Expanding Consul

MediaLab Prado 2018 Collective Intelligence

The Proposal

Here's a list of improvements that could be made to Consul to make it a more powerful tool for participatory budgeting:

- Project Groups
- Data Dashboards
- Improved Mapping
- Ranked Choice Voting
- Paper Ballots
- Project Profiles
- Implementing Projects Transparently
- PB Configuration Wizard
- Marketing Materials for PB in Consul
- Voting Machine Interface

Day 0

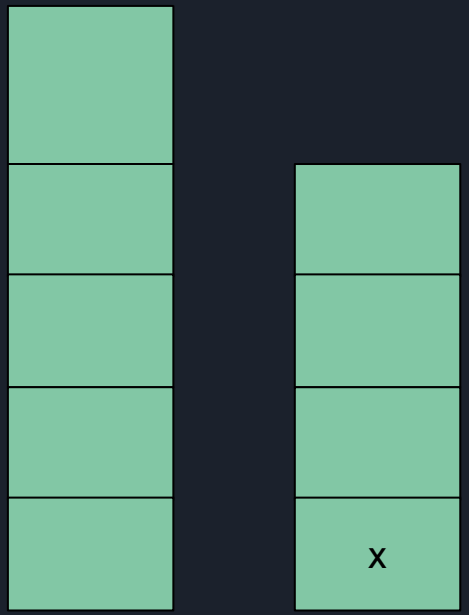
Team

3 Software Developers

1 Product Manager/Producer

2 Communications People

Location



Day 1

Team

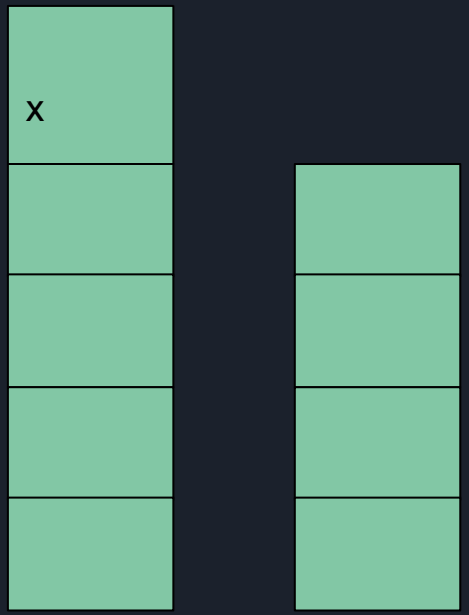
3 Software Developers

1 Product Manager/Producer

Our two Communications people went to other projects.

We co-locationed ourselves with the other project working with Consul.

Location



What do we do with a team full of software developers?

Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Project 4	Project 5
Developer	Comms	Developer	Comms	Developer
Developer	Comms	Project Mgmt	Facilitator	Comms
Developer	Designer	Designer	Project Mgmt	Developer
Project Mgmt	Facilitator	Comms	Comms	Project Mgmt
	Developer	Strategist	Designer	Designer
	Comms	Designer	Comms	Strategist

Help other projects with software needs!

Community of Practice	Developer	Developer	Developer

Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Project 4	Project 5
Developer	Comms	Developer	Comms	Developer
Developer	Comms	Project Mgmt	Facilitator	Comms
Developer	Designer	Designer	Project Mgmt	Developer
Project Mgmt	Facilitator	Comms	Comms	Project Mgmt
	Developer	Strategist	Designer	Designer
	Comms	Designer	Comms	Strategist

What if we all organized this way?

Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Project 4	Project 5
Developer	Comms	Developer	Comms	Developer
Developer	Comms	Project Mgmt	Facilitator	Comms
Developer	Designer	Designer	Project Mgmt	Developer
Project Mgmt	Facilitator	Comms	Comms	Project Mgmt
	Developer	Strategist	Designer	Designer
	Comms	Designer	Comms	Strategist

General Framework

Facilitators & Shared Infrastructure		Communities of Interest				
		Project 1	**Project 2**	**Project 3**	**Project 4**	**Project 5**
Communities of Practice	Developers					
	Comms					
	Designers					
	Project Mgmts					
	Facilitators					
	Strategists					

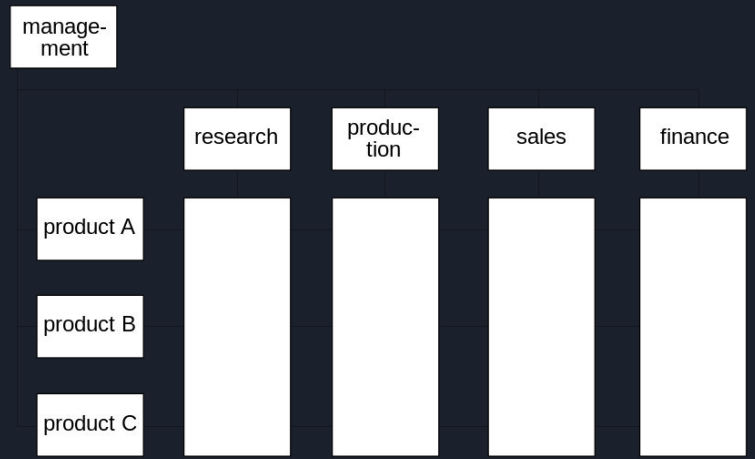
A “Matrix Organization”... Apparently.

From Wikipedia

Matrix management

Strictly speaking, matrix management, which was "introduced in the 1970s in the context of competition"[1][2] is the practice of managing individuals with more than one reporting line (in a matrix organization structure), but it is also commonly used to describe managing cross functional, cross business group and other forms of working that cross the traditional vertical business units – often silos – of function and geography.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matrix_management



...back to our project!

Phase 0
Shared Goal: We Wanted to Make “Commits”

There’s two ways to use/develop open source software:

- **Fork, deploy and modify it however you like.** This can result in a working product but the changes made to code won’t be incorporated into the main project.
- **Develop modular elements for the main project**. This takes a lot longer but results in “commits” to the main project that will be used every time the project’s code is deployed.

Both approaches can result in the precise software solution you want, but only the latter approach takes a lot more time, requiring:

- Communication with core team
- Following established project coding convention
- Writing lots and lots of tests

Phase 1: Baseline Task

Everyone had to be able to deploy Consul and get prepared to submit commits to Github.

This required:

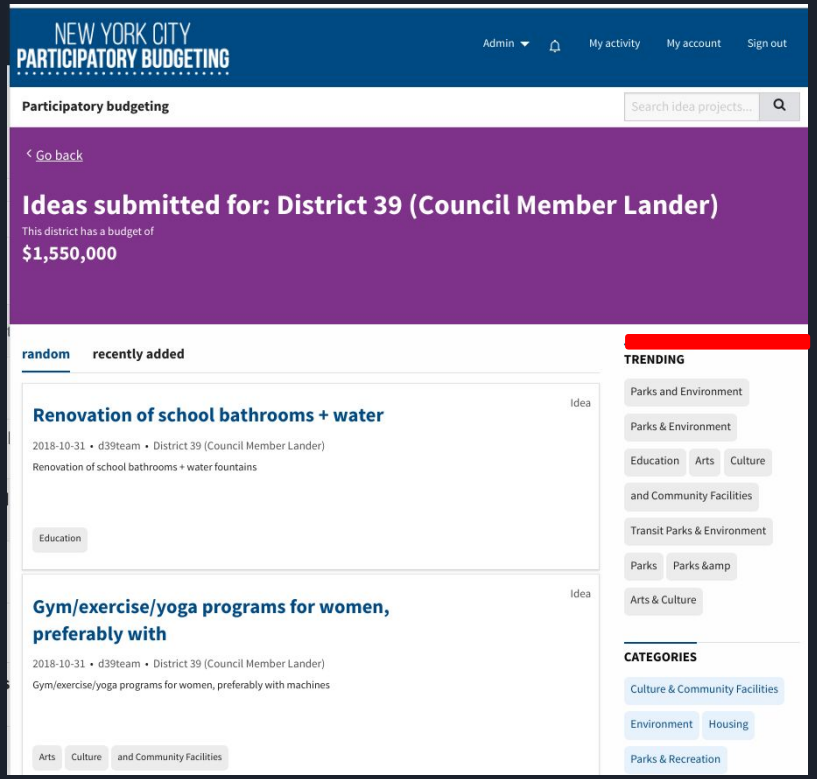
- Updating and installing computer programs on “local machines”
- Studying documentation that explains how to install the software
- Doing it. Testing it.
- Creating, updating Github profiles

We supported each other as we each went through these processes, allowing us to develop a working understanding of our skills, communication styles, etc.

Phase 2: First Projects

The product manager defined a set of tasks that could be achieved during the event, which would result in a feature that had been request by Consul users and approved by the Consul core development team.

Feature: Adding a map and editable text area to the sidebar of Participatory Budgeting Headings (akak District Pages).

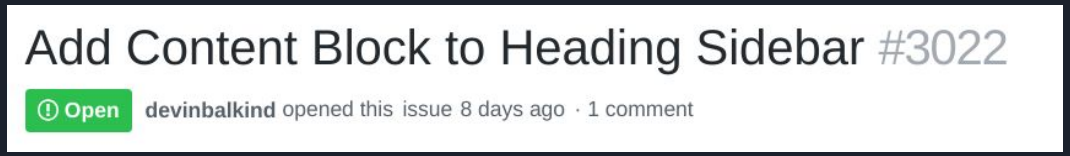


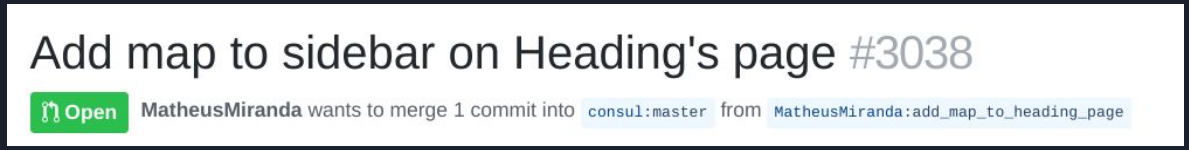
Phase 2.1: How That Works

It starts with thinking: what is the smallest, useful change in code that moves this feature one step closer to done.

Rinse and repeat until the feature is outlined in a series of definable tasks.

For us: it was two.

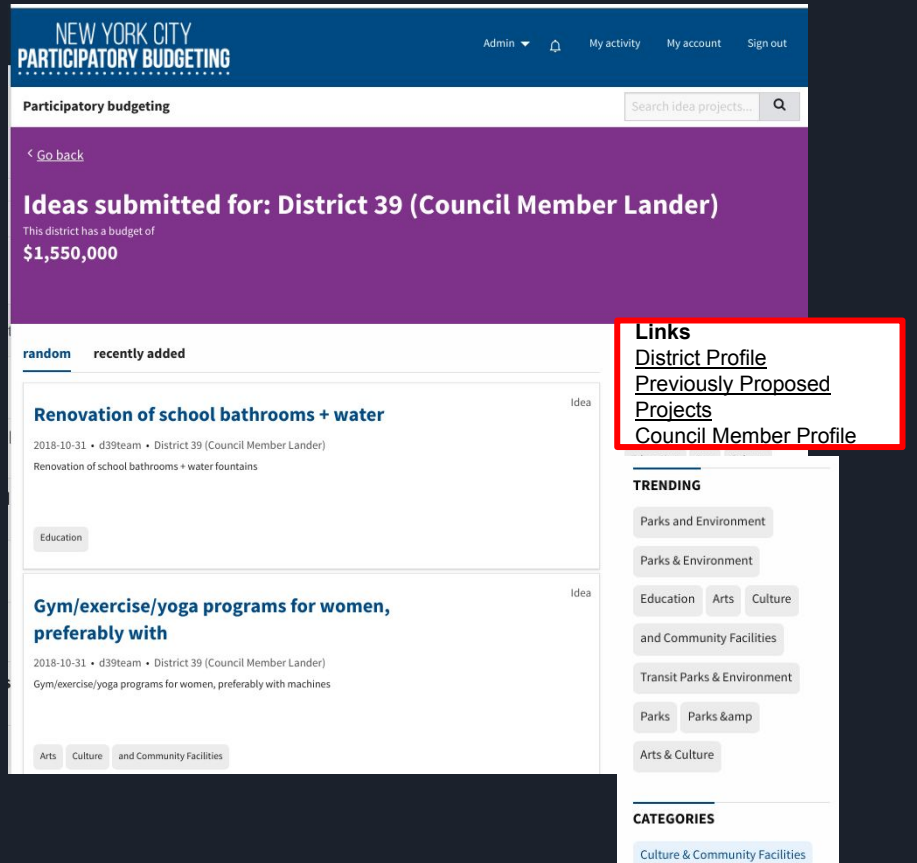




/budgets/1/ideas?heading_id=1

Display Content Block on Heading Page

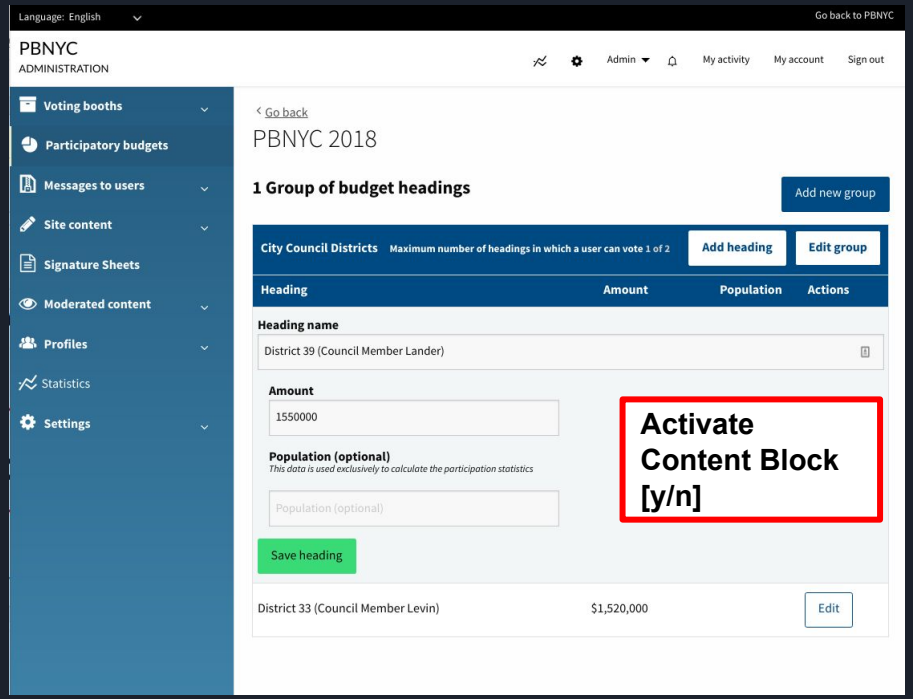
Content block displays at the top of the right hand sidebar.



/admin/budgets/1

Activate Content Block for a Heading

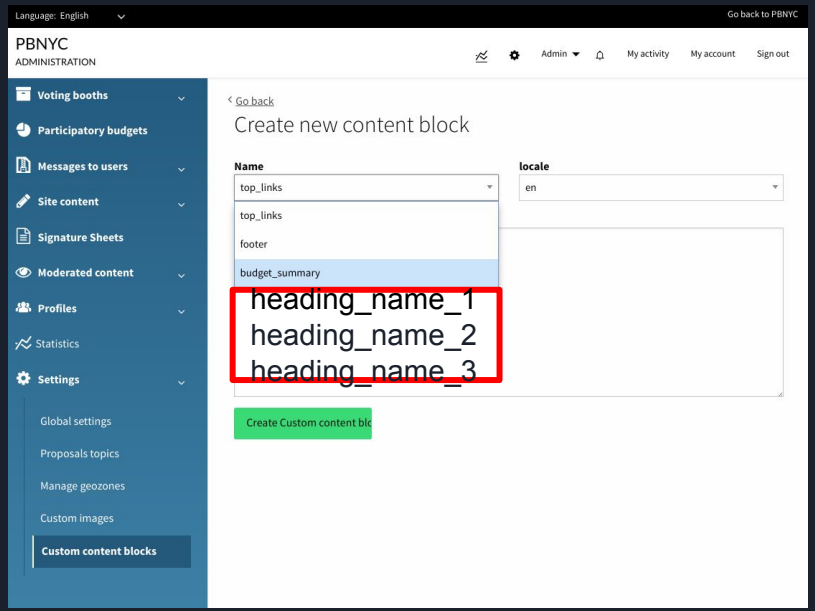
Add option to insert content blocks in heading sidebar.

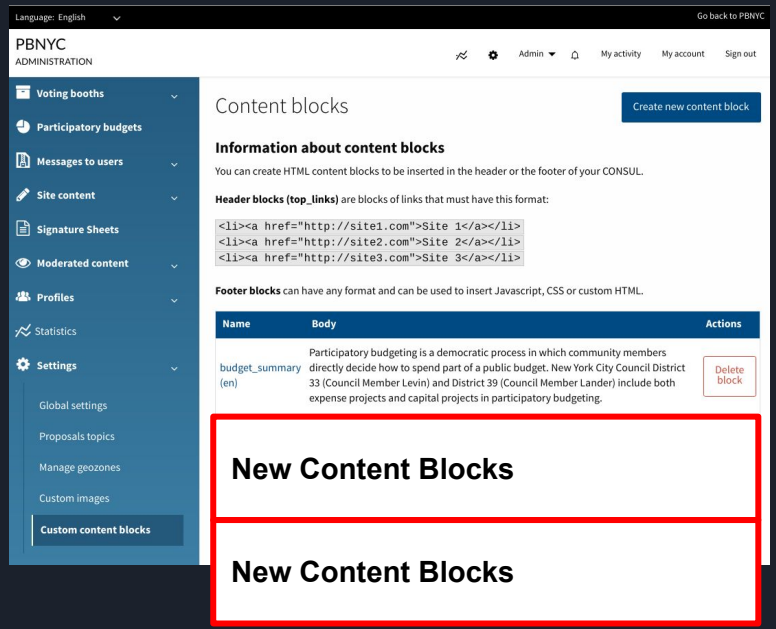


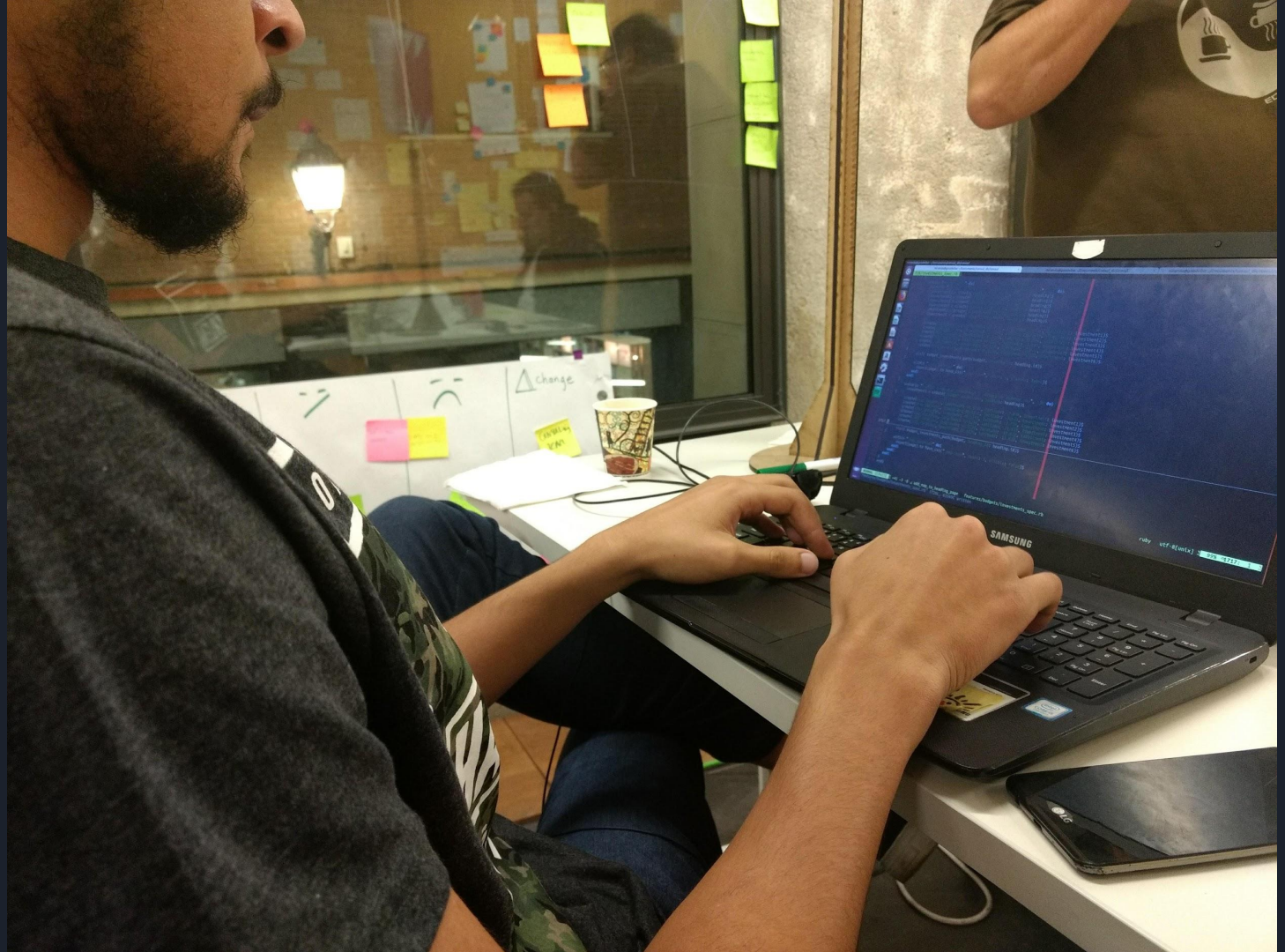
admin/site_customization/content_blocks/new, admin/site_customization/content_blocks

Generate the Content Block Name/Location

If activated, then the “header sidebar: header_name_x” appears as an options in content block section at admin/site_customization/content_blocks/new Content can be added there.

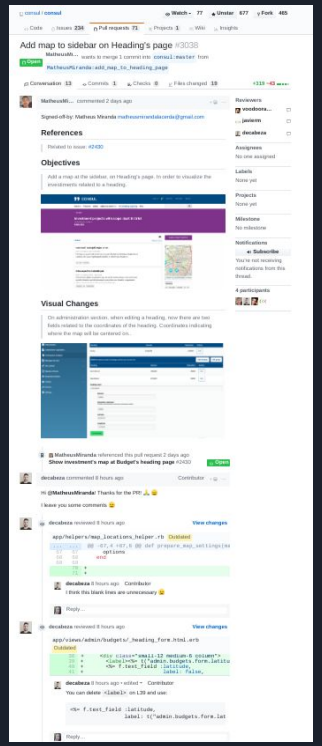


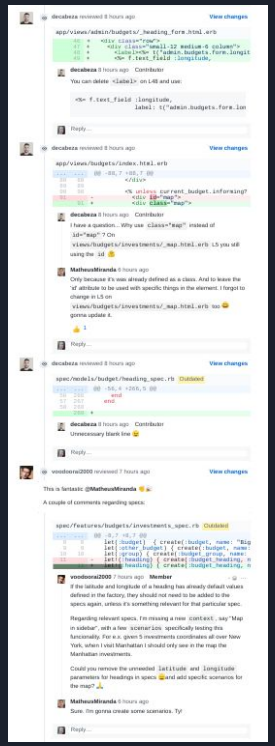


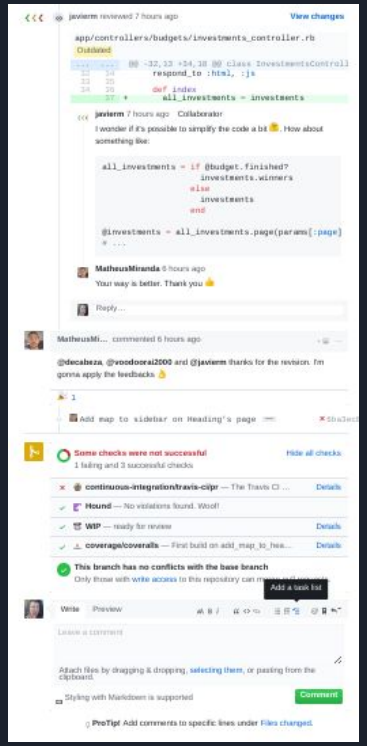

change
SAMSUNG

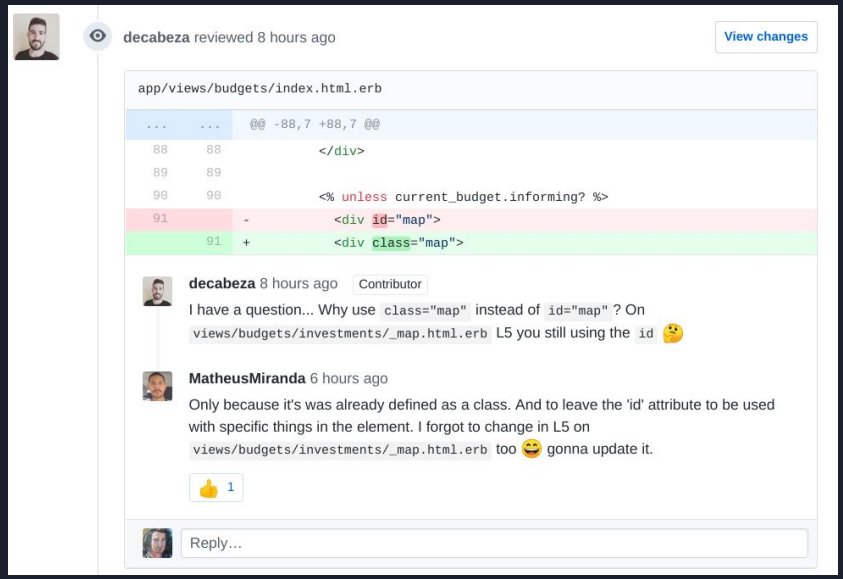
SCIENCE

Then... Code Review!

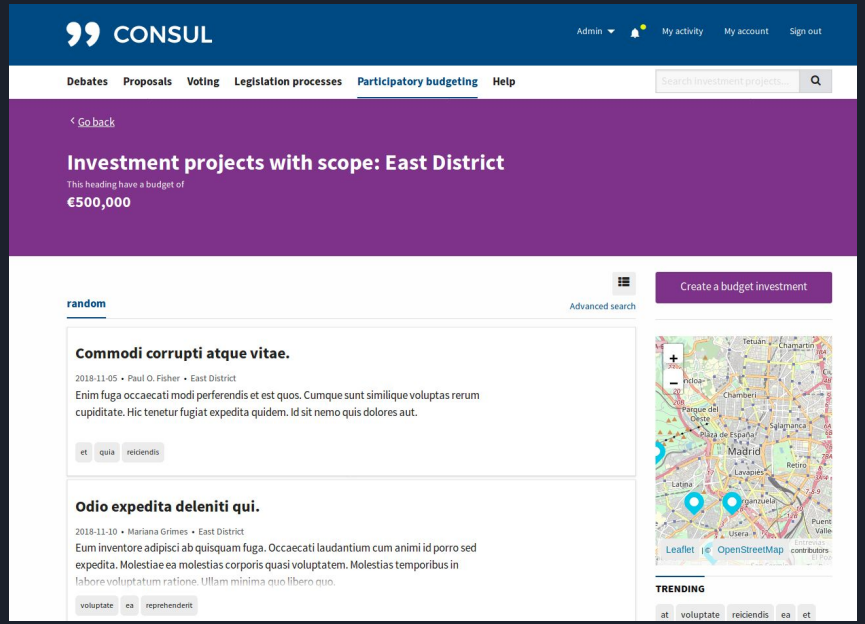








And Victory!!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My activity
My account
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Debates
Proposals
Voting
Legislation processes
Participatory budgeting
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Go back
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2018-11-05 • Paul O. Fisher • East District
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Odio expedita deleniti qui.
2018-11-10 • Mariana Grimes • East District
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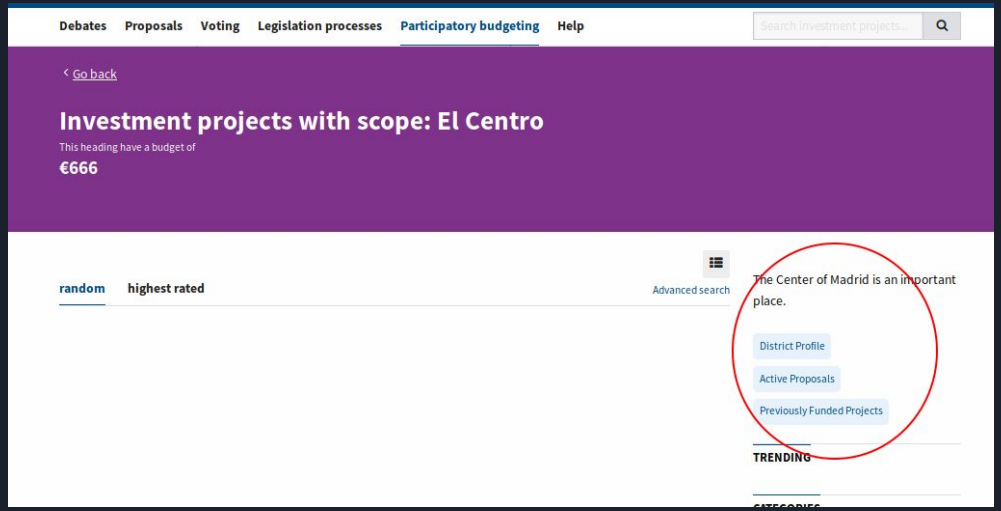
Debates
Proposals
Voting
Legislation processes
Participatory budgeting
Help
Search investment projects...
Go back
Investment projects with scope: El Centro
This heading have a budget of
€666
random
highest rated
Advanced search
The Center of Madrid is an important place.
District Profile
Active Proposals
Previously Funded Projects
TRENDING

Phase 3

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solutions

[To the website!
consulted.solutions]