



Great Cities Institute

2022 Brochure

**THE
UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
AT
CHICAGO**

LOCAL & REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

Participatory Budgeting Chicago

Participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend money from a public budget. PB was introduced to Chicago and the US in 2009, and in 2012, the Great Cities Institute (GCI) launched PB Chicago. PB Chicago is a broad collaboration of aldermen, aldermanic staff, city agency staff, Chicago Public Schools, teachers, students, community-based organizations and residents working to implement and expand PB processes and direct democracy throughout Chicago.

PB Chicago implements PB processes in Chicago wards with aldermen and residents and in Chicago Public Schools with principals, teachers and students. The typical PB cycle has 5 phases: process planning, idea collection, proposal development, community voting, and implementation/evaluation.



GCI provides training, technical assistance, and capacity building at every phase to all participants including elected officials, their staff, residents, principals, teachers, and students. PB is a civic empowerment tool that builds the capacity of leaders and institutions by participating in transparent, democratic action together. PB Chicago has positively changed the culture of public participation in the city of Chicago and is part of a global movement aimed at increasing participatory democracy.

- Since 2012, over 38,000 residents and CPS students have allocated more than \$40 million to fund upward of 190 community projects.
- Since 2009, the number of participating wards has increased from one to nine.
- 24 Chicago Public Schools including elementary and high schools currently implement PB in the classroom, as part of a student voice committee, or as part of an afterschool program.

- Currently working with Chicago Public Schools to develop multiple models and institutionalize across the district.

City of Chicago Budget, Community Engagement

On September 20, 2021 Mayor Lori Lightfoot unveiled her \$16.7 billion budget for the City of Chicago. In the months leading up to the release of the budget, the City conducted a community engagement process and obtained the assistance of UIC's Neighborhoods Initiative at the GCI to design and facilitate internal and external engagement activities and to produce a report that documented the 2022 Budget Engagement process and provided key results. The community engagement results from the report were used by the City to inform budget decision-making. For example, engagement results such as "provide more youth wrap around services" were tied directly to budget investments, the responsible City Department(s) and specific initiative, program, or service that addressed each result. The City then produced a report that shared this information back to the public.

The 2022 Budget Community Engagement process was the earliest, most multi-faceted and transparent engagement process ever conducted for the City's budget. Given the success of 2022's Budget Engagement process, the City of Chicago has requested assistance from UICNI to expand the engagement process for the 2023 Budget to include a longer timeline for engagement and more education for community members.

The Participation Playbook

The Participation Playbook is an interactive online guide to help government reformers successfully advocate for and implement a participatory democracy program. It is a tool for advocates, policy-makers, and program managers who want to open up government to meaningful community participation and decision-making.

Thea Crum, Associate Director of Neighborhoods Initiative, was contracted to develop the content for the PB program of the Playbook. The PB Playbook provides key questions, help text, and data from research to assist the user in designing either part of a PB process or the whole process. It utilizes best practices, tools and resources from around the world to assist users from global contexts in designing the best possible PB process. The PB Playbook will open up access to knowledge and resources about good process design to practitioners and local governments globally. The first testing phase of the PB Playbook is scheduled to launch at the end of February.

Evanston Service Delivery Equity Coefficient

Modeled after the Gini coefficient and equity of transit supply distribution in major metropolitan areas, this project will create a metric of service delivery provision to census tracts that have the highest need. This performance metric differs from equity assessments of proposed laws or ordinances because it utilizes administrative data that provide outputs based on staff effort and specific geocoded investments. These outputs will be mapped onto existing Census data and community indicators that should be positively impacted by real-time government investment to ensure that government investment is spent proportionally on census tract areas with the highest need. Importantly, this equity metric is being designed for ease of public understanding, showing electeds and administrative decision makers how closely city services are being delivered to meet their commitments to advancing racial equity in city services.

EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chicago United - Five Forward Initiative

Chicago United's Five Forward Initiative aims to strengthen Chicagoland's minority business community by linking corporations to minority business enterprises (MBEs) to fulfill contracts. The goods produced and services provided by the MBEs represent contracts the MBEs typically would not get without Chicago United serving as a linking intermediary. GCI is evaluating Chicago United's Five Forward initiative to understand:

- The economic impact of the program in the Chicagoland economy
- How much the program increases the capacity and economic performance of participating minority businesses
- The geographic distribution of program participants and their economic impacts within the Chicagoland area

The Chicago AdvancingCities Project

JPMorgan Chase & Co. foundation made a 3-year, \$7.2 million grant in August 2020 for the Chicago AdvancingCities project, a collaboration between The Resurrection Project, Lawndale Christian Development Corporation (LCDC) and Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP). The overarching project objective is to increase homeownership and neighborhood quality in three Chicago neighborhoods: Back of the Yards (also known as New City), North Lawndale, and Chicago Lawn.

GCI was retained to undertake an evaluation of the project to capture changes in quality-of-life in and around clusters of housing construction and renovation, and in the three larger community areas. This will be accomplished by analyzing project records over the three years of the project, comparing possible changes in real estate data over the course of the project, and comparing first and final year survey results for project participants and residents.

Youth Employment - Alternative Schools Network

GCI has produced several reports on employment challenges facing young people in Chicago. These reports have resulted in new programs, policies, and budget appropriations for youth employment in Chicago; shifted conversations around solutions to violence from policing to employment strategies; and elevated the voices of young people to reach national media audiences.

As new employment data becomes available each year, GCI has been relied upon by youth employment program managers, grant writers, foundations, and other researchers to synthesize and disseminate the most up to date data while providing innovative solutions for youth joblessness in Chicago.

Manufacturing Renaissance Campaign

Great Cities Institute participates in a national Manufacturing Renaissance Coalition that promotes and works towards an industrial policy we describe as Inclusion and Industry 4.0; industrial retention; education and training; equity in manufacturing; and creation of manufacturing renaissance councils. The coalition often interfaces with congressional, union, and industry leaders to promote these goals.

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) with the ICJIA

GCI is partnering with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) as the lead research evaluator and consultant on a statewide evaluation of the Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) grant program. There will be three phases to the project: a process evaluation of grant programs, an outcome evaluation of grant programs, and an analysis of statewide impact of the R3 grant program.

In the first phase, GCI will undertake a community-based evaluation of six grantees/sites and produce a guide to best practices for conducting community-based evaluation.

Chicago Public Schools Education Equity Index

GCI in collaboration with CPS will develop a resource equity analysis and mapping tool consisting of between 10 and 15 socioeconomic indicators of educational equity and public health significance to inform resource equity strategies at CPS.

The process to develop and implement a resource equity analysis and mapping tool will include: methodology validation of current indicators and identification of essential variables and data (including which indicators to update and with what frequency) to represent resource equity, including mapping and correlation analyses across variables; research documentation to bolster the validity of the tool that is co-designed and also supports understanding of the tool by the general public and research partners through codification; and ongoing consultation and advising on the launch of the tool, ongoing improvements to the methodology as the tool continues to evolve, and continued stakeholder engagement post-launch.

LATINOS IN CHICAGOLAND

Latin Immigrant Communities within the Chicago and Suburban Metropolitan Region

Mujeres Latinas en Acción (Mujeres) is a bilingual/bicultural agency whose mission is to empower Latinas by providing services which reflect their values and culture and being and advocate on the issues that make a difference in their lives. Mujeres and GCI are co-producing a position paper, including a demographic data review, focus groups, and interviews on Latin@ immigrant communities within the Chicago and Suburban Metropolitan region with a specific focus on issues of economic justice, immigration, women's healthcare, and gender-based violence. GCI is supporting the oversight of the finalized product ensuring accurate methodologies are used and the creation of a summary of policy analyses and recommendations based on data collected. Through this partnership arrangement, we are assisting focus group planning; conducting needs assessment creation; analyzing data from focus groups and needs assessment; and conducting demographic data review.

Developing New Perspective and Information on Latinos in Chicago's Western Suburbs

The purpose of this project is to create new Census data information on Latinos living in the Chicago Western Suburbs. Latinos have grown exponentially within the last decade and now account for 60 percent of the

Chicago metro area. This growth has not led to equitable opportunities for Latinos to participate civically, even while the community has serious needs in terms of education, healthcare and access to safe and well remunerated employment. The gap between the growth of Latinos on one hand and lack of civic representation and responsive public policies on the other underscores the need to examine and publicize data and information on the size and scope of the Latino population.

The need for new information is especially critical as decisions around redistricting are taking place, therefore this data can lay the necessary groundwork for groups to effectively react to the new Census data when available. Importantly, this data will also address social and economic conditions like citizenship, education and employment that are not available from the Census. There is also an urgent need for information to illuminate the social determinants behind the disparate impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

The Great Cities Institute partnered with Healthy Communities Foundation and The Community Memorial Foundation in order to understand more deeply how to address social and economic conditions using the new census data from American Community Survey (ACS) and Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMS). The availability of information documenting the reality of the Latino community will equip community leaders to advocate for greater inclusion in public decision-making that affects Latinos, their families, and their neighborhoods. The individuals who would benefit from new data include local residents, elected officials, municipal employees, advocates, and the news media.



Puerto Rican Town

GCI is working with the Puerto Rican Agenda to prepare funding applications and plans to develop Puerto Rican Town, an articulated district enabled by recent state legislation. Chicago's Puerto Rican Agenda is committed to developing and executing "community-driven vision for

the Humboldt Park Area.” Besides ideas for physical design components, topics of this community planning process will include health and wellness, education, economic development, and housing. The project seeks to enhance a clearly identifiable Puerto Rican Town concept, the project will seek to build community wealth and health.

ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT

Water Reuse Project

Water recycling has been an under-examined and under-utilized approach in regions of relative water abundance. A GCI team, including Professors Krishna Reddy from Environmental Engineering, Teresa Córdova from Urban Planning and Policy, Serap Erdal from Public Health, and Rachel Havrelock of the UIC Freshwater Lab, is working with Dr. Catherine O'Connor of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District on research concerning the potential for water reuse in Cook County. We are optimistic that our proposed research will position Cook County as a leader in the water reuse sector.

Joint research at MWRD and UIC will establish the research and development groundwork for water recycling. It will address technical issues around reducing the total dissolved solids load of effluent that enters MWRD treatment plants, the best filtration media and technologies of water recycling, the public health, and environmental implications of recycled water, how to overcome political and economic barriers to adoption, and how large-scale water reuse can play a role in job creation and economic revitalization. Our outputs will include a peer-reviewed article that outlines how to go about water recycling in Cook County, addresses existing barriers, and provides a roadmap for overcoming the barriers. Findings from our research study will be accessible to policy makers and interested members of the

public through a policy paper published through the GCI.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Southeast Side Revitalization Plans

A large part of GCI's community support work has been focused on the Southeast Side of Chicago and the South Suburbs. Starting with the South Chicago Commercial Avenue Revitalization Plan (2016) our work in the area has since included the Chicago community areas of Rosemoor and North Pullman, East Side, South Deering, Hegewisch, as well as some Chicago South Suburbs like Calumet City.

The 2016 Commercial Avenue Plan has become the foundation for city focused development along the corridor including a Chicago Department of Transportation streetscaping project, and investments coming out of Chicago's INVEST South/West program.

Currently, we are working on supporting the city's efforts for revitalization in South Chicago and facilitating community site planning projects in the area. One of those projects includes the development of a plaza at the south end of the Commercial Avenue corridor under the Chicago Skyway. GCI is also working on recreational site opportunities along the Calumet River just to the east just to name a few.

Research Fact Sheets

GCI maintains a collection of “fact sheets” on a broad set of topics including population dynamics, economic inequality, employment, and more. These fact sheets call attention to critical issues in Chicago, the Chicagoland region, and Illinois, and are utilized by advocacy organizations, grant writers, media outlets, and researchers.



About Great Cities Institute

Serving UIC's Great Cities Commitment: Solutions for Today's Urban Challenges

The Power of Research:

GCI offers bold solutions for urban problems to improve the quality of life in our cities & regions

UIC's Great Cities Institute is a research hub for scholars, policymakers, and stakeholders who share an interest in finding answers to the question, "What can cities and regions do to make themselves into great places?"

The Great Cities Institute (GCI) represents UIC's commitment to "engaged research" while contributing to its stature as a Research One University thereby highlighting the value of quality research for addressing today's urban challenges.

By ***harnessing the power of engaged research***, Great Cities Institute:

- Advances conversations on key issues
- Promotes community economic development strategies
- Produces, with neighborhoods, commercial revitalization and quality of life plans
- Provides data and technical assistance
- Facilitates collaboration and public engagement
- Assists with mentorship, training and capacity building
- Conducts policy and impact analysis
- Convenes local, national and international scholars

Our Goal: *Improve the quality of life of residents living and working in Chicago, its metropolitan region, and cities throughout the world.*

Our Strategic Focus

GCI's work focuses on *employment and economic development, local and regional governance, dynamics of global mobility, energy and the environment and community wellbeing*. GCI's develops strategic partnerships that leverage the intellectual capital of the university with the local knowledge of neighborhood residents, government and non-profit, foundation, business and civic organizations. GCI is home to the UIC Neighborhoods Initiative, a university-community partnership with neighborhoods both adjacent to the UIC campus and in the Chicagoland area.

Our Vision

Formulate solutions to tackle the multi-dimensional challenges of the changing socio-political economy of cities and their metropolitan regions.

Our Mission

The Mission of the UIC Great Cities Institute is to link its academic resources with a range of partners to address urban issues by providing research, policy analysis and program development. Tied to the University of Illinois at Chicago *Great Cities Commitment*, GCI seeks to improve quality of life in Chicago, its metropolitan region and cities throughout the world.



Great Cities Institute

Great Cities Institute (MC 107)
College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs
University of Illinois at Chicago
412 South Peoria Street, Suite 400
Chicago, Illinois 60607-7067

Phone: 312.996.8700
Fax: 312.996.8933
greatcities.uic.edu
gcities@uic.edu