.

Next.

So here is some again preliminary data on the types of feedback that we got, how people experience those sessions, the 500 plus session that's happened all over the city.

Full 90 percent felt they learned something new about the city budget which is great.

We're excited to see that.

We spent a lot of time as Drashti noted in the tools and materials think being how we can talk about the budget in ways that are engaging, that don't make people gloss over that ignite curiosity and sparks conversation.

A great way to understand if people found that interesting is if they're interested in staying with us and being part of the process and seeing it through in other phases.

89 percent said they want to stay engaged.

88 percent say highly valuable. 88 percent they would recommend participating in the process to a family or friend and 87 percent felt their voices were heard as part of the session.

I will note that total surveys, 3,307 which is 30 percent of the total, 30 percent response rate.

Next.

So we saw a good distribution age wise from older adults to youth.

We did see far more females engaged in the process than males, we have found that to be true in other, the last two civic participatory budgeting

processes that we ran.

I will note we had a number of categories for other identity gender identities and the sample size is quite small but 76 percent did not identify as either category.

Next.

In terms of race and ethnicity, I will note that 20 percent, 7 percent of respondents did not respond to race questions, and 19 percent preferred ton say but of those who did answer, 56 percent were African American, identified as African American, 13 percent Asian and 12 percent white.

Again of those respondents, we see kind of an over representation of black African American and then more or less I think the Asian population fairly representative of city demographics and white demographics underrepresented as compared to the city population.

27 percent identified as Latino, Latin X.

And we also did ask questions to get a sense of which categories of origin.

Next slide.

In terms of socioeconomic indicators, high representation of folks who were low income.

51 percent of respondents were under 50K.

Only 20 percent were over 50K.

This is household income as far as education over half did not have a college degree.

Either no high school diploma, 34 percent did have some associates or some higher education and 12 percent preferred not to answer that question.

I'll note that there are almost 30 percent of folks did not, preferred not to say their income.

This is good for us to understand the types of questions that people tend to be more comfortable answering versus not.

Next slide.

Also sharing we had over 4,000 ideas submitted as part of the process.

Pretty good response rate in terms of people having the ability to submit online and also through the sessions.

For the borough specific process, just noting that the top four categories of -- youth services and education.

20096 ideas were submitted for the borough process.

Next slide.

For the neighborhood specific process in that is the 33 tree neighborhoods where folks were submitting ideas specific to their own communities, we saw the

same both ordering and both in terms of the top four and in the same order health and well-being public safety youth services and education.

So I'm going to turn it over to Benjamin to talk about next steps. How we're going to assess the ideas and use them to move us to the next phase which is vetting project development and ultimately voting.

>> Yeah. Thank you.

Wendy, anybody here who has been involved in PB in years past, you know once the train has left the station, it keeps going.

We may have shut down the idea collection on Wednesday but we have a lot of work to do and it starts right away.

The next slide.

You can see here when we go there, that we referred to the borough assembly committees. Those are in other processes and council process called delegate committees.

We're trying to model them after citizen assemblies to give a more deliberative approach to them.

We have collected applications for those over the courses as you saw over the course of the idea collection.

We're reviewing those.

And we will be selecting about 20 to 25 people per borough to do the project reviewing and selections.

We will do that now and make phone calls to people this week to people who applied.

Top choices and I will tell you how we got there, may they will or will not be age to accept.

December we will convene our first meeting to know you so they can start the process of understanding the obligations and schedules.

In January through February, they will begin meeting.

They will develop lists of projects that can move forward, maybe ones that need more details.

We will have an agenda per meeting and lay out when they can meet and talk about these to really get into the process of evaluating the projects.

We need to wrap that up in February.

We will work with CBOs to finalize any outstanding ideas and projects.

(indiscernible) everything that goes on the ballot has to have a budget and a CBO attached so it can be implemented and be within the cost range we have.

We want to finalize the ballots by February so we have two months to prepare the ballot prep translation and printing as it says and getting the word

out and looking at doing voting as the official phase three in May and June.

Never-ending amount of work, but it is all, we're all ready to go.

Next.

This is the break down as of this morning of the number of applications we have received.

We asked numerous demographic questions on the form to try to make sure that we get groups that are, of people that are representative of their burrows.

Both demographically and geographically. We brought on a consultant forest who is on the call along with him and the group called sort Tisha group based in Europe (indiscernible) I'm not sure who specialize in doing selections of groups like this control randomized count.

They analyzed the demographic data we had on the applications and based on the demographics of the burrows, and then again in a randomized way, selected the top 20 people that gave us a match.

You know, it's not a perfect science but we felt we got really good representation across the burrows to represent and to bring back the lived experiences of our residents. Of course, in the tree these are for borough assembly -- we're going to work with partners to utilize their neighborhood

coalition, they know we have applications, of course, but they know their communities and we will give guidance how to form coalitions as we move forward.

To be really representative of again their communities.

So those groups of people will be key in the next couple months.

The next slide.

This is something we put together this morning.

Out of the people we have chosen so far or have been selected through the randomized control list, we want to make sure demographic representation is also there.

Staten island we're behind on people.

We're working on improving that with the help of Dan.

You can see the markers that's hard to see but some have a one or two next to them.

They represent everybody that gave a zip code of where they live.

You see on the gee graphic distribution we're covering a good part of each borough.

There might be, we'll have to look and see, and this is not final.

We need these people to agree to do it and move forward. If they don't,

we have other people to choose from.

Really trying to make sure that these people that will be making the project are both demographically and geographically representative of our city.

Next.

So, they're going to go through a process, idea evaluation process is not easy or simple.

As Wendy said, there is 4,000 ideas to look at.

We begun, we shut it down Wednesday last week.

We are making sure all of the ideas suggested have a location and topics assigned to break them into categories so it's not like you have a list of 2,000.

You have a list of a hundred or couple hundred per area and topic. We will make sure that all of the ideas, you know, some people wrote one line.

They fill it in, the city is too dirty.

That is not something we can pass on.

We want to make sure the facts have information that is useful and they can really work to form ideas.

We're going to get rid of capital ideas, not feasible or incomplete ideas.

And try to pass on ones that again are useful to them and that they don't have to do that for themselves. All ideas will tabulate and be reviewed to maybe

say, you know, what here is ten ideas that are concrete and have good thought.

There are 40 ideas in the same topic category that people were concerned about, whether it be arts and culture or education and public safety.

We will give that information to the backs. We don't need 40 ideas saying the city is dirty or my kid needs more things to do after school.

We're not going to get rid of the information.

We will consolidate it in a way that is useful to them as they make decisions.

Then again as we said in January or February, they will start meeting, having deliberative sessions, we will bring resources for them to do research -- and really spend time understanding what their borough needs and where the projects would be most effective.

And represent the people that suggested them.

We will, we are designing the lay out of the sessions.

It will probably be between three and four sessions.

We want to make sure that they are accessible to everybody to attend.

Some virtual, some in person, and things like that.

We will work with all of them to do that and, of course, we need to make sure that CBOs are attached to all ideas, we know how much each idea costs,

what their budgets are, and what they are feasible.

We can't get anything on a ballot that can't actually happen.

So that is the steps of those idea evaluation.

Next slide.

And then the criteria is going to be really important that we give to the back members to use.

There is basic things we need to accomplish.

Everything is an expense project.

We want them to serve our eight demographic priorities. What you see laid out there.

They should have an impact on them.

And we will make sure that people that represent those demographic priorities are on our backs as well.

We don't want people who aren't from public housing or don't have a disability to be making ideas or decisions for people that are.

And it has to be completed within the fiscal year, July 2023 to June 2024.

Then there is some more, slightly more objective ideas like how many people are served, what is the impact and benefit for them.

We don't necessarily say it has to serve more people than other projects

but it has to have an impact. Maybe it's a, you could do a festival once a month over the summer that reaches 30,000 people, but which is great those art festivals would be fun cultural festivals are amazing but maybe we do a series of mental health trainings for a community over the course of a year that hits several hundred people.

We need to be aware of all of the factors.

Does it cover a school most likely none of the projects will cover one school or one community center.

We will make it broad enough to serve several communities.

With our allocations, we don't have money for projects that may necessarily effect an entire borough but we want it to be over a broader area.

And, of course, I want to make sure that it's fulfilling an unmet need or gap in service.

We'll work with our city agency partners and CBOs to make sure (indiscernible) in a neighborhood that that idea exists. Maybe we need to work on getting the word out or expanding that program.

Or maybe that program doesn't exist and it's a great place for it to go. All this criteria and more, we would love your feedback and comments, but it will be used by the borough and tree committees the same way.

Next, I think that is it for this section.

I'll do that next.

I think we can stop, we can go back a slide and take questions.

I guess on any of the content we presented about PB.

>> I think Amy raised her hand.

>> Amy.

>> Sorry.

Prey I want to thank all of you for the work you have been doing.

I was able to attend one of the in person events at the Brooklyn museum.

Which was really great.

Ben, I have a question.

Concerning Brooklyn, it appeared to me on the map that you showed in terms of distribution that Brooklyn is very underrepresented from neighborhoods like in central Brooklyn and red hook and sunset park.

So I was wondering if you could speak to that.

You said it was well represented but Brooklyn doesn't look well represented to me.

>> Yeah. I think that's a good point.

We did just begin this this morning.

I think we really, one it is pending confirmation of people.

We need to look for closely at the neighborhoods that are hit. I think there's a fair part of Queens you can say is not necessarily there.

We are picking 20 people to cover these geographic areas. Not all of the -- we may have lacked meetings in some of those areas.

We will continue to refine this.

This is not a final thing and your point is taken that there are some areas we might want some others.

>> I would like to say the demographics to me spoke positively about the work that the commission is doing.

I felt good about those demographics, and also to see that The Bronx is very involved and engaged and represented, I thought that speaks to the work we're doing. I did want to give a shout-out to that positive effort there.

>> Great.

We'll look more deeply at this.

Thank you for that.

>> You have your hand up.

>> Thank you.

It is super graduate identifying to see the evolution of this process from,

you know, creation of the Civic Engagement Commission and its mandate to do this all of the way up to the first, you know, first fore ray into participatory budgeting on a city wide basis and all of the demographics.

It is terrific.

I do have a question and I wonder if you could provide a little bit more detail about the justification for the community based organizations to be the implementers as opposed to government agencies and, you know, a little bit of detail about the process for selecting the CBOs and determining, you know, capacity and willingness and commitment, et cetera.

>> Yeah. I could speak to that Eve.

In terms of, the addition to have CB Os implement, part of it is that we can't rely on agencies to take -- capacity issue on their end.

We're looking to partner to the best of our ability with city agencies, you know, thought partner and how we implement, but again, I think it is hard for us to again sort of hand the projects to an agency and expect them to implement it capacity wise.

Also I think in terms of our ability to ensure, you know, some sense of monitoring and control, working with CBOs allows us to have that direct oversight role which I think our oversights are expecting us in many ways to play

that role.

And then I think sorry your second question was?

The process.

The process for selecting the community based organizations. So we actually ran, in our first, I don't know if you recall the first process we ran with youth for its our money, we did have an open call process.

It is like a mini RFI where we allowed organizations to submit proposals. We asked for staffing plans, budgets, outline of essentially their timeline and how they would implement and we evaluated those, you know, we reviewed them and so we do something probably a little more, little more detailed, but I think once we identify the projects that we would want to implement, we have to make sure we have someone that is capable and ready to go.

We don't want to put something on the ballot that can't be done or no one is willing to implement.

We have a fairly tight timeline.

All projects have to be implemented by next year.

We will have open competitive process inviting organizations to submit proposals for how to implement these projects.

>> Thank you.

\>\> Mark.

\>\> Thanks.

And thanks for this work.

To follow on the timeline issue, I see that the voting is expected to take place in May and June and the city budget gets adopted at the end of June.

Traditionally in council based PB, they had voting at the end of March, early April.

I'm wondering whether there is, how that, is it simply the case is money is allocated and how it is spent and therefore it doesn't matter within the budget negotiation process, is that basically where we're at with this?

Otherwise it seems like it might be on the late side.

But as long as it is doable, that is the question I'm trying to ask.

\>\> That money is baselined and we know it is there.

It doesn't have to be allocated as part of the budget cycle.

We have a little bit, a gift of a little bit of time to be able to, you know, have more of a deliberative process with these committees and do the, and match these projects with our community based organizations.

\>\> Anyone else have questions?

\>\> I can't see everyone.

I think we're good on the questions.

I'm noting we have community board updates.

Before we do that, I want to make sure that we don't have any or ask if we have anyone who had signed up to make a public comment either before or during the meeting.

I don't recall seeing anything in the chat but I wanted to confirm.

Abi, did anyone text you?

>> No, nobody texted me.

>> I don't see anything in the chat, so I'm assuming that nobody is who is here wants to comment.

So, we can go on to the community board updates.

>> Great.

Just reshare.

>> I realized I forgot to introduce myself when we started.

Benjamin, community board and participatory budgeting advisor for the CEC, he/him, I'll pick up the next two slides.

We've done three trainings so far. Which you will see here.

We started in October with an intro to the city budget by the independent budget office.

We worked with them to develop a presentation. We did it by groups of boroughs -- and then we, oh, we haven't gotten the final numbers for Staten island. The power of youth which we started right before Thanksgiving, maybe not the best day but we have four more coming up in partnership with the Y vote CCC and ICI.

We're pushing up registration.

We did a social media campaign to push the numbers up.

We're noticing some decline from registration to attendees which you could imagine is sort of the case these days with virtual meetings.

But we share all of the invite invitations with the district managers and borough presidents to get people there.

They were well received, we put all of the resources that from those meetings up on the NYC.gov site so board members could access the videos and any other materials that we get relating to the topics directly.

>> Benjamin, what is CCC and ICI?

>> CCC is, you know, I tried to remember.

They're youth centered organizations.

CCC is the --

>> Citizens committee for children.

>> Thank you.

And I'll have to look up ICI.

They do youth work.

They work together to do a youth assembly and survey last year.

So, (indiscernible) on the 21st, workshops are designed and led by youth and facilitators are just amazing.

They're all high school students, we should talk about them for our facilitation for PB.

They were great.

For next slide.

While we wrap up these power of youth workshops, we are planning ahead for what next year is going to look like.

Yeah. Next slide.

We had a meeting, I have a meeting with MOPD last week to talk about doing an accessibility workshop for community boards to make them understand their requirements and how to better engage people with disabilities.

We're looking at HPD is developing an undated presentation.

Procedures are always important and land use and economic development, how to make land use decisions looking at jobs and access to employment, so

and then also possibly other conflict resolution workshop with oath. I think we want to say with three to four workshops. I think we're willing also going to them by groups and not borough anymore. Maybe offer four sessions that people can choose to sign up that is not, none of this is particularly borough centric.

And I think it might open up just letting people be more comfortable choosing a date that they can make.

We're going to wrap those up.

I talked with the Brooklyn borough president's office about doing -- whether that is with just Brooklyn or everybody.

Then on the long-term, we are going to be looking at doing a more comprehensive communication strategy to promote CB initiatives and trainings so we have a brand identity so to speak and that people know when it is coming from us. We're working with DCAS.

There is interest in have EEO trainings accessible.

Right now it is only sexual harassment prevention.

Others have to be accessed through city sites. That's a barrier but there is interest in being able to talk all of those. We want to develop stronger relationships with the city agencies that regularly interact with community boards

to make sure that we are all -- useful to them and deep in coordination with the purchase row president's offices because they are obviously the key element on a borough level with community boards.

Those are some of what we're looking at in 2023.

If there are any questions, otherwise --

>> Any questions on the community boards?

>> Ben I have a quick question.

Thank you for that.

I'm just wondering part of the what we voted on in November of 2018 when this commission was established, one of the referendums was the term limits of community board members.

I'm just trying to understand, are we working on that?

Is that being looked at?

How are we engaging on that issue?

>> It's in effect.

The term limits, nobody hits a term limit for a few years.

I mean, it is, I don't think at this point it doesn't have a direct effect because nobody would be leaving right now, but certainly, you know, that's mostly handed by the borough president office.

We would want to make sure that people are aware of it and how they should work.

We want to promote people to sign up for community boards.

I just found out that the Brooklyn applications just opened up.

So we'll work on that.

We don't have like a direct involvement at the moment with it.

>> Okay thanks.

>> I have a quick question.

>> Jose.

>> Um, your engagement with MOPD and accessibility and public, with the public engagement with in terms of the community boards, what is that going to look like?

Is MOPD going to partner with CEC to host meetings virtually with the community boards or are they going to have a standardized thing that they can send out.

I'm curious because participation for people with disabilities can sometimes be difficult with community boards.

Like I've had a difficult time on mine.

>> No, for sure.

Arthur Jacob son I just talked about last week, it will be all four community boards targeted towards community boards.

He is designing it more closely.

We will touch base sometime this month and it is really what their obligations are, to make sure they are clear, notices and accessibility measures they can undertake recommended resources that they can reach out to, you know, it is still a little bit, he's, I left him to mull over what they could best do and how to best serve community boards but we feel as we do youth now, we make sure they have the tools and knowledge to engage people with disabilities as well. We will hopefully have more of an update on that soon.

>> That would be great.

Thank you.

>> Anyone else?

>> I have my hand up.

This is Donna Gill.

>> Hey, Donna.

>> Hi.

How are you?

How is everyone.

>> Ben.

There's a lot of overlaps because I just went through all of those trainings as a community board member given by the board president's office.

>> Which one.

>> You know, so I'm wondering, if there was some way that the CEC or borough president could coordinate so there is not multiple trainings that are covering the same things for a community board members and the community.

>> Which ones did you go to that were, we, I talked to them before the sessions began.

Which ones were (indiscernible).

>> EEOC, EEO1s was that was one of them.

>> Those three we haven't done yet.

There are some boards, you're right. I'm would being working with the borough president's office on those.

They're not accessible to all members and they would like, there's been some interest in that.

We would not, we have not offered them yet.

But we are looking to make them accessible to more people.

>> Okay.

>> It is fortunate that you were, I would say.

>> Yeah. I happened to be in both places, of course.

>> Yes.

>> That was one question.

I was concerned with the, you know, things happening multiple times.

>> No, of course.

>> It tends to not make people disinterested in anything because they figure it is going to be the same old thing again and we lose people, we lose people getting the information that is needed because of that.

And my other question was related to -- I think the last person that spoke, I'm sorry.

I'm drawing a blank on his name.

Not Benjamin, the commissioner.

>> Mark?

>> Oh, Jose.

>> Jose, there you go.

What Jose was saying, if you're going to be with the mayor's office of people with disabilities, a lot of times information is not given out or they give

out information on colored people which people that are visually impaired or low vision cannot see because it is not black and white.

>> Right.

>> And without being conscience of those things, and I'm hoping that doing something like this for community boards would help because a lot of times we forget that we have a whole differently abled community out there that we don't necessarily make provisions for them to be active in our community.

>> No, that's a really great point.

I will sort of remember that and Arthur will too.

Those are the tips and guidance we want to give community boards. Somebody mentioned just on the fact that when we developed the project worksheet which you might have seen earlier, there was a lot of green on them. It is heavily, there's a lot of color which is not hard for visually impaired but it takes up a lot of printer ink from organizations that don't have money for that.

Skylines like that, to keep in mind for the people we're trying to serve are crucial.

I will pay attention to that when we develop that workshop.

>> Thank you, thank you.

That is all I have.

>> Thanks Donna, Mark.

>> Just to pick up where Donna was, I think we were in the same training.

So the Manhattan borough president had three mandatory trainings, I guess it was two weeks ago now.

They were EEO, then one on a Monday, implicit bias was a separate one on Tuesday, and then the conflict of interest board on Wednesday.

At least in Manhattan, I know those trainings have been required at least every other year for as long as I can remember.

So in the realm of deepening coordination with the borough president's office which I'm glad to see at the bottom of the slide, that is something that perhaps can be replicated rather than competing with what already exists. That would be a smart way to use resources.

>> Yeah. Let me clarify on those three.

DCAS came, I was asked by district managers to make it easier to access existing workshops. I went to DCAS -- some do, some don't and some are these are behind fire walls that most members can't access easily.

Maybe the Manhattan president did something to arrange that.

But they're asking to coordinate with the borough presidents.

Yes.

I would never want to duplicate a training that someone else is doing.

Trying to make it more level playing field so to speak.

>> One thing you might want to be aware of as you or perhaps you are but it comes to mind.

The staff of community board offices have a different set of requirements for trainings on an annual or semiannual basis or biannual basis, whatever the word it, every two years, I never get that right.

Where they are required by city charter even to undergo certain trainings. And making it more available to those folks is a good, it's an important and useful thing to do.

It would be better if there were some sort of online confirmation that the employees have actually taken the training and completed it, which unfortunately at least as far as I know, you can complete your obligation but there is no record of it and you have to do it again.

That may or may not be the useful thing that is offered to community board members as opposed to the office staff.

>> Correct.

Their staff their city employees just like we are, they have to take them,

we have to take them.

I assume they follow the same ones.

I have to get that reminder.

This is only an effort to expand potential trainings to board members which would be voluntary honestly.

>> This is Jose, I want to make a comment.

>> Go ahead Jose.

>> Just in general, well, when it comes to community boards also, people with disabilities have been disenfranchised that I wish there was a way for the borough presidents to incentivize community boards to active recruit people with different disabilities or differently abled.

I have known many individuals trying to participate in community boards and failed to do so for that reason they don't recommend or they don't encourage anyone to join their community boards, and that is why I wish that there was some kind of incentive through the community, I mean through the borough president's offices to say, hey, you guys should recruit more people with disabilities within your communities.

>> I heartedly agree.

We will talk to the BP offices about that and the application process is

starting to open up, so we can make sure that disability community gets the applications.

I think you are right.

Having them stand behind it.

Same goes with youth.

Less than 2 percent of boards are youth under 24.

We need to increase both.

The board representation on boards is not where it should be.

We're not going to solve it in one workshop but hopefully it begins the process.

>> This is Anastasia, I want to piggyback on what Jose mentioned.

Benjamin I'm also disabled myself.

And I just want to reiterate in my own experience when Jose is saying is true.

I actually tried to become a part of community board at one point in my youth.

It was a challenging process and at the time there was not a lot of effort made to engage and follow-up or make the process accessible.

So, I'm happy to hear that there is focus on this workshop and I hope you

can effectively communicate with MOPD to make sure that all of the, that every part of the process is accessible and I really wholeheartedly agree with Jose that I think really important focus would be trying to find ways to encourage community boards to reach out to the disabled community and to do that consistently at every part of the process making sure that the information is accessible and potentially available virtually as well as in person because that may help to eliminate some barriers.

I am glad this is at least being thought about and worked on for sure.

So thank you for all of your work in general, and especially in this area.

I really appreciate it.

>> No, thank you.

And, of course, you just made me think we should look at all of the applications within MOPD or another group to make sure they are accessible.

That is obviously the first step.

Thank you for that idea.

>> I just want to echo Anastasia and Jose's saying community board ten fortunately we had Christina Curry on our board who is now I guess she's the commissioner of MOP.

So we have been intentional and mindful of the differently abled

community in all our dealings, especially with land use and when builders are coming in and building new places or liquor license when an establishment opens and they don't have anything and their bathrooms are not accessible and things like that.

We the community board (indiscernible) conditioned to ask those questions because Christina, because one of our members was part of the community and she was an advocate for the community.

But I don't think all boards have that kind of intentionality and this is why I'm really happy about this conversation.

>> No, no, yeah.

Donna maybe we could touch base offline about the practices that your board has institutes as a way to make best practices for others.

>> Okay.

>> Donna, well I'm just curious maybe we can have a further conversation with Christina Curry and the MOPD staff to I guess expand this and really make this something substantial going forward.

She was the director of the Harlem independent living center and now she's the commissioner of MOPD and she's already working with CEC to develop some kind of training, maybe we can take it further with Christine's assistance.

>> Just a suggestion too.

I think Benjamin you're going to talk with MOPD in the near future potentially and maybe that's a space to connect with some of our commissioners on and just share a read out of that meeting.

So we could talk more.

>> For sure.

>> Yeah.

>> Just looking at the time, I'm realizing there are just a few minutes left.

I wanted to move to the next slide if that is okay with everyone.

Unless anyone else has, still has comments or questions about the community board stuff.

Donna, your hand is up from before, right.

>> Yeah. That was from before.

>> Thank you for confirming.

Just to let you know in the coming weeks, we're going to be as you all know the team has expanded and we have now fortunately filled some important roles.

So moving forward over the next couple of weeks, I want us collectively to really be intentional in planning because of commission is a new agency you

know we've had to set things in place as we are implementing, so there is a lot of, you know, the phrase that we often use is building the plane as you fly it.

I think a lot more trying to be responsive to things that come up in the field and constantly sort of tweaking programs as we're trying to implement and while we want to always be open to kinda dynamic learning, that is one of the Civic Engagement Commission's core values if you remember from the values we identified.

I think it is also important for us as a commission as we're growing and like more into our toddler phase to kind of create a greater sense of like coherence and stability by doing more incompetent tensional planning that is independent of implementation and execution of plans.

So, independent in time like precedes the implication.

We're going to be spending the next couple weeks doing that and want to really think more about how we synergize outreach and communication strategies to think holistically about how we're connecting with distinct geographic and audience targets across multiple programs.

A lot of times when people think about outreach and comes I think they talk about it as really distinct processes.

We want to be thoughtful about how we get them to two tracks to work

together and really build out planning for each program lane to support the work in both communications and outreach.

And then we need to think, we talked today about what is coming up with the next phase of PB.

We also need to think more forward and think about how we're going to monitor and evaluate the winning projects.

We have grants from NYC service to continue to build out our volunteer program so with the presence of an outreach director and fuller outreach team we have the opportunity to really develop structures and systems for volunteer recruitment and retention.

Similarly, we've had the fortune of really great interns working with us.

We want to think more about how we do internship recruitment and support professional development not only I mean for interns but for the team as a whole.

These are areas that we are going to be more thoughtful about in the coming weeks, and I wanted to share that with you.

And if you have any thoughts or idea dollars for any of them, I welcome to you stay in touch, you know, with me and with the team so you can join in these conversations if you're interested.

The big update I would say that we have for you, I think everyone knows this, but maybe I haven't shared it in a public meeting.

Because the team is expanded, we're actually going to be moving to a new office.

That office is located at 22 reed on the fourth floor.

It has been sort of like there was set up for us, new workstations ordered, et cetera.

Those are put into place now and we have to go through a couple more steps for approval in terms of walk throughs, but that space should be habitable in the near future and we hope to move in December if not by early January for sure.

Part of it that we have to just make sure that the space is approved and we need to coordinate with OTI teams on moving our stuff over there.

So because of the holidays, it is tough to pinpoint an exact date at this particular day but we are working on that, so I wanted to let you know about that as well.

So, I think that is the end of my update.

And our program updates.

I think we're also at the end of time.

So, would love to ask you all if we're ready to close, if there are any issues you want to raise before we make a motion to adjourn.

I'm not seeing anyone's hands raised.

So, anyone like to make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

>> I would like to make the motion to adjourn today's meeting.

>> Second.

>> Wonderful.

The motion has been seconded and all in favor.

>> Ay.

>> Opposed?

Great.

So I'm calling this meeting to adjourn.

And we will be in touch and coordinate on the next meeting very soon.

I will keep you posted on our move as well.

Thank you so much everyone.

>> Thank you so much.

>> Thanks to members of the public who may have tuned in as well.

This is not the sexiest most exciting disco party but you're an active part of democracy and we appreciate you.

>> Thank you Natalie for saying that.

>> Yes.

Please do if you are tuning in and you're a member of the public and anyone here, you're welcome always to, you know, bring another person with you next time and that includes staff, commissioners, feel free to share this invitation, we welcome your support with outreach as well.

Thank you so much everyone again.