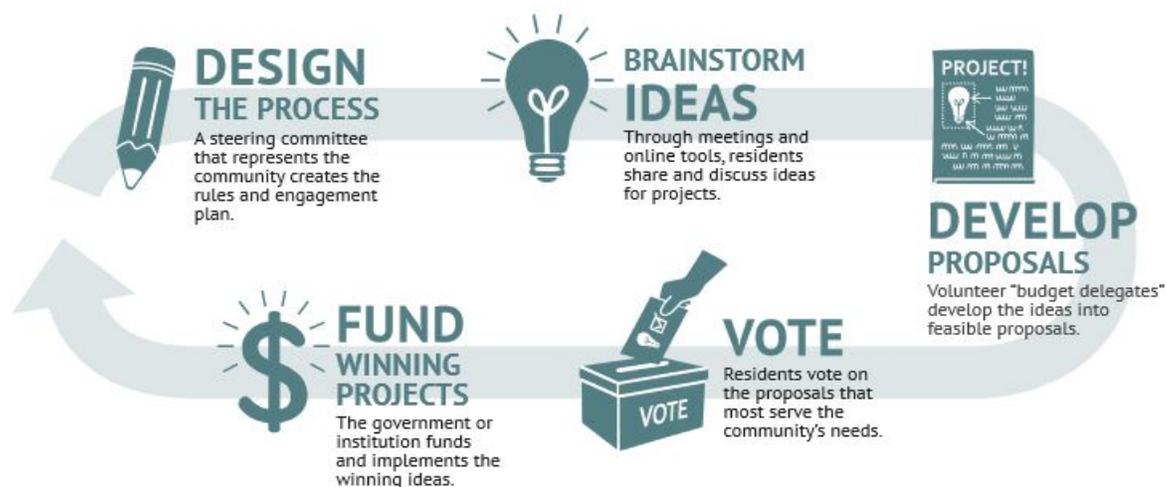


## Defunding SPD in Practice - Participatory Budgeting for the 2021 Budget

King County Equity Now and Decriminalize Seattle will be coordinating a participatory budgeting process for the “Public Safety” parts of the 2021 city budget. Community members will develop a budget proposal for the dollars currently spent on the Seattle Police Department, Municipal Court, and the City Attorney’s office (the city prosecutors).

**What is Participatory Budgeting?** Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend part of a public budget. It gives people real power over real money. PB started in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 1989, and has since spread to over 3,000 cities around the world. It has been used to decide budgets from states, counties, cities, housing authorities, schools, and other institutions. .

**How does PB work?** PB is a cycle of engagement that is integrated into a regular budgeting process. A typical PB process follows these steps, and will be adjusted to fit Seattle’s needs:



Importantly, **it will be community, not government institutions, who will design and hold this process.** We know that for the outcome of the PB process to truly reflect community needs, the process itself needs to be community-controlled. The process’s independence from city government will allow it to focus on community consensus for spending. While every resident in Seattle has an investment in the budget, the community members most impacted by the legacy of over-investment in policing and disinvestment in their well-being - BIPOC community - will be centered in shaping the new vision for the city’s public safety dollars.

**Why are Decriminalize Seattle and KCEN coordinating this process?** Decriminalize Seattle and King County Equity Now put forward specific demands to cut the Seattle Police Department Budget by 50% and reinvest that money in true community safety and well-being. Nearly 300 organizations and over 43 thousand people have signed on to these demands. Participatory Budgeting represents the next step in making the vision behind the demands a reality. The outcome of the process will provide the city with a community-created roadmap to defunding the police and reinvesting in community. Our coalitions are being advised by the Participatory Budgeting Project, the leading North American organization on participatory budgeting, whose work you can see at [participatorybudgeting.org](http://participatorybudgeting.org).