

WEBVTT

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00:00:18.720 --> 00:00:21.279

Jessica Peyton / SPUR Public Programs: Hey, everyone, we'll get started in just a second.

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00:00:37.540 --> 00:00:50.890

Jessica Peyton / SPUR Public Programs: Okay, I think we'll go ahead and get started. Hi, everybody! My name is Jessica Peyton and I am one of Spurs public programming associates. Thank you so much for joining us today for this digital discourse. Many of you here are sperm members. So thank you for your support.

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00:00:50.910 --> 00:01:02.430

Jessica Peyton / SPUR Public Programs: for not a member. I encourage you to join to support spurs, ongoing work and using education, policy, analysis, and advocacy to make our cities and region more prosperous, sustainable, and equitable places to live.

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Jessica Peyton / SPUR Public Programs: Your financial support enables us to continue our work, including the hosting of programs like today. You'll find more information about membership online@spur.org slash joint.

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00:01:12.780 --> 00:01:27.809

Jessica Peyton / SPUR Public Programs: Our next digital discourse is scheduled for tomorrow January nineteenth, at 1230 Pm. It's called concrete building retrofits. San Francisco's next steps, and meeting seismic resilience goals. You can learn more and register at the link in the chat that will drop in just a second.

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00:01:28.720 --> 00:01:33.549

Jessica Peyton / SPUR Public Programs: Today's digital discourse is demystifying city spending through participatory budgeting

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00:01:33.760 --> 00:01:48.090

Jessica Peyton / SPUR Public Programs: city budgets can be obscure documents formed without much transparency, or public input while information about budgets is publicly available on government websites, outreach can be insufficient to help the general public understand how budgeting decisions impact their lives.

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00:01:48.140 --> 00:01:53.830

Jessica Peyton / SPUR Public Programs: Recently some cities have experimented with participatory budgeting to help bridge this information. Gap

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Jessica Peyton / SPUR Public Programs: Advocates, academics, and officials have all been engaged in this work at the local level to make democracy more inclusive. Today we'll discuss how participatory budgeting can empower people to come together and decide how to spend public money.

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00:02:06.460 --> 00:02:14.460

Jessica Peyton / SPUR Public Programs: And now i'd like to pass things over to Abi Myel Travis Hernandez, from Spurs Economic Justice team to introduce today's panelists.

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00:02:14.710 --> 00:02:16.260

Jessica Peyton / SPUR Public Programs: You can take it from here, Abby.

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00:02:17.730 --> 00:02:19.880

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: Thanks, Jessica.

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00:02:20.010 --> 00:02:23.509

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: Hi everyone. I might be my own. I'm. Spray's Economic Justice Policies

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00:02:23.940 --> 00:02:27.150

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: associate. Thanks. Everyone for joining us today.

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00:02:27.290 --> 00:02:34.600

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: I'm interested in participatory budgeting because growing up. It didn't know much about city or government budget process in general

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00:02:34.710 --> 00:02:40.919

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: formation seem distant and obscure, to be controlled by a few public officials. When you learn some cities in the United States and abroad

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00:02:41.070 --> 00:02:49.609

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: had a participatory budgeting, and once more into the team to be a process that included people like myself and my community Members Haven't always been included in these processes.

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Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: I'm. Lisa.

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Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: You part in hosting discussion for audience and to introduce you all to our great panelists today.

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Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: First, we have Sheree Davis. She is co-executive director of the Participatory Budgeting project.

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00:03:01.110 --> 00:03:09.489

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: So we joined pvp staff after nearly 15 years of service leadership and local government sure you'll be joining us just shortly a bit.

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00:03:10.020 --> 00:03:20.149

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: Next up is Amanda Hudson. Amanda is a co-founder and director of education and programs for participatory budgeting oregon she's recovering academic, popular educator, practitioner, play.

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00:03:20.350 --> 00:03:23.090

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: and thinks everyone gets better when you have the word participatory.

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00:03:23.790 --> 00:03:36.730

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: She has had the distinct honor of launching the first Pv. Process in the State of Oregon, and continues to advocate for Pbs first step in transforming our local democracies and spaces where ordinary people can exercise their civic and political agency tax systemic power.

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00:03:36.840 --> 00:03:39.970

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: and finally, your moderator, Holli, Russell, Gilman

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00:03:40.190 --> 00:03:47.839

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: Holly is a senior fellow in New America's political Reform program, and an affiliate fellow at Harvard's Ash Center for Democratic Governance innovation.

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00:03:47.900 --> 00:03:53.340

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: First book is democracy. We invented participatory budgeting and civic innovation in America.

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Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: Most recently Co- through civic power

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00:03:55.720 --> 00:03:58.269

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: rebuilding American democracy in an area of crisis.

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00:03:59.110 --> 00:04:05.159

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: So for the Q a. Section, we want this to be an interactive conversation, and finally spending as much time as possible, engaging if you all.

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Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: So I encourage you to use the chat box to share your thoughts with each other and the speakers.

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00:04:09.510 --> 00:04:17.019

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: I encourage you to submit any questions that you may have. By using Q. A. Panel you should appear as a button at the bottom of your screen, or the top of your screen on the mobile app.

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00:04:17.660 --> 00:04:22.230

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: Within the next few days we'll be showing a copy of the recording transcript and chat of everyone registered

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00:04:22.300 --> 00:04:23.969

Abimael Chavez-Hernandez: that i'll turn it over to you, Holly.

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00:04:25.340 --> 00:04:41.630

Hollie Russon Gilman: Wonderful! Well, thank you so much for being here. Thank you so much to our hosts, Jessica and Aubby and everyone else in the spur team and thank you all for taking

some time out of your lunch hour, or if you're on the East coast, your mid afternoon snack to talk about what I think is

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00:04:41.640 --> 00:04:56.599

Hollie Russon Gilman: one of the most promising and innovative and important innovations, and how we really reimagine we invigorate and build a new, a multi-racial multi of democracy for the twenty-first century. You know I first got interested in participatory budgeting

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Hollie Russon Gilman: over hearing a alderman from Chicago Joe more talk about learning about this process

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Hollie Russon Gilman: at the world, social justice, forum, and learning about sort of the way that democratic innovations could come from the global South. In this case portrait of Brazil and come to the United States, and

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Hollie Russon Gilman: I, you know, really looked at the way the process kind of expanded with the largest implementation in New York City.

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00:05:22.160 --> 00:05:34.350

Hollie Russon Gilman: It was just an incredible experience. Seeing people come together, work with their neighbors in new ways, work with their government, their elected officials in new ways, and really learn about the process of

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00:05:34.360 --> 00:05:49.390

Hollie Russon Gilman: what it means to, you know, actually take an idea and turn it into action, and really look at their community and think about what you think about inclusion, and think about participation in a very different way. And so i'm honored to be part of our esteemed

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00:05:49.420 --> 00:05:59.969

Hollie Russon Gilman: analysts today, and, as I mentioned it's going to be very informal. Please put your your questions in as they arise, and you know we really hope that this is alerting opportunity

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00:05:59.980 --> 00:06:10.910

Hollie Russon Gilman: for you all to like. Look beneath the hood and look at some of the most cutting edge practices, and we're so lucky to have Amanda and Sherry here with us today. So with that i'll turn it over to you, Amanda.

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00:06:14.200 --> 00:06:23.009

Amanda Hudson: Hi, everybody! My name is Amanda Hudson, as you. I'm sure you all heard. I'm just really excited and honored to be here to talk about

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Amanda Hudson: what we've been doing for the past several years, and learning about all the ways that participatory budgeting which I learned about is very exciting on paper, and then even more exciting when you actually get involved with it in real life.

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00:06:37.240 --> 00:06:50.980

Hollie Russon Gilman: so maybe we just jump right in. I mean, it'd be great to get kind of an overview of, you know the excitement at Oregon, and you know what you've been learning. I think this is such a pivotal moment right now with a lot of Federal dollars hitting communities, and

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Hollie Russon Gilman: if we can kind of look at Pv. As a model that others can learn from and emulate. And I love what you said right. It was an exciting idea, but even more exciting and practice.

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00:07:00.570 --> 00:07:19.410

Amanda Hudson: Yeah, absolutely so. Participatory budgeting Oregon we formed as a group of community members just really excited about this. This is the thing. People catch the Pb. Bug and you're suddenly like Wait. This is this process that's participatory. And are you kidding me? It has all this amazing research to support it. And the thing is, it's very

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00:07:19.420 --> 00:07:35.509

Amanda Hudson: exciting, because it can fit into existing models. And so I think oftentimes folks like me, who are very into systems change. We have this question of revolution or reform. Do we like build something completely new? Or do we like, try and fix our systems? And I do really appreciate the participatory budgeting

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Amanda Hudson: can be this like revolving door between those 2 concepts like, Sometimes you're pushing things, and you're trying to break them apart, because sometimes systems are broken and other times it can just fit right in. And you don't have to worry about that instability of starting from scratch, so we found it in 2,018, after holding a very large community Forum.

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Amanda Hudson: If you were Sherry Davis as well.

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Amanda Hudson: Participatory budgeting organ folks are. So i'm sorry. Participatory budgeting project folks are so amazing at putting out accessible documents for folks like us who are like, how do you start TV in your community. And so we literally pulled up the playbooks that they offered. And we're like, okay, we're doing a forum.

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00:08:16.540 --> 00:08:21.449

Amanda Hudson: even in a progressive city like Portland. There's still a lot of

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00:08:21.500 --> 00:08:25.730

Amanda Hudson: talk that sounds about being participatory, but not a lot of real models you can point to.

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Amanda Hudson: And so we put people together, and people are overwhelming like the like. Why, Aren't, we doing this? This makes so much sense. This is so aligned with the values of being specifically engaged, and so the overwhelming interest from the elected and the community leaders and community members who attended our forum. We're like, Yes, do this thing.

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00:08:44.660 --> 00:09:14.619

Amanda Hudson: So we decided to form as an organization, because the the part I will tell you from the top is this: isn't a good hobby Project this isn't something that you can just kind of like, oh, i'm gonna like, Get back to that. This is a a movement. So this is building something, and it takes You are going against the system that is built to not be transparent, that is not participatory, that is not accessible to the average person like I. I tend to have a little bit too much college in my past, and I still cannot understand these processes.

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Amanda Hudson: People ask me how Budget works, and i'm like, Hmm. Great question. I have no idea, because I didn't read the 1,400 page document that they just put out. So it's really

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00:09:24.390 --> 00:09:42.760

Amanda Hudson: exciting to have formed an organization around this, and keeping the momentum going, because you really do have to continue to educate and advocate and build a mass movement to change our relationship with how our governments make decisions currently without us. But we have this model where we can actually do it in partnership.

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00:09:42.930 --> 00:10:01.670

Hollie Russon Gilman: I'll stop there because i'm sure you're starting us. That's fantastic, Amanda Sherry. Welcome. We're so honored to have you, and you know, please just dive right in. I mean you've been spearheading. This work across the country would love to hear. You know what you're excited about with Pb. And we're we're still happy to have you. Thank you.

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Shari Davis: Holly and Amanda. It's a pleasure to be here Big shout out to spur for having me, and

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Shari Davis: again my name is Sherry Davis. The pronouns that I use with them, and she her I'm. Talking all from Oglin, California. And so it's interesting to think about participatory budgeting as a a tool that can be used and is used across the country, and maybe just to remind folks a little bit about participatory budgeting in the United States. It's it's only about 13 Years new in the Us. Compared to what we see globally

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Shari Davis: and so participatory. Budgeting as a practice is over 30 years old globally. But in the United States. We're seeing this growing effort around participatory budgeting that's specifically connected to people power.

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00:10:54.040 --> 00:11:06.079

Shari Davis: racial equity and opportunities for folks not only to to reimagine but reclaim what democracy is to actually be a part of practicing democracy. And

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00:11:06.240 --> 00:11:11.760

Shari Davis: I was just in a conversation before I joined you all where someone said to me, well

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Shari Davis: can participatory budgeting feel boring, and the I. I laughed a little bit because I get this question a lot right there. There's a lot of syllables in participatory budgeting. But it's actually liberating and exciting to be able to name for yourself and with your community members, what your ideas are, what you need to speak to what's working, what's not working, how we develop a proposal together that works to turn to your neighbor and say, how do we refine this?

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00:11:41.740 --> 00:11:50.929

Shari Davis: How do we refine this for real? It is iterative. It's how government should work right, and at the end of it it doesn't feel

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Shari Davis: boring. It. It feels energizing and exciting. It. It offers a new lens on what government can be, what it should be. And and more importantly, it gives everyone a chance to actually make a decision together. And I think about that piece of this a lot. When we talk about local government. When we talk about civic engagement, we don't actually have many spaces to practice decision making together, and that is a

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00:12:20.010 --> 00:12:24.729

Shari Davis: distinct part of participatory budgeting that makes it unique and powerful.

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00:12:26.940 --> 00:12:30.980

Hollie Russon Gilman: I mean, that is fantastic. Yeah, I think we both were like boring.

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00:12:31.050 --> 00:12:47.820

Hollie Russon Gilman: Budgeting is never boring. I mean, it's always exciting and dynamic, or even you know, if it's challenging. It's real challenges. It's real power on the table. It's real decision making Amanda Curious Your thoughts reactions. I mean, I think that's so interesting. Sharing.

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Amanda Hudson: I do love that I often will tell people like I didn't it wasn't budgeting that called me into this work, because I do think

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00:12:55.450 --> 00:13:08.790

Amanda Hudson: conventional budgeting is absolutely. It's not boring it's mind numbing. It's so complicated. It's so overwhelming, and i'm a person who can get lost in the details. But you do need to invest, like the sunk cost and just

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00:13:08.800 --> 00:13:19.990

Amanda Hudson: understanding a whole nother language, and the more suspicious part of me might wonder if that was done on purpose at a point, but like, oh, well, we'll just take it from here because we're the spreadsheet masters.

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Amanda Hudson: And so I do. Yeah. The active participatory budgeting is absolutely amazing. And when i'm talking about it with folks it takes like 2 s for them to be like, oh, yeah, money.

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Amanda Hudson: and like my priorities and things and investment in my community. Of course I have a say, and of course I want to say something and and how you actually have a process. But I don't have to go and commit like 30 h a week of my time on just unpaid, showing up to testify. And then they don't even listen to what I actually say like that's that's the really best thing about my job is to be like

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00:13:53.400 --> 00:13:59.760

Amanda Hudson: Here's like a real thing when I work with searing committee members there are in committee. There's a point where they get really into it, and then they go.

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00:13:59.840 --> 00:14:10.629

Amanda Hudson: Wait! What are you gonna do with everything we're saying right now, like, where is the real decision making power? Because there's that point where people pull back because they're like they've used to being burned. They're used to

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00:14:10.730 --> 00:14:35.450

Amanda Hudson: their wishes just being window dressing. And so the whole difference here is that No, no, the binding decision making car lands with you all, and that is the hugeest difference, and people get it. And that's where people just want to stay more involved. And then they're like, Well, it's advocate. Where do we need? Need? I want to testify. I want to be here. I want to go to the things, and we don't have to recruit once somebody is in it. They're like, this is different. And this is transformative. More, please. And thank you.

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00:14:37.530 --> 00:14:40.219

Hollie Russon Gilman: Yeah, absolutely. Sherry: jump. Jump in.

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00:14:40.990 --> 00:15:00.769

Shari Davis: Yeah, I'm: trying to think about what to share, that that Amanda Hasn't right? And and there is this point when people engage in participatory budgeting for the first time where something changes, and that's not just about my opinion, right? I think this has been written about at this point

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Shari Davis: a lot where community members, when they engage in participatory budgeting, they report being more likely to vote in a local or national election.

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00:15:10.520 --> 00:15:38.759

Shari Davis: they report being more likely to step into a city owned or government owned building. They're more likely to volunteer in their community, people report being more likely to engage in political life overall. And I think it's it's interesting to think about all of the ways that folks may feel jaded or not welcomed, or other in local government or or at government at large.

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00:15:38.770 --> 00:15:41.289

Maybe there are individuals that have had

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00:15:41.500 --> 00:16:11.280

Shari Davis: a really bad relationship with government. I think about folks that engage in participatory budgeting that are currently are formally incarcerated. I think about folks that are too young to vote in local and national elections. I think about single parents who have a really hard time having democracy meet them where they are. And then I think, about their first instance with participatory budgeting. Whether or not they had an opportunity to design a process.

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00:16:11.320 --> 00:16:41.269

Shari Davis: whether or not they had an opportunity to suggest an idea that wasn't just them talking and in a consultant fashion, but actually with them, saying, here's an idea that i'm putting forward that can be tracked transparently. It can be developed into a concrete proposal, and I could see it on the ballot, or I can understand where it was combined, or why it wasn't eligible. It's a very different experience. And then I think about folks that actually have an opportunity to vote

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Shari Davis: and a Pb. Process. And one of the things that's that's really transformational about that is again, this is about democracy meeting people where they are. This is a democratic program that is designed by people, and, unlike a traditional, local or national election.

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00:16:57.160 --> 00:17:16.830

Shari Davis: A. Pv. Vote typically last for a couple of weeks, and the polling locations are different than what we usually see right? We're talking about folks at the margins really being able to set the center. And that's where polling locations are, and they're unique in every community. And so imagine being a person that feels

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00:17:17.109 --> 00:17:47.069

Shari Davis: locked out of government decisions, Going to see your kid or your friends, kid play Friday night lights. And while you're there you're able to determine how tax dollars should be spent that's not a typical instance of of local government. And so just just picking up on on kind of what Amanda is putting down. There is a real shift in change in experience and the experience of democracy when people have a chance to engage with community led to

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00:17:47.080 --> 00:17:48.030

decision making.

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00:17:49.600 --> 00:18:01.629

Hollie Russon Gilman: That's fantastic, I. There is a question in the chat that piggyback that I wanted to sort of touch on with both of you. Maybe you know, we were talking earlier about sort of this moment Federal funding kind of this unique moment.

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00:18:01.690 --> 00:18:12.889

Hollie Russon Gilman: I think this is such a powerful opportunity to say like, let's do things differently. Let's really think about inclusion and equity differently, and participatory processes. I'd be really curious to hear from both of you

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00:18:13.060 --> 00:18:32.189

Hollie Russon Gilman: some TV examples that you're really energized about right now. Sherry, I love what you were saying about, You know. Maybe. Where have you found in roads to people who otherwise feel like their voice doesn't matter? They feel really marginalized from these processes, and one of the questions was. Have you worked with Oakland's 2,023 budget?

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Hollie Russon Gilman: And then there's another question around

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Hollie Russon Gilman: resources. And Obviously Gp has so many of them. So i'm i'm really excited to hear from both of you on these topics.

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00:18:42.290 --> 00:18:43.950

Shari Davis: Yeah.

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00:18:43.960 --> 00:19:03.419

Shari Davis: So I love talking about Oakland right? And there's a couple of cool things about Oakland. So Oakland was the first instance of participatory budgeting with Federal funds, Community Development block Grant funds that 2 districts were able to run a participatory budgeting process and make some decisions around. And that happened

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00:19:03.430 --> 00:19:31.049

Shari Davis: somewhere around 2,016, 2,017. And so we haven't seen participatory budgeting in the most recent budget, or in parts of that in the most recent budget in Oakland. But we are seeing, and one of my co-executive directors at the participatory budgeting project. Christina de Leon has been doing a lot of work in Oakland, really thinking about the intersections of racial justice

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00:19:31.060 --> 00:19:51.289

Shari Davis: and government, and how participatory budgeting can be used as a tool to divest away from systems of harm and really give community voice and investing in community led solutions. Those conversations are happening in Oakland, and a variety of places across the country. One of them that that gets me the most excited

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00:19:51.550 --> 00:20:21.410

Shari Davis: is actually the work that's happening in Seattle, Washington right now, and so many of the folks that are listening, and on this call, or we'll listen, and on this call we'll, we'll think back to the uprisings that we saw across the country in response to the murder of George Floyd and Brianna Taylor and and so many others that were really black people impacted disproportionately, harmfully by an oppressive system. And so in Seattle, Washington

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Shari Davis: we're seeing a participatory budgeting process to the tune of 30 million dollars that includes some divestment from the local police department and space for community members to articulate and invest in alternatives to safety. That Don't include traditional policing, and one of the things that's really cool about this

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Shari Davis: is before even embarking on a participatory budgeting process. There was community Action Research, led by the Black Brilliance Project and many others on the ground

in Seattle to understand what's working, what's not working to do a little bit of an audit, but an audit that honors lived. Experience from the people that live in that place.

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00:21:02.240 --> 00:21:27.060

Shari Davis: So the process is really set up to make really good sound decisions. Not only are they fiduciary, responsible decisions. But these are decisions that actually address root causes that can be documented with data that comes from people. And so that's one example of participatory budgeting that that i'm really really excited about right now, and the other one that i'll just give very quickly

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00:21:27.250 --> 00:21:56.140

Shari Davis: is around some of the work that's happening in in La, and I don't know if there are folks that are familiar with the La process. La Repair is the name of the process, and they talk about these areas or communities of concern. But one of the pieces of the participatory budgeting process in La that is really special is that it includes reparations or reparations frame right? And so repair is an acronym. And there's a lot of letters in there, but one of them

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00:21:56.150 --> 00:22:16.200

Shari Davis: is reparations. And so this process is actually about healing and acknowledgment, and giving folks impacted folks as an opportunity to name what investments they need for healing right in order to repair from some of the harm that they have experienced, and that generations before them have experienced.

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00:22:19.510 --> 00:22:29.149

Hollie Russon Gilman: That's fabulous, Amanda. Do you want to share a little bit about Oregon, and then I would also be curious if you are seeing any sort of Federal dollars being used to Pb. And innovative ways.

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00:22:30.510 --> 00:22:51.989

Amanda Hudson: Yes, absolutely. We, As I mentioned we were very much inspired. In fact, our organization was founded at a conference that Pvp. Hosted. I always love to mention that to sherry of like we. It's this beautiful coming together. It's like a bunch of local Portland folks to meet in a different state. So we have very much. We we love. Taking all these case studies

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00:22:52.000 --> 00:23:12.789

Amanda Hudson: and using them as a little bit of a prod to be to our local, we love to be like, so we're the only major West Coast City. Hasn't done it yet. So yes, we love Seattle. We love la, we love to just point to be like hey, Portland. Come on, let's do this already. But the 2 processes. So the the city itself hasn't we're definitely advocating. We've had some charter reform conversations. But

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Amanda Hudson: we have. Oh, the main process that we are first official, one after years and years of advocating is actually with Arpa money. So American Rescue Plan Act funds came through, and Don't not sure how familiar everybody is with this, but it's

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00:23:26.570 --> 00:23:40.770

Amanda Hudson: billions of dollars, trillions, I mean. But each State gets so much money, and it just came in so fast and so one of the moments that we had, through lots of conversations and just years of relationship building because we tried to not

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00:23:40.780 --> 00:23:52.870

Amanda Hudson: come from this like white, save your kind of approach of like. We have the answer. Everybody just do, Pv. And all your problems are fixed. We have a believe that's an authentic relationship building approach with community based organs who have been doing this work

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00:23:52.880 --> 00:24:15.719

Amanda Hudson: much longer than we've been around generational work to really come together and represent the needs of their communities. So we've done it through partnership. So like, hey? We have this tool. We think it's Rad here some research. Why, but do you see this as being something that your organization, your constituents, would get behind? Do you see this as having a larger voice, and how investment is directed into your communities or not being directed. Let's be honest.

112

00:24:15.830 --> 00:24:19.150

Amanda Hudson: So that's how we have just been building for years

113

00:24:19.170 --> 00:24:23.530

Amanda Hudson: with the Arpa money coming in so fast. We were like, Where is community voice in this

114

00:24:23.540 --> 00:24:39.310

Amanda Hudson: where you're saying that this is supposed to be for Covid relief and recovery. But how? How are we actually having folks inform this investment, and not just continuing to just pile more money into systems where they're like. It's such an indirect correlation for how this is actually helping us recover from Covid.

115

00:24:39.320 --> 00:24:46.610

Amanda Hudson: So we were able to have 3 legislators from the organs, Senate and House the in the State district

116

00:24:46.620 --> 00:25:01.119

Amanda Hudson: gave us money to do a youth based process in a part of the Portland Metro area. It's. We made a strong case for this Portland. Like many West Coast cities, many major cities in the Us. It has had just 1015 years of gentrification.

117

00:25:01.220 --> 00:25:08.899

Amanda Hudson: skyrocketing, housing costs, and just disproportionate displacement affecting our black and brown communities. And our youth

118

00:25:08.910 --> 00:25:29.319

Amanda Hudson: Oregon has this. We're known as being one of the wideest cities, but that's actually really obscures in our races that we have major changing demographics. If you look generationally, if you look at folks under 18, it's a completely different story. And so our point is, how about we actually have youth who are going to be affected by the decisions we're making today, and

119

00:25:29.330 --> 00:25:46.459

Amanda Hudson: pretty much have no legal right to say what they want. So why, Don't, we build a process where they're actually investing, and I got You have strong opinions about how Covid affected them, because I could not imagine what it was like to be in school and to deal with all those things in the middle of this global pandemic. So

120

00:25:46.690 --> 00:25:49.740

Amanda Hudson: we were able to get the money set aside, and our point was.

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00:25:49.830 --> 00:25:53.149

Amanda Hudson: Pb. Is an actual way where you can get community input.

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00:25:53.170 --> 00:26:19.929

Amanda Hudson: So that's our first process. We are still in the middle of it. I I don't want to give anybody a false impression that this work is easy, and that you can just be like. Oh, let's just do Pb: Tomorrow it's taking years. It's had lots of heartbreak of, you know. You go, and you think you're going to get it, and then something changes somebody doesn't get re-elected. Some partnership falls through. I'm. Sure that's similar to much public and civic engagement work. But it definitely takes time because

123

00:26:19.940 --> 00:26:35.489

Amanda Hudson: this is a long haul work. This is systems change work, this Isn't just having a shiny new pilot. This is actually the stated goal is to change the relationship of people and their government. So our I'm. Very excited about the Federal money. With our our process we just closed Idea collection.

124

00:26:35.500 --> 00:26:55.139

Amanda Hudson: and we are moving into our project development phase of the the thing about just very much those high, level statistics that Sherry and I am mentioning. It's just bearing in real life. Our steering committee. This is all ran by non-profits, because legislative, they don't do direct services. So we don't have legislative staff really helping us.

125

00:26:55.150 --> 00:27:10.929

Amanda Hudson: You know their sponsor, and they show up but their job isn't to deliver services. So we're creating a nonprofits to carry out these projects, and that has a lot of bureaucracy that we have to create from scratch. But the interest, even with all these technical design complications.

126

00:27:10.940 --> 00:27:28.779

Amanda Hudson: we have youth aged 13 to 25, we had 47 youth applied to be on our steering committee an overwhelming representation disproportionate overrepresented of black and brown, indigenous youth, low income immigrant refugee queer youth, really folks who have

127

00:27:28.820 --> 00:27:48.220

Amanda Hudson: historically and currently even shaped by the oppressive systems coming in and saying like, actually, we want to build a more just and transformative, a big focus on rest and restoration, and really their values have, like changed the whole fill and culture of the process. And it continues to just bring out. Folks who

128

00:27:48.230 --> 00:28:05.870

Amanda Hudson: have never been involved in a community issue don't have a great relationship with authority figures in their life, but the trust that has been built because of just coming for me like No, this is your process. How how do we help your vision? Come through it's it's transformative, and I've been working with these youth now for over a year, and

129

00:28:06.360 --> 00:28:17.349

Amanda Hudson: I I am so continually impressed with the leadership and the development and just their voice, that they have brought into multiple spaces, going on to get other jobs showing up and testifying.

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00:28:17.450 --> 00:28:35.450

Amanda Hudson: I could go on forever about how cool they are, and we have an also second process that we're working on with the State, with Oregon health authority which is really about creating community led data systems. And so those are ours, our 2 processes running right now that I it's the years and years and years of work to get us to this point.

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00:28:35.580 --> 00:28:44.769

Amanda Hudson: and i'm really hopeful that Oregon is at at a turning point where we are going to start to see participatory budgeting in every level and every region of our state

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00:28:47.450 --> 00:29:04.490

Hollie Russon Gilman: that's fantastic. Well, this has been such an inspiring conversation that I think we do right in. So maybe we're going to take a pause. We have a lot of amazing questions. Thank you all for putting them in the the Q. And a. And really just take a step back. You know. How do you run this process. What does it look like?

133

00:29:04.520 --> 00:29:20.849

Hollie Russon Gilman: Talking a little bit about the different stakeholders thinking about? Sort of? There was a question around, both explaining it, but then also sort of how would community organizations get involved, and who are like the different stakeholders in the different process? Sure, i'll turn it to you. And then, Amanda.

134

00:29:21.010 --> 00:29:50.999

Shari Davis: Yeah, Well, maybe let's just back up. We start diving and talking about participatory budgeting and government transformation, and all of the things that that come out of this, and I kind of think that's the way to have this conversation right to talk about like. Why are we even talking about this thing? And then oh, by the way, let's just clarify exactly how so participatory budgeting is a democratic process where community members make direct decisions about how public funds typically tax dollars are spent or invested

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00:29:51.010 --> 00:29:55.650

Shari Davis: in their community, and so generally how it works is a

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00:29:55.660 --> 00:30:15.370

Shari Davis: agency municipality. Local elected official confirms that they're going to do participatory budgeting, and identifies what the pot of funds will be. It could be like what Amanda said Arpa funds. It could be a discretionary fund that a city counselor has. It could be a portion of a budget like what we see in

137

00:30:15.600 --> 00:30:44.089

Shari Davis: Paris, France, where the mayor puts up 5 of her budget, which ends up being over a 100 millionneuros for a participatory budgeting process. It could be by topical area, right? It could be a portion of a school or school district budget. It could be related to a specific area in the budget, and we carve out a space to make decisions together.

138

00:30:44.100 --> 00:31:14.089

Shari Davis: Once that piece happens. Then we're able to design a process that meets people where they are, and so that doesn't mean that, like me and a couple of people in a closed door design a participatory budgeting process. But instead, community members come together, folks that can be ambassadors of community. And so, if you want a process where, formally or currently incarcerated people are at the center. Then you probably need to have folks that have that lived experience on the advisory team or the steering

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00:31:14.100 --> 00:31:16.110

Shari Davis: for the Pb. Process.

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00:31:16.230 --> 00:31:32.449

Shari Davis: Once the steering committee comes together, their job is to write the rules that govern the process to really share with folks how it's going to work. What the timeline of the process is, what eligibility, criteria is, what the purpose of this is, and so on.

141

00:31:32.580 --> 00:32:02.529

Shari Davis: Once that rule book is written and shared in community, we move on to the next phase of Pb. Which is one of my favorites. It's idea collection. This is where we collect hundreds, sometimes thousands of ideas on what could happen in a community, and we challenge people to be iterative right to think about what they need, what they've seen, to listen to the ideas that other people have maybe brought forward at a community event or space, and then add on to it, or bring forward really thinking about what their lived. Experience

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00:32:02.540 --> 00:32:10.529

Shari Davis: has been, and with their expertise ways in which they can make their community better or improve outcomes for people in a community.

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00:32:10.770 --> 00:32:17.359

Shari Davis: Once we've collected all of those ideas together, we're able to move into my favorite part of Pb.

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00:32:17.460 --> 00:32:25.929

Shari Davis: And this is controversial. This is the proposal development, part of participatory budgeting. This is the part of Pb. That requires the most time.

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00:32:25.940 --> 00:32:39.619

Shari Davis: This is where community members come together, and they look at all of those ideas that have come in alongside government or agency staff. Right then they prioritize those ideas based on usually need

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00:32:39.840 --> 00:33:06.590

Shari Davis: feasibility and impact on equity. Once all of the ideas have been prioritized, those budget delegates or change agents. The folks working on proposal development will then take them the highest priority ideas, so that we're spending the most energy, the most community energy working on the ideas that are likely to be the most needed, the most feasible, and that are going to have the most impact on equity, to really vet them.

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00:33:06.600 --> 00:33:07.810

Shari Davis: to make sure that

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00:33:08.060 --> 00:33:13.919

Shari Davis: they have been. Their appropriate research has been done on these projects that they're

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00:33:14.180 --> 00:33:44.100

Shari Davis: they're permissible, right? We can't do things with government funds that are not illegal, and so we have to make sure that they fall within particular guidelines, and that's where agency staff and their expertise becomes really important. Once the ballot has been finalized, all of the projects have been researched and vetted, and i'm not talking about a 17 page document that's really difficult to read and understand. Most. Pv. Proposals are one to 2 pages, and they're written very clear

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00:33:44.110 --> 00:34:13.770

Shari Davis: in the same language by community members for community members. When the ballot is finalized we move into most People's favorite part of Pb. Which is the vote. This vote that meets people where they are, and I mentioned this before. Unlike a traditional local or

national election, the Pb vote is set up a little bit different. It usually expand. It extends beyond one week, so we usually see Pv votes last between sometimes 2 and 4 weeks. We see some really unique

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00:34:13.780 --> 00:34:22.210

Shari Davis: polling locations that come forward from the steering committee or community members to really name where people are and where we need engagement.

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00:34:22.420 --> 00:34:30.889

Shari Davis: And then, after the votes are collected, and we try to reduce barriers, so that we can see the most participation from people that

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00:34:30.900 --> 00:35:00.869

Shari Davis: traditionally are usually left out of voting. And so, for example, in Malayo, California, the first instance of city-wide Pb. In the United States, one in 5 voters were ineligible to vote in local and national elections. So 20 of the voters couldn't vote in national elections, but they could vote in participatory budgeting, and that was really important right for them to be able to shape their community around them. Once the vote is over, we move into the implementation phase. This is where the projects that got them.

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00:35:00.880 --> 00:35:03.530

Most votes are actually implemented

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00:35:03.540 --> 00:35:33.000

Shari Davis: transparently. So community can see that we evaluate the process. And then we begin the design phase again. One of the things that's beautiful about participatory budgeting is that when a community or agency adopts Pb. It's usually not a one off process. This marks a change in the way that we do business right. This marks a change in the way that democracy is practiced in that space. And so let me just pause for a little bit, because I think Amanda has some special experts.

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00:35:33.010 --> 00:35:49.109

Shari Davis: Talk about how folks win Pb. Processes, and how we maybe convince some skeptics that participatory budgeting is not only important, and even though it takes a lot of time to do it's actually essential to do community engagement this way.

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00:35:50.660 --> 00:35:52.720

Amanda Hudson: Thanks. Yeah. I

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00:35:52.910 --> 00:36:09.900

Amanda Hudson: completely agree with the amount of energy that it takes. I'm. Looking at some of the questions, particularly the folks who are talking about in Oakland. And here I have the question of how do you? How does it come about implementing? And that working on the ground can be really rough. So I,

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00:36:09.910 --> 00:36:13.910

Amanda Hudson: Our organization, has spent years talking about this.

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00:36:13.920 --> 00:36:37.410

Amanda Hudson: and not having something to point to in our own community. And that has been a deep challenge, because it can be very abstract, and it's, even though we have all these great models. If you Google participatory budgeting a beautiful dem like a a diagram, will come up telling you the phases, and it's well researched. It's it's a real thing. I don't have to like. Convince people of it's legitimacy or existence. But however so many times

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00:36:37.420 --> 00:36:57.339

Amanda Hudson: they're like, yeah, yeah, that's cool, and then the moment you keep it a little deeper, they're like. But wait what like, and it just seems really hard to like. Nail down this abstract concept of this is just a series of meetings where folks show up. We're just building containers for people to come together, and this might feel strange, because we usually don't, do we? So many bureaucrats

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00:36:57.350 --> 00:36:59.530

Amanda Hudson: and elected officials think

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00:36:59.560 --> 00:37:16.999

Amanda Hudson: deeply, but democracy ends up representation like, but you elected me to do the thing. Why, why are all these people here? And so what we've done is early advice we got from just practitioners in different cities where Don't just have this be a political or a partisan project?

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00:37:17.010 --> 00:37:30.149

Amanda Hudson: We, you know it's essential to build relationships with elected officials with the folks who currently have their hands on the money, of course, like we can't, you know, get these processes Green lit, and actually happening until we get a pot of money.

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00:37:30.420 --> 00:37:48.770

Amanda Hudson: However, if you just do it as that, then you are dependent on political whim. You're dependent on people not getting re-elected or somebody coming, in or it being tied to somebody who maybe has some public public facing crisis. Where are them? Pv. Gets, you know, brought down because it was their project. So

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00:37:48.780 --> 00:37:54.439

Amanda Hudson: from the beginning we invested in community like relationships. Who are the folks on the ground who have been doing this work

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00:37:54.450 --> 00:38:09.899

Amanda Hudson: once again. As I said, early Don't come in like we figured it out. And hey, we've solved everything. But let's build authentic relationships and and coalitions, and particularly I'm. Sure this is everywhere but nonprofit landscape in oregon is dense. There's a lot of us.

168

00:38:09.910 --> 00:38:28.789

Amanda Hudson: This happens in States that have, you know, traditionally underinvested in the central services. You have nonprofits who spring up to do all this work that has to get done, and you know we all have our own agendas, and we are all fighting for funding, and you Don't, really have to work against this system that it hits us as competitors instead of collaborators.

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00:38:28.800 --> 00:38:49.400

Amanda Hudson: But once again we want to do this work differently. So building authentic relationships, and then working in through the actual communities these folks serve. I don't always look like the communities i'm working with. I and I want to be really aware of that that we we do on our lived experience, and that I shouldn't be the spokesperson for all communities. So it's about

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00:38:49.550 --> 00:38:57.920

Amanda Hudson: taking a support role and elevating the people who have not been included in traditional decision making spaces. And so for us it's education.

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00:38:57.930 --> 00:39:17.800

Amanda Hudson: and I'm. An unapologetic fan of a popular education method of bringing play and games and spaces of humanity, or in celebration together. So our events are fun. There is food there. We pay people. If you're on a steering committee, you get paid, and you get paid a good wage because this is work, and you're going to get, you know, gift cards incentives because

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00:39:17.810 --> 00:39:32.320

Amanda Hudson: people want to be there. We just have to make it human and not have this huge emotional cost, because we know that the burnout from doing work like this is very real. It's meaningful, but that doesn't get you through the massive amount of time and energy it sucks from your soul.

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00:39:32.590 --> 00:39:44.989

Amanda Hudson: So it's about building that community. And then, when the political things come up, those of you who work in these spaces know that the timeline can be just unmanageable. It's like yesterday. A decision was due here. What do you have to say? So? Instead of

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00:39:45.000 --> 00:40:13.579

Amanda Hudson: having that, you know the tail wagging the dog where we're chasing every testimony, date, or every possible meeting. We're building a long term sustainable movement, and that our people all show up together as a coalition, and the best thing currently, Portland has been going through a charter reform, and we've been pushing really hard to get Pv. Baked into our charter, and because of these years of work we don't have to be like, okay staff members and program and our volunteers. We have other organizations coming to us, saying: this is a great tool, and they show up, and and

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00:40:13.630 --> 00:40:34.130

Amanda Hudson: that we're reaping that this massive, you know partnership is seen to benefit everybody. It's not just one person driving the agenda. I hope that that work continues, and so that it will be less of just this unsustainable, my life energy trying to push against a machine that doesn't want to change into actually community just asking and showing up.

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00:40:34.140 --> 00:40:37.099

Amanda Hudson: And i'm i'm really optimistic that we'll continue to have them.

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00:40:39.580 --> 00:40:46.780

Hollie Russon Gilman: I mean, this is such a rich conversation. I'm going to try to synthesize some of these amazing questions and throw them back at at both of you.

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00:40:46.790 --> 00:41:00.140

Hollie Russon Gilman: And I think one of the things that you mentioned, Amanda that I thought was interesting was sort of the containers for these spaces, but really containers that are tied to decision making and tied to power and tied to some things on the table.

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00:41:00.270 --> 00:41:13.909

Hollie Russon Gilman: One of our questions is about: Are there P. Processes that Aren't tied to binding decisions. Some that are more consultative ends up being recommendations. There's another set of questions around.

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00:41:13.920 --> 00:41:23.100

Hollie Russon Gilman: Scale the amount of budgets you're talking about can be rather minimal. So anyone used to be to really look at larger budget issues. Sh: I mentioned Paris, but i'll let both of you kind of

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00:41:23.130 --> 00:41:25.480

Hollie Russon Gilman: elaborate on that.

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00:41:26.170 --> 00:41:36.180

Hollie Russon Gilman: These are really really interesting questions. And I think just maybe other recommendations that either of you have. If you're kind of trying to enter into a Pv. Process. I'd be curious.

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00:41:36.420 --> 00:41:41.720

Hollie Russon Gilman: you know. Yeah, if there is any techniques or tools that you're finding really effective in this moment.

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00:41:43.440 --> 00:41:49.749

Shari Davis: Well, so one of the things that I will say is

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00:41:49.780 --> 00:41:52.899

Shari Davis: when we talk about Pv.

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00:41:52.960 --> 00:41:53.759

Shari Davis: What

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00:41:53.770 --> 00:42:15.349

Shari Davis: Pvp. As an organization, as it explicitly and and most importantly talking about is this opportunity for community members to make decisions, and that often ends up, being an important distinction between a lot of other very amazing processes that engage in deep dialogue, and sometimes recommendations or consultative elements. But

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00:42:15.360 --> 00:42:39.730

Shari Davis: participatory budgeting is an example of according to Sherry Arnstein's ladder of participation of full participation right where we're, not just seeing elected officials make the final decision. But instead, we're seeing community members engage in decision making together. That is a unique. And one of my most beloved components of participatory budgeting that we usually don't see.

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00:42:40.000 --> 00:43:01.050

Shari Davis: And so I would just kind of name that as an important distinction if we're seeing processes where folks are using, maybe the elements or framework of participatory budgeting that ends in a series of recommendations. I might challenge that a little bit, not saying that that isn't good and important work. But when we're talking about building people power

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00:43:01.060 --> 00:43:08.750

Shari Davis: in a very specific way that that involves community led decision making, there has to be decisions by

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00:43:08.760 --> 00:43:37.790

Shari Davis: the community, right? This is a process about building trust, about changing people's experience of government, and it can't be kind of more of the same or trivialized when recommendations are rejected. And so I say all of that to say that this piece around vetting proposals before they get on the ballot is an important part of making sure that projects that are voted on are actually implemented right as opposed to what could happen and be really trivial

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00:43:37.800 --> 00:43:44.419

Shari Davis: if something gets voted on, and then is not implemented which we can see honestly and in some other

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00:43:44.750 --> 00:43:52.600

Shari Davis: processes. The other thing. And I know how you asked like a couple of questions. But one other thing that I wanted to kind of name is.

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00:43:52.770 --> 00:44:00.000

Shari Davis: There are a lot of instances where there is deep civic engagement already happening.

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00:44:00.010 --> 00:44:23.169

Shari Davis: and one of my arguments for really good participatory budgeting is to really be able to tap into the spaces where deep civic engagement is already happening. So, for example, in the city of Boston, this was my first instance of running a Pd. Process myself. I used to work in local

government. I'm recovering government employee. Y'all can give me some love in the chat. Thank you.

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00:44:24.040 --> 00:44:37.829

Shari Davis: One of the things that was true, though, when we ran. This first instance of youth focused participatory budgeting in Boston was that we weren't, starting from scratch right. We were building on existing

197

00:44:38.680 --> 00:45:07.599

Shari Davis: infrastructure for deep civic engagement right, and there was a lot to improve upon. But we had something already, and I would say that same thing is true in places like Oakland. If you run a participatory budgeting process, it doesn't like cancel out the deep Pacific engagement Instances of citizen assemblies and juries that may already be convened by City Council members. It's an opportunity to add to them to see them flourish, to see them become more robust.

198

00:45:07.610 --> 00:45:20.969

Shari Davis: and the quick example that i'll give you is when we ran participatory, budgeting with those Cdbg funds. A couple of years ago in Oakland they had these district committees or district councils, and some of them.

199

00:45:21.150 --> 00:45:50.440

Shari Davis: We're a little bit defunct, right? Maybe they weren't updated. Maybe some people that were on the roster had moved out of Oakland, and there needed to be some new membership added to these particular committees. Well, participatory budgeting became a way to re-engage people in that process to see people that maybe weren't on district committees before able to join to see them have some specific responsibilities, and to see them take some ownership of their role

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00:45:50.450 --> 00:46:11.739

Shari Davis: there, and that didn't kind of cancel out the work. It added to a really successful instance of participatory budgeting. But that can be true anywhere. People can be starting from scratch, but the best instances of participatory budgeting are ones where we can lean on and grow civic engagement infrastructure.

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00:46:15.680 --> 00:46:34.019

Amanda Hudson: Yeah, I completely agree with the thing that popping into My head right now is so so much of the work I can do is consulting, and you'll have folks be like we did. We did a project a while back, and that was participatory budgeting. We we had some folks come out, and and we we gave them gift cards, and they told us what they wanted to do, and I'm always like

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00:46:34.070 --> 00:46:52.969

Amanda Hudson: That's great. I think you should always do focus groups, I think asking more people is always better, but that's not participatory budgeting. And so I always find myself in this line of like, not gatekeeping. But being a bit of a like, actually did you have a binding vote, did you? Oh, that sounds like a great example of participatory grant making or participatory design.

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00:46:52.980 --> 00:47:07.350

Amanda Hudson: and like it like me, a little academic to just like focus on a taxonomy. But really it is exactly what Sherry's saying. It's. Where does the decision making power lie? And I love that you referenced Ernstein's ladder. I literally have it tattooed on my arm because of how often

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00:47:07.550 --> 00:47:18.349

Amanda Hudson: I bring this up where i'm like that sounds like consulting. That sounds like informing is that is that binding community decision making. And and I do think that that is something

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00:47:18.420 --> 00:47:23.539

Amanda Hudson: we are. We live in a a. You know. Our our city is this, you know.

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00:47:23.720 --> 00:47:34.680

Amanda Hudson: liberal city; for whoever reads that that can be seen as like a a progressive beacon, or it can be seen as a boogie man we definitely have had our share of dramatic press coverage.

207

00:47:34.690 --> 00:47:52.140

Amanda Hudson: and so you would assume that everybody is just like, down with the people power movement, and absolutely not a lot of folks. Just think it's representative democracy, and we get legitimate questions of like, Well, what about when the community shows up, and they have an interest, and it's not aligned with what we want to do, and it's like.

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00:47:52.860 --> 00:47:55.189

Amanda Hudson: I almost just want to stare at them silently, as like.

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00:47:55.260 --> 00:48:10.439

Amanda Hudson: Hmm. Do you see there being a problem there like, why is your opinion more important than it? Like a large group of the community? And I do think that we we still worship expertise, and like this technocratic solutions. And so so much of what I have to do in identifying is like.

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00:48:10.490 --> 00:48:17.149

Amanda Hudson: Is this person ever going to be my ally in launching this process? Or are they going to be somebody who is just.

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00:48:17.160 --> 00:48:42.720

Amanda Hudson: maybe not going to resist me. But they're They're never going to go to bat because they this is not like supportive of their life. It doesn't make their life easier to to rebuild the system so identifying your allies and identifying, you know. Sometimes I think we focus so much on opponents like, what's the argument that's going to get that person who doesn't believe in government on my sides, like they're never going to be on your side, man like they're never. They're going to at best. Not try and burn you down.

212

00:48:42.730 --> 00:49:12.180

Amanda Hudson: But if you, if we have finite time and life that we're putting into this, and you know, I believe in a long term vision. But in the meantime I'm. Trying to get processes off the ground, and i'm not trying to get every single person to be at the vanguard of a thing I think so much of, where I, from my point of view of starting it where it did not exist, is I just need something to point to, and once I can point to it, then more people can get it excited about it. If we just keep talking about the abstract, what it could be, and we all needed to make things

213

00:49:12.190 --> 00:49:38.170

Amanda Hudson: more participatory that has no tangible concrete meeting. I can't research that I can't study that. It's just a thought conversation. So the exciting thing of getting participatory budgeting on the ground. I can have people come out and be like See? Come to a meeting. You see, it's different. This is a completely different culture of participation and trust and relationship building that is sorely missing in our government, and it sounds a little woo, I guess, because i'm always I I've leaned that way anyway, but

214

00:49:38.580 --> 00:49:53.779

Amanda Hudson: a lack of trust is toxic to our government, and if we do not if people continue to not see the validity of the essential functions of government and taxation. We are never going to be building a more just framework.

215

00:49:53.790 --> 00:50:05.960

Amanda Hudson: and i'm not saying how it's existed. I mean the actual concept of coming together is a collective and working together, and that's where I get really excited to see like. Here's a tool that isn't based on oppression. Let's let's do this together.

216

00:50:06.220 --> 00:50:12.769

Amanda Hudson: I'm trying to stay on track. The other things I think, is really important about steering committee is the phase the

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00:50:13.170 --> 00:50:16.579

Amanda Hudson: while I sit here and say, Well, that's not Pv. But this is

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00:50:17.000 --> 00:50:27.009

Amanda Hudson: also Pb. Processes very so much as sherry's, where I'm. From referencing a local context of district committees that's not going to look like that everywhere, because that's not relevant to every local context.

219

00:50:27.020 --> 00:50:53.439

Amanda Hudson: The steering committee gets to base on what there is already happening in their communities, and you get to build on the culture and the foundations and the assets of what you're working with. So Pb. Can look the same, but also is dramatically different with different goals and different community engagement models, because you're actually having your community members not just participate and say where the allocation should go. They're actually setting the goals and values of the process, saying, Who can participate or not.

220

00:50:53.450 --> 00:51:09.420

Amanda Hudson: How do they even get down to the level? Do they need an Id? Or would that actually reduce participation? Because some folks, some communities ids you're having these in the least conversations about program design. But those of us who do that work. No, that's a way that you can put so many roadblocks and inaccessible things

221

00:51:09.430 --> 00:51:34.179

Amanda Hudson: before the community even gets involved. There's so much power in that design level, and you're having the community from the beginning. Design a more inclusive process than for the rest of everybody to come in and engage in the party that they're throwing. So it's. I. I can't see many other processes that have each phase like that, and all the different. It's deep and like easy engagement you could show up and share an idea, or you can get deeply involved in design and research. Something

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00:51:34.850 --> 00:51:36.299

Amanda Hudson: i'll stop there.

223

00:51:36.670 --> 00:51:52.640

Hollie Russon Gilman: This is all fabulous, just being mindful of the clock. I think there's some other questions, Sherry. It looks like you were maybe typing an answer to one of them. I don't know if you want to share any thoughts around this sort of thinking about scale, and there was also a question around

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00:51:52.720 --> 00:51:54.149

Hollie Russon Gilman: sort of

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00:51:54.370 --> 00:52:07.830

Hollie Russon Gilman: the process, and significant and contracting with community based organizations. And i'm going to do something very unfair if you only have 5 min. But I want to just give both of you a chance to kind of share any concluding marks or vision for the future that really energizes you. I think

226

00:52:07.840 --> 00:52:22.310

Hollie Russon Gilman: you know we we've kind of touched a lot about how pb can create this vision of what a multi-racial multi-ethnic democracy can look like what would be really excited to hear from each of you. Just you know some you know how you're thinking about. You know, maybe what the next 5 years may look like.

227

00:52:23.840 --> 00:52:42.340

Shari Davis: Yeah, I think scale is actually this is perfect that you ask this question like this holy because I think scale is a part of it. I think we're just moving out of this place in the United States where we're understanding participatory budgeting as a pilot or proof of concept. I think at this point we have been able to

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00:52:42.540 --> 00:52:52.920

Shari Davis: prove that this process works. We've been able to collect data across the country in a variety of geographies around how this process works we've been able to point to the impacts of it.

229

00:52:53.090 --> 00:53:22.599

Shari Davis: and I think that there are some really valid questions of like, Well, can this be bigger? Is this big enough? And we Haven't answered all of those. Yet we're seeing a trend of larger Pb. Especially in the last couple of years, especially in concert with conversations around Arpa funds and community control over public funds, especially as we have this conversation

around the country around impacted people making real decisions and government. And in the next 5 years I think we're going to continue to see

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00:53:22.610 --> 00:53:36.999

Shari Davis: instances of participatory budgeting grow, and the pots of funds that people are able to decide on grow. And I think it's going to be incumbent upon us that are running and implementing Pb. Processes

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00:53:37.190 --> 00:54:07.179

Shari Davis: ensure that folks have the right ingredients for a successful Pb. Process. There is a such. There's such a thing as bad. Pb: right bad. Pb. Is that it's not rooted in equity. Bad, Pb Doesn't. Have digestible data for people to engage in that. Pb. Happens in the span of one week. Right. There are all sorts of ways to move away from best practices, that kind of center, deep civic engagement. And so my hope is that in the next 5 years we see more instances.

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00:54:07.190 --> 00:54:37.180

Shari Davis: is of good participatory budgeting that centers equity that has enough time and resources dedicated for deep engagement. And I think a piece of that is challenging folks to think bigger. I think, when we talk about changing the way that government does business, it's not a thing that happens overnight, there's trust that has to happen in both directions. There's power that has to be shared, and there's radical imagination that we have to build the capacity for radical imagination is not something that we like

233

00:54:37.190 --> 00:54:50.700

Shari Davis: do for fun a little bit right. This is a rigorous activity for us to re imagine our relationship with government, and then experiment with that an experiment with that in ways that honor, equity. And so

234

00:54:50.710 --> 00:55:12.520

Shari Davis: I think that that's what we need to do in the next 5 years is continue to grow participatory, budgeting, grow our instances of research and grow our opportunities to explore what we have not yet done with Pb. And we are at the very beginning of the participatory budgeting journey, at least in the United States and several other places across the world.

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00:55:15.540 --> 00:55:16.310

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00:55:16.570 --> 00:55:42.600

Amanda Hudson: always get goose bumps when I hear you speak Sherry. So thank you for that also. Yeah, no. Now I have to follow that. So I will say 1,000. I always feel that Oregon is like a step behind. I love that. You say the that we have the case studies because i'm constantly relying on those like CC. It can happen so in our in our world. I'm. Excited that it's happening that we are going to continue to build on it. I would, i'm ready to be out of pilot mode.

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00:55:42.610 --> 00:55:45.660

Amanda Hudson: I'm. Really excited about the idea of

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00:55:45.930 --> 00:56:06.560

Amanda Hudson: the the myriad of participatory tools that are out there, and and drawing them together as a as a recovering academic. I found myself like, Wait. Okay. So there's policy juries over here and then. There's this like deliberative polling. I just found myself like searching for all these tangible tools because we could talk about it.

239

00:56:06.570 --> 00:56:36.310

Amanda Hudson: I don't want to have to read John Locke to talk about democracy. I want real things to point to. I want to be able to show up into a meeting or a building or a center, and see and feel democracy. And so I love that i'm seeing this, and I will totally credit coalitions like the democracy beyond elections, coalition that's convenient by the participatory budgeting project. As there are so many folks like me who are all over this country doing incredible work, and we are so aligned, and I love my vision is coming

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00:56:36.320 --> 00:56:42.089

Amanda Hudson: together of a toolkit of participatory methods that can be used in conjunction

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00:56:42.350 --> 00:57:05.740

Amanda Hudson: because some issues aren't a budgeting issue. We get tapped for projects where i'm like. Well, that's you want community input on the redesign of a library like that's a really limited like, you know, having people pick out what color the carpet is. Isn't the transformative democracy i'm looking for. But I want to see that go forward. I want a participatory design conversation, and I want all of us practitioners coming together and taking our piece

242

00:57:05.750 --> 00:57:19.650

Amanda Hudson: of the civics endeavor and making it something, and designing. Because so much of this, we're making it up, and that's the thing All of our systems are made up. I love working with people and be like, hey, do you think that system stupid? Do you want to try and make a better one?

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00:57:19.660 --> 00:57:47.230

Amanda Hudson: And that flexing like you're saying the radical imagination, because people have no shortage of ideas when you actually build an authentic container to generate and apply those ideas, people. They just don't trust You're going to listen to them. So building authentic places where we carry that out and show them that we're actually worthy of their trust in time, because we will make sure that we'll take your ideas, and we're going to get them across the finish line.

244

00:57:47.430 --> 00:58:01.680

Amanda Hudson: And that's something that i'm really excited to see that relationship grow up. Policy series, participatory design and and participatory budgeting and things that I don't even know the name of. Yet, because we're working and figuring it out because that that's the world I want to build.

245

00:58:01.740 --> 00:58:14.059

Hollie Russon Gilman: Well, this is fantastic. Thank you so much to our steamed leaders, Cherry Amanda. Great resources from Pvp in the chat. Thank you just for thank you for all of us for joining you, and thank you for all the tremendous work you do.