

DEMOCRACY BEYOND ELECTIONS

Re-imagine the power of democracy between and beyond elections

Democracy Beyond Elections is a collaborative, national campaign for community-led decision making that is equitable, accessible, and significant. Our work is rooted in the deep belief that community members deserve decision-making power over the issues that impact them.

We're convening a diverse coalition—from grassroots organizers to national policy organizations—to develop a shared agenda for making community-led decision making a reality in communities across the country. See [our partners](#).

Together, we are:

- ***Building political and community demands*** for participatory democracy through advocacy and awareness building.
- ***Developing our collective capacity*** for community-led decision making through trainings and resource development.
- ***Launching REAL democracy pilots*** that model a more equitable and participatory democracy.

The core principle of Democracy Beyond Elections is real decision-making power that is equitable, accessible, and significant.



EQUITABLE

When designed to center **equity**, participatory democracy can give people who have been systematically excluded from political processes—including people from Black communities, immigrants, and formerly and currently incarcerated people—the power to decide how to solve the issues they are impacted by. This makes decisions more equitable and effective, because they are tailored to real community needs.



ACCESSIBLE

When designed to center **accessibility**—including but not limited to language access, disability access, and economic access—participatory democracy can expand who has access to decision-making power, making political processes more inclusive and representative of the communities they take place in.



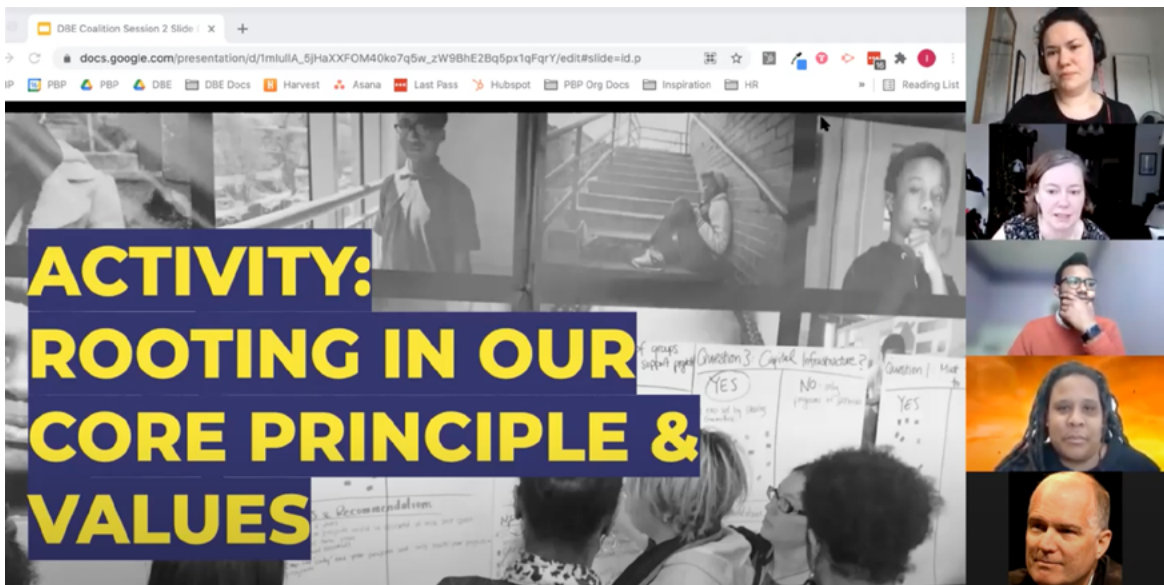
SIGNIFICANT

When designed to center **significance**—that is, community-led decision-making processes that are not trivial, and hold power over significant budgets or policies—participatory democracy has the power to transform people's relationship with government, demonstrating how their engagement can transcend token surveys and “feedback loops.”

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Over the past year, we have:

- Strengthened relationships and successfully established **a coalition of nearly 30 organizations** committed to participatory democracy.
- Collaboratively **developed a national campaign** for community-led decision making.
- **Piloted a new model of participatory policy-making**, created in partnership with coalition members and which honors the lived experiences of community members.
- Supported our partners in transforming their own internal practices and culture by creating a **toolkit for practicing participatory budgeting within organizations**.



Participants in a recent Democracy Beyond Elections coalition meeting.

JOIN US!

We need your help to expand public power over government decisions, increase civic engagement, and generate support for more equitable decision making. Here are ways you can help:

- Support PBP and Democracy Beyond Elections with investment and though partnership to expand and strengthen our work.
- Practice participatory democracy within your organization or institution.
- Connect us to organizations, institutions, and agencies invested in the movement for community-led decision making.

Visit democracybeyondelections.org to sign on!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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