

10/17/25

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>> Standing by for captions:

>> Are we live, Mike?

>> Yes.

>> We are.

>> For those who are with us online, we are waiting for quorum to begin meeting.

>> So can you just repeat what you said online.

>> We are waiting for quorum to start our meeting. We are missing about 1 or 2 more people to start quorum.

>> There is technically 14 Commissioners so, we need 8. Gio is coming running late so, we are just waiting on Gio or Murad I don't know if Murad is coming.

>> We are just waiting on Gio or Murad.

>> We have quorum. Sorry.

>> We do?

>> Because we have Amy Holly Natalie -- all approximate
of them are on.

>> I believe so. Yeah.

>> Then there are 5 of you. We are waiting on others but
yeah.

>> Okay. Had a he is in the building.

>> Okay. So all 3 are on?

>> Yeah. There are 4 people online.

Can the people on the phone I am not able to see your
name so just trying to --

>> Holly Bonner.

>> Hi Holly.

>> Yeah. Hi can you hear me?

>> Yes great.

>> Natalie and Amy are you also online?

>> Natalie is here. I have to drop the WebEx for internet
at the location. But I am here.

>> Okay.

Amy is on the phone as well.

I can't get the WebEx to work.

>> Okay.

You can hear us okay on the phone?

>> Yes.

>> Okay.

Great. I think we can start I call to order the Civic Engagement public commission meeting. Welcome to everyone and those online waiting patiently. Thank you so much for taking the time to be with us today. Thank you to the Commissioners for gathering on today's meeting. We have a couple of things to vote on so it will be a packed meeting. Thanks to Abby and the team for your help with getting this meeting organized and getting us all here.

So, I will just start with attendance.

>> Murad.

Giovanni.

>> Eve Baron.

>> Holly Bonner.

>> On the phone.

>> Amy Breedlove.

>> Present on the phone.

>> Natalie.

>> Present.

>> Mark Diller.

>> Here.

>> Donna Gill here.

>> Edwin Maxwell is out.

>> Joshua.

>> Here.

>> Lilliam Perez.

>> Mitchel Wu.

>> Okay. We actually also have a new Commissioner who has been a pointed from city council and Frank, you are on the line as well correct?

>> Hi can you hear me?

>> Yes. I am on. Hi Frank. Well, we are looking forward to welcoming you next time. Happy you can join on the phone thank you so much. My name is Dr. Sarah Sayeed one of the 15 Commissioners of the Civic Engagement commission, the chair and executive director. We are live streaming today and just want to thank our partners gbtc sound and captioning services for help with today's meeting.

We are doing our very best to follow up the meeting guidelines to keep our work as transparency as possible and engaged to the public in our decision making.

If you are online with us, we would love for you to go on our website NYC. Gov/Civic Engagement, the tab get involved to sign up for the newsletter on the left side of the page. We would love for you to stay in touch and for us to stay in had touch with

you.

So we do have the usual technology and house keeping but I think some of the things may be different because we are in different space.

So, for example, we do not want the folks here to mute your mics but the ones on the phony should mute their mics.

And if you want to make a comment, a public comment, you can add your name and affiliation to make a comment and you can text 9175789103 to sign up to comment until noon or 12: 15 rather.

And, we will check the texts. If you would like to comment hopefully there is time in the end to call on you. Okay. We are going to move forward with approving the minutes from August 2025. So all of the Commissioners should have the minutes.

And, wondering if there are any edits or additions to the minutes?

>> There are 9 we need to approve.

>> Commissioners on the phone if you can unmute your mic for the vote.

There were no additions or corrections so a motion to approve and a second.

>> All in favor if you can say I?

>> I.

>> Any opposed?

>> Okay the minutes are unanimously approved.

Next, we are going to move forward to talk about the

resolution to the language assistance methodology.

And there are changes to the methodology. We are looking to inform you about the changes leading up to the November election.

So, Anila, I don't know if you want to -- start by sharing with us what the updates are?

>> Go to the next slide.

>> Okay.

So, good morning everyone.

There are changes to the jurisdictions where the voter language assistance program will be providing services going forward.

Those changes are due to amendments to the New York to the rise act, voting rights act of New York.

So, based on that, on the amendments, we will no longer be providing services but not services in Brooklyn.

Priority services in Brooklyn.

And Chinese interpretation services on Staten island.

So the first amendments are on paragraph 5 -- jurisdictions.

We are adding Bengali to Brooklyn, and Chinese services Staten island. So, those 3 languages, I am reading the last sentence of paragraph 5 jurisdictions.

The following, therefore the following languages will not be served by the programs in the following jurisdictions.

Bengali, Chinese in Brooklyn, in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten island. Korean, Queens, Spanish, Bronx, Brooklyn Manhattan Queens Staten island.

Arabic, Brooklyn.

>> Furthermore, the paragraph the text of the paragraph changes to, I am going to read it in its entirety minus the jurisdictions I just listed. Program eligible jurisdictions, it will provide assistance of the eligible languages city wide except that the program will not provide the language assistance in a program eligible language covered by the federal rewrites act in a jurisdiction where such language has been covered by such law.

Additionally, the program will not provide interpreter assistance in a slide where the board of elections of the city of New York has stated an intention to provide the same service in the same language.

Therefore, the following languages will not be served by the program in the following jurisdictions except upon request by the board of elections where the obligation to provide poll site assistance has been transferred from the civic engagement commission to the board.

Again, the jurisdiction continues with edits to Bengali in Brooklyn as accepted. Staten island for Chinese and then for Brooklyn.

>> Just a note that the deck version that you may be

looking at doesn't have the language about except upon request, however it should be in the resolution that you were mailed.

So, yeah.

>> Thank you, Sarah.

>> The changes that we just spoke about and need to change in paragraph 7, following, placed allotment.

We have to update, we are updating the cva populations and percent share for each of the program eligible languages, Cuban, the shrinking, population eligible for our services.

Since Chinese speak be voters in Long Island and they are no longer eligible for those services furthermore, we are proposing an amendment to.

>> We can go to the next slide.

Maybe even the following.

We can go to the physiology one. Yeah. Thank you.

>> We are proposing an amendment, connected to paragraph 11.

We are adding the following to maximize resources while expanding access, a second language service in a program eligible language may be added to the poll sites that emerge in the original a allotment realm provided that the second language service represents the second highest group for the poll site and has a minimum of 200 citizen of voting age with limited English

proficiency.

The resulting proportionality will vary from the original percent share for the program eligible, group.

But, will not reduce services from the issue a allotment realm for any language group.

>> Okay. Are there any questions about the changes to the resolution? Donna?

>> Yeah.

>> My question is you are saying that the paragraph 7 -- the Bengali -- and the languages from before, is it eligibility or is it the fact that the board of directors is providing these languages? Or speaking that?

>> Sorry. I can't hear you really well.

>> The languages, that we are no longer serving in the areas, you are saying that the areas are no longer eligible. So, there is no one providing a service?

>> The board of election is taking over the services.

So, with the amendments to the John Lewis voting rights act, thresholds for the board of election for the 4 major groups that are covered by the federal voting rights act are being lowered and based on the lower threshold, the board of election now is to provide the services that we use to provide so far.

So they are taking over erdu, interpretation services in Brooklyn as well as Chinese interpretation services on Staten

island. So, it is transferred over to the board of election.

>> That was not clear because you said eligible then it does not say who will do it for the people.

>> So, thank you for clarifying.

>> Yeah. Because -- sorry about that.

So the exceptions listed there are all exceptions or services of the board of elections.

>> Okay. Thank you.

>> Yes.

>> On the jurisdiction side of 5, you list 5 languages in various boroughs. Is it the case with the implementation of this amendment with change, that there, we will not serve any of the languages anywhere. In other words, does this completely eliminate?

>> No. So, is it still part of our VLA program languages. It just means the total number of the speakers makes up a smaller percent share right?

So, it is a smaller group of speakers that are eligible for our services.

And as of now, Erg poll sites emerge in Queens so instead of like 6 or 7% share that they had before, they now makeup like 3% share of our services.

Therefore, they will get 3% of services city wide where ever the poll sites with those speakers are.

>> I understands. In fact, there will be some where in

the network each of the 5 languages will be served even though it is not Brooklyn for Bengali --

>> Yes so the exception is Spanish because the board of election covers that city wide.

>> That is my point. If we eliminate --

>> Spanish has never --

>> Right.

>> So I am trying to understand is whether there is a language we will not serve anywhere so the next language should go up into the mix.

>> No.

>> Okay. Thank you.

>> I have a question too.

>> Yes Josh.

>> So the board of elections will be the ones to provide the language translation services for the borough languages is that the case except Bengali in Brooklyn and Queens?

>> Can you repeat that?

>> I guess my question would be except what is requested by the board of elections?

>> I guess that change would address situations or transitions taking close to the elections.

So, if there was a need that we are requesting the board of election to share certain jurisdictions in the transition

period.

We may be able to do so by introducing this amendment, and the executive directors approval obviously.

>> Thank you.

>> There is an additional language that was added right?

>> Yeah.

One of the languages made the board of language selection is tegula for queen Eskimo.

So, is it a new addition for interpretation service into question for the board of elections did they expand the number of languages or did one drop off of the list.

>> They did not so they can only add as long as the thresholds are met.

So, also when we talk about the jurisdictions, it doesn't mean we will be providing for city wide. They will be providing services at Brooklyn poll site where the number of voters who are deemed to speak the languages need the threshold that is said for the Brooklyn election.

>> Thank you.

>> Does anyone on the phone have any questions? Had or anyone else here?

All good thank you.

>> All good. Okay.

So, can I have a motion to approve the updates to the

resolution?

>> I motion to a proven the updates.

>> I will second.

>> Okay. For the Commissioners on the phone if you can unmute for the vote.

All in favor, please say I.

>> I.

>> I.

>> Any opposed?

>> Okay March so, we have approved the updates to the voter language assistance methodology and wishing our team and the elections a lot of luck coming November.

So, okay. The next item on the agenda is the annual report, this will take a while to get through. We have the way that we have tried to do this. You can go to the next slide.

The and the next one. We have, we have put a lot into the annual report because there is a lot that the team does.

And just as a reminder to ourselves not all of it is required for us to vote on. The charter allows us to add you know additional items that we think are important but there are minimum requirements on what we should put in the annual report.

So, we attempted to include those items in the slides. We have not put everything in the report that you got into the deck. So, we will try to be focused in what we are going to do today but

on in the deck, you will note that there are specific requirements for participatory budgeting where we are asked to report on the number of people by borough.

So disclosing information about participants in this form, the number of the projects selected for recommendation, again by borough, a description of the outreach that we are doing, and recommendations changes information and anything else that we feel are relevant then poll sites were asked to report on poll sites, where we provide the services, what languages, the number of people that utilize the language services, and then, you know, improvements to the program, and then any other information that he with can use that relevant, then community boards to make a description report on the resources that we made available to the trainings, the number of boards that utilize the trainings again disaggregated by borough.

So we will begin with the voter language assistance program.

And, Anila will give it to you to take us through the section.

>> Thank you.

Next slide please?

>> Language assistance.

>> During the past, this would be the way that you provide services for 2 regular election, November 2024 general election

as well as the June 2025 as well as 3 special elections based on the methodology we were going to cover with the overlap poll sites covered in the prior general election.

In terms of utilization of services, utilization of service for the November 2024 general election marked a significant increase. We assisted a total of 2, 237 voters with language services, and another 47, I believe received general assistance from our interpreters.

Compared to the November 2023 utilization, that rate marked a for fold increase.

In terms of next slide please, the June rates, we assisted a total of 555 voters.

Compared to, compared to the June 2024 primary election, again it marked a significant increase in June 2024, we only assisted 150 voters.

We continue to raise awareness of our services, and in terms of the next slide, please.

We believe that the efforts to conduct outreach and utilize our networks and city agencies led to a higher utilization rate for the November election but also the rate reflects the general trends in voter turn out. It was an important election, and we believe that it contributed to the high utilization numbers.

As of now, we have assisted over 9 thousand voters, with limited English proficiency through our interpretation services.

As you all know, in June, we piloted the first partnership ever with the community based organizations that operate in voter language assistance communities, and, through info sessions in language in the partnership we established with 13 community based organizations. We were able to educate 450 voters roughly on voting, rights, and CC voter interpretation services.

We have also partnered with the outreach team, and the language assistance advisory meaning to conduct outreach in priority areas, areas or language communities with low utilization of the services, so, we have for the June primary, we conducted outreach in south Brooklyn, sunset park, bay ridge, park Chester in the Bronx, in Brooklyn, brighten beach, and we covered most of the vla language communities with our outreach efforts.

The language assistance advisory committee has been continued to contribution to our efforts to which VLA program communities for November last year, they helped organize several info sessions in communities. They are constantly helping us to check the quality of translations and materials that the translator put out for the general and primary elections. They also contributed by reporting messages in their language. We provide a script to provide the messages in the language that we also think part of our digital tool kit that we develop and create every time there is an election.

And, in the next meeting is next week. I am not sure I have mentioned this but, in the past, couple of years, we are trying to meet in person with the language advisory committee at least twice a year.

So, the kick off meeting for the 2025 late February was in person. We also are meeting next week in person to try to strengthen the partnership with the members of the advisory.

>> Thank you Anila. Are there questions for the edits to the annual report related to the program?

>> Question?

>> Yeah.

>> Are you also recruiting for the language assist advisory committee? Or is it already complete?

>> We have at least one representative for each of the groups.

But we still accept applications, in fact, we do need like a second member for the languages such as Yiddish, Italian, French. So the goal is to have 2 members for every language, but that has not been met for all of languages.

So, if you want to recommend anyone, please do so. We will circulate the form.

>> Sounds good.

Anyone else?

Questions on conception. If not, anyone on the phone have any questions? Or edits to the VLA section in the annual report?

>> No.

>> Okay.

So, we can move on to participatory budgeting.

The peoples money.

Lauren is going to come up to start to walk us through that. We will also have supported in doing parts of the presentation as well.

So Lauren. Go for it.

>> Good morning. Nice to see you all again.

Go to the next slide i will give you background on the peoples money process.

So projects were implemented in project 2 an running cycle 3. The process was open to all New Yorkers, residents 1 1 and up regardless of the immigration status. The application was 4 million for those in cycle 3. We collected the balance of the boroughs and the projects were implemented in TRIE neighborhoods.

>> All right. Phase 46 project implementation. So, cycle 2, we partnered with the organizations to develop and execute community driven projects to replace the task for equity neighborhoods.

Addressing a wide range of needs identified by New

Yorkers. I will give a detailed break down on this in just a minute. Topics included education, civic engagement, health well being safety arts. All projects were proposed and voted on by New Yorkers through the peoples money which engaged over 1 thousand 39, 688 people.

So, this is an example of the cycles from 2024 to 25 with 20 projects between 150 thousand that 200 thousand each implemented across New York.

The topics you can see the breakdown distribution, health well being, accessibility, development, arts, and culture.

And on the next slide here, we have the funding breakdowns. We had 5 projects in the Bronx 174 thousand dollars each. 5 projects in Brooklyn 200 thousand each.

4 projects in Manhattan 150 thousand each. 5 projects in Queens 170 thousand each. One in stat I didn't know island 180 thousand for a total of 20 projects and allocation of 3. 5 million dollars.

The next slide here gives a breakdown of the time line for the project implementation phase. Y I will not go into detail but the planning phase was October to January with the goal to identify the impacts to determine the project activities outputs and outcomes.

The implementation phase ran from January to now,

October 2025 wrapping up as we speak with the goal to successfully implement and pack the projects into the TRIE neighborhoods.

The evaluation period lasted from April to October of 2025 with the goal to evaluate and report out the impacts of the projects in the communities. You can see the associated deliverables here as well if you are curious.

All right.

Now to give a little bit of the details on the outputs of the approximate projects, based on a total of 99 monthly reports submitted by partners from January to August in the implementation period and the writing of the report.

The most common approximate project output is the delivery of the word shops, you can see that here. It is 46 workshops conducted all on topic of the disability rights, financial literacy, employment readiness, mental health, 7069 unique participants engaged with 74 community events held.

This is a more detailed breakdown of the outputs of the projects you can see here. We had 74 events reaching 2574 people. 944 people received one on one consults. 2364 people received resources. And 6174 people were reached through outreach canvassing efforts.

And to give a glimpse into qualitative Autistic comes of the projects here, just impactful quotes one participant from the mothers matter project said thank you to the support of this project, I am able to avoid eviction and stay in my home. They helped

me navigate resources available. Without them I don't know where I would be.

Another participant from a Queens project based on healthy food and eating said I used to think healthy food was too expensive and complicated but now I know how to prep for the week with just a few ingredients my kids ask for the vegetable stir fry now.

And here we have more detailed outcomes and outputs of the specific projects, I will give this for example if you are curious to see the rest, we have the YouTube play list with the videos of the projects. There are a couple more slides with a glimpse to others. In Brooklyn, they helped to prepare liaisons to older adults who needed light home repair services. So, they had 15 training sessions with 82 participants where they learned picture hanging, appliance repair, gutter cleaning and landscaping.

Captioned video playing.

>> Thank you. Go for it.

>> We are going to move into process now, thank you Lauren.

>> Good morning. Everyone.

I am going to walk us through cycle 3 just know it was a great project. We chipped in to do the site visits. I got to see that. Some of the participants it with a great group. I can confirm it is not simple to paint. I painted my entire apartment the wrong way.

Okay. So, for cycle 3 starting with the idea generation session we rapping, we had about just under ten thousand New Yorkers participate in the idea generation workshops, 502 sessions held at the help of the partners 173 in neighborhoods collecting 3728 ideas.

We had a 38% response rate to surveys from those participants of those who responded, a full 89% found a facilitation very or extremely effective and 85% found the education on the city budget and understand be the allocation of the city budget to be extremely effective. That is something that we continue to measure because we want to try as we start talking about the priorities, and thinking about how the community members want to utilize the allocation understanding how the budget satisfy structured and where the funding is allocated overall is critical.

Great next slide.

We also have a 200% increase in assembly applications that is great. The larger the applicant pool, the more demeanor graphically represented our committees will be.

So we website from 500 to 1500 applications. We selected 107 members to participate in that were selected that would be

responsible forgetting to deliberately on ideas that would go forward on the ballot.

We keep seeing every single year that folks want more time. This is something that continues to surprise us. New Yorkers are busy. We started with I believe 12 or 14 hours and Now up to 20. We raised it from 16 to 20. Again in response to the people feeling they wanted more time to deliberately to have conversations to think about the projects to go forward. We had arrange of the number projects that every borough is betting. A high of a hundred in Brooklyn and 65 in Staten island.

In terms of our feedback, again, we do, we do surveys with all of the participants for the sentiments tracking. 80% were confident. This is a bit of a trust measure that their recommendations would be put forward. 65% found to be trust worthy and 87% agree that direct democracy is important.

Results of the vote phase.

We had a total of 82 community partners from the 47 community organizations that were engaging in communities outside of the TRIE neighborhoods along with the 30 tree organizations that conducted in person and online outreach. We also worked with over a hundred library branches that posted ballot perform boxes and qr codes available.

Our New York City residents totaled had 131527 ballots in line with what we are seeing the past several year. Most have

been paper. That reflects the in person strategy that the partners have been taking in to have conversations about to get people to vote.

And, it is the 18 thousand 580 digital votes. By borough, Bronx over 25 thousand Manhattan 251 thousand, Brooklyn, 32 thousand Queens 37 thousand, and Staten island 11 thousand.

They were in 12 languages, 21, 559 casino in other languages including Spanish, followed by Chinese.

And (indiscernible by captioner).

>> Okay.

So, I will not go through every single statistics you can see in the annual report but just a few highlights for the vote phase, youth between 11 and 17, we have 18% of the voters that is great. It is really high. I believe that the population of New York City under 18 in total from 0 so 18 is about 20 period although it has been declining we are seeing a decrease in 18 and under. So, we are over representing 11 to 17 year olds and seeing a good rate of participation for young adults between 35 and 44 at 16%.

By gender, next slide the majority just over 50%, 57

period, point 6 identify as women.

I will say we are seeing a decrease over time. I think it was you know higher last year.

We are trying to work with partners able to reach them to try to get more men involved in the process next slide vote by the priority population. We continue to work with partners within reach. 11% of the participants were English language learners. 8% public housing residents and 3% were involved in the justice system.

Next slide.

As far as race, the highest category for race of participants, Black and African American, 30%, 60 period Asian, 15% quite. 12% prefer not to say and the rest districted among other categories like middle eastern, indigenous, etc.

Lastly the demographics of the vote phase, 28. 7% identified as Latino, which is pretty close to the population of New York City.

Moving to the outcome of the vote phase. The cycle 3 projects.

Just quickly recapping the breakdown of funding in the Bronx, 5 projects were 200 thousand. Brooklyn 5 projects were 235 thousand -- Manhattan, 4 projects, 5 projects in Queens 195 thousand, Staten island one project.

So it is interesting this year, we saw a lot of work force

development programs. In general, then also, those that were, selected on the ballot.

So, definitely it is the largest category because we had 7 work force development projects.

6 -- next slide.

I don't know that I need to weed out every single project, but you can see the projects that were selected by borough, and also I will give an update on the TRIE initiative. Recap from last year.

Last year, we awarded 30 community based organizations to serve as TRIE administrators across 31 neighborhoods to promote foster collaboration, community cohesion and increased access for decision making processes. We continue to boost coalition building component of the work.

We worked with the organizations to part of the deliverables is to meet with the coalitions in the agendas process. Also we encourage them to make these meaningful for the coalitions themselves not just in service of money. They conducted over 120 meetings with 225 participants in the sectors fields, communities. Additionally, we understands that being part of the coalition could also mean their participation and contribution to the process. That may require research sharing.

So, the tna is allocated to 26 on thousand dollars of the funding in partnership with the organizations that was through a combination of things, stipends, gift cards, coalitions an events

costs. We continue to work with our community organizations in the TRIE neighborhoods to encourage that kind of collected resource sharing.

In terms of the idea generation sections, they hosted.

Workshops and engaged with over 3700 participants and generated over 1300 ideas.

Here is a quote of the impact of the experience that the TRIE partners are having. Many participants were excited about this, emphasizing how meaningful it was to have this heard and making decisions about how New York City expense budgets should be allocated.

We also implement the TRIE budget into the assemblies. We know the TRIE organizations have a relationship with communities, they are serving communities. We of course been inviting them in to what they are seeing an hearing with the assembly committee members and sharing the priorities they are seeing and the needs they are seeing in had the social services, work force development. They were all I had by half of the coalitions that you can also see in the projects that look forward and the projects that the New Yorkers elected.

Also over-77 thousand ballots were selected by the residents of the TRIE neighborhoods they contributed with the populations, relational organizing to reduce the digitals paper.

>> Okay. Thank you.

>> Are there any questions or edits related to participatory budgeting?

>> I have a couple.

>> Great.

>> It is in the text circulated. Kinds of on the top, I can't give you a page number. Page 12.

>> Can you just say the section.

>> The way it is printed out is not really helpful.

>> Okay.

>> I will try to follow along. So under the topic, in had the first paragraph passion -- you do note this the peoples money is expense funding. So, I would get the text now but the concept is that we have to call the distinction.

I would add at the end the sentence that is going to be my broken record that is that expense money presents difficulties with respect to serving populations in that you can't hire a permanent employee with a one year allocation.

So, you can serve a need and some of the ones here are one and done that you highlighted that is amazing. For example, one about the complete cycle and it doesn't, in previous years, we have things that served mothers need for example, and I am not really phrasing it but that need will continue next year even if

the funding doesn't. So my thought is that, I believe it is part of the work now. Is that we include in our work with these recipients who win the voting that part of their process is learning to replace the income that we are able to provide for one year so that the good work can continue beyond.

So with that in mind, I would propose I sentence in the end of introduction paragraph that says the awards of the expense money present unique challenges for the recipient organizations that the cec helps to mitigate for on going dialogue and recommendations to the language point that should be made.

>> Then, we make the statements a couple of times that this is a city wide process, but it is the, I think we would do well to clarify that by saying that the city wide process borough by borough across the TRIE neighborhoods opposed to one process for the entire city. I think a second one is appropriate. We should just note it. The additional sentence I would add there is the city wide process includes opportunities for project specifics to every Bowery as well as additional opportunities for projects of the 33 TRIE neighborhoods.

So these are the two, that I would propose to the text as I received it. Yeah. These are the 2 that I think would enhance the text that is presented.

While I have the floor, I will say going beyond the minimum of what the charter requires us to do considering that this

agency is under funded is a good idea to make the case by the good work that we are doing that we need more funding for all of the work plus some of the things that are just not able to be as complete as perhaps we would like.

So, making the case more robust is equivalent and nice to appreciate that. Thanks.

>> Thank you, mark.

>> Anyone else have questions or edits on the participatory budgeting?

>> May I just respond to one thing mark said. Mothers matter in fact was able to secure funding for nod year as a result of the capacity building we have been providing. It is a full curriculum cycle management as well as evaluation. So, we successfully secured funding.

>> Through us? Or other?

>> Other.

>> That is what we want them to do.

>> Because of the camp building curriculum that we require all of the organizations to partake in and, we in sure they utilize part of the funding they get to support them.

>> That is exactly the point, the point that was proposed. It is in the central part of continuing so we don't just fix a one time.

>> Yeah. It is an important challenge to acknowledge as well as knowing where we have seen success in the mitigation steps we are taking to such the organizations to address accessibility.

>> Great.

>> Yes?

RIGHTONE: I will say something. When I was hearing mark speak, he was talking like we had discussed this about having the way of continuing the capacity building. I am really happy to hear that is happening and has happened.

I think marks suggestion or concern about this was all of our concerns at the beginning of the process. So I think this the report if we were to put something about the capacity building for continuation of the services, I think that may be showing that we are showing that this is not a one and done thing. It is something that we are trying to do to maintain the services.

>> Yeah. We did include that partnership in the strategic partnerships section and in the section as well. So, we will just go back to be sure the connection is clear that is part of the -- you know not a complete solution.

>> Yes. Part of the solution.

>> Yeah. The other interesting pattern we are seeing is that we obviously for the projects and organizations can apply to recruit to get partners into the mix. We are seeing quite a few partners continue with us.

That enables them to extend, expand, in the areas they are working for. But noting that the one and done is not always the case and some of the partners continue on with us for another year.

>> Good. So it is one and done with us bullet they can continue to work. That is the point.

>> With us?

>> Right.

>> Because they get another, they are awarded another --

>> Yeah. Let's be sure the team that is included in the project highlights question about mothers matter, and also, just noting when we are talking about the capacity building workshops just to talk about sustainability. I can't recall but let's double check.

>> Yeah. Yeah. Appreciate that. Mark.

>> Okay. Thank you.

>> Anyone else? Before you walk away. Sorry. Just to be sure anyone on the phone have any questions or comments? Okay. We are good.

>> Is it still 8.5 million for the new cycle coming up?

>> It is 4 million. Last year 4 million this year 4 million.

>> Got you. Awesome.

>> So, it is 4 million but 3.5 is the awards and the

process.

>> 4 million is the allocation.

>> We still have not had our allocation restored to the 5 million that we initially had.

>> Year 2 is 3.5 --

>> It is 3.5 --

>> Is it okay. It is okay.

>> Yeah.

>> Great.

>> We have something that shows the awards was 3 and a half.

>> For cycle 2.

>> Is it a little confusing. The first slide reviewed, he said 4 million that is the allocation for this year but on the table shown for cycle 2 projects it totals to 3.5. That is correct.

>> That is the previous.

>> Yeah. Exactly. Because of the projects.

>> So, year 2, cycle 2. I apologize for the confusion.

>> It is 4 million.

>> Fiscal year calendar year.

>> We are trying to do that.

>> It is debated at the Civic Engagement commission. Is it yearly? One year? Two year? 3 year process?

>> Exactly.

We are running 2 processes simultaneously. So --

>> Thank you.

>> Okay. We are going to move to the next section. I will -- I don't know is Barbara on the phone?

>>

>> I am can you hear my background noise. We can hear you okay.

>> Okay. Fine. Good afternoon, everyone my name is Barbara Williams, the director of outreach engagement services for the CEC thank you for having me. So last year, I will point out the work we did in the phase one. Idea generation session where under the leadership of Benjamin, the outreach team managed the idea generation partnerships tier 4. Is that where grants of a thousand dollars were given to organizations to host idea generation sessions. Basically what the organizations did was recruited and planned the idea sessions and CEC was responsible for bringing in community facilitators to actually teach the classes.

With the 85 hoses we had 98 workshops in under served areas for the 5 boroughs. It is a great opportunity in communities that we would not normally serve.

For the next slides, you will see that we managed to go onto phase 3 with the pb vote. We went to the master pray and worked on small sections of the city, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and this time, we worked city wide and had 23 volunteers. We had 8 in Manhattan,

2 in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens. So, through the approximate process, we were able to get 3970 New Yorkers to vote.

To pb phase 3.

Next slide.

Okay.

As Anila mentioned, we worked with her and the team with the new program for those who needed assistance lep, and under the guidance of the new Brooklyn engagement specialist, we were able to have 15 volunteers participate in the canvassing, social media action, we reached more than 600 New Yorkers who's languages, were Haitian, Creole, Russian -- we were able to hear it in the language to the poll. This is what it does when it comes to voting. For the first time ever, we had an official celebration to recognize the efforts of our volunteers. This was held in June at the Gibney on chamber s street. We had 40 people attend -- family friends and employees of the CEC. This would not be possible without the funding of the New York City service grants in partnership with New York City service.

>> Thank you. Anyone have any questions?

>> Comments or edits? On the outreach section? Noting that we omitted in the deck --

>> Brooklyn.

>> But it is in the annual report.

>> Yeah.

>> It? The annual report yes.

>> I saw that too -- yeah.

It is not necessary the comma tis there.

>> It is Creole right?

>> I see.

>> Yes.

>> Did you have a question?

>> Okay. Anyone have a question there comments on the outreach section?

>> Okay. I am going to move to the next which is community boards.

So, for community boards, I will be presenting. Benjamin is not able to be here now. Next slide.

So, the commission provided a variety of trainings in 2024 and 2025 the last school year continuing with the parliamentary trainings, worked with the i bo, the independent budget office of the commission on human rights, department of buildings, office for economic opportunity that was about data.

Department of records and information services to help strengthen record keeping.

And board members are more aware of what is a department of records and why are we preserving records, department of housing preservation and development and restorative justice de escalation

training for community board members. Overall, this breaks down by borough how many board members attended in total. As a reminder, 553 is not the unique number of board members. Some of them may of course attended the other trainings at other times but the data does tell you how many people attended each of the types of the workshops.

So, any questions on the community boards section?

And data?

>> I have a question.

How did we determine which workshops would be offered?

>> In general, they are going by, I think 3 things. One is where does the charter ask us to do? Two is looking at what board meshes are requesting.

We have done a needs kinds of analysis for boards and, also, looking alternate who is available to train. I think the 3 things together makeup the topics that we offer.

>> Anyone else?

Questions? Comments?

Anyone on the phone? Questions for the community boards?

>> I will just note that -- this is an annual report speaking about somewhat happened in the previous fiscal year and the presentation, there may be topics that we want to talk about

going forward.

But that is for a different day.

>> Yeah. We welcome thoughts about where we like to cover. Maybe we can have a separate meeting about it or make it part of public discussion leading up to the annual report where generally attempting to start early but in the summer time I guess spring we talk about what we likely to see in the annual report in addition to was required.

In the annual report itself, we didn't talk about it today, we do have we did cover strategic partnership approximates with a variety of organizations and entities that we are working with to deliver our programs and services and also looking at the section of the road map of what is coming up in the year ahead. And we will cover a bit about it when we get to the program update section hopefully.

But for now, I think our review of the annual report is complete.

So I wondered if we would we were ready with the edits that mark provided to participatory budgeting, if there are other edits and I will take a final ask are there any other edits to the annual report?

>>

>> I will say I am having a hard time seeing the report, but I got to see like the community boards that are utilizing the

workshops and which are not so we can see which of the community boards maybe need a little more intention on outreach or which are engaging with the Civic Engagement commission so we can help with the bridge or fill the gap.

>> That is a good question. Yeah.

Okay.

Thank you.

Anyone on the phone?

Final comments before we get into the vote?

>> Community boards because I was one of them. I also think we should coordinate training also talking to the community boards and they will think oh, I have done it already. I will do it again. They don't look at what is offered approximated because you know, it more of a way to get them to be more intentional about the trainings.

>> I think there is we have been communicating with the presidents on the trainings and they have been helping us to spread the word and de escalation trainings in partnership with them. I think you are making a you know, we are strengthening the partnership will be really important. We also reached out to see if they want to partner with us on the idea generation sections with us as well.

And, the presence are the communities boards that will also be. So, yeah. There is so much to do to fortify the

relationships of CEC and all of intergovernmental partners so. I appreciate that.

>> So, moving into the vote.

>> Yeah. Just to cover one more quick second. This is in the realm of things we need to do better going forward opposed to what needs to be in the annual report.

But with that said, the Manhattan community boards just completed the equal employment practices commission audit.

>> Ok.

Which, among other things, imposes after the fact obligations on boards, staff, and on the chair of the board, a volunteer so, they take specific trainings.

>> Right.

>> Without ever telling us we have to do that.

Especially the chair.

Which is complicated because sometimes, they don't let the chair.

So in the realm of the overlapping responsibilities, there are 3 players. The fact that the chair took that point of viewed by the CEC or relevant borough president didn't matter.

So, the absence of coordination is someone would be worthy to be addressed going forward.

But, I think it is accurately represented in the annual report as written. So, if I have the floor, I will make a motion

to accept the annual report as presented with thanks to the chair and staff for a have I complete report that makes a good case for the civic engagements. In the past, I would argue for additional funding in the year ahead.

>> Second.

>> Okay. The Commissioners on the phone if you can unmute, we are going to vote on the annual report. There is a motion to a proving the report for submission with the edits mark provided. There is a second. All in favor? You can confirm.

>> I.

Any opposed? Okay. So the annual report is approved with edits for submission.

Thank you, everyone for that.

>> Now, we will move to the values statement. In the last meeting, we looked at revisions to the value statement moving forward with the edits. Just noting that it will be integrated into the report.

So, like we did in the past meeting, it will be important to periodically review the values statement to be sure we are a lined and it is it reflecting where we are any moment in time. So, it is a living breathing value statement, we can look at it as needed.

So the first edit that we made in response to not being

clear about the word civic. So, we added to the life of the neighborhoods, community and city at large to explain civic life.

And, that was one edit. So, does anyone have comments on the edit?

Anyone on the phone?

Another an adding the word all before Hearings under dignity. We a firm equal worth of human beings record less of ability.

We commit to be responsive to the resident needs with respect and care.

Next slide.

Another edit that we made was related to accountability. We spent time in the last meeting talking about taking feedback and what we do with it and not over promising on how we integrate feedback but letting communities know that the feedback is welcome and it will be integrated and considered.

So, that is the edit that we made. We added the communities that we serve and consider that as part of the decision making process.

>>

>> Then finally creative, we discussed, kind of reordering the sentences here which we did, we moved we believe creative can play central for thriving democracy to the top of the section.

And, we seek to honor everyone's story by using art, music, story telling to bring people together. We value spaces filled with beauty joy for all New Yorkers.

Are there any questions or comments on the edits to the values statement?

>> This is Amy online i want to thank my Commissioner for the excellent conversation we had about these values. And thank you Sarah the chair and the staff for incorporating the changes.

>> Thank you. Yeah. I really value that conversation as well.

>> I thought it was great too. I appreciate how is it embodied in the changes.

I just have a question about one word in the accessibility paragraph.

>> Yeah.

>> Which is removing barriers to the commission and resources for our communities. Why that modifier is there in that sentence when we don't use it any other place?

>> Yeah.

>> And you know, I am -- a little -- unclear about why

we would want to claim ownership over certain communities. It stood out to me as -- you know -- raising questions.

>> Yeah. We can.

>> Does anyone want to respond to it?

>> How about using the same phrase from accountability that is the communities that we serve opposed to the communities?

>> Just tabling it out.

>> Yeah. Take it out. The word out.

>> Yeah. That is easier.

>> Okay. So, then proposed edit is resources for without the word our.

>> Yes.

>> Okay. Is anyone on the phone? Have additional edits or comments on values.

>>

>> I think to the point of the communities we served to the accessibilities value, we just hammering that point more. So, resources for the communities that we serve.

Similar to what -- accountability?

>> Don't we want accessibility for everyone? So that is why we say communities.

>> Is it restrictive, the words.

So, for community in general.

>> Okay.

>> Okay. So, proposed.

Anyone want to make a motion to approve the edits from last time incorporated with today?

>> Sure. I would like to make a motion to propose the edits from today and last time. So, we can finalize this.

>> Second it.

>> Okay. Awesome in favor?

>> I.

>> Amazing. New value statement.

>> We did a lot of our business in a timely way. I appreciate everyone's support on this. Before we go to the next section it is 12: 30 so to do a time check, I will ask if anyone asked to make a comment. Okay. We can use the remaining time to go through the rest of the presentation which will give you an idea of what is coming up.

In the next couple of weeks for us as a commission.

So where are we starting with that? Implementation application. Is that you Lauren?

>> Yes.

>>

>> Hello again.

I believe the slide should go to the peoples money.

Yes.

Awesome. So just to recap where we are now with cycle 3, which if you know cycle 2 is ending this month so, cycle 3 is already begun but to recap the application and selection process now, we have peoples money implementation rfi open in the on summer receiving 94 proposal to implement 20 projects voted to be funded in the people money.

In scoring applications, the criteria included ability to fulfill program requirements, organizational experience connection to the community, strength of the community engagement strategy and partnerships, alignment with the needs and priorities identified through the pb process, feasibility, clarity, and impact of the implementation plan, sufficient capacity and staffing. And practicality and completeness of the proposed budget.

Scoring applications, we recruited from a wide range of city agencies and partnerships is that was really helpful to have the expertise of different backgrounds of the so, this included the NYC department of youth and development, New York City economic development cooperation, CUNY, office of the Mayor for health human services at hHS.

This is a list of implementation partner right side selected in the process. In the yellow are the partners highlighted that had are new to engaging with us in implementation. So, the new partners in the outreach efforts -- rfi, we had 11 new partners around several others are returning from a previous year of

implementation or from other partnerships such as pb or treaty that is really exciting.

>> Okay.

>> Thank you Lauren for the updates for year 3 of project implementation I will provide updates on year 4 process. I also just want to share exciting highlight that we are partnering with the design by community studio which is part of NYC opportunities design studio, they are investing 80 thousand dollars in the implementation of one project to work with the community to codesign.

So, that we are thinking about how we integrate codesign within the community within how we implement the projects. So, we are really excited to see how that unfolds and learn from the different practices and see to what degree that could be scaled as we work with other organizations. That would be in Manhattan in the lab that is one of the new partners.

>> Somewhat the project?

>> Youth entrepreneur ship.

>> So we will involve young people in the project?

>> Yes.

>> There will be fellows, I believe receiving stipends so it adds an additional 6 months to the time line to allow for planning time and codesign process to occur. So, excited to begin. Yeah. Involvement in every single phase period of time process

including project implementation.

>> So, we are kicking off year 4 with the idea generations next week. October 15.

So, thanks to the incredible team in the work that occurred to get those limitations scored, created, awarded, etc.

We are working with 45 organizations this year who are partner was in addition to had the TRIE partners have all of the neighborhoods will be covered this year. But one organization is covering more than one community. We already held on boarding facilitation for all of the partners for TRIE, pb, and implementation. We are working with the partners for the outreach plans and reaching out to the libraries, presidents, agencies, working to highlight to partner actions in the mix with idea generation sessions we hope to have host sessions to deploy community facilitators who we have been working with the past year.

To prioritize the community leaders and our own capacity.

We also have approximate been working with the department of education, civics for all as you know they have a program in the schools. We work with them on a condensed session tool kit and facilitator tool kit to run a session in the classrooms so they can write a session in schools.

>> Is there a question?

Okay.

Okay.

>> Is someone on hold.

>> Musical -- next slide. Highlighting new partners this year. We kept most on board. It is helpful to have sustainability from one year to the next. We had to reup every year that was really difficult for us and program society we are working to extend contracts in the way the city does.

So, the ones in the bold are the ones that are new to the process and the other folks are continuing on from last year.

>> New idea generation features just speaking back to the values that Sarah under scores in the values in the work we do, what are we learning from organizations or hearing about what is working and what do we pay attention to or improve?

We brought back the city budget poster everybody loved it.

We let it go. The footprint and the paper always needs attention. But people felt it was really a visual useful engaging device. So, budget posters are back. People are excited. There are stickers to name the priorities you want to see. We also have brainstorming a visual way to not only think about the projects. We have 90 minutes in addition to the budget to demystify to work with the folks to submit ideas so coming up with the devices to visual aids to bring people together for the sake of the process but also that we are coming up with ideas that could be put forward.

We also updated the launch video, we are hearing from folks. We want to be sure we are translating in multiple languages so we are working on that.

We want people to see the outcome of what this whole process what is the out committee? You are all here you, you are all engaging. You are contributing. Here is an example of what came from the prosecutes process last year and a way around people in the process to get people excited about what is possible.

Right.

So the last thing is we have designed a session to be collective.

We have had people in in the past, everyone submits the idea. The problem is that we see similar ideas just differently worded.

Is it important I think for us to move the democratic process to the front so he people are together and in the beginning phase of the process. So every table with the devices that we are giving them. They are coming up with one idea together. Their consensus.

You know. So some deliberation or discussion. That also will reduce hopefully the number of ideas is that we are getting. I noted earlier 3700 ideas.

It is a lot to be betting. We want to know what happened to the project and one way to do that is to reduce the number of ideas so we can tell the story better.

And show the journey of the idea of the submission to the ballot.

The flow this year. It started last year in the sense of the introduction we want people to know each other a little bit with the ice breakers. Again the budget opposers learning about it understanding what it is so they don't have the idea generation session in to the cycle.

So we have the activities, we have folks come together then we share out. There as I share out of the ideas and we want to have time too do that for us.

Also, have the opportunity to fill out the application for the borough if they are interested.

So that is high level overview of what we are up to in the idea generation section for the year, a recap for the TRIE space we continued on with 21 community 6 organizations based in the part of the evaluations that we did together. So the evaluation of the work with us in the their own evaluation period of time work with us, for enough organization that had difficulty for the meaning deliverables or chose not to continue, we open to the application so folks don't have the chance to reapply. Of those, 3 were awarded and the remaining are partners.

The awards with the notification of the award went out September 5. They have been on boarded. And staff have been conducting additional meetings. We want to be transparent. So, folks ask for feedback why they were not chosen, we provide it.

So, those are replaced.

Next slide, we will if just see the folks who are new this year. Some them may have been with us in previous years.

Some have worked with us in other capacities, for example the mothers matter is now a TRIE partner.

>> The goals for the year are many ways continuation in strengthening of the way we are working with partners in coalitions, we are excited that we securities partners in 33 neighborhoods. We have had difficulty to get partners to recruit and filled holes in ways to bring in partners but this covered all 3 that is fantastic.

So, we are also collaborating with the Mayor's office of equity racial justice. There is a funding partner so, think about the ways to bring in the agencies into the space for a multisector collaboration and building out between neighborhood administrators and implementing partners, implementing partners, I think benefit many ways to work with the TRIE organizations on the ground in the neighborhoods and there is more discrete deliverables we have this year for ways to be partnering then of course continuing to support all of the bases --

So, what is next? The tni will have their first coalition meeting between inbox and October 31. We are working to finalize plans an host sessions and in partnership with the new school, we that curriculum that we mentioned we are working with the implemented partners, we extended that as an offering in the a requirement to the TRIE organizations in order for them to take us up on it is not connected to the peoples money or the deliverable, it purely a professional development opportunity to have offer to the TRIE partners and an example to invest in the coalitions to serve our communities.

>> Good.

>> Thank you.

>> Any questions? .

Anyone on the phone have a question? Thank you for listening.

>> I will cover the community boards and voter language program. So, coming up, we have training we are scheduling. Deisolated conflicts, so, a 2 hour workshop which are partnering with the borough presidents on so it is a borough based workshop.

Then also working with the individual community boards to request parliamentary procedures sequels to deliver to the board specifically. This is different from the model where we just create

a training to let board members across the city sign up. Of so, we are working with individual boards on that.

So, there are workshops interesting workshops coming up, social media outreach. This is a topic requested by the first needs assessment way back like during in the pandemic.

So it is good we are able to offer it now, continuing to offer language access for community boards, and also, investing and accessibility.

With the office of people with disability.

And finally, with the voter language assistance program, we already voted on the changes. Next slide.

We voted on the changes to the methodology. So, in the November election, you will see, the number of poll sites that will be served in the election. For each language, and, finally, we are working with the community based partners we have another rfi, we received 26 applications with 15 selected to run the information sessions in language.

Between October 13 and November 3. I will be looking at the ballot measures, voting rights including rights for the interpreters and the interpretation services and providing the content and training to those delivering this. I want to take a moment to the team that has been remarkable. We have run in the past what is it 5 or 6 weeks 4 rfi? Within the last two months. I don't know when we sent out the first one but we have run 4 rfi.

The team has been involved with partners as well. So, it is a remarkable under tanking anesthetic really successful.

So congratulations to the team. It builds the connections on the ground.

So thank you so much to the team.

That is what is happening in the next couple weeks.

A lot happening. There is also on going -- we didn't mention but should here Civic Engagement partnered with mt Sinai with the Robert Johnson foundation to explore data to build health equity and we were awarded that funding.

I don't remember the total number. They got like 300 applications we were one of 5 awarded.

>> Yeah. So, is that really exciting project.

>> The first time they funded the participatory budget process.

>> First time looking closely at participatory budget. So, we are really excited to see.

Really the goal of the research is to look close at how we are building data literacy in the communities so when people are of coming up with ideas if they can use data how to integrate these ideas into a process and ultimately how successful you know the projects were that are focused. Did they change health behavior or equity? So, it is really a pilot research project we are excited about.

>> We have a one pager coming with you with an overview

of the project.

>> Okay. Okay. We are at what time? 12: 50. I think we got through lot of the agenda. So, we can anyone have other questions comments? The next meeting would be December? Did we set a date? I don't remember. We do have a date. Okay.

RIGHTONE: December -- the first Thursday. I think is it the 4th Thursday.

>> First Thursday is the 4th.

RIGHTONE: Okay. Amazing.

If you can vote to end the meeting.

>> So moved.

>> Second.

>> Second. All in favor to end our public meeting?

>> I.