

Social Equity LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



JUNE 5 - 7, 2013 - NC STATE UNIVERSITY, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

International

Growing Pains: Instituting Participatory Budgeting in America

Friday 9:30 am; Panel 3

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Abstract: In 1989, the Brazilian city of Porto Alegre initiated participatory budgeting, a political process where community residents and elected budget delegates engage in a deliberative process aimed at identifying critical projects for public funding. Participatory budgeting became part of the American landscape in 2009, when Chicago Alderman Joe Moore implemented the process in the 49th council district. The experiment was considered a success, inspiring other American cities to implement the process. As of the fall of 2012, 8 New York City Council districts in the boroughs of Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, and Queens have adopted participatory budgeting as a means of allocating a portion of district capital funds. This paper utilizes the case study methodology to explore the workings of the participatory budgeting process in New York City and seeks to identify the potential barriers and opportunities local governments may face as they seek to utilize this process to promote socially equitable outcomes.