YOUTH ON THE MOVE

PBYF Year in Review

The Participatory Budgeting Youth Fellowship (PBYF) offers high school students intensive training, hands-on experience and ongoing support to promote greater youth involvement in New York City’s Participatory Budgeting process (PBNYC), which empowers local residents as young as 11 to decide on how to spend at least $1 million in public funds for community improvements in their City Council districts. Now in its second year, PBYF is a partnership between Coro New York Leadership Center, the New York City Council, and the Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP). Coro is the city’s premier leadership training organization that helps New Yorkers build the skills, knowledge, and networks to lead change.

After their three-week summer leadership institute concluded last August, Coro’s second cohort of Participatory Budgeting Youth Fellows hit the ground running! Building on last year’s achievements, the 2018-19 Youth Fellows have focused on expanding their reach and innovating PB. In just 6 months, these 20 dynamic high schoolers have:

- Completed **1,052** hours of PB service in their City Council districts (40% increase from last year)
- Collected **1,011** ideas that will better their communities (55% increase from last year)
- Helped facilitate over **40** idea collection assemblies at schools, community centers, and other venues
- Completed **115** hours of leadership and PB training

SPECIAL THANKS

To the City Council members and their dedicated staff who have partnered with us to bring greater youth voice to PB in New York City.

- Speaker Corey Johnson (District 3)
- Council Member Mark Levine (District 7)
- Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez (District 10)
- Council Member Ritchie Torres (District 15)
- Council Member Vanessa Gibson (District 16)
- Council Member Costa Constantinides (District 22)
- Council Member I. Daneek Miller (District 27)
- Council Member Stephen Levin (District 33)
- Council Member Antonio Reynoso (District 34)
- Council Member Carlos Menchaca (District 38)
- Council Member Brad Lander (District 39)
- Council Member Debi Rose (District 49)
- Marissa Yanni (Speaker’s Office)
My proudest achievement was hosting the youth assembly. We had around 30 youth who had a ton of great ideas and our facilitation went really well. They seemed to totally grasp the PB process.

-Sabrina, PB Youth Fellow (District 3, Manhattan)

This year, we proudly partnered with four new City Council offices and increased our cohort size by a third. Additionally, two PBYF alumni (Anton from Manhattan’s District 7 and Mia from Staten Island’s District 49) returned as Senior Youth Fellows, using their experience and expertise to equip the new cohort as our next wave of PB ambassadors and advocates!

Since the school year has progressed, Youth Fellows have been balancing academics with being at the front lines of their City Council districts -- often taking leading roles at meetings and idea collection events, and building relationships with local organizations.

“PBYF allowed me to talk to new people, facilitate assemblies, and do stuff I wouldn’t regularly do. This improved my social and public speaking skills.”

-Anthony, Youth Fellow (District 27, Queens)

The Youth Fellows’ efforts to push themselves out of their comfort zones has not gone unnoticed in their communities or City Council offices. One Supervisor and Adult Partner* describes how the Youth Fellows have become an integral part of the team:

“Our Youth Fellows have been tremendous in helping to elevate the youth voice and raising overall youth engagement for Cycle 8 of Participatory Budgeting. They have taken over major leadership roles in the Neighborhood Assemblies - facilitating small groups full of young people that always had interesting ideas. Additionally, they have been instrumental in spreading the word about PB events and goings-on … They have made Cycle 8 easier, stronger, and more fun for all involved.”

Thanks to the commitment of their City Council Adult Partners, we look forward to seeing the Youth Fellows continue to influence and impact PB in communities across the city.

* Because we believe that youth voice can be truly amplified and youth leadership authentically elevated through partnerships with caring, committed, and consistent adults, we proudly refer to and train our City Council supervisors as “Adult Partners.”
Allowing people to reach out to me as a Youth Fellow makes them feel less intimidated than talking to a district official. Talking with everyone in my community has worked really well in getting youth to provide ideas.

-Dionysios (District 22, Queens)

Youth Fellows are also taking opportunities to share their insights with broader audiences. Jodie, a District 38 Youth Fellow, was invited to speak on a panel discussion for the screening of Public Money, a PBS documentary about how PB started in New York City. With ease and candor, she shared her sentiments with a crowd of eager attendees more than twice her age:

"When I was facilitating an assembly in District 38, there was a lot of emotions, a lot of complaints. You get to see a lot of people from the community, and because they live in the community, they will understand the small problems that a lot of people wouldn’t be able to see... and because of that they’ll be able to contribute to the change."

-Jodie (District 38, Queens)

The Youth Fellows’ insights will inform how they undertake their work in the second half of the year, as they gear up to get out the vote and develop action plans to promote greater PB equity and engagement!
**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Look Out for a Youth Fellow Near You in Spring 2019**

Youth Fellows will be developing new ways to engage more youth and underrepresented communities during **Vote Week (March 30th - April 7th)**. Their plans and goals for the spring include:

- Giving outreach presentations at schools and local organizations
- Organizing youth voting events in their districts
- Drawing the largest youth voter turnout yet!

Stay tuned for more information on these events and how to support their outreach efforts!

**LESSONS ON LEADERSHIP FROM OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Youth Fellows Share Their Council Members’ "Words of Wisdom"

As part of their training on inquiry and multiple perspectives, Youth Fellows have been conducting **Leadership Learning Interviews** with their Council Members. Here is some of what they learned:

"[He advised us] to not have regrets, because if you regret choices, you will regret experience, and he doesn’t regret wisdom."

"I learned leadership is a learned quality. No two leaders are the same. If anyone wants to be a leader, they can."

"My Council Member didn’t know what he wanted to do in the future [when he was younger]. Yet because of all the support he was given by the people he loved and his role models, he was able to get to where he is today. This stood out to me because it shows that people are stronger as a whole, and a leader should stand with the people."

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If you would like to help other young people get access to this opportunity, fill out an Interest Form on our website (url below)!

For more information, contact us at pbyouthfellowship@coro.nyc or (212) 248-2935.