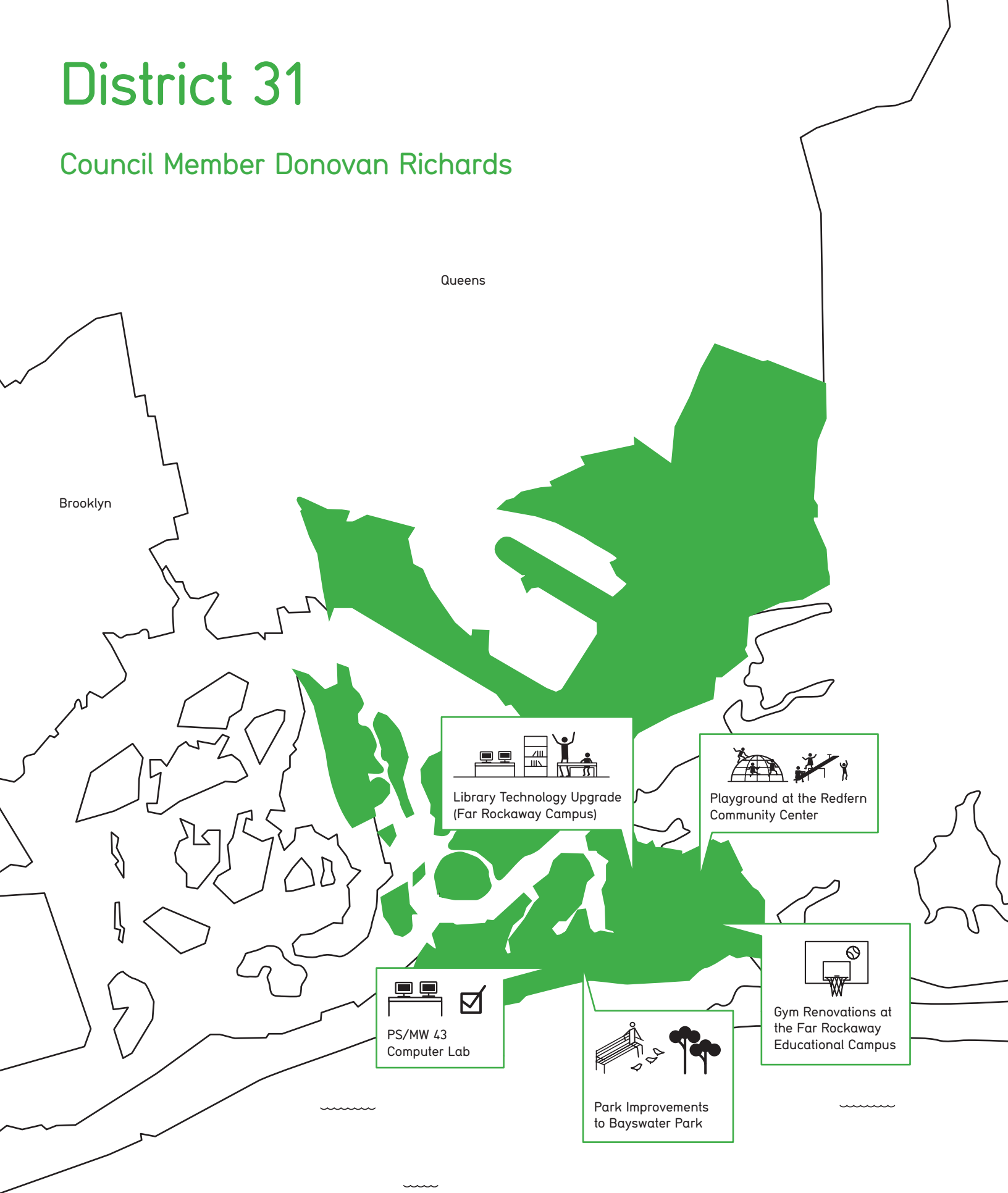



# District 31

Council Member Donovan Richards





Queens

Brooklyn

  
Library Technology Upgrade  
(Far Rockaway Campus)

  
Playground at the Redfern  
Community Center

  
PS/MW 43  
Computer Lab

  
Park Improvements  
to Bayswater Park

  
Gym Renovations at  
the Far Rockaway  
Educational Campus

# District 31

## Council Member Donovan Richards

Council Member Donovan Richards' district in Queens was unique this cycle in that only a portion of the district participated in PB. The Rockaway neighborhoods of Arverne, Bayswater, Edgemere, Far Rockaway and Hammels participated, while the other neighborhoods of the district (Laurelton, Rosedale, parts of Springfield Gardens) which are geographically separated in part by the Jamaica Bay, did not. Next cycle, Council Member Richards plans to move the process to the other portion of the district.

Slightly more than half (52%) of District 31 residents in the participating portion of the district identify as Black or African-American, and more than a quarter (27%) as Hispanic or Latino/a.\* 19% of people in the district identify as White, and 3% as Asian. This portion of the district has many young people: 41% are under the age of 25. The majority (57%) of residents under 25 have a high school diploma or GED or less. Most people (59%) earn under \$50,000 annually, and more than a quarter (27%) earn under \$15,000. Almost a third (31%) primarily speak a language other than English—with 20% listing Spanish as their primary language, and 11% indicating another language. A third of residents in the participating neighborhoods were born outside the U.S.

More than 2,000 community members engaged in this first cycle of PB in District 31—a strong turnout. While a diverse group of people were engaged in PB, and the district had significant youth participation, some community members—such as non-English speakers, and people born outside the U.S.—were underrepresented in the process. The ballot included projects for schools and libraries, youth, parks and recreation and public safety.

*"With Participatory Budgeting, my office was able to engage the community on a more personal level...It was great to see neighbors reaching out to neighbors in an effort to improve the community. The process has been nothing but positive for the 31st Council district and I look forward to continuing this work next year!"<sup>75</sup>*

**(Council Member Donovan Richards, District 31)**

Overall Population  
(Participating  
Neighborhoods):  
79,914

Number of PB  
Participants:  
2,213

Participating  
Neighborhoods:  
Arverne  
Bayswater  
Edgemere  
Far Rockaway  
Hammels

\* Note that the secondary data used throughout this section derives from several sources: the 2010 Decennial Census and the American Community Survey 2008-2012 five year estimates are used for demographic data of district residents, and data about 2013 local election voters comes from the Voter activation Network and Catalist. For more on these data sources, see the appendix of this report.

## Who Participated in District 31?

In District 31, PB engaged 2,213 people, including: 90 neighborhood assembly participants, 41 budget delegates, and 2,149 voters. Demographic information collected at key points during the process points towards several trends in participation, including the following:

2,213  
people

90  
neighborhood  
assembly  
participants

41  
Budget  
Delegates

2,149  
voters



### Race/Ethnicity

- People who identified as African-American or Black made up the majority of neighborhood assembly participants (77%) and PB voters (69%). This compares with 51% of the voting-age population in the participating neighborhoods.
- People who identified as Hispanic or Latino/a were underrepresented when compared to voting-age residents in the participating neighborhoods (18% of PB voters compared to 24% of voting age residents) but participated at PB at higher rates than in the 2013 local elections (5%).
- 9% of PB voters identified as White, compared to 19% of voting-age district residents and 13% of voters in the 2013 local elections.



### Language and Country of Birth

- People who listed English as their primary language were overrepresented among neighborhood assembly participants (100%) and PB voters (92%) compared to the general, voting-age population of the district (66%).
- People who were born outside of the U.S. made up a greater percentage of PB voters (29%) compared to neighborhood assembly participants (3%). This compares with 43% of voting-age district residents.



### Gender

- Women made up the majority of neighborhood assembly participants (62%) and PB voters (66%).
- Women made up a greater percentage of PB voters than voters in the 2013 local elections (66% and 62%, respectively).



### Income

- A majority of PB voters (55%) had annual household incomes below \$35,000. This compares with 31% of neighborhood assembly attendees, 48% of households in the participating neighborhoods, and 12% of 2013 local election voters.
- People with incomes over \$75,000 were overrepresented at the neighborhood assemblies compared to PB voters (38% and 13%, respectively) and voting-age district residents (26%).



### Age

- 20% of PB voters were under the age of 18 and therefore ineligible to vote in general elections.
- A smaller percentage of people 65 years and older voted in PB (9%) compared to the 2013 local elections (28%).



### Education

- People over 25 who reported having less than a high school diploma were underrepresented at the neighborhood assemblies (0%) and PB vote (11%) compared to district residents (26%).
- A greater percentage of PB voters reported having less than a Bachelor's degree compared to neighborhood assembly participants (72% compared to 23%).

77% of neighborhood assembly participants and 69% of PB voters identified as African-American or Black.

Compared to 51% of voting-age district residents.

20% of PB voters were under the age of 18 and therefore ineligible to vote in general elections.



Community residents attend a facilitator training in District 31.

# What were the civic engagement patterns of PB participants in District 31?

## Previous Engagement with PB

- 79% of surveyed voters had not participated in this cycle of PB other than by voting.

## Voting Patterns and Barriers

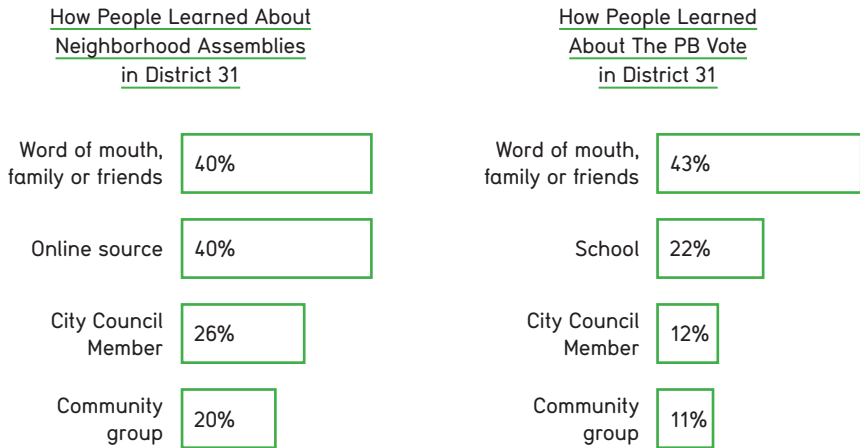
- 18% of PB voters reported that they were not registered to vote in regular elections because they were under 18 years old.
- 89% of neighborhood assembly participants and 66% of PB voters were registered to vote.
- Among PB voters who were registered to vote in regular elections, 20% were unlikely voters (reporting that they never, rarely or sometimes vote).

## Working with Others in the Community

- 85% of neighborhood assembly participants said they had worked with others to solve community problems in the past, while 15% had not. In the vote, this was nearly reversed, with 30% saying that had worked with others in the community to solve problems, and 70% saying they had not.

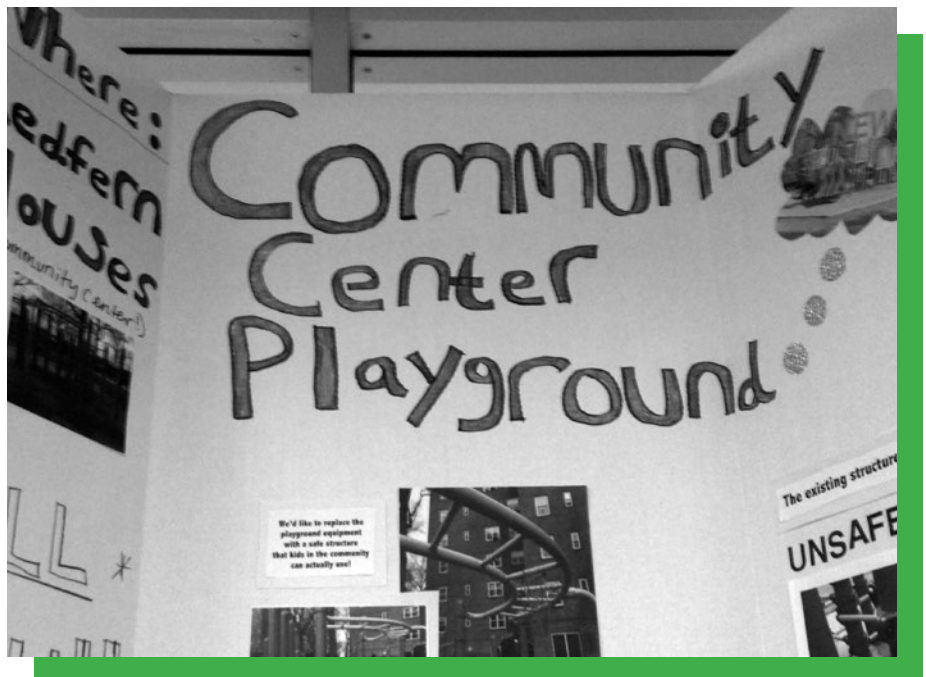
## How did people hear about participatory budgeting in District 31?

Participants were most likely to hear about PB through word of mouth, family or friends. Online sources played a bigger role in spreading the word about neighborhood assemblies than about the PB vote. Community groups and the Council Member's office were important for outreach at both the neighborhood assembly and vote stages, and many people found out about the vote through a school.\*



\* Note that school was not an answer option on the neighborhood assembly survey.

A poster at an expo in District 31 outlines a project that would upgrade the playground at Redfern Community Center (a winning project this cycle).





# What were the priorities of District 31 PB voters, what projects made it to the ballot, and what won the vote?

In September and October of 2013, District 31 held neighborhood assemblies that allowed community residents and stakeholders to propose projects to improve their neighborhoods.

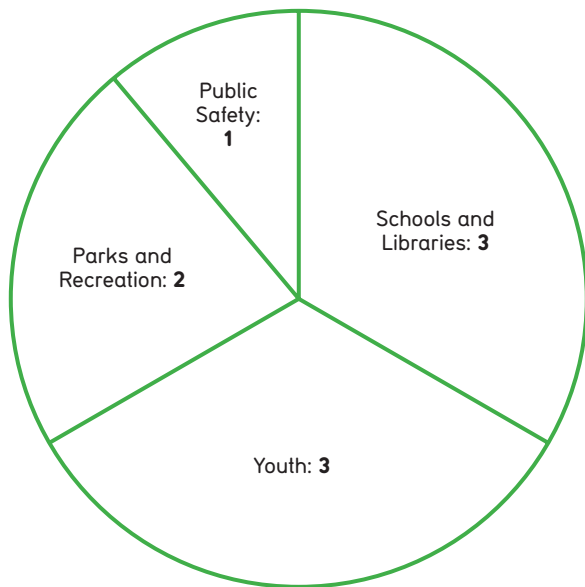
Following the neighborhood assemblies, participants volunteered to be budget delegates and formed committees to develop specific projects from the ideas proposed at the neighborhood assemblies. This work resulted in the District 31 PB ballot.

The following table shows the categories of projects that ended up on the ballot in District 31.



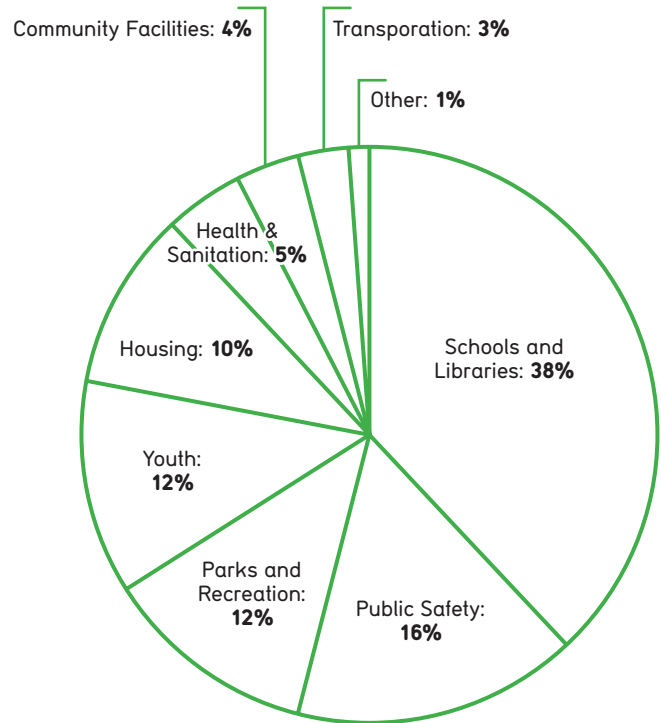
## Projects on District 31 Ballot

Total Number: 9  
Average Cost: \$194,111



## Which category of project that they voted for was most important to District 31 PB voters?

(N=734)







**A Winning Project from District 31**

Library Technology Upgrade (Far Rockaway Campus)  
 \$150,000  
 1475 out of 2149 votes

The library at Far Rockaway Educational Campus is a resources shared by the four schools in the building. Technology upgrades provided for by this funding will include new laptop carts, printers and smart boards, designed to expand access to technology for the campus' students and enhance the overall learning experience.

"This school is really behind," says budget delegate Elaine Short. "We need this money...so that we can compete. This is a world of technology today...this is something that we have to have our children advanced in, that we ourselves have to get advanced in."<sup>76</sup>

## Winning Projects

### 5 Winning Projects: District 31

2,149 voters cast a ballot for up to five projects in District 31. The following table shows the projects that were selected.

<u>Project</u>	<u># of Voters</u>	<u>% of Voters</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Library Technology Upgrade (Far Rockaway Campus)	1475	69%	\$150,000
Park Improvements to Bayswater Park	1344	63%	\$682,000
Gym Renovations at the Far Rockaway Educational Campus	1275	59%	\$125,000
PS/MS 43 Computer Lab	1149	53%	\$150,000
Community Center Playground at the Redfern Community Center	1031	48%	\$150,000
<u>Total</u>			<u>\$1,257,000</u>

### Additionally Funded Project

In addition to the winning projects, the Council Member also dedicated funds to the following project which was on the PB ballot but did not win. This indicates the additional benefits that PB can bring to the district beyond those projects that win the vote.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Weight Room Upgrade at the Far Rockaway Educational Campus	\$150,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$150,000</u>

## Lessons Learned/ Summary from District 31

In District 31's first PB process, which took place in only a portion of the district, more than 2,000 community members came out to participate. People who identified as African-American or Black made up the majority of participants, and took part in PB at rates higher than their representation in the overall voting-age population. People who identified as Hispanic or Latino/a were underrepresented compared to the district, but voted in PB at rates higher than in the 2013 local elections. There was strong turnout by lower income people: a majority of PB voters (55%) had annual household incomes below \$35,000. Adults with a formal education level less than a high school diploma were underrepresented. People born in the U.S., and people who listed English as their primary language were both overrepresented, indicating that concerted efforts to engage immigrant communities and provide translated materials and interpretation in future cycles would be beneficial. Council Member Richards allocated nearly \$1.3 million to the five winning projects from the district's ballot, and an additional \$150,000 to one of the projects which was on the ballot but did not win.



District 31 residents brainstorm ideas for their community at a neighborhood assembly.

## District 31 Demographics

		<u>Census</u> <u>Data</u> Age 18+	<u>Neighborhood</u> <u>Assemblies</u> N=35	<u>Difference</u> <u>Neighborhood</u> <u>Assemblies</u> <u>Years 2 &amp; 3</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>Delegates</u> N=24	<u>PB</u> <u>Voters</u> N=816	<u>Diff. PB</u> <u>Voters</u> <u>Years</u> <u>2 &amp; 3</u>	<u>Voters in</u> <u>2013 Local</u> <u>Elections</u>	<u>Difference</u> <u>between</u> <u>PB &amp; 2013</u> <u>Voters</u>
<u>Gender</u>	Female	56%	62%	—	71%	66%	—	62%	+4%
NA: N=34	Male	44%	38%	—	29%	33%	—	38%	-5%
BD: N=24	Other	N/A	0%	—	0%	1%	—	N/A	N/A
Voters: N=795									
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	Asian	2%	0%	—	0%	1%	—	0%	+1%
NA: N=35	Black	51%	77%	—	70%	69%	—	81%	-12%
BD: N=23	Latino/a	24%	14%	—	4%	18%	—	5%	+13%
Voters: N=690	White	19%	23%	—	17%	9%	—	13%	-4%
	Other	3%	6%	—	9%	9%	—	0%	+9%
<u>Highest Level</u> <u>of Education</u>	Some H.S. or less	26%	0%	—	0%	11%	—	N/A	N/A
NA: N=26	H.S. Diploma/GED	30%	8%	—	5%	20%	—	N/A	N/A
BD: N=20	Some College	18%	15%	—	25%	27%	—	N/A	N/A
Voters: N=503	Associate's Degree	6%	0%	—	10%	14%	—	N/A	N/A
	Bachelor's Degree	13%	50%	—	20%	15%	—	N/A	N/A
	Graduate Degree	8%	27%	—	40%	13%	—	N/A	N/A
<u>Household</u> <u>Income</u>	Less than \$10,000	19%	7%	—	10%	17%	—	0%	+17%
NA: N=29	\$10,000-\$14,999	8%	10%	—	5%	12%	—	1%	+11%
BD: N=21	\$15,000-\$24,999	11%	7%	—	0%	11%	—	6%	+5%
Voters: N=552	\$25,000-\$34,999	10%	7%	—	5%	15%	—	5%	+10%
	\$35,000-\$49,999	11%	10%	—	19%	18%	—	20%	-2%
	\$50,000-\$74,999	16%	21%	—	38%	15%	—	29%	-14%
	\$75,000-\$99,999	10%	10%	—	5%	7%	—	36%	-29%
	\$100,000-\$149,000	9%	14%	—	10%	4%	—	3%	+1%
	\$150,000 or more	7%	14%	—	10%	2%	—	0%	+2%
<u>Age</u>	15 to 17 years	6%	3%	—	0%	20%	—	N/A	N/A
NA: N=34	18 to 19 years	4%	6%	—	8%	7%	—	4%	+9%
BD: N=24	20 to 24 years	11%	12%	—	4%	6%	—		
Voters: N=781	25 to 34 years	19%	18%	—	17%	13%	—	8%	+5%
	35 to 44 years	16%	15%	—	8%	16%	—		
	45 to 54 years	16%	12%	—	21%	20%	—	59%	-13%
	55 to 64 years	12%	15%	—	25%	10%	—		
	65+ years	16%	18%	—	17%	9%	—	28%	-19%
<u>Language</u>	English	66%	100%	—	100%	92%	—	N/A	N/A
NA: N=34	Spanish	21%	0%	—	0%	9%	—	N/A	N/A
BD: N=24	Other	12%	0%	—	8%	3%	—	N/A	N/A
Voters: N=783									
<u>Country of Birth</u>	United States	56%	97%	—	78%	72%	—	N/A	N/A
NA: N=35	Puerto Rico	3%	0%	—	0%	2%	—	N/A	N/A
BD: N=23	Other	40%	3%	—	22%	27%	—	N/A	N/A
Voters: N=753									