

Mixing Tool Sets from Madrid and Taiwan to Improve Participatory Budgeting in New York

Leveraging Participatory Budgeting to Create a More
Open and Participatory Government

Politicians Don't Like Participation

The more people participate in public decision making, the less power politicians have to unilaterally make their own decisions.

Democracy must be Demanded

1215: Rebellion in Britain led to Magna Carta

1776: Rebellion in North American colonies led to US Constitution

1989: The Brazilian Workers Party surprise victory in Porto Alegre led to the first city-wide “participatory budgeting” program in the world.

2011-16: 15M movement led to popular democracy movement in Spain, resulting in local victories in Madrid city government and their development of Consul.

2014-2016: Sunflower movement led to popular support for the vTaiwan process.

2011-2018: Occupy in the US has NOT led to a popular democracy movement.

Incremental Change is the the Path in the US

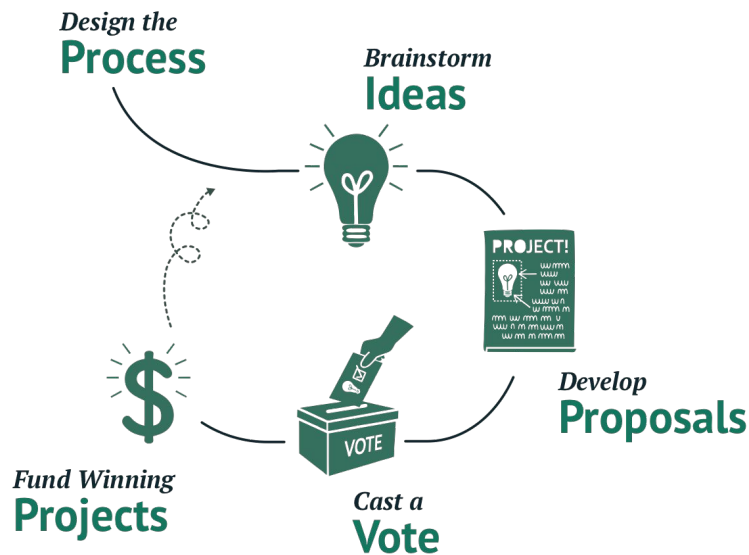
But there's lots of good things happening:

- Civic tech grassroots groups in all major cities.
- Digital service organizations taking root within governments.
- Vibrant open source communities producing lots of outcomes.
- Technology products making transparency and participation easier than ever.
- Some politicians want to associate themselves with “participatory democracy”, and its most popular manifestation: “participatory budgeting.”

Participatory Budgeting is Popular Around the World

Over 1000 governments engage in **Participatory Budgeting** programs - which are democratic processes empowering individuals to directly decide how a portion of public budgets are spent.

- Paris - \$100 million
- Mexico City - \$40 million
- South Australia - \$40 million
- New York - \$30 million



PB is Popular in NYC

30 council members have given their **\$1 million/year each** (\$30 million total) of their discretionary capital funding to district-wide participatory budgeting programs that enable the public to propose projects* and pick which ones get funding.

* Limitations include having to contract with city agencies to produce outcomes.

District-Wide Tree Planting X

✓ District-Wide Tree Planting

Complete ✓

BALLOT INFORMATION

Project appeared on NYCC District 33 PBNYC ballot in 2013 with a cost of \$100,000. Yes with 0 votes

This is a Capital Project so it will likely take between 3-7 years from funding to completion.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

\$100000 by NYCC in FY14, with implementation by Department of Parks & Recreation.

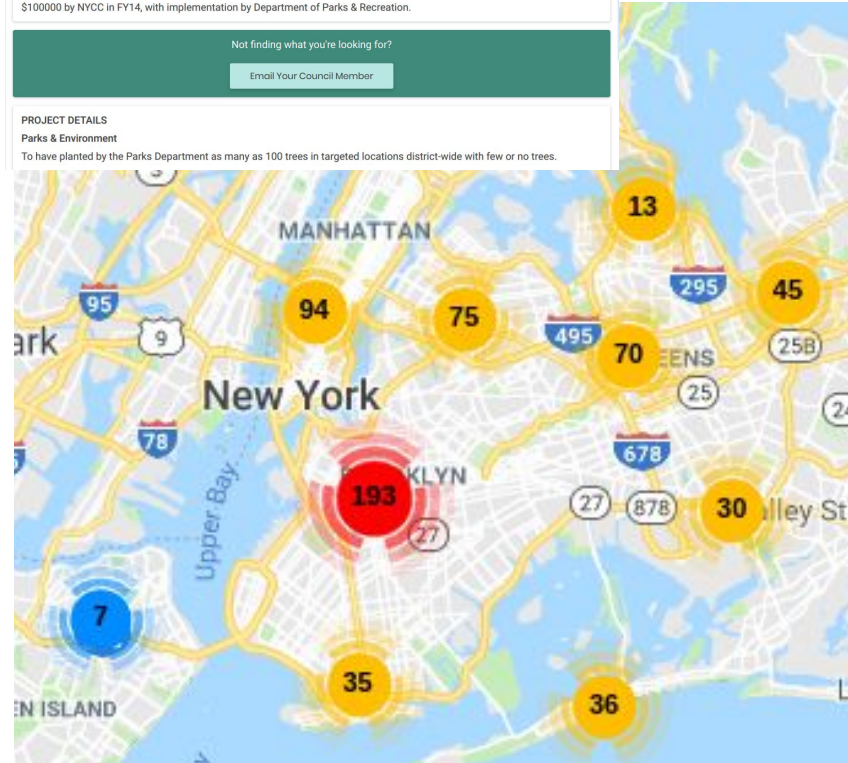
Not finding what you're looking for?

Email Your Council Member

PROJECT DETAILS

Parks & Environment

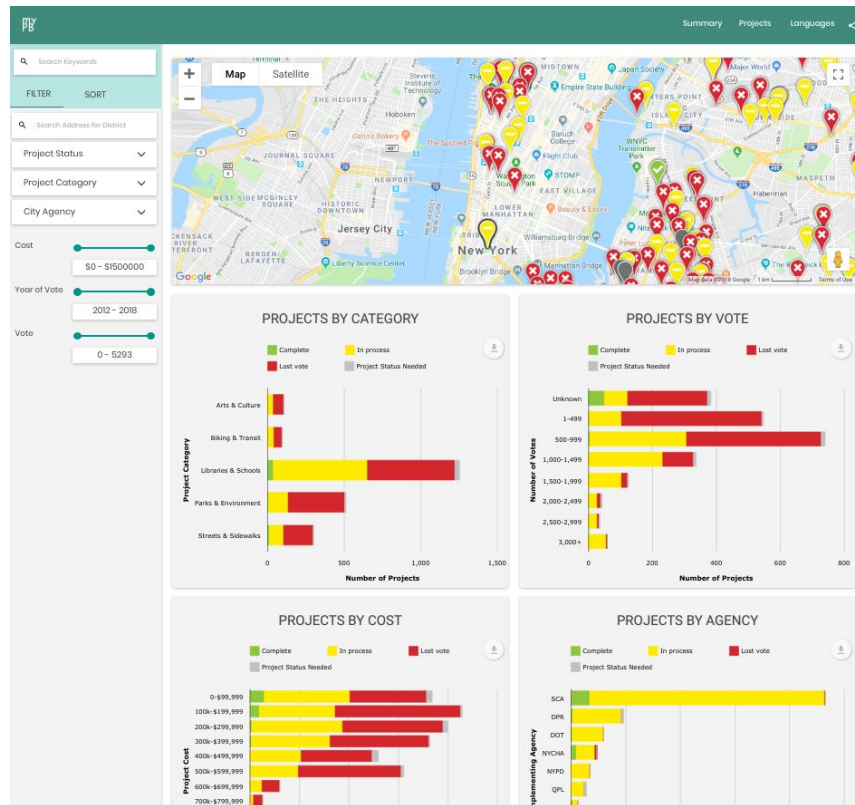
To have planted by the Parks Department as many as 100 trees in targeted locations district-wide with few or no trees.



Opportunity for Transparency

NYC's capital budget is not available as open data, but politicians want to promote participatory budgets so they pressured the city to release PB project data.

Then we used that code to create a database for all capital projects and scraped that data from 2000 pdf pages.

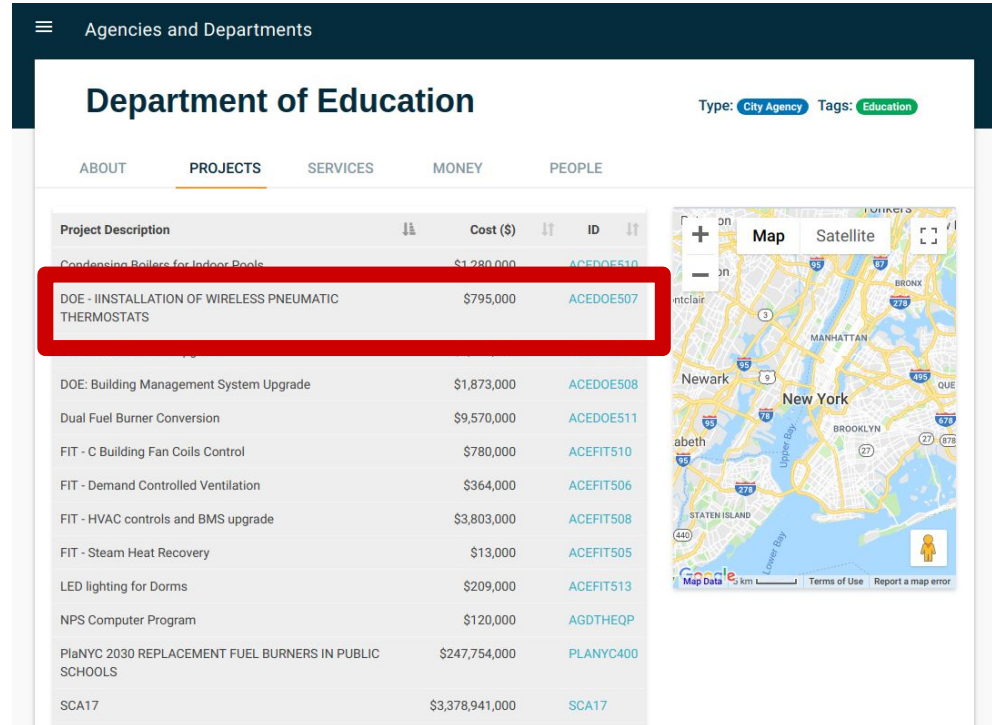


Open Implementation for all Participatory Projects

If proposals from participatory sources (citizen proposals, PB, etc) are decided upon but then don't get done, government loses legitimacy.

Thus, governments (ex. Madrid) are beginning to create new offices to ensure these projects are actually completed by city agencies.

This creates an opportunity to introduce new methods for getting things done.



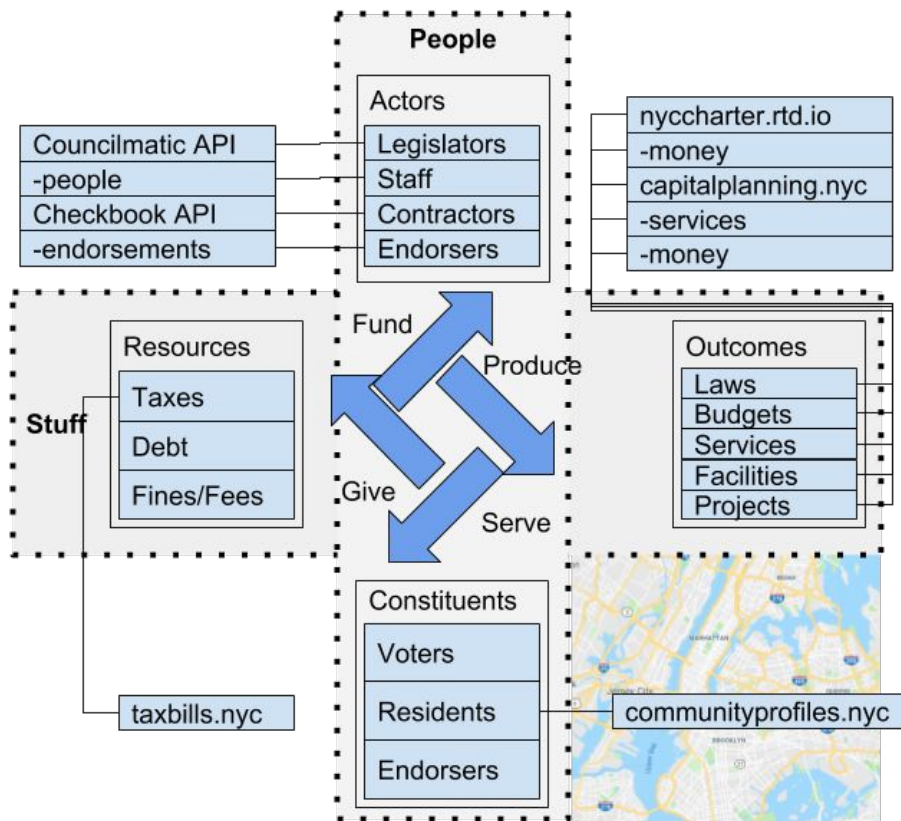
The screenshot shows a web interface for the Department of Education. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Agencies and Departments' and a 'Department of Education' header. Below the header, there are tabs for 'ABOUT', 'PROJECTS', 'SERVICES', 'MONEY', and 'PEOPLE'. The 'PROJECTS' tab is selected. On the right, there are filters for 'Type: City Agency' and 'Tags: Education'. A table lists various projects with columns for 'Project Description', 'Cost (\$)', and 'ID'. One project, 'DOE - INSTALLATION OF WIRELESS PNEUMATIC THERMOSTATS', is highlighted with a red box. To the right of the table is a map of New York City with a location pin.

Project Description	Cost (\$)	ID
Condensing Boilers for Indoor Pools	\$1,280,000	ACEDO510
DOE - INSTALLATION OF WIRELESS PNEUMATIC THERMOSTATS	\$795,000	ACEDO507
DOE: Building Management System Upgrade	\$1,873,000	ACEDO508
Dual Fuel Burner Conversion	\$9,570,000	ACEDO511
FIT - C Building Fan Coils Control	\$780,000	ACEFIT510
FIT - Demand Controlled Ventilation	\$364,000	ACEFIT506
FIT - HVAC controls and BMS upgrade	\$3,803,000	ACEFIT508
FIT - Steam Heat Recovery	\$13,000	ACEFIT505
LED lighting for Dorms	\$209,000	ACEFIT513
NPS Computer Program	\$120,000	AGDTHEQP
PlaNYC 2030 REPLACEMENT FUEL BURNERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$247,754,000	PLANYC400
SCA17	\$3,378,941,000	SCA17

Documenting Projects to Documenting Government

Projects that “pass” are tracked to completion as openly as possible:

- Who - staff directory
- What - internal project profile
- When - process flow chart and milestones
- Where - map of relevant locations
- Why - metrics for success (KPI)
- How - source of funding and spending



From PB to Open and Participatory Government

- Deliver a good experience to voters.
- Make politicians looks good.
- Make administration easy.
- **Sell*** additional modules.

Using the language of marketing and sales to put stakeholders at ease.*

Feature	Status	Actions
Debates The citizens' debate space is aimed at anyone who can present issues that concern them and about which they want to share their views with others	Feature disabled	Enable
Proposals Citizens' proposals are an opportunity for neighbours and collectives to decide directly how they want their city to be, after getting sufficient support and submitting to a citizens' vote	Feature disabled	Enable
Polls Citizens' polls are a participatory mechanism by which citizens with voting rights can make direct decisions	Feature disabled	Enable
Participatory budgeting With participatory budgets, citizens decide which projects presented by their neighbours will receive a part of the municipal budget	Feature enabled	Disable

Two Participatory Democracy Approaches

In **Madrid**, they developed an open source app that supports with features supporting various types of **existing participation methods**.

Consul Feature Areas

Public Debates

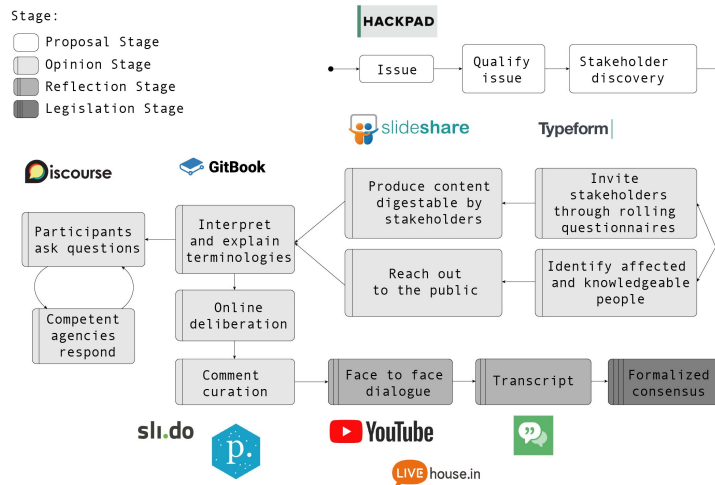
Citizen Proposals

Participatory Budgeting

Collaborative Legislation

Online Voting

In **Taiwan**, they developed a **new process** for building consensus about issues using 10+ products and services.



Imagine Unified Products & Services

[Products](#)[Customers](#)[Learn](#)[Company](#)[Careers](#)

Citizen Engagement

Start a two-way conversation with your community to strengthen public trust.

 See It In Action

Hi there 🙋

We're here and live from 9am-5pm PST,
Monday-Friday to answer your questions.
Ask us anything!

Your conversations



Cameron

Just now

Hi! Would you like to check out our new e...



New conversation

And a Participatory Democracy Sales Processes

1. Generic participatory democracy campaign
2. Evaluation process to “qualify the lead”.
3. Delivery of clear recommendations.
4. Showcase of potential solution sets.
5. Deliver estimates on resource needs.
6. Customize proposal based on context.
7. Delivery of a solution.



What can we sell?

1. Productivity Tools and Trainings

- i. Sandstorm-based open source toolset?
- ii. Trainings for various processes.
- iii. 18F Style method cards.

2. E-participation Platforms

- i. Consul or Decidem for management of PB, collaborative legislation, citizen proposals
- ii. Polis for sentiment analysis

3. Outcome Delivery

- a. Stewardship of implementation process is open documentation opportunity

What is the vTaiwan Toolset?

How can we package and “sell” it?



Typeform |

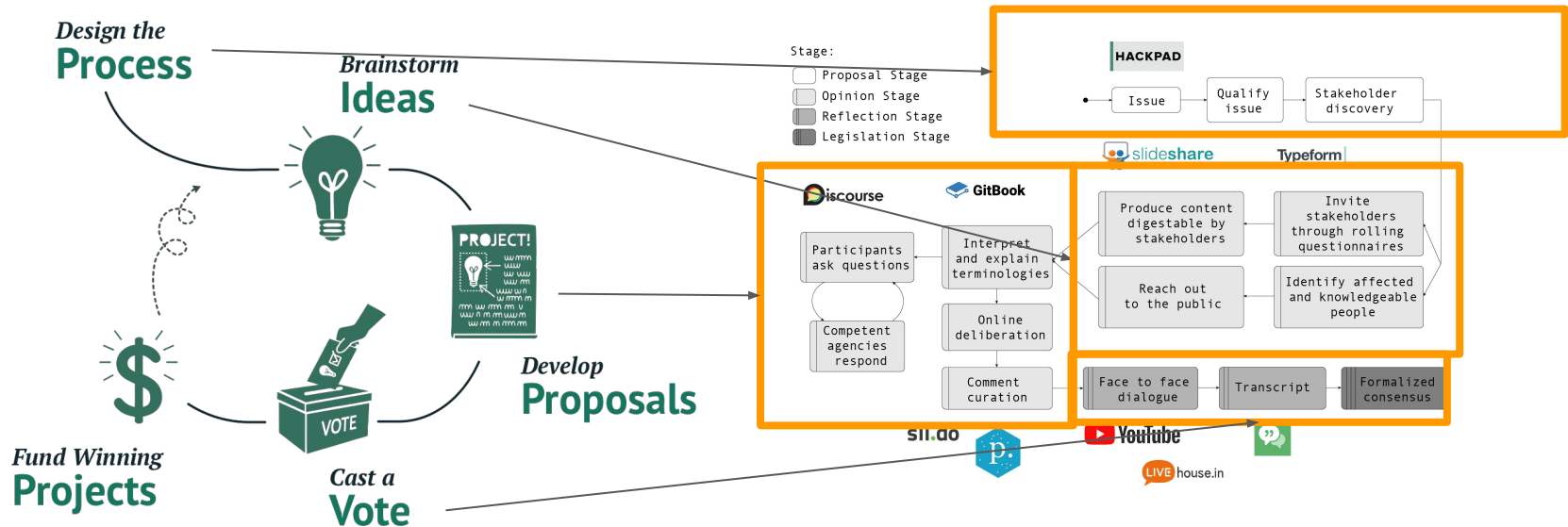


slido



How Can it Be Applied to PB?

A better method for proposal generation.



What is Delivered?

- More productive meetings.
- “Data dashboard” for people posting ideas and projects.
- Integrating Polis to improve project committee formation.

How Can vTaiwan Use Consul?

How do
CITIZEN PROPOSALS
work in CONSUL?



How do
VOTING
work in CONSUL?



How do
PROCESSES
work in CONSUL?



How do
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETS
work in CONSUL?



Collaborative Legislation Feature for vTaiwan.tw?

vTaiwan.tw

The screenshot displays the vTaiwan.tw interface with several key components highlighted by orange boxes:

- Phases**: Located at the top left, indicating the current stage of the legislative process.
- Context**: Located below the phases, providing background information on the topic.
- Timeline**: A vertical list of events on the left side, showing the progression of the discussion.
- External Links**: A section on the right side, providing additional resources and links related to the topic.

The main content area shows a detailed view of a legislative proposal, including an introduction, a discussion thread, and a table of related external links.

Consul Legislation Module

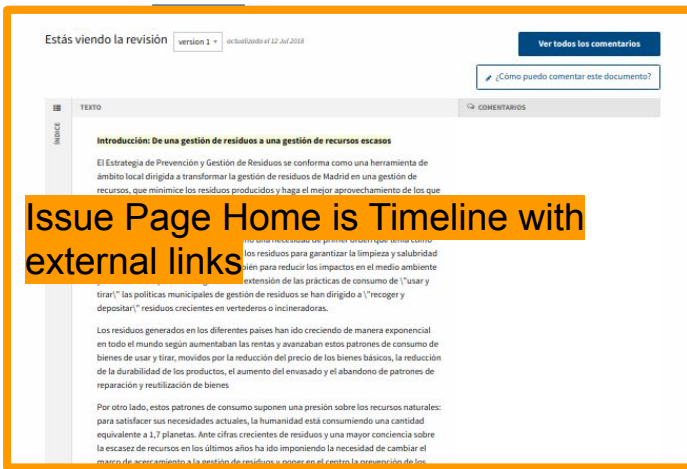
The screenshot displays the Consul Legislation Module interface with several key components highlighted by orange boxes:

- Context**: Located at the top left, providing background information on the topic.
- Phases**: Located below the context, indicating the current stage of the legislative process.
- Work Area**: A section on the right side, providing a workspace for users to contribute to the legislation.
- Explanation**: A section on the left side, providing a detailed explanation of the legislative process.
- Forum**: A section on the left side, providing a space for users to discuss the legislation.
- Ideas**: A section on the left side, providing a space for users to share their ideas.
- Versioned Commentable Documents**: A section on the left side, providing a space for users to comment on and track changes to documents.

The main content area shows a detailed view of a legislative proposal, including an introduction, a discussion thread, and a table of related external links.

Consul To Dos

- Add image-friendly process front page
- Add timeline link table element to process page
- Add option to replace debate forum with Pol.is.
- Add option to replace drafts with embedded Hackpads



There's Lots to Do

Presentation: tinyurl.com/g0v18pres

Coded Things We Made

- Mypb.community
 - github.com/sarapis/mypb
- MyGov.nyc
 - github.com/sarapis/mygov

And then:

ConsulProject.org

- github.com/consul/consul



Holler at me!

- Devin Balkind
- Executive Director, Sarapis
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- devin@sarapis.org

Extra Notes Etc

Nothing to see beyond this slide, folks.

A Continuum Spreading Participatory Practice

Agitation	Leadership	Participation	Adaptation	Implementation
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1. Agitation: The public makes clear that they want participatory processes.
2. Leadership: Politician(s) decide to pursue participatory democracy.
3. Participation: A process of popular decision making is established.
4. Adaptation: Government institutions develop capacity to interface with this new decision making process.
5. Implementation: Decisions made through the process are implemented by government - often through new methods, units, etc.

Extending Consul to the Beginning and the End

vTaiwan - In the beginning, people need to be able to deliberate, build stakeholder groups and generate useful proposals.

Consul - The structured processes make it easy to launch and offer and administer a variety of participatory practices.

PO Training - Enables government officials to get involved in the participatory democracy work.

DSOs - Implementation of these new processes and projects are supported by DSOs that operate using open source principles.

vTaiwan	Consul	PO Training	DSO Solutions
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Can We Achieve a “Unity of Effort”

If we can collaborate more deeply, we can make adoption easier, our software more accessible, our techniques more applicable, our community stronger.

Some Ideas for Collaboration:

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- Consul is building an open source app that supports existing processes.
 - Can it expand to incorporate features needed by vTaiwan?
- vTaiwan is developing methods for consensus building using cutting edge technologies.
 - Can vTaiwan adapt its methods for more conventional participatory processes?
- Government using Consul need to train their staff for participation.
 - Can we use vTaiwan's Participation Officer's Training within the context of Consul?

Why 2011 US Democracy Movement Stalled?

Two stable parties dividing popular between Left vs. Right, Republican vs Democrat, keeps people with shared interests from collaborating.

Mature nonprofit industrial complex co-opts popular concepts, movements, imagery to serve their organizational interests.

A complex, messy, old and flexible system of multi-layered democracy keeps the public busy and confused about where to fight and how.

Networking some Networks

- Can vTaiwan's Participation Officer's Training be distributed through ConsulProject.org's network, and Consul software distributed via g0v.asia?

PB is a Foothold

- A few council members are doing PB.
 - Can we get them using an open source platform with more participatory features?
- A few council members organize community meeting around specific issues.
 - Can we get them using the vTaiwan-style process and open source tools?
- A few council member allow citizens to propose and support “solutions.”
 - Can we get them using the “Citizen Proposals” feature?

Documenting Projects to Documenting Government

- Who Funds? Constituents:
 - Voters, Residents, Endorsing Entities
- With what? Resources:
 - Taxes, Debt, Fines and Fees
- Who Implements? Actors:
 - Staff, Contractors, Legislatures, Stakeholders
- What is Implemented?
 - Projects, Facilities, Services, Budgets, Laws

