

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Participatory Budget: Citizens called upon to submit their projects

Vaudreuil-Dorion, July 13, 2023 – The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion is launching the third edition of its participatory budget by inviting citizens to submit a project they would like to see realized. New this year is a youth component that has been added to the formula, allowing citizens aged 12 to 17 to submit their ideas. The period for submitting projects runs from July 17th to September 22nd.

For 2023, the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion is continuing to build on its commitment to foster a culture of public participation, as stipulated in aspiration 5 of the 2020 > 2025 Strategic Plan entitled *Habité par ma ville*. The third edition of the participatory budget includes a general component in the amount of \$65,000, plus a youth component with a budgetary envelope established at \$10,000. It is important to remember that the Écoprojets Community Fund, with its envelope totalling \$25,000, will be held again next spring. This fund, as its name suggests, is reserved for environmental projects. All together, these figures amount to a budget of \$100,000 allocated to citizen participation.

"Participatory budgeting is a great initiative that allows citizens to become familiar with the budgeting process. The citizen submits a project, the City carries it out. This results in active collaboration between citizens and the departments involved. For the third edition, we wanted to add a youth component to allow 12-17 year-olds to have their say. I am therefore urging our citizens to participate in great numbers and fully take this opportunity to see a project they care about become a reality," said Mayor Guy Pilon.

Eligibility Requirements

Any citizen of Vaudreuil-Dorion aged 18 and over can submit a project individually or as part of a team. This participation is on a personal and non-professional basis. Associations and corporations are not eligible to participate in this process, as they have access to City grant programs. On the other hand, a citizen could submit a project with the support of an organization or institution. The youth component is open to anyone aged between 12 and 17 who is a resident of Vaudreuil-Dorion, and is accompanied by an adult who agrees to co-sign the application form and supporting documents.

The eligibility requirements, rules and participation form are available on the City's website under The City / Information / Citizen Participation. The period for submitting projects will run from July 17th to September 22nd. The projects selected will be submitted to the popular vote between October 30th and November 17th.

2022 Edition

During the 2022 participatory budget, nine proposals for citizen projects were submitted. 40.4% of the vote by citizens went to the “Library of objects” project, to be located at the municipal library, submitted by citizens Karine La Flèche and Stephanie Dornenberg. City teams have been working with the initiators of the project over the past few months to determine the type of objects that can realistically be included in the first phase of the project. The objects that will be among those available for borrowing have been arranged by theme: Science, Sports, Celebrations, Household items, Small tools, Toys, Outdoors, some Kitchen items, Family, Technologies, Learning kits (for people with special needs such as ASD, anxiety, certain visual or motor problems). Later on, some musical instruments will be added to the collection of objects.

The Library of objects is expected to be launched sometime during the summer, and will be located at the municipal library at 51 rue Jeannotte.

Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee is made up of representatives from the Communications Department, Finance and Treasury, Recreation and Culture, Urban Development, the Engineering and Environment Division, as well as an elected municipal official. The Committee will proceed with an admissibility assessment of the projects submitted according to the eligibility requirements and select the projects that will be submitted to the popular vote.

The winning project will be announced during the special budget session scheduled for December 11th, 2023.

If you have any questions, please send an email to budgetparticipatif@ville.vaudreuil-dorion.qc.ca.