

Participatory Budgeting in the United States: A Look at Participatory Budgeting in Chicago's 49th Ward

Gena Miller, PhD Candidate
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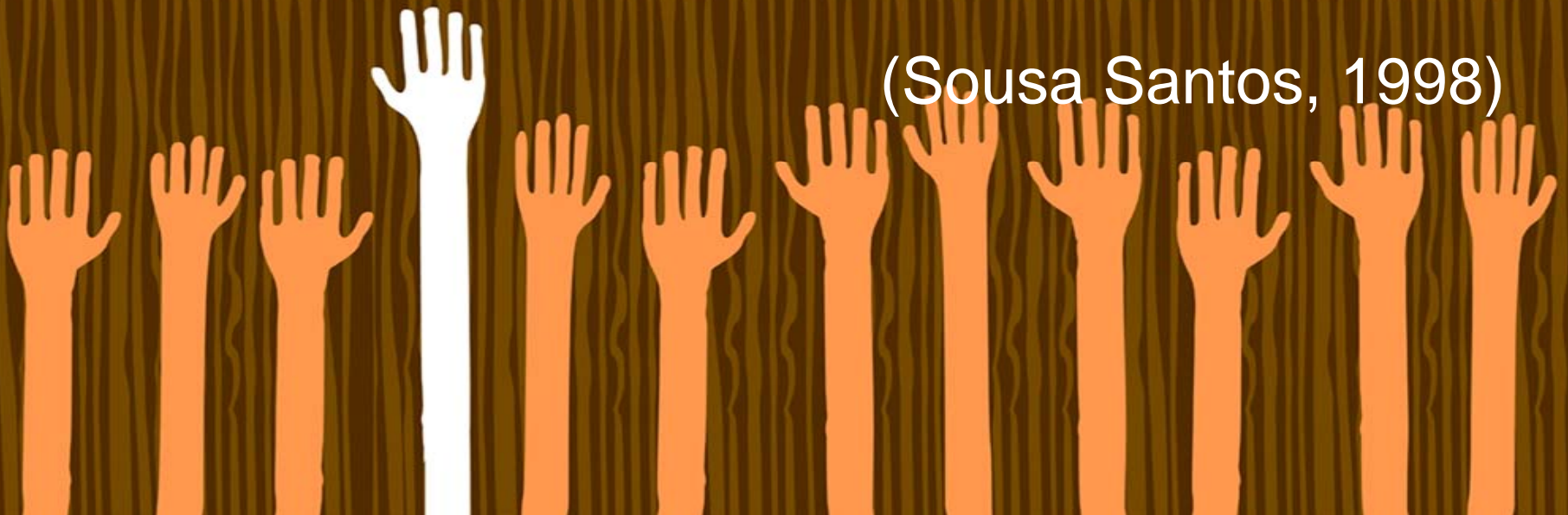


What is Participatory Budgeting?

Citizens directly participate in budget

- Planning
- Priority-setting
- Preparation
- Distribution
- Implementation

(Sousa Santos, 1998)



Civic Participation

- Maintain citizens' approval of government
- Acceptance of government's legitimacy
- Avoid alienation of citizens
- Ensure social progress

(Stewart, 1976)



Democratic Institutions in Peril

- Electoral turnouts have declined
- Decrease in trust in political institutions and representatives
- Membership of traditional mobilizing-organizations have declined

(Smith, 2009)



PB, the Principles and the Democratic Goods

This research asks:

Does the implementation of PB in the 49th Ward adhere to the principles of Participatory Budgeting and to what degree does it produce democratic goods?



Principles of PB

- All citizens
- Rules created and agreed upon by participants
- Resources are allocated objectively through general/technical criteria (Sousa- Santos, 1998)
- Decision-making authority
- Follow-through activities in implementation (Smith, 2009)



Democratic Goods

- Inclusiveness
- Popular control
- Considered Judgment
- Transparency
- Efficiency
- Transferability

(Smith, 2009)



Porto Alegre, Brazil

- 4th Largest City in Brazil
- Industrial and Financial Center of the State
- More Racially Homogenous than other parts of Brazil
- One-third of the population lives in poverty
- Few land-owners

Santos, 1998)

(IBGE, 2008; Baiocchi, 2005; Sousa



The 49th Ward of Chicago

- Diverse community
- Large Immigrant Population
- More renters than home-owners
- Civic Activity

(U.S Census, 2000)



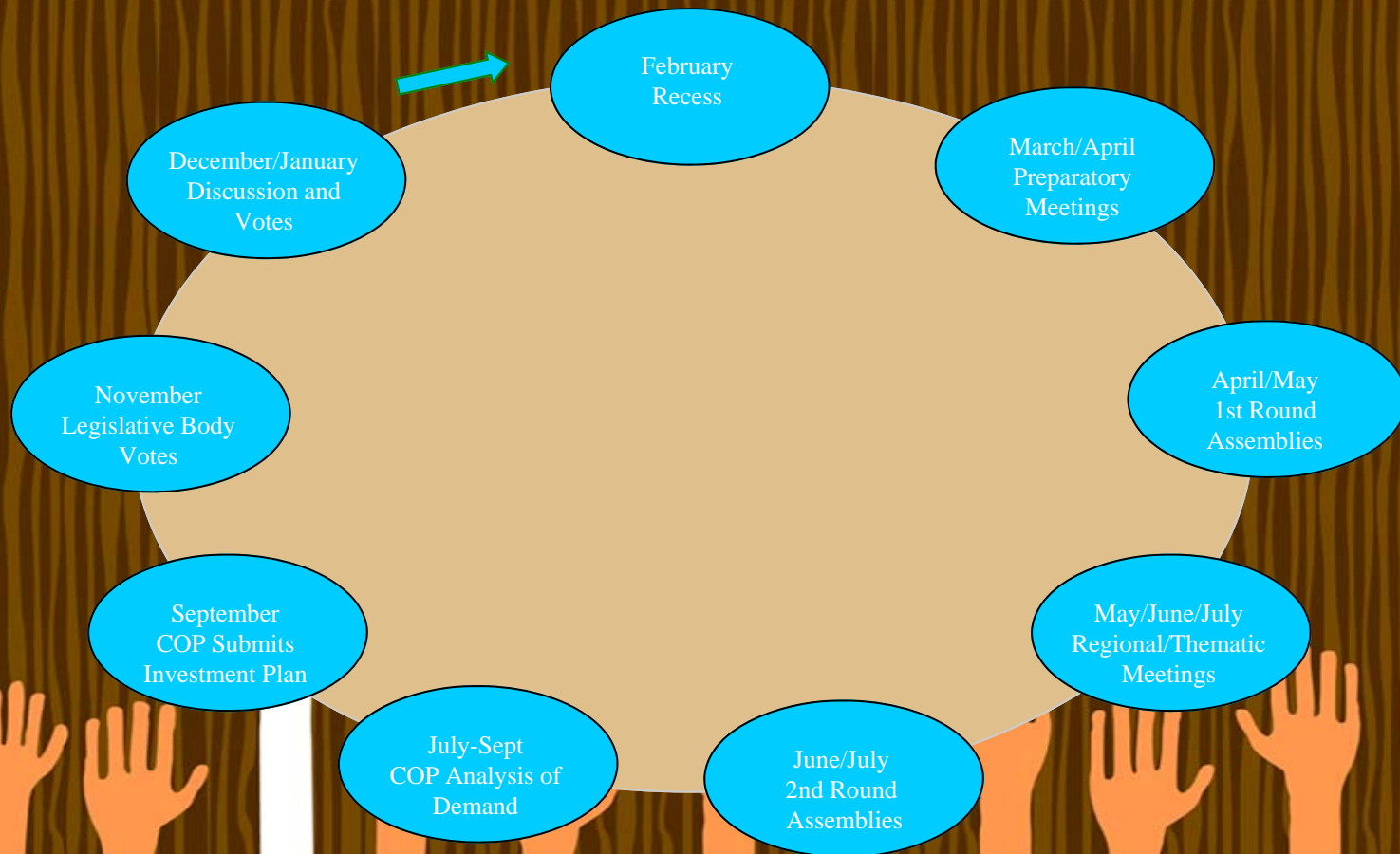
The Budgets

- 49th Ward Budget – 100% Ward “Menu Money”
- 100% Municipal Budget for Porto Alegre

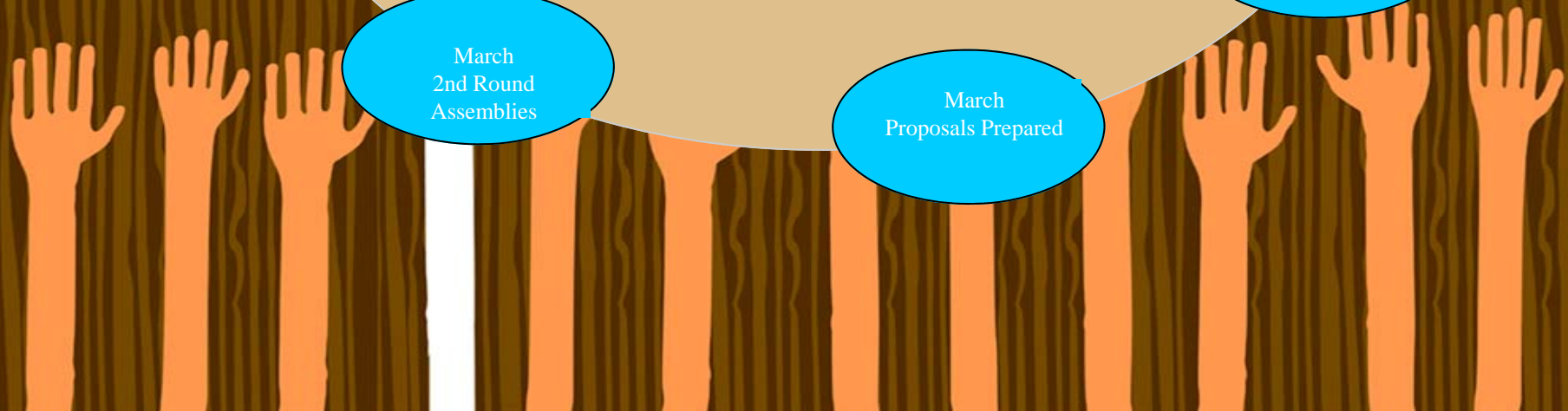
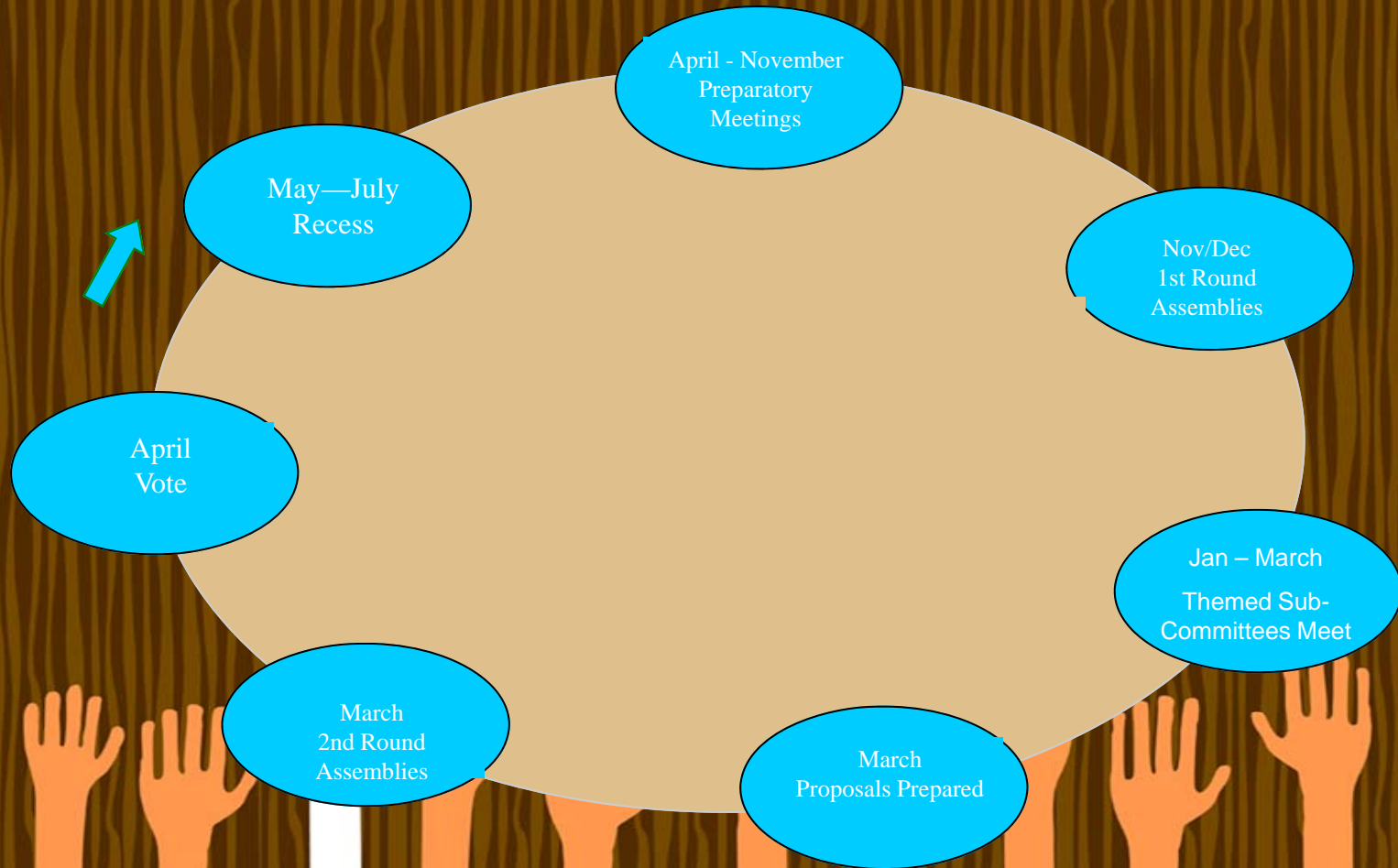
(UN-HABITAT, 2004)



PB in Porto Alegre



PB in the 49th Ward



All citizens/Inclusiveness

49th Ward

- Open to non-citizens
- Special outreach to Latino residents
- Voter turn-out did not reflect the diversity of the Ward

Porto Alegre

- Not open to non-residents
- Special outreach to areas with low civic activity
- Greater participation by resource-poor residents

Thematic Assemblies



Decision- Making Authority/Popular Control

49th Ward

- 100% of the menu money funds
- Participant Designed
- Direct Democracy
- Technical Knowledge Asymmetry

Porto Alegre

- 100% of the City's budget
- No Budget proposal vetoed to date
- Participants have made changes over the years
- Representative Democracy
- Technical Knowledge Asymmetry



Objective Resource Allocation/Considered Judgment

- Technical Education provided by Ward and City Agencies in 49th Ward
- Courses on Public Budgeting in Porto Alegre
- Community-wide focus in both locations



Implementation Follow-Through/Transparency

- 49th Ward Projects started to be implemented by May, 2010
- Process is an annual practice in Porto Alegre and there has been increased investment in the poorer areas(Baiocchi, 2005)



Efficiency

49th Ward

- Benefits – perception of greater democracy, reelection of the Alderman
- Costs - Materials, Time, Staff and citizen burden, the hiring of a new office staff, and street –resurfacing losses

Porto Alegre

- Benefits, Prestige for participants, Perception
- Costs - GAPLAN, establishing process in regions with less history of civic participation



Transferability

- Implemented in cities, one state, sub-city government, and a housing authority
- Used for different types of budgets (municipal and capital in this case)
- Future implementations???



Conclusions

- Principles were adhered to
- Goods were produced
- Full Realization?



Next Steps

- What will mapping of the voted projects show about the consequences of a non-representative vote?
- What changes are made in year two to have a more representative vote?
- What differences will result in Wards with more homogenous populations?
- What alterations need to be made for PB with bigger government in the U.S?



References

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