As adrienne maree brown (2017) suggests, we need “impacted leadership” – leadership of communities directly impacted by political, social, economic, or environmental injustice.

“Too often, in spite of their best intentions, those who aren’t directly impacted only see the surface layer(s) of the impact, and thus come up with surface solutions that don’t address the deep-seated multi-pronged need in the community” (p. 63).
Participatory Democracy

Democratization ... requires extensions of:

1. The **number** of people capable of participating effectively in collective decision-making.

2. The **scope**, bringing more issues and areas of life potentially under democratic control.

3. The **authenticity of the control** ... : to be real rather than symbolic, involving the effective participation of citizens.

(Dryzek, 2000)
“Dimensions” of Participation

A Ladder of Citizen Participation, Arnstein, 1969

8-Citizen Control: Participants handle the entire job of planning, policy making, and managing a program, project, or initiative.

7-Delegated Power: Delegated power to make decisions. Public has the power to assure accountability.

6-Partnership: Power is redistributed through negotiation between citizens and power holders. Shared decision-making responsibilities.

5-Placation: Allows citizens to advise, but retains for power holders the right to judge the legitimacy or feasibility of the advice.

4-Consultation: Attitude, opinion, and preference surveys, neighborhood meetings and public inquiry.

3-Informing: One-way flow of information.

1-Manipulation & 2 Therapy: Non-participative, cure or educate the participants, achieve public support.
### “Dimensions” of Participation

#### IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

IAP2’s Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public’s role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL</th>
<th>INFORM</th>
<th>CONSULT</th>
<th>INVOLVE</th>
<th>COLLABORATE</th>
<th>EMPOWER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL</strong></td>
<td>To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.</td>
<td>To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.</td>
<td>To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.</td>
<td>To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.</td>
<td>To place final decision making in the hands of the public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC</strong></td>
<td>We will keep you informed.</td>
<td>We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.</td>
<td>We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.</td>
<td>We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.</td>
<td>We will implement what you decide.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Miami-Dade Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study

How can the public provide feedback?

A: The public is encouraged to provide feedback on the draft report on our website through the "Public Comment Tool" or by sending an email to: MDBB-CSRMStudy@usace.army.mil. If written correspondence is required, written comments can be submitted to our district office (Environmental Analysis Section, Norfolk District, 803 Front Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23510). For any accessibility issues that prevent written comments, please call (757) 201-7728. The 45-day public comment period ends on July 20, 2020.

and chronic Back Bay flooding issues for Miami-Dade County.

The federal funding for this study is $3 million.
“Spaces” for Participation

• *Closed spaces*: decisions are made by a set of actors behind closed doors.
  
  • Examples: Corporate settings; Police departments; Politicians and lobbyists; Elite boards and networks

• *Invited spaces*: spaces into which people are invited to participate by various kinds of authorities, be they government agencies or non-governmental organizations.
  
  • Examples: Liberty City Rising (Public Housing); [Community Advisory Committees/Councils](#); County Commission; City Budget Public Meetings; School Board meetings.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>City of Miami GHG Reduction Plan Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>This meeting is to collect public input for City of Miami's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan that will help the City achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The meeting will run for 1.5 hours, start with a presentation and then proceed into facilitated discussions in breakout rooms. Thank you for taking the time to provide us with your ideas and feedback. If you have any questions, concerns, or accessibility requests, please contact us at <a href="mailto:resilience@miamigov.com">resilience@miamigov.com</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>You can choose to attend one or more of the following sessions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Mar 2, 2021 07:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Mar 3, 2021 07:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Mar 4, 2021 07:00 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Councils were primarily created to make zoning and land use decisions in a setting more accessible to the community. Community Councils also serve as advisory liaisons from their communities to the Board of County Commissioners and County staff, relaying relevant information and recommendations on selected concerns of the council area.

Community Councils make recommendations to the County Commission on capital, programming and operational priorities for municipal services such as police, parks, fire and roadway maintenance in their area, as well as relaying other concerns and needs of local residents.
4) Budgeting (optional)

a) Make recommendations to the County Manager and County Commission on priorities for community facilities and services and on Community Based Organization grants for the Council area.

b) Make recommendations to the County manager and County Commission on revenue needs including unincorporated area property taxes mileages and special taxing districts.
"Spaces" for Participation

• **Closed spaces**: decisions are made by a set of actors behind closed doors.
  - Examples: Corporate settings; Police departments; Politicians and lobbyists; Elite boards and networks

• **Invited spaces**: spaces into which people are invited to participate by various kinds of authorities, be they government agencies or non-governmental organizations.
  - Examples: Liberty City Rising (Public Housing); Community Advisory Committees/Councils; County Commission; City Budget Public Meetings; School Board.

• **Claimed/Created spaces**: which are claimed by less powerful actors from or against the power holders, or created more autonomously by them.
  - Examples: Mutual Aid, co-ops, community coalitions*, community organizing, movements

“Spaces” are constantly opening and closing through struggles for legitimacy and resistance, inclusion, co-optation, and transformation
BUDDY SYSTEM COMMUNITY FRIDGE INITIATIVE

A community fridge is a refrigerator located in a public space that enables food to be shared amongst the community. Anyone can put food in and take food out! The aim is to reduce food waste and support people facing hardships by providing access to healthy, nutritious food.

Photograph by Chris Ochoa
Photograph by Leo Varona
Where to Donate to Help People in Need During Texas’ Blackout Crisis

A list of organizations providing food, housing, and other disaster relief to people across the state

By CLAIRE SHAFFER

Here are five mutual aid groups in Texas that are assisting in the ongoing blackout relief — and that are currently accepting donations.

**Austin Mutual Aid**: Austin’s mutual aid group is currently raising funds to book hotel rooms for the city’s unhoused population during the snowstorms. The group is also accepting food, water, and toiletries donations from local residents.

**Mutual Aid Houston**: Houston’s mutual aid group is currently accepting donations on GoFundMe and has provided links to other local organizations assisting during the blackout, including Houseless Organizing Coalition, Crowdsourse Rescue, and the Parkhill Capital Foundation.

**Feed the People Dallas**: This mutual aid collective is currently accepting both cash donations and dry goods items (dried rice, beans, etc.) for its foodservice programs. You can find up-to-date info on mutual aid needs on the group’s Instagram page, or donate items from their Amazon wishlist. If you’re local, you can also volunteer to help prepare and distribute food items around the area.

**Austin Disaster Relief Network**: This disaster relief group is accepting monetary donations in order to pay for emergency housing, transportation, and food items.

**Lucha Dallas**: A Dallas-based BIPOC organization that is currently handing out hot beverages and meals to unhoused people in the city. Donations are accepted via Venmo @luchadallas.
In the wake of Hurricane Maria, a quiet revolution has been percolating on the island of Puerto Rico.

What began as an impromptu community kitchen meant to help feed survivors in the town of Caguas quickly grew into an island-wide network of mutual aid centers (Centros de Apoyo Mutuo) with the ultimate goal to restore power — both electric and civic — to the people.
“A giving circle is a group of like-minded individuals that get together to create change in their communities,” explained the executive director of Philanthropy Together, Sara Lomelin. “They talk about their values and they decide together where to put their talent, their time, their treasure, and their testimony.”

https://nonprofitquarterly.org/can-giving-circles-democratize-philanthropy/
...we must build strong local movements that engage thousands of people to build real political power to force decision makers to create budgets that move money away from police and prisons.
Another important way to make your voice heard is to participate in an upcoming virtual public budget meeting during the week of Monday, February 22. Our budget is a reflection of our community's priorities, and joining these meetings is the best way to make sure your input is included early on in the yearlong budget process. Register here: https://bit.ly/3ujdNVE
For people to be able to exercise their political agency, they need first to recognize themselves as *citizens* rather than see themselves as *beneficiaries or clients*.

(Cornwall, 2004)
If you had more control over community decisions, what is the first thing you would like to address to better your community?