

Bradley J. Bethel Jr.

February 24, 2016



## Description

The Little Free Libraries will bring little libraries to Buffalo's Masten District.

- The libraries will be centered specifically in the historic Hamlin Park neighborhood.
- Encourage independent education and community engagement.
- Promote neighborhood recreational space.
- Promote other civic qualities such as word-of-mouth marketing, grassroots organization, and recycling.
- Users will be free to leave a book and take a book as they wish. Individual or group donations from neighbors, schools, and organizations accepted. No costs or registration necessary.

## Who(m) Does this Benefit?

This project would benefit families and neighbors on Buffalo's East Side, particularly those who wish to encourage independent learning and self-reliance.

## Estimated Budget

The total cost of the program should not exceed \$10,000.

- **Design, Build, and Assembly:** \$250 (minimum) - \$300 (maximum) X 10 items = **\$2,500 - \$3,000**
- **Accessories:** \$50 X 10 items = **\$500**
- **Installation:** \$400 (minimum) - \$500 (maximum) X 10 items = **\$4,000 - \$5,000**
- **Total (before Sales Tax):** **\$7,000** (minimum); **\$8,500** (maximum)

## Confirmed Partnerships (*see attached documents*)

- The Foundry: Executive Director Megan McNally, (716) 912-5529
- Buffalo Museum of Science: CEO Karen Wallace, (716) 895-5200
- Hamlin Park Community & Taxpayers Association: President Stephanie Barber Geter, (716) 883-0529

## Potential Locations

- Oakgrove Ave. & Blaine Ave.
- Monticello Pl. & Trinidad Pl.
- Florida St. & Pansy Pl.
- Sidney St. & Lark St.
- Northampton St. & N. Parade Ave.
- Donaldson Rd. Circle
- Eastwood Pl.
- Jewett Ave. & Holden St.
- Mapleridge Ave. & Deerfield Ave.
- Northland Ave. & Moselle St.

[Masten Council District Map](#)

# Masten Council District



μ



Management Information Systems  
City of Buffalo  
May 31, 2011

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Mile

## Legend

- Population within Masten: 27,706
- Streets
- District Boundaries

To whom it may concern:

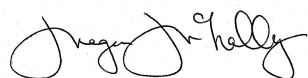
I am writing in support of the proposal for Little Free Libraries submitted by Bradley J Bethel Jr for the Participatory Budget for 2016. Net Positive Inc is a 501c3 organization that strives to foster ecologically, economically and socially viable neighborhood systems in the City of Buffalo by promoting community arts, providing mentoring and training opportunities for low-income, unemployed or underemployed individuals, and encouraging environmentally sensitive community development with technical assistance and training.

As part of our commitment to providing meaningful hands-on training experiences for neighborhood youth, we often work with youth to create projects which are publicly visible. Past examples include creating some of the blue bike racks for GOBuffalo. Students are proud of their work and can see examples of it throughout their community and we think that is very important for the social health of our neighborhood.

We have a woodshop in our building where we teach classes and would be able to build the aforementioned Little Libraries. In addition to working with students and building these proposed libraries, we would also be willing to teach a class on how to make Little Libraries if there are folks from the wider Buffalo community who want to make some for their own neighborhoods, making the project potentially larger than the proposed number being built.

If you have any further questions about our involvement in this project, please contact me at [megan@thefoundrybuffalo.org](mailto:megan@thefoundrybuffalo.org).

Thank You,



Megan McNally, Executive Director



March 6, 2016

Participatory Budget Committee

To Whom It May Concern,

As a major Cultural Institution in the Buffalo Masten District, the Buffalo Museum of Science supports the Little Free Libraries Project. This project aligns with our mission to be a change agent for our community while promoting lifelong learning. By providing immediate access to books, the Little Free Libraries Project promotes literacy and the love of reading while strengthening the sense of community in the Hamlin Park neighborhood. It's not just the content of books that matters, but also the memories and thoughts that books generate.

The Buffalo Museum of Science will serve as the Official Steward for the Little Free Library near its location. As an invested member in our community, we believe in the goodness of the vast majority of people and will care for this important addition to our community. We will support providing the books, keep the Little Library clean and inviting; and create positive interactions so people will keep coming back. For the best insurance for success and sustainability we will recruit kids or adults to be neighborhood Library champions. They can provide a valuable service and build self-esteem by visiting and checking the Libraries regularly.

We enthusiastically support the Little Free Libraries Project as a valuable asset to our community .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Wallace".

Karen Wallace  
Acting President and CEO





1



Estimated Budget  
\$8,500 (max) for  
10 little libraries

2



Benefits

- Encourages independent education and community engagement
- Promotes neighborhood revitalization
- Promotes after-school activities and afterschool programs
- Promotes grassroots organization and recycling

# Little Free Libraries

What are Little Free Libraries?

Little Free Libraries are small, often self-made kiosks containing a selection of used books. Neighbors and visitors are welcome to take or leave books for their convenience. Donations from individuals, schools, and organizations accepted. No payment or registration required.

Examples in  
Other Council Districts

- 1 Richmond Ave. & Bryant St. (Niagara)
- 2 Ontario St. & Capeland Pl. (North)
- 3 Agassiz Circle & Meadowview Pl. (Bellevue)
- 4 Lafayette Ave. & Oxford Pl. (Ellicott)

Potential  
Masten District Locations

- |                                       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ★ Northampton St. & North Parade Ave. | ★ Holden St. & Wakefield Ave. |
| ★ Wyoming St. & Scajoguade St.        | ★ Trinidad Pl. & Loring Ave.  |
| ★ Connelly Ave. & Olympic Ave.        | ★ Florida St. & Pansy Pl.     |
| ★ Collingwood Ave. & Bailey Ave.      | ★ Oakgrove Ave. & Blaine Ave. |
| ★ Kensington Ave. & Comstock Ave.     | ★ Lark St. & Northland Ave.   |



3



Partnerships

- ★ The Foundry
- ★ Bible Museum of Science
- ★ C3 Black Club
- ★ Connelly Avenue Black Club

4



Timeline

3 to 4 months,  
completion end of 2016

Little Free Libraries

What Is Participatory Budgeting (PB)?

Participatory Budget (PB) is a different way to manage public money. It is a democratic process in which community members like you decide how to spend part of our public budget. PB gives ordinary people real decision-making power over real money.

Residents brainstorm project ideas, volunteers develop proposals based on these ideas, residents then vote on proposals, and the government funds the top projects. It's real decision making power over real money.

What does PB mean for our community? More civic engagement, broader political participation, new community leaders and more active citizens, stronger relationships between government, organizations, and residents, and fairer and more effective spending of our City's dollars.

PB Buffalo owes its success to the following individuals. THANK YOU!

PB Buffalo 2015 -16 Budget Delegates:

Flora Williams  
Dolores Wilkenson Jacobs  
Della Miller  
Beverly Crowell  
Vincent Rondinelli  
Phyllis Harris  
Dennice Barr  
John O'Brien  
Yvette Suarez  
Ada Hopson - Clemons  
Gina R. Davis  
April Kelley - Gordon  
Bradley J. Bethel Jr.  
Candace Moppins  
James Bumpers  
Anthony Williams, FLARE, Inc.  
Michelle R.H. Brown, FLARE, Inc.  
James Clemons  
Sue Lumadue  
Allison DeHonney  
Cornelius Johnson  
Clifford Borden  
Sarah Tuck  
Janice Nelson Wells  
Gayla Thompson

PB Buffalo 2015 -16 Steering Committee:

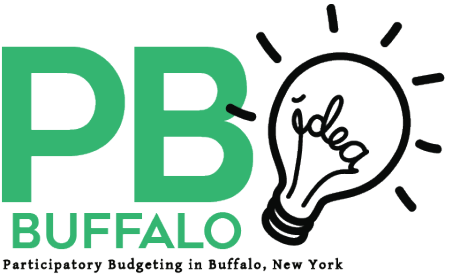
Natasha Soto, Clean Air Coalition  
Sean Mulligan, Councilmember Rivera's Office  
Jennifer Yuhnke, Heart of the City Neighborhoods, Inc.  
Brian Borncamp  
James Lopez  
Sydney Brown  
Bill Wachob

A Special Thanks To:

Councilmember Ulysees O. Wingo, Sr.  
Council President Darius G. Pridgen  
Councilmember David A. Rivera  
Councilmember Rasheed Wyatt  
Participatory Budgeting Project  
Clean Air Coalition  
Heart of the City Neighborhoods, Inc.



Participatory Budgeting Buffalo  
www.pbbuffalo.org  
@PB\_Buffalo







Ballot ID:  
\_\_\_\_\_

2016 OFFICIAL BALLOT

Participatory Budgeting (PB)  
Masten Council District, City of Buffalo

Your vote will help directly decide how \$150,000  
is spent on community improvements and programming  
in the Masten District!

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

-  All residents of the Masten District, age 14+, are eligible to vote  
Students who attend school in the Masten District, but may not reside in the district, and are 14+ are also eligible to vote
-  You may vote for up to six (6) projects  
Ballots marked with more than 6 votes will not be counted  
You cannot vote for the same project more than once
-  Please use blue or black ink. Ballots marked with pencils will not be counted.
-  Shade in, check off, or x out the box next to the project description to indicate your choice.



TRANSPORTATION

☐ Fillmore and East Ferry Bus Shelter  
One (1) Bus Shelter  
\$2,600  
One (1) bus shelter installed at the corner of Fillmore Ave and E Ferry St

Fillmore and French Bus Shelter  
☐ One (1) Bus Shelter  
\$2,600  
☐ Two (2 ) Bus Shelters  
\$5,200

☐ Humboldt Pkwy and East Delavan Bus Shelter  
One (1) Bus Shelter  
\$2,600  
One (1) bus shelter installed at the corner of Humboldt Pkwy and E Delavan

Fillmore Ave and East Delavan Bus Shelter  
☐ One (1) Bus Shelter  
\$2,600  
☐ Two (2) Bus Shelters  
\$5,200



STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

☐ Collingwood Ave Garbage Cages  
Five (5) Garbage Cages  
\$9,000  
Located at Bailey Ave, Freeman, Midvale, Copsewood, and Olympic.

☐ Sidney Street Garbage Cages  
Three (3) Garbage Cages  
\$5,400  
Located at Fillmore, Lark, and Rickert.

☐ Wohlers Ave Garbage Cages  
Three (3) Garbage Cages  
\$5,400  
Located at Hamlin, Donaldson, and E Ferry.

☐ East Delavan Ave Garbage Cages  
Ten (10) Garbage Cages  
\$18,000  
Located at Longview, Chelsea, Grider (4), Schauf (2), and Fillmore (2).

☐ Fillmore Ave Garbage Cages  
Eight (8) Garbage Cages  
\$23,400  
Located at North Parade, East Parade, Utica (2), Woepel, Glenwood (2), Woodlawn, Innerpark, and E Ferry (4)

☐ Jefferson Ave Garbage Cages  
Two (2) Garbage Cages  
\$3,600  
Located at E Ferry and Hedley Pl.

☐ Humboldt Pkwy Garbage Cages  
Five (5) Garbage Cages  
\$9,000  
Located at Dignity Cir and E Delavan, Northland, and E Ferry (2)

☐ Lighting on East & North Parade, North Hampton and Marshall Streets  
\$20,000  
40 lampposts will be installed and/or upgraded on streets surrounding MLK Park, including North Parade, East Parade, Northhampton, and Marshall, to beautify the community.

You may only vote for up to six (6) projects



PARKS AND GARDENS

☐ Dewey Avenue Park Improvements  
\$13,500  
Five (5) old benches will be replaced with improved seating and two (2) new park identification signs will be installed at Dewey Avenue Park for community use.

☐ Community Gardens at Highland Park  
\$10,430  
The Masten District Block Club Coalition will contract Elbers Landscape Services, Inc. to install landscaping at Holden St and Wakefield.



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

☒ Little Free Libraries  
Scattered Sites  
\$8,500  
To provide free access to books to the community, the Foundry will construct ten (10) 'little library' boxes and install them at various sites throughout the district.

☐ Smart Board and Computer Classes for Seniors  
Hamlin Park Business and Tax Payer's Association  
\$8,890  
One smartboard will be installed in the Computer Lab at 60 Hedley Place to increase access to technology and provide a computer instructor and computer courses to area seniors.

☐ Documentary on Humboldt and 33 Independent Producers Alliance  
\$8,000  
A documentary film will be produced to explore the effects of the Kensington Expressway (33) on Humboldt Parkway and the surrounding Masten District community.

☐ Farmer's Market  
Near Main St and Fillmore Ave  
\$14,100  
A Farmer's Market, open during summer months, will be located in the parking lot of International Wine and Spirits on Main St to increase access to healthy food.

☐ Tool Library  
CAO Masten Resource Center  
\$15,000  
A community tool library will be created at the CAO Masten Resource Center to increase access for DIY projects and home repairs.

☐ Community Kitchen  
Delavan Grider Community Center  
\$10,000  
Kitchen upgrades will be installed at the Delavan Grider Community Center, including a suppression system, three-compartment sink, and stove.

☐ Healthy Cooking Campaign  
Delavan Grider Community Center  
\$6,180  
A healthy cooking campaign will feature wellness activities (hands -on classes and education) twice each month, offered by Foodlink 716 at the Delavan Grider Community Center to promote wellness.

- ☐ Vote by Shading in Box
- ☒ or marking an X in the box
- ☒ or marking a check mark in the box





**Boys and Girls Clubs of Buffalo**  
**397 Northland Ave**  
**Buffalo, NY 14208**





**Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute Plaza  
Martin Luther King Jr. Park  
Buffalo, NY 14211**





**Buffalo Academy for  
Visual & Performing Arts  
450 Masten Ave  
Buffalo, NY 14209**



~ MASTEN DISTRICT ~



LittleFreeLibrary.org  
Take a Book - Return a Book  
A nonprofit organization  
Charter # 41604

Buffalo Public School #61  
Arthur O. Eve School of Distinction  
453 Leroy Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14215





**Delavan Grider Community Center**  
**877 East Delavan Avenue**  
**Buffalo, NY 14215**