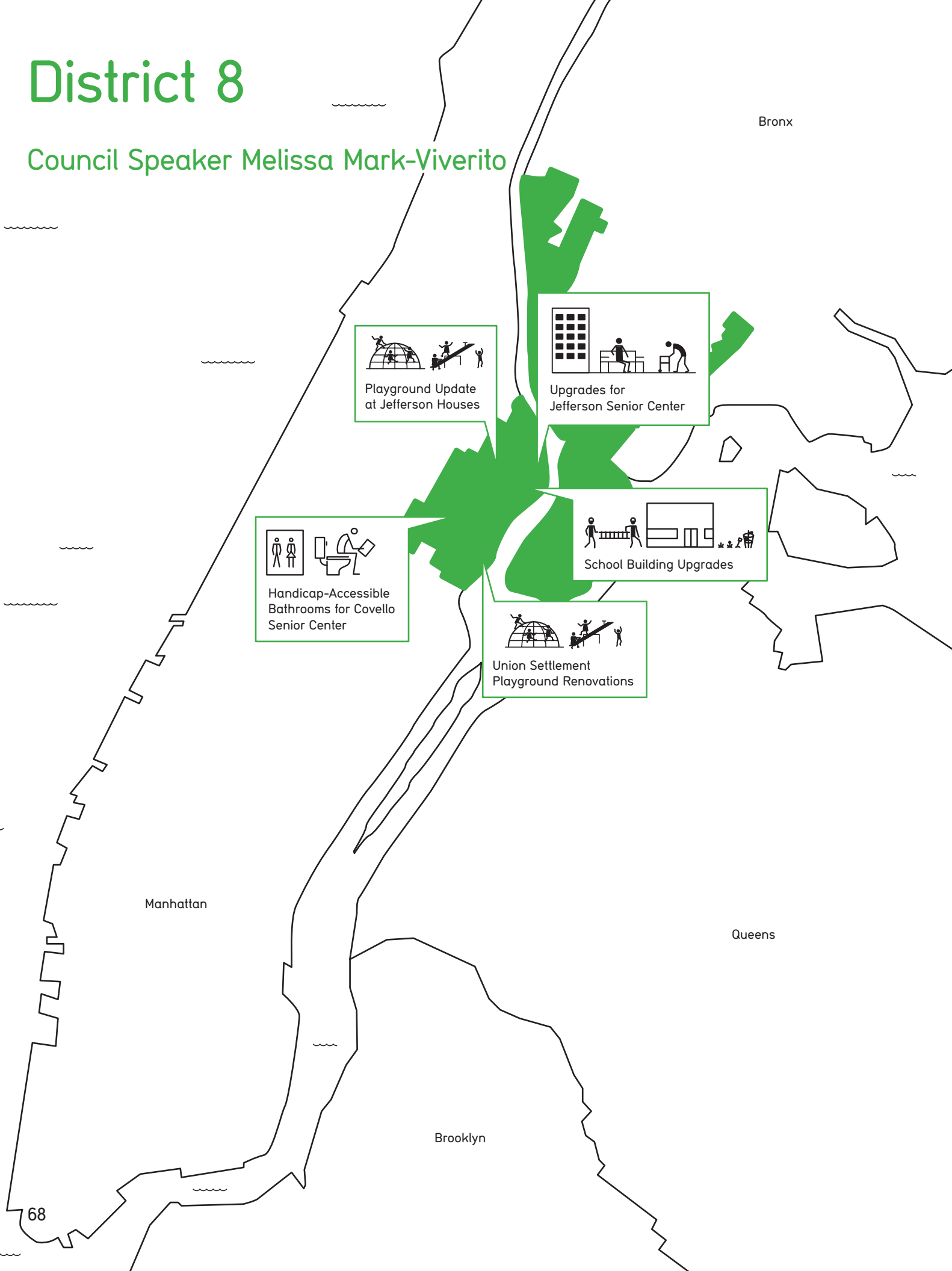


# District 8

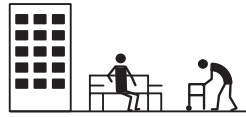
Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito



Bronx



Playground Update  
at Jefferson Houses



Upgrades for  
Jefferson Senior Center



Handicap-Accessible  
Bathrooms for Covello  
Senior Center



School Building Upgrades



Union Settlement  
Playground Renovations

Manhattan

Queens

Brooklyn

# District 8

## Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito's district is one of only two Council districts to span two boroughs, encompassing El Barrio/ East Harlem on the Upper East Side, as well as parts of the South Bronx neighborhoods of Highbridge, Longwood and Mott Haven.<sup>68</sup> Mark-Viverito was elected to the position of Speaker in early 2014, making her the first Puerto Rican and Latina to hold a citywide elected office.<sup>69</sup> In her new leadership role in the Council Speaker Mark-Viverito has taken steps to provide central City Council support for Participatory Budgeting—the first time such support has been provided in New York City.\*

District 8 underwent significant redistricting since the last PB cycle. While the South Bronx previously made up only a small portion of the district, redrawn district lines have cut out the West Side portion of the district and significantly expanded the included areas of the Bronx, with Bronx and Manhattan neighborhoods now making up a nearly equal share of the district. This redistricting has impacted neighborhood demographics and comparisons from this cycle of PB to Cycle 2 should be evaluated with these shifts in mind.

The majority (69%) of the district's population identifies as Hispanic or Latino/a and 26% as African-American or Black.† 6% of district residents identify as White, and 3% as Asian. The majority of district residents (55%) cite Spanish as their primary language, while 8% cite another non-English language and 37% cite English.

Speaker Mark-Viverito was among the four Council members to pilot participatory budgeting in 2011-12, so this was District 8's third cycle. As in previous PB cycles, District 8's targeted outreach, frequently in conjunction with community based organizations, led to the engagement of community members who do not often participate in politics. Immigrants, people with barriers to voting, non-English speakers, young people, low-income people, and people with lower levels of formal education all engaged in the PB process in District 8, many at higher levels than in past cycles. There was a small decrease in overall participation in District 8 this cycle, which may be related to

### District 8 Overall

#### Population:

166,398

#### Number of PB

#### Participants:

1,939

#### Neighborhoods:

Concourse

El Barrio/

East Harlem

Highbridge

Longwood

Mott Haven<sup>70</sup>

\* See the section of this report entitled "A New Political Landscape for PB" for more.

† 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.

the challenges of involving residents in the new portions of the district who were not aware of PB, and also highlights the need for ongoing outreach and engagement. The majority of the projects on District 8's ballot were for schools, housing and community facilities.

*"Participatory budgeting helps engage New Yorkers with the Council by empowering community residents to make decisions about how City funds are spent....I'm proud to have helped start this important initiative and encourage all New Yorkers in participating districts to cast their ballots for the projects they would like to see funded in the year ahead."*<sup>71</sup>

**(City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito)**

Voters in District 8 review the options on the ballot.



# Who Participated in District 8?

In District 8, PB Engaged 1,939 people, including: 223 neighborhood assembly participants, 50 budget delegates and 1,715 voters. Demographic information collected at key points during the process points towards several trends in participation, including the following:



## Race/Ethnicity

- A greater percentage of people who identified as Hispanic or Latino/a voted in PB this cycle (64%) compared with Cycle 2 (54%). This compares with 48% of 2013 local election voters who identify as Hispanic or Latino/a.
- People who identified as Black or African-American voted in PB at a lower percentage (25%) than 2013 local election voters (38%). This is a decrease in Black or African-American voters from Cycle 2 (31%).
- There was a small increase in the overall participation of PB voters of color (93%, compared to 90% last cycle).
- People of all races/ethnicities voted in PB at percentages similar to voting-age district residents.



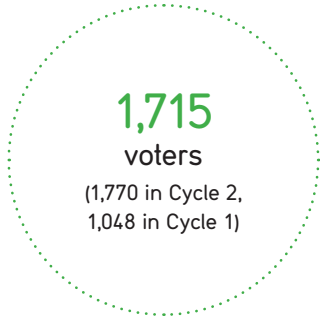
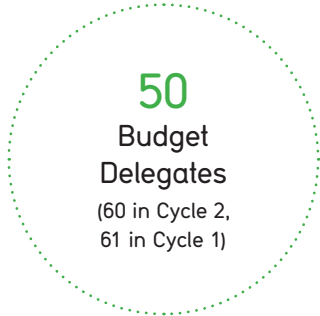
## Language and Country of Birth

- A greater percentage of people who listed Spanish as their primary language voted in PB this cycle compared to Cycle 2 (41% compared to 30%). This compares to 56% of voting-age district residents.
- A greater percentage of people who were born outside of the U.S. were PB voters this cycle (48%) compared with Cycle 2 (39%). This compares with 51% of voting-age district residents.



## Gender

- Women made up the majority of neighborhood assembly participants (60%) and PB voters (69%). This compares with 55% of voting-age district residents.

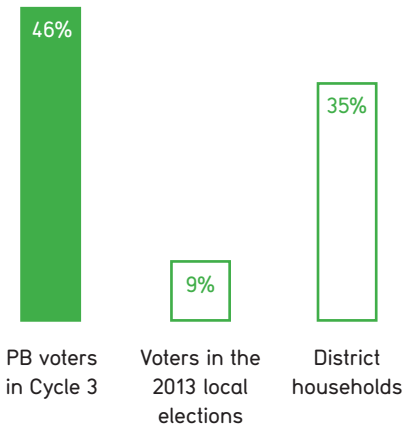


**64%** of PB voters identified as Hispanic or Latino/a. Compared to **54%** in Cycle 2 and **48%** in local elections.

## 41% of PB voters listed Spanish as their primary language.

Compared to 30% in Cycle 2 and 56% of voting-age district residents.

Voters reporting household incomes under \$15,000



## 35% of PB voters over the age of 25 reported having less than a high school diploma.

Compared to 18% in Cycle 2 and 38% of district residents.

- Women made up a greater percentage of PB voters (69%) than 2013 local election voters (63%).



### Income

- Nearly half of PB voters (46%) reported household incomes below \$15,000 (compared to 41% last cycle). This compares to 9% of 2013 local election voters, and 35% of households in the district.
- Nearly three-quarters (72%) of PB voters reported household incomes below \$35,000, compared with 68% last cycle. This compares to 86% of 2013 local election voters, and 63% of district residents.



### Age

- A greater percentage of seniors (65 years and older) voted in PB this cycle compared to Cycle 2 (27% in Cycle 3 compared to 19% in Cycle 2). This compares with 13% of PB-eligible residents\* and 28% of 2013 local election voters.
- A greater percentage of people under 25 years old participated in a neighborhood assemblies (32%) compared to PB voters (14%) and the PB-eligible district population (21%).



### Education

- A greater percentage of PB voters over the age of 25 reported having less than a high school diploma in this cycle (35%) compared to Cycle 2 (18%). This is comparable with the percentage of district residents who report having less than a high school diploma (38%).
- PB voters had similar levels of education to the general voting-age population of the district.

\* Note that for comparisons of age, the Census data used was for district residents ages 15 and above. This is the closest approximation of PB-eligible residents that is available.

# What were the civic engagement patterns of PB participants in District 8?

## Previous Engagement with PB

- 81% of PB voters had not participated in this cycle of PB prior to voting. This is comparable to the percentages of PB voters last cycle who only participated by voting.
- 43% of neighborhood assembly participants and 17% of PB voters had participated in a previous cycle of PB. Last cycle, 34% of neighborhood assembly participants and 21% of PB voters reported they had participated in the previous cycle.

## Voting Patterns and Barriers

- 26% of neighborhood assembly participants and 24% of PB voters were not eligible to vote in general elections. This compares with 11% of neighborhood assembly participants and 36% of voters last cycle.
- 14% of PB voters reported that they could not vote in regular elections because they were not U.S. citizens.

## Working with Others in the Community

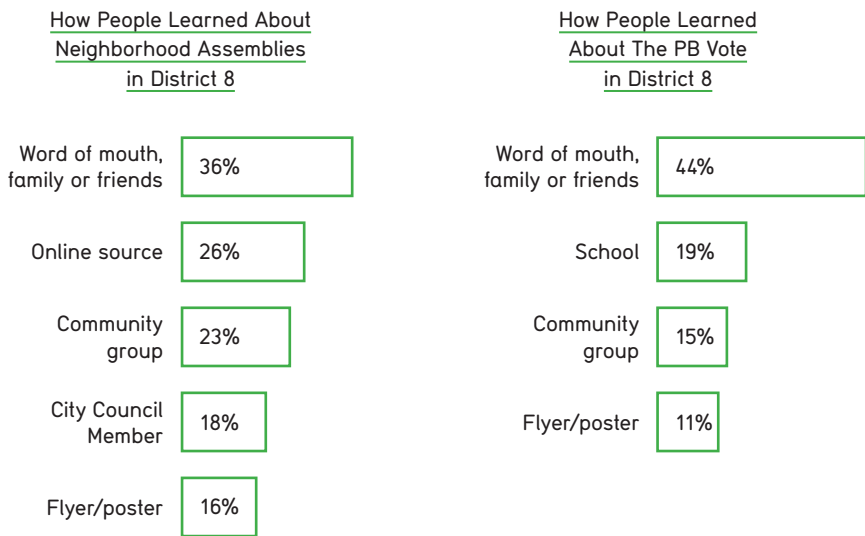
- 35% of neighborhood assembly participants and 73% of PB voters had never worked with others in their community to solve community problems before PB. This compares with 38% of neighborhood assembly attendees and 56% of PB voters last cycle who had not worked with others to solve community problems.

35% of neighborhood assembly participants and 73% of PB voters had never before worked with others in their community to solve community problems.

Compared to 38% of neighborhood assembly participants and 56% of PB voters in Cycle 2.

## How did people hear about participatory budgeting in District 8?

People in District 8 were most likely to hear about both neighborhood assemblies and the vote through word of mouth, family or friends, emphasizing the importance of social networks in getting out the word about PB. Community groups were also an important component of outreach efforts. A greater percentage of people at neighborhood assemblies reported hearing about PB through an online source or through their Council Member than did people at voting sites. Flyers and posters also helped raise awareness of the process. During the vote, many people also heard about PB through a school.\*



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

A sign advertises the District 8 PB vote at the Abraham House in the Bronx.





# What were the priorities of District 8 PB voters, what projects made it to the ballot, and what won the vote?

In September and October of 2013, District 8 held neighborhood assemblies that allowed community residents and stakeholders to propose projects to improve their neighborhoods.

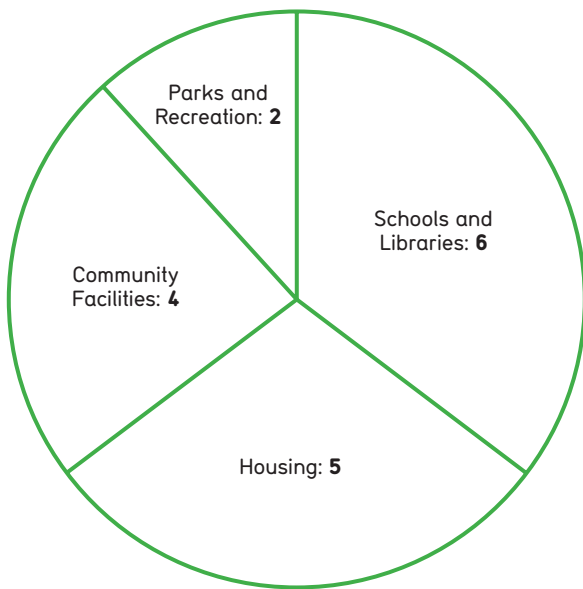
Following the neighborhood assemblies, participants volunteered to be budget delegates and formed committees to develop specific projects from the ideas proposed at the neighborhood assemblies. This work resulted in the District 8 PB ballot.

The following table shows the categories of projects that ended up on the ballot in District 8.



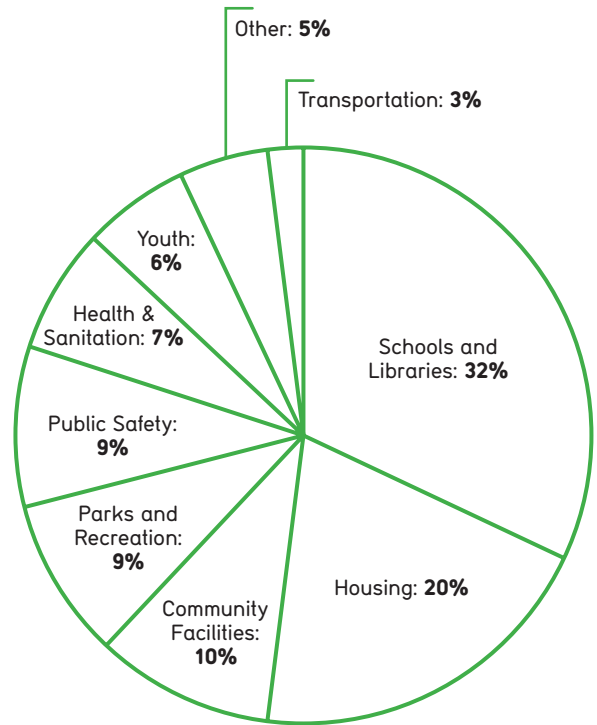
## Projects on District 8 Ballot

Total Number: 17  
Average Cost: \$266,706

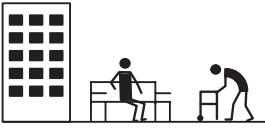


## Which category of project that they voted for was most important to District 8 PB voters?

(N=597)







### A Winning Project from District 8

Upgrades for Jefferson Senior Center  
\$450,000  
568 out of 1,715 votes

Nearly 1,000 East Harlem seniors will benefit from kitchen upgrades at Jefferson Senior Center, which serves approximately 500 homebound seniors as well as 400 who attend programming at the center, according to Budget Delegate Brittney Narcisse. "Our kitchen is very small and our population, our clientele, is growing, so we need to... renovate and expand our kitchen so we can accommodate the equipment that is needed to provide meals to our seniors," Narcisse says.<sup>72</sup> The kitchen will be reconfigured to create sufficient space for equipment and staff, establishing separate sinks for food preparation and cleanup, and creating space for a vegetable steamer which will provide a healthier cooking method for the seniors who are served.

The upgrades also include renovations to the entryway and front door for the center, making it welcoming, safe and ADA compliant.

## Winning Projects

### 5 Winning Projects: District 8

1,715 District 8 residents each voted for up to five of the seventeen projects on the ballot. The following table shows the projects that were selected.

<u>Project</u>	<u># of Voters</u>	<u>% of Voters</u>	<u>Cost</u>
School Building Upgrades	674	39%	\$285,000
Union Settlement Playground Renovations	594	35%	\$600,000
Upgrades for Jefferson Senior Center	568	33%	\$450,000
Handicap-Accessible Bathrooms for Covello Senior Center	553	32%	\$400,000
Playground Upgrade at Jefferson Houses	547	32%	\$250,000
<u>Total</u>			<u>\$1,985,000</u>

### Additionally Funded Projects

In addition to the winning projects, Speaker Mark-Viverito dedicated funds to the following projects which were 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>
Technology for Schools*	\$250,000
Security Cameras for Betances Houses	\$150,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$400,000</u>

\* Note that this was a portion of a larger project on the ballot: "Technology for Schools and Community Garden."

## Lessons Learned/ Summary from District 8

The data collected from PB participants in Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito's Council District 8 show the continued success of the district's concerted outreach efforts to people who are traditionally disenfranchised or underrepresented among voters in regular elections. The district saw an increase in lower-income participants, adults with less than a high school diploma, Spanish-speakers, people born outside the U.S., and people of color (though this includes both a decrease in PB voters identifying as Black or African-American and an increase in PB voters identifying as Hispanic or Latina/o). There was a slight decrease in participation in PB this cycle, pointing to the need for ongoing outreach and engagement efforts. Social networks (family, friends and word of mouth), community groups, schools, online engagement strategies, flyers and posters and the Council Member's office were all effective modes of outreach to District 8 residents.

Similar to last cycle, Speaker Mark-Viverito allocated significantly more to winning than the minimum of \$1 million, funding the five winning projects \$1,985,000 and two additional projects, which were on the ballot but did not win, for an additional \$400,000.



District 8 residents learn about projects at a Project Expo before the vote.

## District 8 Demographics

		<u>Census Data</u>	<u>Neighborhood Assemblies</u>	<u>Difference Neighborhood Assemblies</u>	<u>Budget Delegates</u>	<u>PB Voters</u>	<u>Diff. PB Voters</u>	<u>Voters in 2013 Local Elections</u>	<u>Difference between PB &amp; 2013 Voters</u>
		Age 18+	N=142	Years 2 & 3	N=51	N=685	Years 2 & 3		
<u>Gender</u> NA: N=139 BD: N=51 Voters: N=662	Female	55%	60%	-11%	73%	69%	+1%	63%	+6%
	Male	45%	38%	+9%	26%	30%	-2%	37%	-7%
	Other	N/A	1%	+0%	2%	1%	+1%	N/A	N/A
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> NA: N=137 BD: N=51 Voters: N=548	Asian	4%	0%	-4%	0%	2%	-1%	1%	+1%
	Black	26%	38%	-12%	43%	25%	-6%	38%	-13%
	Latino/a	63%	50%	+1%	47%	64%	+10%	48%	+16%
	White	7%	15%	+3%	12%	9%	-3%	12%	-3%
	Other	2%	7%	-5%	8%	4%	-1%	0%	+4%
<u>Highest Level of Education</u> NA: N=86 BD: N=37 Voters: N=534	Some H.S. or less	38%	14%	+6%	3%	5%	+17%	N/A	N/A
	H.S. Diploma/GED	27%	11%	-19%	11%	25%	-2%	N/A	N/A
	Some College	14%	17%	-3%	19%	12%	-8%	N/A	N/A
	Associate's Degree	6%	9%	+3%	5%	6%	+2%	N/A	N/A
	Bachelor's Degree	11%	20%	-1%	30%	12%	-9%	N/A	N/A
	Graduate Degree	6%	29%	+13%	32%	10%	-2%	N/A	N/A
<u>Household Income</u> NA: N=114 BD: N=46 Voters: N=518	Less than \$10,000	22%	27%	-1%	20%	29%	+8%	1%	+28%
	\$10,000-\$14,999	13%	12%	-6%	2%	17%	-3%	8%	+9%
	\$15,000-\$24,999	16%	7%	-4%	17%	15%	+2%	41%	-26%
	\$25,000-\$34,999	12%	13%	+3%	7%	11%	-3%	36%	-25%
	\$35,000-\$49,999	12%	17%	+6%	17%	12%	+0%	14%	-2%
	\$50,000-\$74,999	12%	15%	+6%	26%	8%	-1%	1%	+7%
	\$75,000-\$99,999	6%	6%	+0%	7%	4%	+1%	0%	+4%
	\$100,000-\$149,000	5%	2%	-3%	0%	2%	-4%	0%	+2%
\$150,000 or more	3%	1%	-2%	4%	2%	-1%	0%	+2%	
<u>Age</u> NA: N=136 BD: N=49 Voters: N=655	15 to 17 years	6%	14%	+9%	16%	6%	+3%	N/A	N/A
	18 to 19 years	4%	2%	-3%	2%	3%	-1%	4%	+4%
	20 to 24 years	11%	8%	-2%	6%	5%	+0%		
	25 to 34 years	21%	14%	+5%	20%	15%	-2%	11%	+4%
	35 to 44 years	17%	10%	-1%	16%	18%	-3%		
	45 to 54 years	16%	14%	+0%	18%	14%	-2%	56%	-1%
	55 to 64 years	12%	13%	+0%	12%	12%	-3%		
65+ years	13%	17%	-8%	6%	27%	+8%	28%	-1%	
<u>Language</u> NA: N=133 BD: N=51 Voters: N=637	English	36%	87%	+0%	96%	66%	+4%	N/A	N/A
	Spanish	56%	20%	+1%	6%	41%	+11%	N/A	N/A
	Other	8%	1%	-4%	2%	2%	-7%	N/A	N/A
<u>Country of Birth</u> NA: N=135 BD: N=49 Voters: N=623	United States	49%	81%	N/A	90%	52%	-10%	N/A	N/A
	Puerto Rico	14%	9%	N/A	6%	22%	+7%	N/A	N/A
	Other	37%	10%	N/A	4%	26%	+2%	N/A	N/A