



NYC

**Civic Engagement
Commission**

Dear Friend,

Just as the year is coming to an end, I'm thrilled to announce a key milestone of "[The People's Money](#)," New York City's first-ever citywide participatory budgeting process: 44 community-based organizations will implement 46 expense (non-capital) projects for a total of \$5 million from the city budget for Cycle 1 (2022-2023).

The [funded projects](#) address a wide range of community needs identified by New Yorker City residents 11 and older who cast over 200,000 ballots in May and June of 2023. Mental health, job training, and education comprise more than 60 percent of the funded projects, with 28 percent, 19 percent, and 15 percent, respectively, mainly serving youth, older adults, and immigrant and limited-English proficiency populations in underserved communities. The remaining projects focus on food access, health and well-being, housing, parent education, and anti-violence.

Out of the 46 funded projects, 13 are borough projects and 33 are neighborhood projects. A total of 259 organizations applied to implement borough projects. Evaluation committees closely reviewed each proposal, including implementation strategies and capacities. The neighborhood projects will be implemented by organizations that were part of the Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity (TRIE) Coalition, originally an initiative established to support communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

In addition to making history by implementing the first-ever citywide participatory budgeting process, "The People's Money," the CEC continued to work throughout 2023 on other initiatives crucial to its mission to enhance civic participation, increase civic trust, and strengthen democracy in New York City. The charter-mandated Poll Site Language Assistance Program assisted almost 1,000 voters with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in the June Primary and the November General Election and deployed extensive voter rights and language access campaigns for LEP voters, including two in-person forums with Urdu and Arabic-speaking voters.

Additionally, in partnership with other City agencies, the CEC trained over 500 community board members and staff on 11 key topics. CEC also managed two Mayoral initiatives, including the TRIE Neighborhood Initiative (TNI), and DemocracyNYC. Through TNI, CEC and its partners in 33 neighborhoods bolstered the civic infrastructure and helped close the gap on equitable participation.

DemocracyNYC conducted a large-scale voter education campaign ahead of the June 2023 primary election, partnered with other City agencies on the fifth annual Civics Week across New York City schools, and held a voter registration drive on National Voter Registration Day. Finally, CEC's Outreach team partnered with agencies and community-based organizations at hundreds of public events across New York City.

We thank you for your continued support throughout 2023. Stay tuned for more exciting news in 2024 and have a wonderful holiday season!

Dr. Sarah Sayeed

Chair & Executive Director

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