

# Mashantucket Pequot Participatory Budgeting Project

2021 Tribal Community Re-Launch

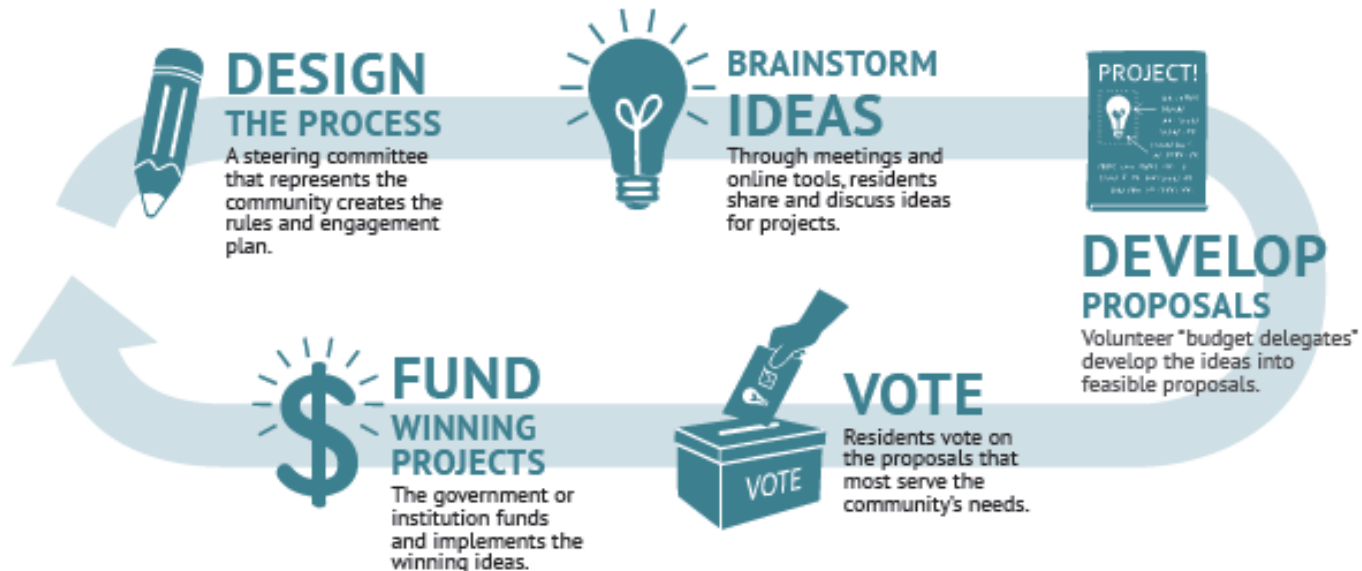
# Participatory Budgeting Process

## What Is Participatory Budgeting?

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend part of a public budget. It gives people real power over real money.

### How PB Works

PB is an annual cycle of engagement that is integrated into a regular budgeting process. A typical PB process follows these steps:



# PB Mashantucket Project Phases

- 1. Design**
- 2. Idea Collection**
- 3. Proposal Development**
- 4. Vote**
- 5. Evaluation**
- 6. Implementation**
- 7. Monitoring**

# Picking Up Where We Left Off...

- Our last PB Mashantucket project conference call was held on February 18, 2020
  - Project status was ‘approved but not yet launched’
  - Agreed upon project cost & updated scope (\$22,650)
  - Tribal Community meeting was scheduled for 3/25/20
  - Detailed briefing for Tribal Council was the same day
  - A group was assigned to handle communications
  - PBP staff was to return April 7 to create Rule Book
  - PB Basic Training for MPTN staff was to be held before the April 7<sup>th</sup> return of PBP staff

# 2020 PB Mash. Project Team Task List

- ID volunteer budget delegates & vetting experts
- Speak to people who have done it – Hartford/Boston
- Draft proposed Tribal legislation to authorize
- Choose local U as research & evaluation partner
- 3-6 months is typical PB project design timing
- 5-8 months is typical for the community planning and decision making cycle
- Determine MPTN project timing

## March 11, 2021 – Tasks for Project Re-launch

- 2021 PB Mashantucket Project Decision Needs
  - Update and reaffirm project team members
  - Schedule Tribal Council & Tribal Community meeting
  - Set schedule for Community decision making process
  - Choose a local research and evaluation partner
  - Schedule Project Steering Committee Basic training
  - Set a date for PB Mashantucket Rule Book creation
  - MPTN Project Team tasks
    - Educate decision makers
    - Engage Community partners
    - Identify pot(s) of money to allocate
    - Secure funding and staffing for implementation
    - Announce the approval of MPTN Participatory Budgeting Process

# April 14<sup>th</sup> - PB Mashantucket Re-Launch Task Details

## • PB Project Team Focus Needs

- Secure specific Tribal Council approvals of project funding & project staffing approach
- Discuss MT's 2019 staffing suggestions to the PB project team – *“In terms of project staffing, I could fulfill the PB Manager or Assistant role with 50% of my work time while also mentoring a young Pequot college graduate who gets the CEC or Coordinator role. If employed already, the 75% time devotion of the young Pequot person has no budget increase impact at all.*
- Choose a PB Mashantucket project research and evaluation partner (typically a local University or College)
- Each member of the Steering Committees should be willing and able to facilitate, conduct Tribal Community outreach and also provide PB event logistical support. This 3-part focus would be the core of our open call Tribal Community recruiting effort.
- Try to get 15 minutes of Agenda time on April 16<sup>th</sup>!

## • Recommended Re-Launch Process for PB Mashantucket

1. Conduct promotional campaign during all of **May**
  - Lawn signs, flyers, emails, online video posts, online live meetings & more activities TBD
2. Hold 2 online Tribal Community PB Project meetings during the **2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May**
3. Select Steering Committee members on **June 8<sup>th</sup>**
4. Hold 2 half-day Training and Rule Book Creation workshops for Project Team/Steering Committee members on **June 29<sup>th</sup> and July 6<sup>th</sup>**.
  - Record the training sessions on video for future Tribal Community uses.
5. Steering Committees to begin their oversight of the process **on July 6<sup>th</sup>**
  - i. *Design – July 2021*
  - ii. *Idea Collection – August 2021*
  - iii. *Proposal Development – September 2021*
  - iv. *Vote – November/December 2021*
  - v. *Evaluation – 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022*
  - vi. *Implementation/Monitoring – All of 2022*

## Video-Based PB Learning (all less than 5 minutes long)

- Reinventing Democracy Through Participatory Budgeting <https://youtu.be/dLrPJghHlzg>
- Durham, N.C. PB Process <https://youtu.be/RdrOSLq5HZM>
- Cambridge, M.A. PB Process <https://youtu.be/fZS48720gwg>
- Greensboro, N.C. Winning PB Projects <https://youtu.be/GXB9O1on9HY>



# New Schedule *(result of 6-7-21 meeting decisions)*

1. Maximize Our PB Mash Promotional Period (**Jun-Aug**)
  - **E-mail Blasts**
  - **Standing Committee member outreach**
  - **P2P Sign-Up Campaign**
  - Emphasize \$300k spending amount in all lawn signs, flyers, emails, online video posts, online live meetings & PB activities
  - Identify the best approach to create age group-based projects
2. Prepare for Online Community Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> week of **September**)
3. Plan for Steering Committee Finalization (last week of **September**)
4. Develop Training Plan for **October** (2 half-day Day Sessions)
5. Plan for late **October** launch of Steering Committee(s)
6. Create PB Mashantucket Rule Book in **November**