More Information on Project Implementation & the 45th Ward Participatory Budgeting Process

Alderman John Arena will submit the projects that win the most votes, up to $1 million, to the City of Chicago and its sister agencies for implementation. All the projects listed on the ballot are feasible to the best of our knowledge, yet most require final approval from the City of Chicago or its sister agencies. Thus, while Alderman Arena pledges to request funding and advocate for the winning projects, he cannot guarantee that the government agencies will grant final approval to each and every project request.

Reasons that projects may not be approved include: interference with previously planned projects, legal restrictions, and policy decisions of the governmental entities. If a winning project cannot be implemented for any reason, Alderman Arena will use the allocated money to fund the next runner-up project that falls within the budget.

Not all of the funded projects will be completed in the 2013 construction season. Required project approval procedures or construction work by utilities or other agencies may prevent some projects from being completed this year. Funds for projects not completed this year will be held in reserve and used to complete the projects in the following year(s). For up-to-date information on the status of the various projects, visit www.ward45.org, call (773) 286-4545 or email Owen.brugh@cityofchicago.org.

All projects on the ballot were suggested and vetted by 45th Ward residents. Initial suggestions for projects came out of brainstorming sessions at a series of neighborhood assemblies held throughout the Ward in October and November 2012. The suggestions were then debated and researched by over 50 neighborhood residents who volunteered at the neighborhood assemblies to serve as "community representatives."

From December 2012 through April 2013, the community representatives met regularly in 4 committees (Arts, Bikes & Transit, Parks & Schools, and Street Scape) to decide which project proposals to place on this year’s ballot. The proposals were submitted to 45th Ward residents for final input and review at three project expos in April 2013.

Participation in the 45th Ward participatory budgeting process as a community representative and/or as an attendee at a neighborhood assembly was entirely voluntary and open to all 45th Ward residents age 16 and over, regardless of citizenship or voter registration status.

The PB Chicago City-Wide Steering Committee developed the rules and procedures for this process. For a list of all members of the community-led leadership committee, visit www.pbchicago.com.

Many thanks to the community representatives and participatory budgeting leadership committee members for their dedication and service to this bold experiment in direct democracy. Also thanks to the many dedicated employees at the City of Chicago, the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Transit Authority, and the Chicago Department of Transportation for their expertise; and to the PB Chicago City-Wide Steering Committee for their expertise and guidance of the process.

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Alderman John Arena, PB Chicago, and 45th Ward Participatory Budgeting Leadership Committee
STREETS

BALLOT QUESTION NUMBER 1

What percentage of the total budget should go toward street resurfacing, curb and sidewalk replacement, and streetlight replacement?

Note: The average cost for the first five blocks of resurfaced streets is $38,000 per block. Due to federal requirements for handicapped ramps, the average cost for any street resurfaced after the first five blocks is $66,500 per block. Replacing curbs for one side of the street costs $80,000 per block. Replacing sidewalks for a full block costs $75,000. Replacing street lights for a full block costs $64,000 per side.

(Please select only one)

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Note: The 45th Ward Participatory Budgeting Initiative identified and prioritized the streets most in need of resurfacing. Please see the attached sheet for the list of prioritized streets.

BALLOT QUESTION NUMBER 2

How should the remaining portion of the 45th Ward menu money be spent?

You may vote for up to six (6) projects from the projects below and to the right. (Select no more than six)

ARTS

COST

1. Community Identifiers: Irving Park Rd. at Hamlin, Lawndale, & Ridgeway
   Community identifiers establish neighborhood presence and attract others outside of the area to the neighborhood. The proposed identifiers will lure those curious about Independence Park to the area.
   $30,000

2. Informational Kiosks: Multiple (3) Locations
   These kiosks would include maps with cultural highlights that might engage and inform visitors. Printed materials that require updating would be paid for by chambers of commerce and perhaps business advertisements.
   $54,000

ARTS CONT.

3. Viaduct Remediation: Multiple (5) Locations
   Improvement program to wash, paint, and add pigeon netting to target viaducts/underpasses in the ward.
   $120,000

BIKES & TRANSIT

4. N. Milwaukee Buffered Bike Lanes: Milwaukee from Addison to Lawrence
   Protected bike lanes on Milwaukee between Addison and Lawrence to improve safety, promote sustainable transit, and increase foot traffic for local businesses.
   $125,000

5. On-Street Bike Corrals: Mariano’s, Fischman’s, Lawrence between Mason & Marmora
   On-street bike parking structures. Only removes 1-2 parking spaces while promoting bike use and improving foot traffic for local businesses.
   $10,000

   Adding 5 solar trash/recycling bins to keep neighborhoods clean by using renewable energy and space savings strategies.
   $28,745

7. W. Lawrence Buffered Bike Lanes: Lawerence from Cicero to Long
   Protected bike lanes on Lawrence between Cicero and Long to improve safety, promote sustainable transit, and increase foot traffic for local businesses.
   $70,000

PARKS & SCHOOLS

8. Beaubien Elementary Artificial Turf Installation: Beaubien Elementary School
   Beaubien Elementary would like to replace the black top that is used for recess with an artificial turf that is made of recycled materials.
   $59,210

   Adding rubberized surface, two new play spaces, and lower raised surface for easy accessibility.
   $350,000

10. Olive’s Neighborhood Garden Expansion: Ainslie and Laramie
    To purchase wood, hardware, and the materials to build a shed that will hold all of the equipment for the garden.
    $5,000

11. Our Lady of Victory & St. John’s Lutheran Food Pantry and Community Garden: Jefferson Park Food Pantry
    To purchase wood and hardware to build the garden beds.
    $2,500

STREET SCAPE

12. Improve Lighting & Visibility Under Viaduct: Milwaukee north of Jefferson Park Transit Cntr
    Improve lighting by installing double streetlamps at all corners to increase visibility. The viaducts will also have all of the surfaces painted white to better reflect the light to improve safety.
    $23,000

13. Kennedy Expressway Pedestrian Bridge Fencing: Between Avondale and Gladstone Metra Station
    Replacing the fencing with wrought iron style fencing at both ends of the bridge and cleaning of entrance and exit points.
    $25,000

14. Pedestrian Crossing Light: Jefferson Park Transit Center at 4872 N. Milwaukee
    Create a crosswalk and stoplight from the Jefferson Park CTA station across Milwaukee mid-block.
    $125,000

15. Street Poles Painting: Milwaukee from Foster to Peterson
    Repainting street poles to improve the appearance.
    $41,000