



BECVILLE PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING SYSTEM

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INTRODUCTION



Participatory budgeting system that will lead to community engagement and betterment.



The system will facilitate all of the steps of the project cycle, from gathering ideas to keeping residents updated.

USERS



RESIDENT

Residents are responsible for driving participatory budgeting. They submit ideas, like and view ideas, and vote on proposals.

ARTIST AND SUPER-ARTIST

They submit proposals and super-artists keep resident updated on proposals.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER

They view all ideas/proposals, privately comment on ideas/proposals.

MODERATOR

They keep the site in check.

ADMIN

They can manage the entire system and can change user information.

FUNCTIONALITY



IDEAS PHASE

Residents see a map of ideas upon entering the site.

Residents can submit their own ideas with prose and location attached.

Moderators can approve the ideas → they show up on the map!

PROPOSALS PHASE

Artists see a card list of all ideas, and can see which ones have support (likes).

Artists submit proposals, which are approved by moderators.

Steering committee can make internal comments on proposals.

VOTING PHASE

Residents can submit a voting form for three proposals they support.

The proposals with the highest votes will be funded.

Throughout all phases, a "News" tab keeps community up to date on what's going on.

TOOLS USED



THE BASICS

Rails
MySQL
Bootstrap
jQuery

BACKEND SUPPORT

Devise
CanCan
Simple Form
Paperclip

USER-FACING LIBRARIES

Trumbowyg
Recaptcha
Disqus
Google Maps

TESTING STACK

RSpec
SimpleCov
Factory Girl
Faker
Capybara
Teaspoon

PROBLEMS FACED



TECHNICAL ISSUES

Learning curve to Ruby on Rails, CoffeeScript, etc.

Limitations of some libraries.

Getting different parts of testing stack to work with other gems.

Difficult to debug Travis CI specific issues.

PROBLEMS FACED



DESIGN ISSUES

Presenting ideas in a clean, shareable format.
Structuring the application with distinct phases like idea collection, proposal collection, and voting.
Having voting interfaces be accessible and yet preventing fraud.

CONCLUSION



We will streamline Pauselab's idea collection process. This will help the non-profit consolidate all of their processes into one digital platform.



This will improve analytics. Additionally, this will encourage community involvement and make the process of funding community projects more democratic.