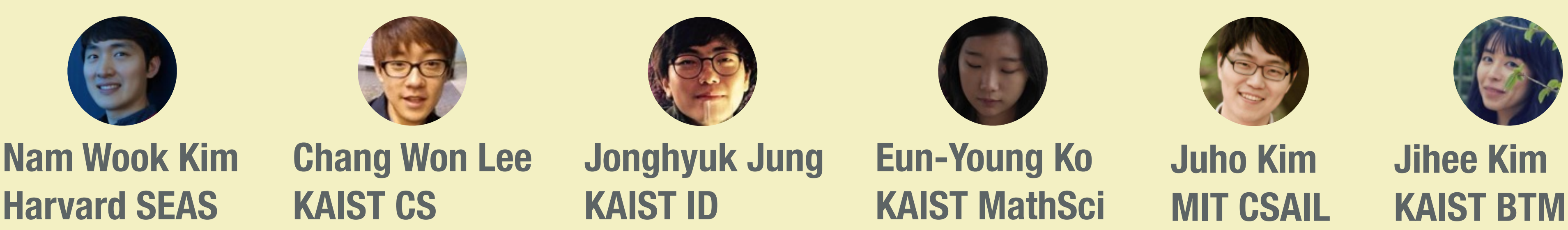


BudgetMap: Issue-Driven Navigation for a Government Budget



contact: namwkim@seas.harvard.edu

Key Summary

Motivation
The ability to evaluate how a government spends taxpayers' money is fundamental to a democracy.

Problem
It is difficult for taxpayers to make sense of extensive and multi-faceted budget data.

Method
BudgetMap, an interactive tool for navigating budgets of government programs through a lens of social issues of public interests

Result
BudgetMap helps users develop awareness and understanding of budgetary issues.

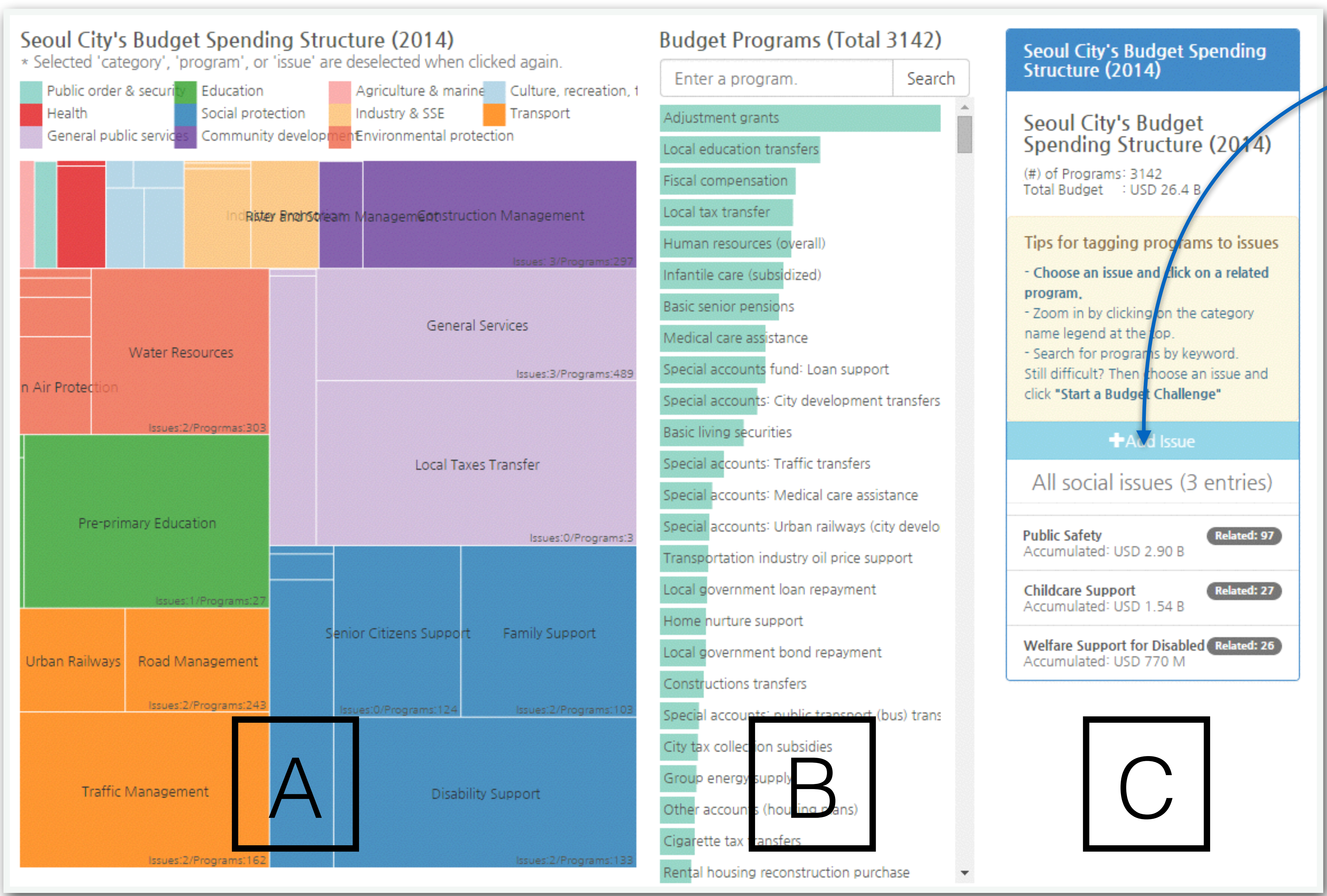
Issue-Driven Navigation

Using “**social issues**” to navigate government budget programs, will have the following advantages over the existing classification system.

1. **Reflects public interests and uses the language of the general public**, therefore making the budget more accessible for navigation.
2. Can meet the timely needs of the public because social issues by nature **reflect the current status of a society**.
3. Can serve as **constructive feedback** for government officials in the next budgeting cycle or improving the current system; by engaging in government activities, taxpayers will **become better informed**.

BudgetMap

BudgetMap elicits the public to tag government programs with social issues by providing active and passive tagging methods.

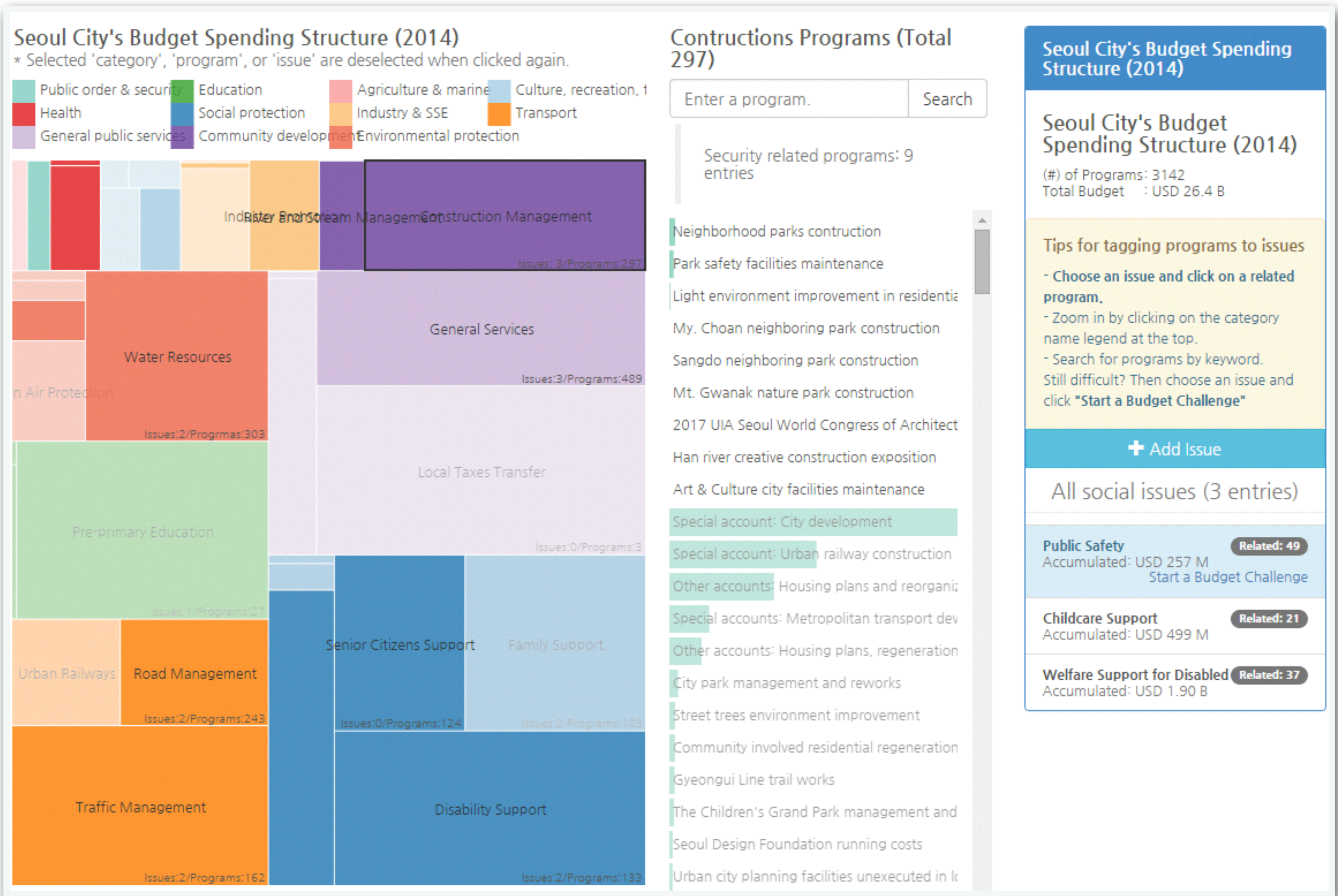


Active Tagging: BudgetMap helps users develop awareness and understanding of budgetary issues.

Passive Tagging: solicits lightweight and structured contributions from less active users, who may not deliberately search for programs and add links.

A social issue is a form of tag that may connect to budgets from multiple programs.

Overview of the BudgetMap interface
A: Budget category information of Seoul city
B: A list of programs sorted by the budget
C: A list of social issues



A user is presented with a randomly chosen program and asked to determine the relationship with the selected issue.

Project BudgetWiser: for a better understanding of a government budget:
www.budgetwiser.org

Issue-driven navigation: When the user selects an issue, relevant budgets and programs are highlighted. On the middle panel, the matching programs are shown at the top.