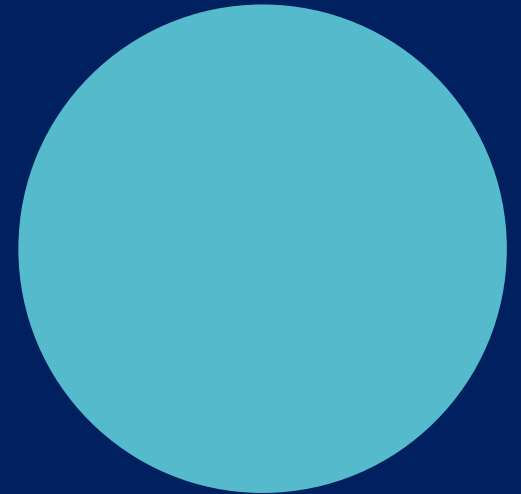


Participatory Budgeting in Cambridge, MA

VICE MAYOR JAN DEVEREUX

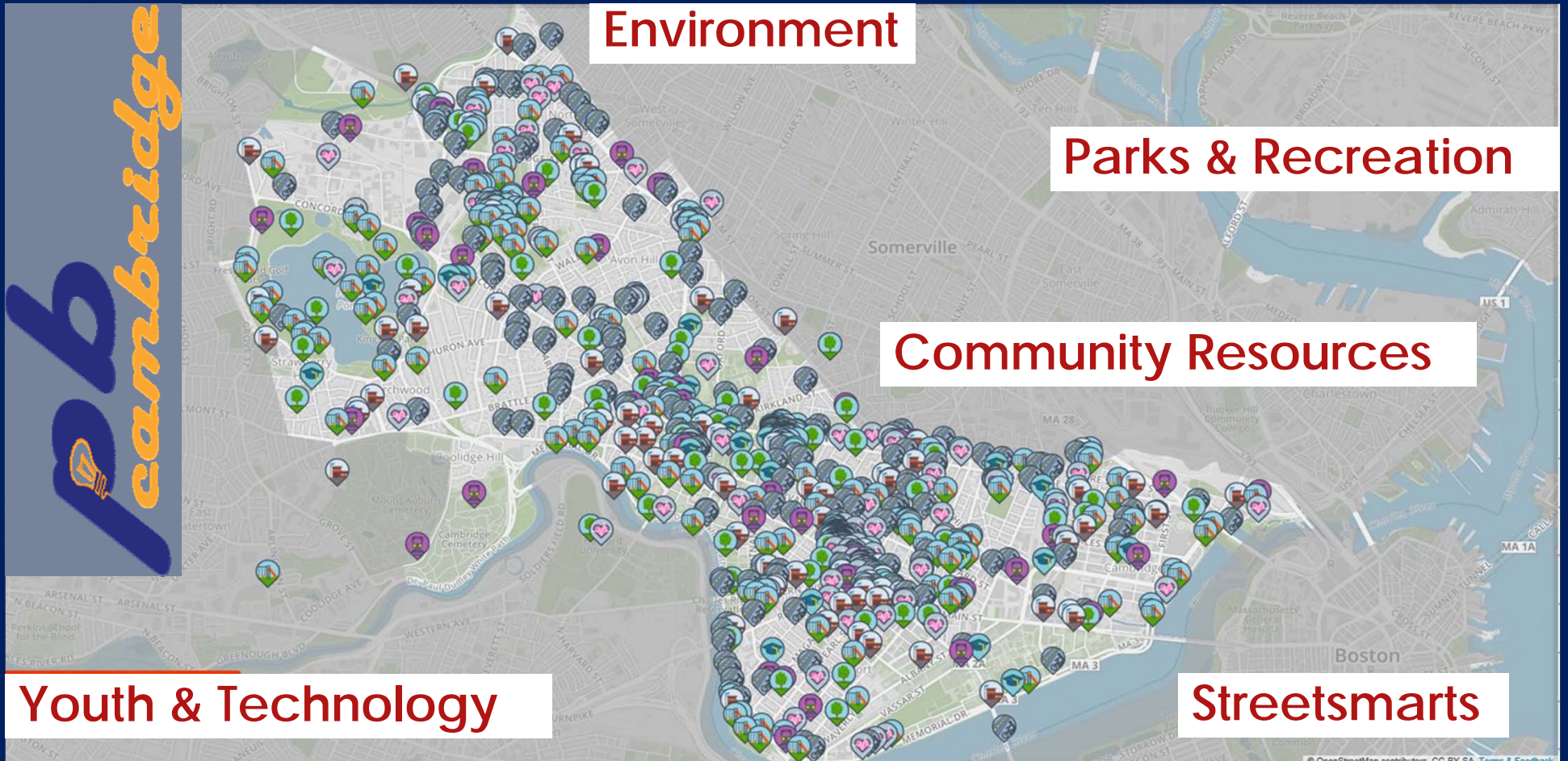


Real Money, Real Projects, Real Power

- ▶ Since FY16, yearly **dedicated City Budget allocation** for projects designed by residents
- ▶ With the program's success, each year its budget has grown
- ▶ PB allocation has **doubled** since inception:
FY16 = \$500,000
FY21 = \$1 million



Proposal Development Categories



Resident volunteers play a large part in managing the process:



- ▶ Outreach Committees
 - ▶ Collect **community generated ideas** and encourage voting
- ▶ Budget Delegates
 - ▶ Develop and narrow down **proposals (1,047 submitted in 2018)** and work with City Staff to estimate necessary amount of funds
- ▶ Voting station staff
 - ▶ **Raise awareness**, answer questions and help residents **cast ballots**





- ▶ All residents ages 12 and up are eligible to vote
- ▶ Voting is available online and in person at locations throughout the city
- ▶ Polls are open for 7 days, and results are announced at the end of the voting period



Examples of completed projects:



Public "Portland Loo" toilet installed in Central Square



Flashing crosswalk safety lights at key crossings



Protected bike lanes in Harvard Square

Selected projects for FY20:

6,849 residents voted in Dec. 2018. Their top choices:

1. **Trees, please!** (\$200,000)
2. **Water Fountains in Every Park** (\$90,000)
3. **Firefighter gear washing and drying stations** (\$110,000)
4. **Smoother Cycling** (\$250,000)
5. **Clean Up Cambridge** (\$125,000)
6. **Rain Gardens for Resiliency** (\$150,000)

