NYC CEC MEETING 040325

(This meeting is being recorded and summarized).

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Okay. Good morning, everyone.

I'm going to call the Civic Engagement Commission public meeting to order.

Welcome everybody.

We have some of our partners here, some of our team members, and welcome to those who will eventually watch this either hopefully from the live stream or later.

Also want to thank the team for bringing all of the information together for this meeting.

And I want to start out by taking attendance to ensure we have a quorum.

My name is Dr. Sarah Sayeed, one of the 15 Commissioners appointed for the Civic Engagement Commission, I'm the chair and Executive Director.

Today we're live streaming as part of the open meeting guidelines.

And I want to thank our partners GBTC site and sound, Ellis family and our captionist for being here with us today.

As I went over last time for those not familiar with open meeting guidelines, they are meant to promote transparency in government.

And the Commission works to conduct its engagement programs and processes in a transparent manner to make our Commissioners and our residents aware of how we are doing our work and to involve people in the decision making about the design and delivery of our programs.

Those it might be your first time in a public meeting, welcome.

Public meetings are a great way to learn more about the work of government, and also work towards greater accountability for government.

And to strengthen trust between government and New York City communities, those watching online, we welcome you to join us in person.

If you are a member of the public and here, there is a sign-in sheet.

We would love to get your name and address so we can continue to keep stay in touch with you about ongoing activities, for people online, you can go to NYC.gov/civic engagement.

You can sign up for our newsletter.

Just to explain, there are some technology and housekeeping guidelines for this meeting.

As we all know, those who have been here, Commissioners, when you are in person, just make sure your mic is muted and you can unmute while speaking.

Also online for Commissioners, you can mute while speaking and unmute

while speaking.

I need help from people in front of me and Commissioners.

I can't always see when someone has a hand raised, so that is helpful.

I want to note that we do have in this meeting a public comment session.

That is part of the meeting which we kept towards the end.

We usually call people in order that they registered for public comment.

So, to sign up for public comment, those who don't know, you can sign up before the meeting by e-mailing us.

You can sign up during until noon either by noting you're here in person if you want to put your name on the sign-in sheet as wanting to comment, you can.

You can e-mail your comments to info@civicengagement.nyc.gov or text comments to (917) 587-9103.

And we will read the comments in the order that we receive them.

Yeah. I think that is the tech and housekeeping rules or guidelines.

Let's see what is next here.

All right.

Next item on our agenda is approving the minuting from February.

>> Motion to approve.

>> Second.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: All of the Commissions on virtually, could you unmute so we can vote on the minutes?

All in favor, please say AYE.

>> AYE.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Any opposed, please say NAY.

Any abstentions.

>> Abstain.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: You're abstaining?

>> Amy Breedlove: I was not present.

>> Mitchel Wu: I abstain as well.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Should we pass the motion to approve the minutes with two abstentions?

We didn't hear any nos.

Okay.

All right.

Do we have the deck up?

We have, for those, you have a photocopy.

Let's go through it.

Okay.

Great.

Just, we're not like last time we don't have anything to vote on.

We're going to spend a bunch of time to discuss just program updates with you, let you know what's happened, what is coming up and the next meeting is in early June.

That is what we're looking to do, to get you know what coming up before that as well.

We're going to, we did attendance, we did approval of minutes.

We're going to talk about CEC values and get into program updates.

We have team members here, Anila is here to talk about voter language assistance.

Benjamin is here to talk about Community Board Community Boards and conflict de-escalation.

Lexi is talking about implementing great projects that residents voted on for participatory budgeting of people's money and Hayden is going to share updates from the neighborhood initiative and Oscar is talking about digital equity work.

There will be great updates to hear about what we are doing and we'll

invite you to ask questions as each person finishes presenting.

So, what I want to do just ooze a first step and I think this is a good moment to do it because of where we are locally and nationally in terms of democratic engagement to reground ourselves in CEC values.

And reaffirm them.

I don't want to, I don't think we have time this time to really get into a discussion on the values, however, I want to put it on your radar and see how we want to bring it back into discussion maybe in the next meeting.

I want to consider whether our values rise to the moment we're in, whether there are things we want to add or take away.

And just as a reminder and re-grounding, the Commission was announced in April 2019.

To be very precise, the press release announcing mayoral appointees went out on April 23rd.

That would be making it six years for us as a Commission, and just again, I think it's a good moment for a toddler, I guess toddler stage, but a good moment to reflect are the values we have good for the next phase of the development of the Commission.

In the past newsletter, which everyone should be on, and if you're not, let

me know after the meeting if you don't get the CEC newsletter, we did issue a statement of sorts at the opening so I wanted to just take a few minutes to read that statement.

Natalie since you're online, could you start us off by reading the first paragraph of the statement?

Natalie, can you hear us?

Oh, we can't hear you for some reason.

Okay.

Okay.

Well, we will hopefully hear you read some part of it.

We have a little bit of reading to do.

So, maybe I'll start with Gio, do you want to do the first paragraph?

>> Giovanni Barcenes: Sure.

SINCE OUR ESTABLISHMENT, THE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH RUNNING SEVERAL PROGRAMS TO SERVE --

>> Is your mic on?

>> Giovanni Barcenes: Testing, here we go.

SINCE OUR ESTABLISHMENT, THE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH RUNNING SEVERAL PROGRAMS TO SERVE RESIDENTS

OF NYC AND HELP BUILD TRUST IN GOVERNMENT.

WE'VE FOCUSED OUR PROGRAMMING TO INCREASE REPRESENTATION AMONG COMMUNITIES THAT ARE HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED AND UNDERSERVED INCLUDING IMMIGRANTS, INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, BIPOC, LGBTQ+ AND MORE.

AS THE RIGHTS OF THESE POPULATIONS ARE UNDER ATTACK, AND MANY ARE FEELING UNSAFE IN THEIR OWN NEIGHBORHOODS, WE BELIEVE THAT ALL NEW YORKERS DESERVE TO HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS, FEEL SAFE IN EXPRESSING THEIR IDENTITIES, AND FREEDOM TO LIVE THEIR OWN LIVES WITHOUT BEING IN DANGER.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Thank you.

How are we doing on the mic situation?

>> Still not working.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Still not working, okay.

Do you want to read the second paragraph?

>> Sure.

THE CEC CELEBRATES THE INHERENT DIGNITY, WORTH, AND DIVERSITY OF ALL NEW YORKERS.

WE BELIEVE ALL VOICES MUST BE HEARD AND RESPECTED IN A DEMOCRACY IN ORDER TO CREATE POLICIES THAT PROMOTE THE COMMON GOOD.

WE REMAIN STEADFASTLY COMMITTED TO CREATING PROGRAMS THAT CENTER LISTENING, RELATIONSHIP BUILDING, AND CARE.

OUR COMMISSION WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TO BUILD, AND EARN, TRUST IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND PROVE THAT GOVERNMENT CAN BE, SHOULD BE, AND WILL BE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Thank you for that.

And some of the language in that statement that was issued in the newsletter comes from the CEC value statement, which some of you were not here when we first developed this statement to approve for your awareness, I want to share the history.

We started with the value statement in 2021 with a small number of staff we had on the team at that time.

It was about seven people.

We had a process where we asked what their values were for engagement.

We did intensive discussion about values through both the center for creative conflict resolution and oath that started us on the discussion, and we

took the conversation into workshops we did art on grounded program design focused on social justice with the C change collective.

We developed a value statement and then brought them to our advisory boards and the Commissioners, the participatory budgeting advisory board and our Commissioners reviewed the values and then we got your feedback and the value statement that we have is reflective of that process.

And we have been sharing this value statement as part of our team on boarding.

It's a good time to recenter on the values for those who may not have seen it before.

Could we continue the process of reading the value statement.

I know we started late, so hopefully we can catch up with everything.

If I could call on you, Eve, and then just move it this way.

If you could read a paragraph and then we could . . . yes.

>> Eve Baron: TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE NEW YORKERS TO MEANINGFULLY PARTICIPATE IN CIVIC LIFE, THE CEC BELIEVES THAT ACTIVE LISTENING, AS A PROCESS AND PRACTICE, IS CENTRAL TO BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AND TRUST.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO BEING PRACTITIONERS OF PARTICIPATORY

DEMOCRACY AND AFFIRM OUR RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMITMENT TO LIFT THE POWER AND VOICES OF ALL NYC COMMUNITIES.

WE GROUND THIS WORK BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CORE VALUES:

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Mark.

>> Mark Diller: Dignity.

WE CELEBRATE THE INHERENT WORTH OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS BY CREATING PROCESSES THAT CENTER RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING, INTENTIONAL LISTENING, AND CARE.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: You can just keep, do one more line.

You move, it doesn't.

>> Amy Breedlove: Manifesting community power.

WE SUPPORT COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, PROVIDE EDUCATION ABOUT HOW VARIOUS SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT WORK, AND CREATE PATHWAYS FOR ENGAGEMENT SO THAT COMMUNITIES VOICE AND MANIFEST THEIR POWER OVER DECISIONS THAT IMPACT THEIR LIVES.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Thank you.

>> Collaboration.

WE BELIEVE THAT BY WORKING TOGETHER WITH PEOPLE AFFECTED BY POLICIES, WE CAN IDENTIFY AND SOLVE OUR COLLECTIVE CHALLENGES AND

BUILD THE INTERDEPENDENCE REQUIRED FOR A HEALTHY RESILIENT DEMOCRACY.

>> Mitchel Wu: Accessibility and justice.

WE STRIVE TO CREATE CONDITIONS THAT FOSTER ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND RESOURCES THAT ENABLE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS THAT ARE GROUNDED IN MUTUAL AGENCY AND WORK TO ELIMINATE POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT HAVE DISPARATE IMPACTS ON HISTORICALLY MARGINALIZED AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.

>> Donna Gill: Accountability and transparency.

That would be mine.

WE FACILITATE HONEST DIALOGUE WITH RESIDENTS AND INTERAGENCY PARTNERS THAT CENTERS THEIR LIVED EXPERIENCES AND COMMITS TO CONTINUOUS EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENT TO STRENGTHEN THE IMPACT OF PROCESSES AND ACTIONS ON OUTCOMES.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: How is the mic working now on the Webex.

Can we hear Natalie?

Still working on it?

Is Natalie the only one on Webex?

>> No there is Lilliam.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Is it unique to Natalie?

It's just Webex?

Okay.

So, I will read the next one.

IMAGINATIVE WAYS OF WORKING:

WE COMMIT TO REIMAGINING WHAT GOVERNMENT PROCESSES CAN LOOK LIKE -- OPENING UP POSSIBILITIES FOR NEW WAYS OF ENGAGEMENT.

And I'll just finish off.

DYNAMIC LEARNING:

WE COMMIT TO FOSTER MUTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES AND AMPLIFYING VOICES AND STORIES FROM COMMUNITY PARTNERS THAT INFORM OUR OWN PRACTICE.

This is our value statement.

I was thinking as a next step, I would like to invite the Commissioners to review this and we will give you a deadline to provide some written feedback if you're good with moving forward with this by April 23rd.

If there are things you want to add, we can bring it into the next meeting in early June, and I don't think we actually voted on this value statement.

I don't recall us doing that.

Maybe we can discuss that.

>> Amy Breedlove: I thought we did.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Okay.

We did.

Great.

>> Mark Diller: It would be great if a word or good will document of this content could be provided so that we can interlineate without changing, without dictating.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Yeah. We can set up a track changes kinda document.

>> Mark Diller: Or Google Doc, whatever they call it.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Thank you so much.

Okay.

So now we're ready to hear from the team about our different programs.

And first up we have -- sorry?

>> Mark Diller: The deadline for the comments?

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: April 23rd.

That is the day that the announcement went out about partnerships.

I just randomly picked that date.

(Laughter)

Okay.

So first up we have the voter language assistance program updates with Anila.

>> Anila Cobo: Good morning.

Okay.

So, we provided services for the counsel district 44 special elections as you know.

But first I would like to talk a little bit about the LAAC, the Language Assistance Advisory Committee.

We had the first meeting for this year's cohort on February 27th.

Dr. Sayeed was there, the mayor's office of current affairs Commissioner Manuel Castro was there and director of (indiscernible) at the mayor's office was also present.

We have nine new members and 13 returning members, it was an in person event and everyone, you know, enjoyed getting together and talking about the importance of language access and the importance of catering to the diverse language communities in New York City.

We had a second meeting on March 20th, and this month's upcoming

meeting we'll be discussing efforts for the June primaries.

In terms of the special election in council district 44, we provided services on the last three days of the early voting period.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Can we do next slide.

Next slide.

>> Anila Cobo: Thank you.

We provided services at four early voting poll sites on the last three days of the early voting period.

We had a total of eight language services, three in Yiddish, three Russian services, one Arabic and Urdu.

On election day, we provided services at seven unique poll sites, two of them had Yiddish interpreters, five had Russian interpreters.

The operations were smooth, we provided 100 percent of services as scheduled.

And we are now preparing for the council 51 special election based on our methodology we're providing services -- next slide please -- based on our methodology, we're providing services at one poll site on election day, April 29th.

And that poll site is going to receive services in Korean.

>> I recognize that (indiscernible).

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Just somebody dropping by.

(Laughter)

>> Amy Breedlove: Is today the first or the 3rd of April?

(Laughter)

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Good to know the mic is working.

Whatever that was.

>> Anila Cobo: For early voting, we will not be serving any poll sites for this special election because there is no overlap with our November general election poll site list.

So, the major priority for the Language Assistance Advisory Committee team right now is the June primary.

We're working with vendors to create a new ranked choice voting PSA and hopefully get it out in all of the VLA languages in time for the campaign.

We're working to update our websites with content in all of the VLA program languages, we're working with the mayor's office of community and media to place ads with ethnic media outlets in languages that the voter language assistance program covers, as well as placement like kiosks and NYC government medium, we're also working on piloting a small program for community organizations that work with voter language assistance communities

in those specific geography, where we have services to conduct information sessions in language on rank choice voting and voter rights ahead of the June primary. That's all.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Any questions for Anila?

Yeah, Mark.

>> Mark Diller: Thanks could you say more about what community organizations you're targeting to had provide this voter rights information having to do with rank choice voting.

It is obviously something that continues to befuddle voters in both its intent and implementation.

The idea of having training is great, but I wonder about the connection to organizations, who are they, how are they selected and what is their expertise.

>> Anila Cobo: We're yet to analyze the RFI itself, but the idea is we will be providing the content in all of the VLA languages.

We're not expecting organizations to have experience in civic engagement and voting per se, but we are expecting organizations to be working on a regular basis with these language communities.

So, basically the requirement will be that they deliver this content in language to the community that they work with in language.

And, you know, open, open, they (indiscernible) for community members in those polls and geographies to learn about our CEB and also hear about the process, and, yeah, get more involved generally.

>> Mark Diller: If I could follow-up, how big is the grant we're expecting to be awarding to each organization and what do we expect them to do with, specifically with the money.

>> Anila Cobo: So, this going to be a small grant of 1500 per info session.

It is a really tiny grant.

It is supposed to cover one information session of about an hour with a minimum number of attendees.

And because we have no capacity, so we're, we are setting minimum requirements for these organizations, so they have to be working in specific poll site geography, have the space and staff that is able to present, deliver the content in language.

So, it is going to be pretty straightforward.

>> Mark Diller: Thanks.

>> Amy Breedlove: I want to talk about, we just went over the values of the Commission, and I'm thinking, you know, are, is there a way that we have making sure or ensuring that the groups that we are working with are also

committed to these values?

I think that is something that we should think about moving forward.

To ensure that we are not working against our own values in some way.

>> Anila Cobo: I just want to add, thank you for pointing that out, that we're like the partners that we're hoping to bring for this effort will have to be nonprofit, registered nonprofits, right, and they are, you know, they have their own mission statement, nonpartisan and public institutions are the two partners we're looking for.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: That's a good point.

>> Amy Breedlove: I understand that but you don't want a partner who works with their community against other communities, and I think that is something we want to ensure.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: I think it is a good point not only for this RFI.

There are members who work with a lot of organization partners, and it is a note for us to be thinking the next cycle when we start partnerships how we can be intentional in integrating our CEC values.

It could be part of the on boarding process, let's just think about strategies for being more intentional with our values.

I think that is an important point H.

\>> Donna Gill: I have a question.

When is the (indiscernible).

\>> Anila Cobo: Early next week.

We're hoping, hope is, it is open to everyone, but the hope is in the ecosystem of partners that we have, we're going to be able to find right partners, and do those 20 info sessions about five will go to the Russian community right because they make up 40 percent of our VLA community and then one for like priority neighbors for each of the other languages.

The hope is to find the right partners that already have those ties and we'll be able to deliver what we're asking for.

\>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Thank you.

\>> Donna Gill: I have another question.

The special election on the 25th, with the four sites and seven sites, what was the total number of people that were served?

\>> Anila Cobo: Unfortunately the voting turn out for the special election was really low.

It was about 8,000 which makes up about 10 percent of registered voters in council district 44.

Unfortunately we only had one voter assisted on election day for Russian.

I heard comments from our staff on the ground that voters coming in, they were surprised to learn there was a special election, so unfortunately that's --

>> Donna Gill: Voter education.

>> Anila Cobo: Yeah. Voter education and awareness.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Thank you Anila.

Yeah. You know, as we were talking about this internally -- (background noise).

Online, please, is that our technical issue?

>> That's Webex.

Ask everybody to mute.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: I guess we're having technical issues.

The folks online, if you could mute yourself.

Is that good?

Okay.

Yeah. We were talking internally and this gap between services and in uptake, I guess, or the like who use these services is so huge for the space of voting, generally.

If you think about all of the poll sites that are kept open for voters, every election, and the utilization of the poll sites by registered voters, there's a very

large gap.

I think we, you know, this is the first time we're trying out the RFI, and one of the things we want to see is hopefully it will result in more people walking through the doors at the primary.

So let's see how it goes, you know.

I'm excited about it.

I think in the space of language access, we spend a lot of time, it almost like a check box approach in that we're spending time translating.

We do that too, we invest resources in translating, and the next step is really building the relationship with communities on the ground so they actually get the materials we're translating and they can, you know, interact with them and have knowledge about it.

And I'm excited we're moving to the next phase, so, yeah.

Thank you Anila.

>> Anila Cobo: Thank you.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Next we have Benjamin for the Community Board participatory.

Natalie?

>> Natalie: Good I wanted to make sure I'm working with your team off

stage let's say to make sure that I'm audible from home.

I have two connections going on I want to make sure you can hear me.

There is another member with the same situation so my test should serve as a success for whomever.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Lilliam can we hear you too?

>> Lilliam Perez: I'm here.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Okay.

Thank you.

That is great.

Great to hear both of you.

Thank you so much.

Okay Benjamin.

>> Benjamin Solotaire: You can do to the next slide.

Hello, nice to see you folks again.

Thank you for coming.

I think as I said last time we're trying a different approach for workshops.

This part of the year, the winter and spring, everybody come from across the city and join us we offer de-escalation trainings in person to the five Borough President's offices for district managers.

For district managers and chairs because we can't have de-escalation work for smaller groups.

We're trying to get 36 to 24 people at those.

We had our first 13 Borough Presidents have taken us up on it.

We had the Brooklyn one on Monday at Borough Hall.

It was so, it was the first time in two years I have done an in person training.

There were ten people.

Five boards showed up.

I thought the BP would have more pull to get people to show up.

We had a fantastic trainer who was with oath and it was really just the most heartwarming and pleasant experience to be there with them and walk through this.

She is a great trainer, and there was a variety of district managers and chairs, they were intuitive, listening, being part of it, we meditated for a few minutes together.

They were happy to have been there and Carol Anne wants to do it again.

I think we might soak up, talk to some of the board members to bring it to their boards as much as we can.

That was great.

We're looking forward to The Bronx and Queens.

Manhattan feels they have it under control.

Which I surely feel good at.

Of course, the parliamentary procedures, we have four of those.

We have enough budget to do one or two more, we will see if we can do that, we did two of them.

They were both online, for the executive committees of the boards, we have two more coming up, and that is nice also, they I said who wants parliamentary training out there, they got in touch and told us what topics they wanted our trainer Diana who has been learning a lot of how Community Boards work, so she's been able to tailor them to boards over the last few sessions we've done with her.

We had (indiscernible) up from The Bronx who is pretty much an expert in open meetings and bylaws and he did correct us on one thing last night.

Hopefully, we will do more.

We also are going to do moderate and evaluation training for all Community Boards, way to get feedback from Brooklyn when we did went so we can make sure it works better and other stuff is coming up training wise before

the end of the year.

Yeah. Before June.

Next slide.

Had.

>> Mark Diller: Can we pause there for a moment?

Thanks.

I guess I'm curious about the parliamentary, I have gotten feedback from fellow district managers and from board chairs about parliamentary procedure.

Community Boards while they subscribe to the rules, bylaws vary in certain specific and important areas.

There were concerns about the ways in which those specifics were handled and not handled.

It may just be a choice of vendor, but is there a different approach being taken with these custom trainings as opposed to the broader invitations that were previously used.

>> Benjamin Solotaire: Diana tries to stress there's a hierarchy of things the board should follow.

State law, city law, charter, you are your own bylaws.

If you adopt Robert's rules they're there as part of that, but they're

superseded.

She tries to make that distinction.

Obviously there is also custom.

If the board does something, Roberts rules is voluntary.

At least she tries to stress that.

She's a Robert's rules trainer, and that is what she talks about, she's been trying to (indiscernible) Community Board in particular.

>> Mark Diller: Perhaps we can follow up offline.

>> Benjamin Solotaire: Sure.

Yeah. So we're continuing our partnership with the Future of Community Boards Working Group and Center for Urban Pedagogy for how to prepare for term limits.

We presented to three, four of our president's offices three weeks ago.

CUP has options for things they can provide.

They put together three different ideas, and then we came up with one of them, but we're still working with the board if they want to take them up or make them universal.

The idea is to make them universal.

Interactive toolkits and then a bigger part of that is city government, and

all ideas that the BP offices are mulling over and we talked about, I don't know if Mark you heard this conversation in the future Community Boards working group, but in the fall doing a city wide convening of leadership to talk about training, leadership development, one of the things we heard, even though there's a lot of people joining, not a lot of people want to run for chair or secretary or the executive committee.

We're thinking about putting together to help train with that.

And all of the BP offices seem to like that idea.

I don't know if you heard about that.

>> Mark Diller: I have.

I'm going to miss that meeting today because it conflicts with this meeting.

I'll try to get notes.

One of the things, this is no longer theoretical because the classes that the borough presidents are appointing this year will be for many the last class before their term limited.

The first tranche of term limits hits in 2027.

This is the last year for a lot of folks.

Brain drain is real.

One thing we're encouraging everybody to work on is a realistic

expectation of what Community Board service entails.

Let alone leadership.

I think your focus is leadership is an important one because folks still haven't gotten out of the habit of attending meetings by Zoom.

Some may think it is not a bad thing but it conflicts with the open meetings law.

Good luck with that fight.

There is a lot to be had there and they're a good partner in that respect.

There is a lot of work left to do.

>> We're focused on leadership because there's never been a city wide convening.

3,000 people is hard for the first shot if we get a third.

Thank you.

We'll continue to work with them.

We're also, we have the video I think we talked about last time.

Before that, I want to mention that we're working with DCAS to make the process easier for board members.

Everybody should have access, there's a lot of hurdles of getting rosters, what they have access to or not and hopefully we make it work out.

>> Mark Diller: If I can just jump in.

There is a lot to be said, and a lot to be done with New York City learns, one thing it solved, Community Boards while government offices are not in government buildings.

Our commuter lands our views as if it were me trying to log in from Bermuda.

We couldn't access the trainings because of reasonings passing understand they were confidential.

So, this seems to have solved that problem.

Getting the thing to actually say yes you completed the training, you know, that's a plug, but anyway.

>> Benjamin Solotaire: We've been working with that as long as NYC learn has been developed.

If you can show so we shot that video.

We're going to show it to you and hopefully you enjoy it.

This is what it is like to be a Community Board member.

So.

(Captioned video).

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Our first video on Community Boards.

(Applause)

>> Benjamin Solotaire: We do it last year.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Yes, we did, but overall, explaining Community Boards generally.

>> Could you explain more about New York City learns.

>> Benjamin Solotaire: It's an effort to bring the trainings that the department of city wide administrative services has that city employees are required to take, it's an effort to make them accessible.

As Mark said, they've been behind a fire wall but board members are in that sort of blurry line I guess.

They should take them but are not required.

They couldn't access them, they don't have city computers.

It's a new, it is all of the trainings that city workers took.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: I think we can keep it (indiscernible).

>> Benjamin Solotaire: I think I'm going to jump to PV stuff.

We're finished phase two, project vetting and development.

I'll talk about them and then move to phase three, doing translation in ballots, preparing ballots, ordering merchandise.

Voting to start in mid May.

Next slide.

Talking about the borough assembly.

Phase we just finished.

The part that I have a particular (indiscernible) for, but we had 115 members across five boroughs, 16 to 17, 20, 22, 23 per borough randomly selected based on demographics.

They metaphor six sessions, January.

I don't remember the dates, but January 21st to March 2nd.

And about 20 hours total.

All borough sessions, they met in their own boroughs except the second session where they came to Columbia (indiscernible) all came together to heard from six city agencies which was a new feature.

We had them presenting their priorities and concerns and then a Q&A with all members.

Then we also as we did last year we brought in the TRIE partners.

They provided -- members had a chance to look at in one session and then second session they asked questions.

We ended up, they got the job done, 438 projects, 46 on the ballot.

They spent time deliberating, learning from each other, learning from the

agencies about needs in their communities.

Every borough had (indiscernible) Staten Island held six projects like they did last year.

What is exciting is a new feature, we had a researcher from different universities as you can see.

Some from Columbia, Franklin and Marshall is in Lancaster Pennsylvania, William and Mary in Virginia.

(indiscernible) the Columbia students observed all the sessions in Brooklyn and The Bronx.

Others observed one or two sessions, so we're going to, they're compiling notes and observations, we're following up with Columbia folks doing interviews of two members for every borough in the next couple weeks so we can get feedback from outside observers as well as feedback from members themselves about how the process went and what could be better.

The best thing I've learned so far I'll quickly say, somebody was in The Bronx, yeah, The Bronx, all the members were at roundtables except one at a rectangular table for that session.

She said the conversations at the roundtables were engaged and interactive, rectangular tables became two groups that talked at their ends of the

table.

Okay.

Lesson learned, roundtables, we never asked for that, it is minor but we're looking forward to that information as it becomes available.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: You have a question?

>> Amy Breedlove: Can we have the research questions or exactly what they're looking at.

>> Benjamin Solotaire: Yeah.

>> Amy Breedlove: You're talking about process --

>> Benjamin Solotaire: We're interested in trusted government and how they learn to work together if the information (indiscernible) process but how they're, yeah, we can share them.

We're reviewing them today to finalize them.

We can share, I don't see why.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: We'll send them around.

>> Amy Breedlove: Thank you.

>> Benjamin Solotaire: Next.

I think it is, yeah, JP, you can come up and then I'll just move over to the side for a minute.

I'll be back.

Don't worry.

>> JP Wojciechowski: Hello everyone.

Good to see you.

As mentioned earlier, this is going to (indiscernible) mostly focused on PB since that is happening now.

Our current priority is the voting phase.

We're creating a methodology that I mentioned before, so this methodology will include different things, including the legal requirements that we have for local law 30 CEC mandates so everyone on the team knows what requirements we have when working with language communities.

It also is going to contain demographic analysis so that will help determine what languages are needed in the neighborhoods that the PB coordinators are going in.

And we're also going to work with community and external partners because they are on the ground working with their communities and know what languages that they need to provide as well.

Next slide.

It also will include using data which is important to make sure we're

bringing appropriate materials and having the correct number of materials when we go into the areas.

We will include tips on how we can engage with language communities in a proactive way instead of reactive, which is great, and we will include tips and training for volunteers to ensure they're culturally competent and sensitive to the people they come in contact with, and then tips on interpretation and best practices for language communities.

I'm focusing on the vote phase because we're in that phase now, but the document will have each of the phases with but the priority is the vote phase since that is something we're doing very soon.

And so another update I have, ballots for all of the boroughs have been translated into local law 30 languages plus Italian.

We've received all of the languages and they're vetted.

We're working on creating the final version of the ballots now.

We're waiting for two languages now, Urdu and Haitian creole.

I'm excited that is happening.

We're ensuring we're including language access planning in our voting planning to make sure we're having inclusive participation.

Each flagship event will have the top three languages in the neighborhood,

after Spanish, of course, because Spanish will be in every neighborhood and we will bring spa Spanish ballots to every event.

We use iPads that they can vote online and in their language.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Thank you.

Any questions for JP?

One note I want to make about this is that the, this is specifically focused on PB, if you remember we went through a public hearing about the PB methodology overall and so what we need to do is actually have another public hearing to more formally integrate the language methodology into participatory budgeting, and we may also consider other things during that time.

However just wanted to tee up for you that we're trying to be systematic about how we are translating, interpreting, and going out there to work with language communities in The People's Money program.

Thank you.

>> JP Wojciechowski: Thank you everyone.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Now we will keep moving on the participatory budgeting piece to let you know what is coming up for the vote phase, I'm going to talk about the volunteer program.

If you might remember CEC has been receiving some support with NYC

service to build up our volunteer capacity.

And our outreach team managed under Barbara Williams and currently includes Anthony, Catherine and Samira who are members of the team, they manage the volunteer program, and we have been able to recruit train manage and also retain volunteers by recognizing them through, with gift cards, thanks to this funding.

And we've been able to hire like consultant volunteer coordinators.

We're trying to build up or staff capacity.

In addition to the volunteer grant this year is an AmeriCorps member who is a data impact member helping us with, Keith is here, helping us keep track of data and metrics across all programs but also specifically for the volunteer program as well.

Next slide.

And these are some of our volunteers from our last vote phase.

Just a few of them.

Mostly from Brooklyn.

Next slide.

What we started last year was what we called a vote ambassador program.

This program allowed us to recruit volunteers to conduct in person

outreach such as canvassing, tabling at events, tabling in residential buildings to increase participating in The People's Money.

I guess we piloted two years ago, started last year to make it more systematic and this will be on you are third year where we're having 33 volunteers to do more of this kinda voter engagement.

This is separate from the organizational partnerships.

It is in addition to that.

And we will have a certain number of volunteers in every borough, and we will also be giving them ballot targets, if you will.

The number of ballots to collect.

We are trying to address geographic gaps that may not be covered through the organizations that we're working with.

All right.

Next slide.

We have a separate program for community facilitators, these are folks who will do a little bit more intensive, like, presentations, if you will, to audiences.

They will be trained to present about The People's Money and they will be trained to collect votes in person group sessions, which is different from the

ambassadors because they can collect through one on one.

We're recruiting ten to 12 community facilitators, and these are folks who may have participated in our earlier processes as well.

We're trying to retain engagement of volunteers and participants from before and pull them into like build their leadership to help get out the vote.

And we are asking facilitators to facilitate between three to five voting sessions and presentations.

Benjamin, I'll take it back to you to do the rest to say more about what to expect in the voting phase.

>> Benjamin Solotaire: Yeah. So all that work translating ballots, (indiscernible) volunteers are going to go into full gear starting May 14th.

We're going to do a kickoff event, we're looking at a site in Manhattan at this point.

And then go through June 25th which includes a primary date, we have to talk about having to work with that, I think it's the first time we overlap with a primary day.

We're bringing in partners PB coordinators are talking to partners, getting vote plans, where they're going to go and how many ballots they will connect.

TRIE neighborhoods have been covered with emphasis on a lot of those,

and, yeah.

We're planning, the library partnerships and events which we will talk about in the next two slides, buzzing up stairs with all of this planning for vote turn out.

Digital platform, we're getting ready.

We are going back to the same vendor, making modifications to make it more accessible too.

Next slide.

The libraries, I've been a major partner.

They're like natural partners.

(indiscernible) getting it all to work.

Last year we tried mostly digital outreach, more, you know, maybe not that great success.

Maybe it was varied.

This year, we're going to partner directly with TRIE neighborhoods to make sure their libraries are served and working with them ballot boxes and then we're looking at placing promotional material in every branch across all three systems.

Maybe just a poster or a tabletop.

We can't set ballot boxes to the 180 something in the NYPL alone.

We're talking to all three offices to make sure wee utilize them to the extent we can.

Prioritizing branches with high foot traffic.

We want to make sure everyone is trained how to do this and the languages.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Shout-out to Edwin for helping last year and also this year I'm assuming.

>> Benjamin Solotaire: Of course, next slide, we like to even though there are partners holding events across the city, we like to be out there.

We have flagship events partnering with these five organizations on these dates to go out and bring the bus or (indiscernible) puppets, back at Bronx week which is consistent over the three years.

We will be at dance Africa.

Brooklyn has been one we move the most.

Every year is different.

We haven't found the magic thing but we hope that dance Africa is a fantastic event.

Pride last year was great.

Parade and festival like The Bronx week was great last year.

Back in Staten Island, on a beach.

If you want to get a little swimming, come out and vote at the same time.

And then happy to go back to museum mile, the timing didn't work last year, we had a food festival but museum mile is a fantastic event the first year.

We're excited to be back there.

We hope to see all of you at one of these events.

Help us out, visit, come stop by.

And, of course, all of the volunteers come from all previous assembly members and others we've engaged with to help us at these events.

People are excited after the assemblies and partnerships to reengage with us.

We don't have hundreds of volunteers, but they're excited to have the opportunity to do it.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Any questions for Benjamin?

We love to stay in touch with Commissioners and want to see you out.

>> Benjamin Solotaire: Donna came out, (indiscernible) came out.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Thanks so much.

Okay.

Next we're going to hear about implementation.

Abi I want to ask if you can let me know, feel free to send a text about whether we have anyone signed up for public comment.

That helps me manage the time for the rest of the meeting.

Yeah. Go ahead.

Floor is yours.

>> Lexi Spencer: I'm here to introduce partners -- we're going straight to that if you can go to the next slide.

First I'll introduce our partner in Staten Island United Activities Unlimited.

>> Do I hold it?

I'm dawn, assistant director for United Activities Unlimited.

>> Emily, program director.

>> The program that we are implementing is building success for high school students.

We're working with 40 high school juniors from Staten Island in the Saint George, Stapleton, Port Richmond, Tompkinsville and mariner's harbor providing college readiness workshop.

>> I can explain more what that entails.

The components of the program, we run a series of workshops, virtual and/or in person, we do it week by week with students that focus on college and

career prep.

Building résumé is one of our next workshops.

We have one session of that tomorrow.

We're looking forward to that.

We have a career counselor named Sarah, students meet with her individually every other week and that happens to be a Zoom.

We're soon implementing our mentorship component, we've recruited mentors from the community, professionals, law students, students, college students willing to work with students one on one to talk about their career paths and give insight into different careers, and we offer academic support.

We were doing Zoom sessions twice a week.

The time we scheduled didn't work.

I had the opportunity to schedule an appointment for academic supports, we offer them for them.

And so far students are really engaged.

Yesterday we had a mentorship panel where all mentors came to speak to some students and answer questions, they had so many questions, we were on for an hour and a half and we had to say we'll match you soon.

Students feel welcomed, they really like the opportunity to have the career

counseling and that one on one support.

So far it is going well.

Next step is matching them with mentors and getting outreach started.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Thank you so much.

Any questions?

>> Amy Breedlove: I don't have a question but I want to thank you for your work, it is really important, and thank you.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Okay.

>> Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

>> Lexi Spencer: Thank you for presenting and for all of the work we've been doing together.

We've been working closely, consistently together, so it is great to see you here and have everyone hear what you are doing so we can celebrate you.

If you can actually go to the next slide, we have one partner who couldn't make it today.

We're going to go next up to the project slashing Bronx hunger and boosting knowledge about healthy eating.

The Institute for Family Health.

>> Thank you for the People's Money for helping us expand our reach on the topic of slashing Bronx --

>> Is your mic?

>> It is on but you need to get closer.

>> Should I start again?

Good, all right.

So, institute for family health is the largest federally qualified health center network in New York.

Health disparities and (indiscernible) health factors among after Ken American, black, Hispanic Latino residents of Bronx.

We thought it would be perfect to apply.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: You have the deck in your package.

>> We're tasked with increasing access to and knowledge of healthy foods in the neighbors of Highbridge, Concourse, and Mount Eden.

Had we plan to promote health books, so we will plan to train six community sites (indiscernible) Department of Health and mental hygiene of which they will train two other sites within the network to get the same training and essentially implement the trainer training cascade.

One pantry will undergo training to result anyone creasing access to

healthy, fresh and local culturally relevant food.

Finally we use some funding to continue our food as medicine distributions, two of our qualified health centers (indiscernible) all three of the initiatives engage in efforts to expand nutritional knowledge by distribution of recipes and have opportunities to participate anyone enter active food demonstrations.

Next slide, our prior interventions show that initiatives that increase access to healthy food increasing consumption of healthy food.

Increasing nutritional knowledge, learning to prepare foods and vegetables in innovative ways leads to an increase in consumption.

Next slide.

This is our list of partners.

We have the Highbridge community development corporation, walking memorial Baptist church, grand Concourse SFA, church of God of prophecy, shout-out to Fordham.

Gherell Owens and chef Irbania Tavares carry out the food demonstrations.

Note that the network sites and pantry site are being confirmed and contracts are being rolled out.

So this is like a little glimpse of the food demos, yesterday actually we held one.

The chef did a scallion and kale potato cakes, the residents loved it.

The personnel are invited to the next one which is April 30th.

That is our last one for the food is medicine initiative.

People have been loving it.

They want to try the recipes at home which is what we wanted them to do.

Things are going great there.

Next slide.

Yeah. So the bulk of our work happens in the summer because of (indiscernible) application training is going to occur in this month as applications for the health books will be available in May.

Organizations and centers who apply will be given books during the months of June and July.

Handouts for community members (indiscernible) voucher incentive program to encourage you to purchase fruits and vegetables from farmer markets and green marks.

In regards to survey responses, we have nearly 20 survey responses, from the food is medicine initiative.

Participants have gone to a food demo, however this is seen as the pilot of the study.

The bulk of survey responses will happen with health books.

Since food is medicine program has been going on two years we're going to view the responses with the reconstructive baseline.

Participants from when they started, we're glad we've done this because we've seen from the interactions, we were missing some responses that (indiscernible) individuals were actually feeling.

So, we've added that and so these survey responses are going to be treated as a pilot for later on studies.

Next slide.

And yeah. Once again, I want to thank the CEC for this opportunity, there are amazing events coming towards the people of The Bronx, especially these specific neighborhoods.

Any questions?

(Applause)

>> Amy Breedlove: So thank you so much.

I know The Institute for Family Health also has other locations.

>> Yeah.

>> Amy Breedlove: Including the Hudson valley.

I'm just wondering, does the institute work on best practices where maybe your initiative can move into other locations?

>> Of course, yes.

The Bronx health free (indiscernible) but all this is fed to our development department which has initiatives across Manhattan, Brooklyn, The Bronx and Hudson valley, as you just said.

We're constantly learning what is the best kind of initiatives to do for the people so we can implement them hopefully if I'm being (indiscernible) here and there so we can help these people become well live more equitable life.

Just healthy food and attitudes towards (indiscernible) initiatives.

>> Amy Breedlove: Thank you.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Thank you so much.

(indiscernible) for public comment?

>> Lexi Spencer: Thank you.

I appreciate you all coming out and putting together your presentations.

We have one more partner talking about (indiscernible) super excited to introduce folks from the Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation, we have -- to talk about youth empowerment after schoolwork shops.

>> Good morning.

Good day.

Good day, can you hear me?

Hello good day I'm Genevieve.

>> My name is (indiscernible) director of (indiscernible) and the site director for (indiscernible).

>> We're thrilled to introduce our after-school program, Rockaway strong guest meaning youth empowerment in sports.

Ocean bay has been committed to providing comprehensive wrap around services to residents in the Rockaway community.

For three years, we had a grant opportunity with department of mental health and hygiene, I think it is DOH health now, where we operated a sports for family health program which launched or birthed the Rockaway strong program.

>> About (indiscernible) funded through the Civic Engagement Commission ocean bay CDC awarded the opportunity to launch (indiscernible) free after-school program for the youth ages seven to 13.

This provides academic support and workshops and supports activities to help students excel in school, build confidence, develop leadership skills and stay active through structured and activities and membership we're -- program details, our location is a new location is on the upper front Rockaway area,

PS2197, the ocean school.

This school here lost funding for the after school, we were able to partner to have access so we can help their after-school program thrive.

From February to October, Monday through Friday, 3:00 to 6:00.

Scheduled for the program (indiscernible) homework help, tutoring, life skills, workshop, create and recreation.

Program goals is to boost academic success, provide tutoring and study support, and improve school performance.

Develop life skills (indiscernible) communication and self-confidence and leadership, encourage physical fitness, promoting a active lifestyle through basketball, soccer, volleyball and dance -- for personal growth.

>> So the program design was, it was built to reinforce the learning that you have during school, but also to promote the development of new skills.

So, we incorporated life skills, we did a focus group survey with the community members, and parents and asked what priorities were pressing to them.

So, we included academic focus through homework help and tutoring.

That is provided by student assistance, so high school seniors, juniors and college young adults in college, we're creating an economic stream for them so

they can support the youth while getting a stipend.

In addition to that, tutoring sessions, they can either have one on one tutoring or pair to pair tutoring, life skills development, my baby, I love life skills, life skills will prepare them for life.

We partner with Episcopal health, the only hospital on the peninsula, they provide the glow up where they talk about hygiene, puberty, changes in the body, the development of positive self-concepts, and we have another workshop feature emotions where kids paint their emotions, those who maybe struggle with verbalizing how they feel, we use color therapy as a means to connect and help them express themselves through paint and art.

What are you eating, what is in your body, again with Saint Johns, we have nutrition classes and will teach the kids about the health-body connection.

Especially as it pertains to sports, they have an option to pick a sports instruction, whether it is basketball, soccer, volleyball or dance, we have tech lab, so we do coding, AI, we have entrepreneurship workshop where we combine financial literacy weed ward Jones as well as a local community business, the purple ink, she designs custom T-shirts and will create a mock of small business, you know, demonstrations for the kids, so not only do they learn the value of money and how to utilize it effectively but the value of creating

something that is tangible and trying to (indiscernible) is what we're looking to do.

Rockaway has been an underserved community, primarily BIPOC and ocean bay is the pillar in the Rockaway community to provide tangible change or the residents.

It is important for us to start young and by providing the youth with life skills, we hope that it will translate throughout life because life skills are indispensable.

Yes.

So, we also have (indiscernible) and we are also including a civic engagement component where we do detach clean ups for the local beach, we have the youth visit local elected officials, local farms, get our hands dirty.

So just a holistic approach to learning and reinforcement of learning.

We've had our challenges.

We are overcoming them.

One important key that I would like to add is that all of our staff are community residents.

And all of our staff have actually train lists they have to take.

All faculty are required, if you are 18 and over, to be mandated reporters,

we have school aged childcare, transportation, supervision of children, trauma informed practices, so, we are also equipping and teaching and helping our community grow by providing these courses and workshops.

I'm excited for yes, and I know I'm taking a lot of time.

H. even though the program is an after-school program, we provide services to the parents that are need.

Social service help HRA access, section eight certification, HRA certification, job readiness, résumé building, we have two labs where they have access to, that can be taken to learn computer skills, we're not forgetting the parents.

Parents may need help, especially those not knowing English, ESL help.

We're excited for the program and the school is excited because they've been underserved.

We were down the block and now we're up the block getting them services.

Services for everybody in far Rockaway.

Thank you for having us.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Thank you to all of the partners.

(Applause)

Public comes? No comments?

Okay.

Let Lexi.

>> Lexi Spencer: I just want to say thank you and a note on why we want to bring in our partners and have these conversations.

Thank you all, we couldn't do the work without you.

It exciting and meaningful for everybody here, from the staff and Commissioners to see the results of the work of the participatory budgeting process we pour so much into throughout the year.

That is great and I want to say we're here to support you, all of the organizations, and that is why we want to have these conversations so we can identify the work that you are doing, showcase it and also we have a whole network of folks here who are there to make sure the work you are doing is successful, and that everybody knows about the work you're doing and you're being recognized.

So just a small note on that.

Thank you.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: You're doing the --

>> Lexi Spencer: Oh, yeah. One more slide on an unrelated, some what

related.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Very related.

>> Lexi Spencer: Yes.

Just to build off what we were doing, here are two kind of invite you and announce we're doing a show case is of all of the work that we do for PB on April 30th.

We're going to be cohosting this with the people's creatives institute at the public theater.

This event is made up of panels, presentations and exhibits.

It's a multimedia event where we showcase everything that we do from participatory budgeting this is one through four starting with ideas and deliberation, coalition, long-term sustainability of both our process of the People's Money and the projects that we fund through the process to ensure that we can support them on a longer timeline than we have through the funding we may get through the implementation grants.

The audience is going to be largely our CBO partners, foundation folks, city agencies, practitioners in the space of civic engagement and democracy as well as academics and researchers.

We encourage you to attend.

We look forward toking you there.

You should have received an invitation via paperless post.

Excited to have the event and showcase the work we're doing holistically.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Thank you Lexi.

Thank you again to the organizations.

>> Lexi Spencer: Thank you all.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Haydon you're up.

>> Haydon John: Hello, I'm excited to share updates since the last time we spoke about the TRIE neighborhood initiative.

Just to ground everyone in the space, the TRIE neighborhood initiative is our coalition and capacity building program that funds CBOs across the city to build (indiscernible) engage the residents with the neighborhoods and civic engagement.

The People's Money and (indiscernible) workshops.

So since the beginning of the program in September, there have been over 70 coalition meetings held throughout New York City as part of the initiative.

With about 60 more upcoming by the end of June.

Two civic engagement workshops have been -- civic engagement workshops prior to the launch of the first workshop they were working with

myself and the PB coordinators to customize workshops using the modules created on voting, volunteering, Community Boards and advocacy and organizes.

We will have 30 more by the end of June.

The deliverable is to host a minimum of one workshop after they customize and develop the one they want to host for their communities.

We're hearing excitement and enthusiasm around the curriculum and interest in more than their required minute of one workshop, which is great.

Since January, the last Commissioners meeting, our partners have attended two capacity building trainings, including a workshop with mark Johnson from the New School about monitoring and evaluation.

He posted (indiscernible) workshops, one as an introduction and part two that was a more intimate workshop to have our TRIE partners participate in activities around building block frames, creating different theory of change statements, that was a really exciting taste of what our implementing project implementers get to experience throughout the year at the New School.

We hosted a New York City Campaign Finance Board to do a training on rank choice voting.

While education is not a deliverable of the TRIE initiative this year, it is work that our partners are engaged in, so we want to make sure they have an

opportunity to correct with the Campaign Finance Board and have access to the resources that they will be distributing for the upcoming primary.

Additionally, our TRIE partners have been connecting with our implementation partners throughout the year to explore ways of collaborating.

Again component of the initiative was designed in response to feedback from previous last year's cycle implementation to ensure there was a connection aligning with communication between partners implementing projects in TRIE neighborhoods and organizations doing outreach for the People's Money throughout the year.

For the reason of making sure our TRIE partners have live updates what is going on.

Being able to show the impact of our process is really important and crucial in getting folks to engage with the process.

So that has been a really exciting.

We have a couple success stories in the collaboration between TRIE partners, including workshops being done -- for specific TRIE audiences, we have examples of monthly project update newsletters being distributed to TRIE partners so they have an ongoing flow of information.

In general, inviting folks to be part of the coalition, that is meant to be

grown and developing through the program.

Finally, most upcoming is the vote phase as we all know.

This year our TRIE deliverables related to the vote phase includes a minimum of 1500 to 2,000 ballots each collected in the TRIE neighborhoods.

We've designed some required activities for all of our TRIE partners to incorporate into their vote plans, with the purpose of reaching diverse pockets of the TRIE neighborhood and maximize engagement.

Part of the coalition building, we ask them to work with partners who they don't normally work with.

Are they reaching out to the local faith institutions?

Are they reaching out to tenant associations, to the schools, so they're designed to help folks maximize engagement outreach.

Next slide.

So just a high level look at upcoming work.

This month they will be drafting the vote plan and attending the vote phase training in two weeks, and attending the next quarry implementation and TRIE partner meeting, they share updates with each other to do practice sharing.

In May they submit the final vote plan top of month and continue to host

civic engagement workshops and begin bi weekly check ins to give progress throughout the vote phase, flag issues so we can support them as best we can.

In June, final month of the program, they attend their final meeting and host coalition meetings to close out the program.

But also to look ahead of what coalition building will continue to look like for them throughout the summer and throughout the fall.

They will provide feedback surveys to help us improve the program for next year.

I wanted to share a couple of quotes from some of our partners on the impact of coalition building.

In this years program.

The first one reads -- (reading from the screen).

This is from our partner, Jack, speaking about the upcoming winning projects for the year's cycle.

(Reading from the screen).

This is about preparing for phase two and doing a neighborhood needs assessment in partnership with the coalition.

Coalition members were able to provide crucial insight what community members feel and would like to see within the community which in our

neighborhood's case is public safety . . . (reading from the screen).

So again that is on the community assessment exercise they conducted to submit to the borough assemblies for phase two to help understand what is the most pressing needs of the TRIE neighborhoods.

I think these two quotes speak to our goals of strengthening collaboration across the stakeholders, and TRIE neighborhoods, and building community to better serve residents.

Thank you.

Any questions?

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Thank you Haydon.

Lastly, we did establish digital equity team at the second and Oscar our chief information officer is here to tell you about what that team is doing and what digital equity means for us.

>> Oscar Romero: Thank you everybody.

My name is Oscar, chief information officer for the second.

I prepared quite a bit for you.

I think it is going to be more -- only conversation, hopefully we can continue the conversation moving forward.

I want to introduce the digital equity team.

We have --

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: They're all here.

>> Oscar Romero: Please, thank you everybody.

It's a very new team.

It is uncommon for agencies of this size to have a team focused on the digital equity.

I will explain the work we do and why it matters that we exist.

Next slide shows the portfolio we have.

The team provides (indiscernible) advice that we provide to the entire, to all program.

Technology vendors (indiscernible) into details as well as marketing vendors, content management, everything that needs to be on the different media sources we have.

We manage external communications, provide technical assistance to the Commission on-site there is a, we have the office of technology innovation that provides the IT.

>> Can you slow down a little bit?

I'm having --

>> Oscar Romero: Sour sure.

Sorry about that.

We do strategy partnerships that I will talk about before we had a team we had a bunch of work and figured out a way to do it.

Partners were the answer.

We mention compliance.

Some of you have seen me present on racial justice work, there is privacy work, antidiscrimination laws, security laws for everything we do.

We provide also the analytics and (indiscernible).

The reason why all of this is intertwined is because how do you provide technical services is defined at the core based on the values that you have and what is the thing you're trying to achieve.

When you get a technical team that doesn't think about those things you have a lot of problems.

Aligning the communications with the program design outcomes of how we define success and design an infrastructure that follows those values and outcomes, that is the reason that, that's the case -- what is the challenge we're here to solve.

When I took this job about three years ago, the challenge was develop infrastructure allowing us to launch the first city wide participatory budgeting

program.

While we still achieve the (indiscernible).

Some of these goals are rather complex in case you can engage remote (indiscernible) how do we define trust.

To make it more complex, next please, we have to do that in the context of priority populations.

We have to reach out to folks that do not have in the city the best connectivity; and we also have focus on the (indiscernible) neighborhoods or equity neighborhoods as well.

What's the problem?

Go to the next slide.

The problem is next that people's communication happen in the context of diverse barriers.

Next.

What barriers?

The barriers of the history of segregation and equality of the city of New York.

Red lining for neighborhoods meant some places were invested more than others, that creates discrepancy along the lines of class, race and ethnicity, not

only in terms of infrastructure and what services people have.

It comes with the (indiscernible).

In terms of (indiscernible) what that means is that there is a massive data divide.

Can be understood in three dimension, one side you have the common (indiscernible) fiber, cable, wireless, then the (indiscernible) what kind of connection, how fast does that go.

Then (indiscernible) does that mean that it is expensive can you afford it, what about electricity, you wrap it up and see a bleak picture.

The next piece, assume you can afford it and you have it, let's not talk about quality and competition for a second.

Then it is the hardware and software, what device do you have, it is not the same what you can do on a computer versus a phone.

Does it have the processing power to get on the websites, what happens when the websites (indiscernible) become more demanding of processing power but your money didn't grow so you don't have a better device.

Again more divide.

The other piece is around knowledge.

Do you have the technical knowledge to use the tools, and if you do, that

is when you get into challenges, for example, it comes to different communities in terms of age groups, assume you know (indiscernible) calculations you're out there for the market to tell you how to consume with them.

The next step is how you use the tools.

You know, in a way to improve your quality of life.

A lot of the narrative of developing technology is not on the premise of the potential of the technologies.

What go we do with the super information highways like the Clintons used to say.

That potential, that promise is manifested in the classrooms when a teacher tells a student here is where you use tech knowledge to do the homework and learn something.

What we're here to do is manifest the promise of the potential for the purposes of (indiscernible).

Where do we make that happen?

That requires a (indiscernible).

Next please.

It is not only the (indiscernible) we have to provide a service, you know, if you go and tell a bunch of companies out there we're trying to reach out to see

they will be quick to jump and tell you the ways to do it, it is to provide a service to undo the legacy of (indiscernible).

There is such a thing as a neutral service provider of things and we understand and provide services to -- undo the wrongs that have been done in other words for some people it harder to do the same things based on where you live (indiscernible).

What does it look like in the context of New York City.

Let's go to the next one.

Actually two, because it is just a question.

You have data from 2020, and actually the most recent one you will see the neighborhoods where there is very, where there are households without high speed broadband.

If you see that in blue, you will know it is something coming (indiscernible).

Now, if you take on the side you can see a chart with the reduction which is technically a reduction of households without broadband.

We have 25 percent currently of households without broadband.

The (indiscernible) of the households is not the same across the city.

Next please.

In the next chart, you will see how those, that limited access changes across boroughs, having The Bronx with the most households without broadband.

You will see there's a lot of folks that only use mobile connectivity to have internet in their house.

That is another challenge.

In other words even in the places where there is some broadband, it would be mobile so we have to think about mobile first technologies.

Then the next slide please.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: I want to do a time check.

Five.

>> Oscar Romero: Five minutes?

Okay.

Perfect.

Let me put my time.

I'll do my best.

Next one, can you have the neighborhoods where you have the worst connectivity in the city.

One side you have data from 2020.

Other is data from 2023.

You will see there is not a lot of changes, but you see something interesting.

In the case is of Brooklyn, ocean hill, no, with (indiscernible) Kensington, the reason for people not using the internet is religious beliefs, not lack of access.

Which is the only neighborhood that has this condition.

The next slide has more data.

I won't go into detail.

It shows the maps of different divides.

You will see it looks alike the two neighborhoods.

What do we do.

Go to the next one please.

I'm going to just sprint through the slides around unpacking (indiscernible) I'll tell you where to stop.

Keep going.

Here, no, the one before that.

There you go.

Okay.

We have to take this challenge with values first.

What kind of technology did we develop, technology that is (indiscernible) no technology is neutral.

When you buy a vendor and use services from a particular company, you depend on the company.

(indiscernible) something.

How do we build for the future, how do we make it sustainable.

If you buy from a vendor, outside vendor, you're at the whims of their market desires and needs.

Somebody can come and say inflation we're going to increase the prices.

You can (indiscernible) and then you don't have a way out.

It's a challenge that city council experience when it comes to the powers of what we can do.

How do we make the things we do affordable and accessible and how do we create agency for people to give feedback what they want us to do with the data and what they don't.

So, what we did.

I'm going to go to the next one.

Next again.

So the first thing we did is last analysis and developing this value framework I shared with you, and (indiscernible).

Engage with tools, accessibility, user, feedback, and ultimately develop a roadmap.

The first challenge was to align vendors that we currently have.

We have three vendors open source politics -- software that is available by governments for governments which is the one we will talk more about.

(indiscernible) city of New York that provides hosting and decision 21, same vendor the city council uses for the voting (indiscernible) through the same company for both us and the city council.

So we get to align them all and then the next step was to (indiscernible) away from private vendors into OTI city infrastructure to reduce cost and increase sustainability.

Finally developing internal capacity, getting a team to improve the things we do and create virtual cycle.

So, next slide please.

The tools that, the (indiscernible) we depend on a couple vendors and the prices were going to increase.

There were a lot of things we had to go through the scale to do city wide

activity, and every other month there were new laws that required us to become compliance that requires more capacity internally.

So, what (indiscernible) to the next slide please.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: I think to not have you rush and to give you and the Commissions more time with the material, I think maybe if you want to just go through the one slide and we will continue in the next meeting.

Does that sound okay?

That way we can just take in a little bit more of what you are saying.

>> Oscar Romero: Sounds good.

So, just to give a (indiscernible) to close this up, where we are now, the tool, the tools we use is (indiscernible).

Open source platform meaning it was developed for people to improve -- transforming in the next slide is next one. That's it.

This tool is used for participatory budgeting by most.

It is probably the most commonly used tool for participatory budgeting in the approximate tech world.

The benefits of this provides that it is about governments building features that they need when we use the tool as say the government of Paris uses a different aspect, we learn from what they did and implement ourselves.

It maximizes the resources we have.

And it is value driven, meaning it is from the (indiscernible) data must be public (indiscernible) admins, data models we use are not used to extract value from people who use the services and tools, and currently, we were the largest user of the platform after we first deployed, we became the largest by engagement -- about now 12, let me see, between ten and 12,000, I need to double-check that we currently have.

Currently, the government of (indiscernible) in the city and they're using it for the entire nationwide participatory engagement they do for the government.

We're in good company, it's a tool we use.

I will tell you how we use it next time but for new now if you have questions, thoughts, ideas.

(Laughter)

>> Amy Breedlove: Lots.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Thank you Oscar.

And before we kinda call it a day today, I want to turn the floor over to Anthony who wants to make a quick share.

>> Anthony: This is my last meeting.

It has been six years, I was appointed under (indiscernible) Johnson and

then speaker Adams.

This will be my last (indiscernible) she's fully aware.

Conversation with her.

(Echo).

My life has changed, my job has changed, requiring me to do elsewhere.

It has been an honor to serve.

(APPLAUSE).

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Thank you Anthony.

Thank you for your (echo).

>> Amy Breedlove: I want to say one thing to Oscar.

Thank you Anthony, sorry to lose you, but great to be with you for six years.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: On the Zoom, could you mute your mic?

>> Amy Breedlove: I want to ask, the digital divide we talk about and red lining, I wonder if you're looking specifically at disadvantaged communities and EJ communities.

And how that might fold in with their work as well.

I think that there is great opportunity here for us to partner with the EJ Commission and the work they're doing.

I just want to bring that forward.

In all of the things you talked about, that is one thing I wanted to bring up.

Thank you.

>> Oscar Romero: Absolutely.

Thank you.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Thank you so much.

So, can I hear a motion to adjourn?

>> Mark Diller: So moved.

>> Anthony: Second.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Motion has been seconded.

All in favor.

>> AYE.

>> Dr. Sarah Sayeed: Any opposed.

Okay.

Motion passes, we're calling the meet to adjourn and see you again in early June, thank you so much.