Building a Community to Support Civic Engagement

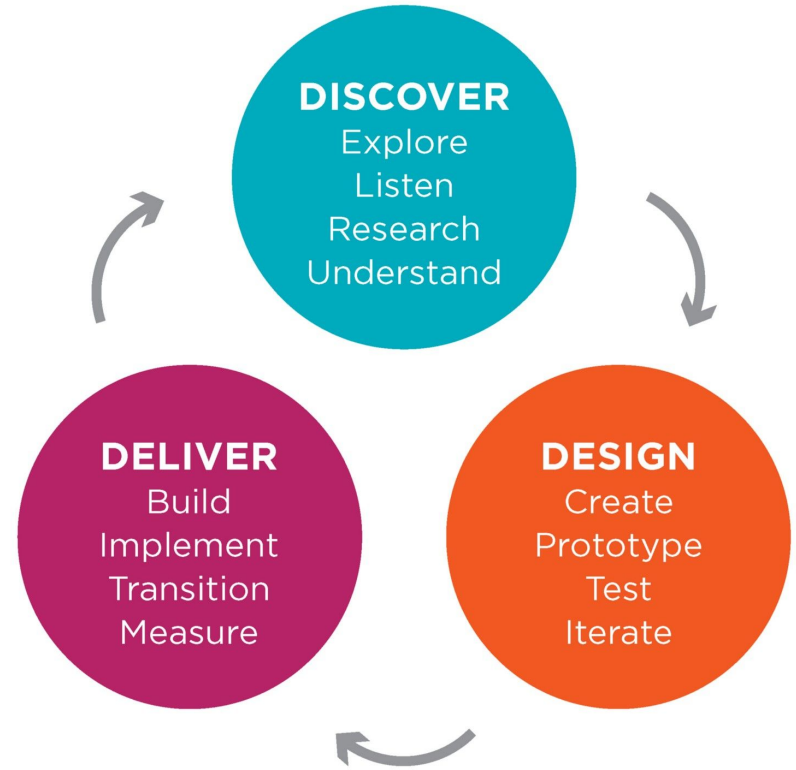Brainstorming Session

Basics about today's meeting

- July 11 — Next Baltimore Votes Advisory Board meeting to discuss strategies local leaders across the city are pursuing ahead of the general election.
- We will be exploring strategies to support those efforts and considering potential city wide campaigns to elevate ALL.
- Today, we want to get your input in that process.
- It's a little different than standard MPN programs but we and the MPN team hope it will result in deeper conversations and will surface more opportunities.

Human-Centered Design

People at the center

New ways of doing and making

Meaningful outcomes

DISCOVER
Explore
Listen
Research
Understand

DESIGN
Create
Prototype
Test
Iterate

DELIVER
Build
Implement
Transition
Measure

Expectations

Everyone

- **All ideas are welcome and speak from your own experience**

- **Encourage each other**

- **Quantity over quality**

- **No special expertise required!**

Funders

- **Show up with full humanity and contribute ideas to problem solving**

Community Partners

- **Funders showing up is not equal to a funding commitment**

What is Baltimore Votes?

Advisory Board

NATASHA MURPHY, BLACK GIRLS VOTE

RASHAD STATON, BALTIMORE CITY SCHOOLS

ARGENTINE CRAIG, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

VALERIA FUENTES, ROOTS & RAICES

ASHIAH PARKER, NO BOUNDARIES COALITION

NICOLE HANSON-MUNDELL, OUT FOR JUSTICE

KARENTHIA BARBER, BALTIMORE CHAPTER OF THE LINKS

Baltimore Votes Coalition

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Baltimore Votes Coalition is made up of community-based organizations dedicated to increasing voter participation and civic engagement in order to work toward a future for our city where every person, in every precinct, votes in every election.

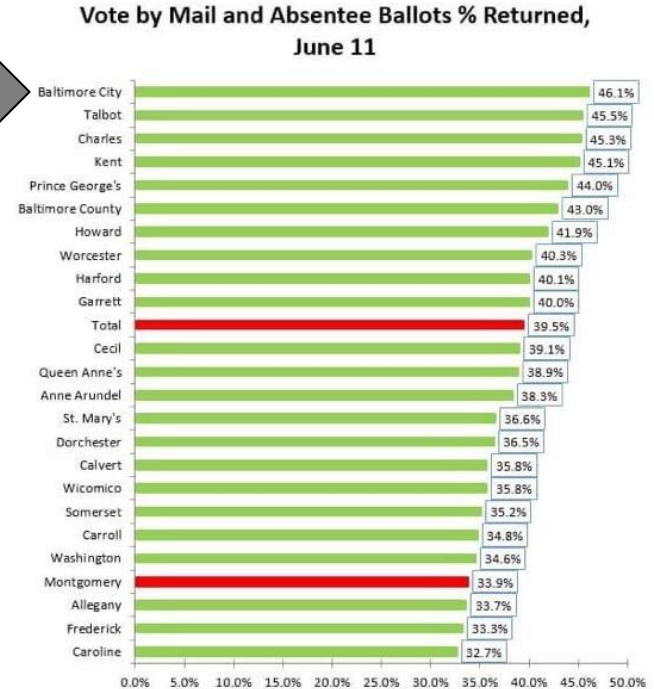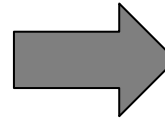## OUR COALITION'S WORK IS GUIDED BY THREE CORE VALUES:

Celebration

Community

Collaboration

Recent Elections in Baltimore

BALTIMORE TURNOUT

- Baltimore City had its best Democratic turnout in a primary since 1987!

- 157,000+ votes
  - 48% turnout as of June 8 (before results were fully in)
  - In comparison, the total turnout in the 2016 primary election was 45%

- 46,000 voters had never voted in a primary election
- 17,000 of them had never voted in a primary or general election

Vote by Mail and Absentee Ballots % Returned, June 11

Baltimore City	46.1%
Talbot	45.5%
Charles	45.3%
Kent	45.1%
Prince George's	44.0%
Baltimore County	43.0%
Howard	41.9%
Worcester	40.3%
Harford	40.1%
Garrett	40.0%
Total	39.5%
Cecil	39.1%
Queen Anne's	38.9%
Anne Arundel	38.3%
St. Mary's	36.6%
Dorchester	36.5%
Calvert	35.8%
Wicomico	35.8%
Somerset	35.2%
Carroll	34.8%
Washington	34.6%
Montgomery	33.9%
Allegany	33.7%
Frederick	33.3%
Caroline	32.7%

Source: Maryland State Board of Elections.

GOTV Efforts

Baltimore Votes:
- 8 Vote By Mail 101 webinars reached
- PSAs on social media, radio, and TV reached 1.8 million

Black Girls Vote
- Party at the Mailbox: 2,000 boxes
- 11,000 online Election Night party viewers

No Boundaries Coalition
- 40 cars in Car Caravan
- Weekly "Civic Saturdays" on Instagram Live

2020 GOTV Efforts

League of Women Voters
- Produced and distributed Voter Guides
- Hosted candidate forums in city council districts

Out For Justice
- 300 mailers into jails
- PSA series on reminding returning citizens they can vote

Roots and Raíces
- Hosted Immigrants and Latinos United online event

Advocacy

- Baltimore Votes, OSI-Baltimore and Black Girls Vote released 3 public letters demanding accountability in election administration
- Organized 2 community dialogues with the State Board of Elections and sought to inform voters how they can give input directly to the SBE

Funders were vital to this success

- As an extension of collaboration with Baltimore Votes, Black Girls Vote, No Boundaries, and others with the Blueprint for Baltimore survey, OSI-Baltimore worked closely with the coalition in the run-up to recent elections.

  - Capital support for Party at the Mailbox, other aspects

  - Communications support with the Hatcher Group

  - Thought partnership and logistics (email, website, etc.)

- Additional capital support

  - Annie E Casey Foundation

- In-Kind support between organizations

  - NAACP Baltimore partnership, soundtruck led the NBC car caravan

Landscape Scan

Beyond the Baltimore Votes Coalition, the civic engagement ecosystem is wide-reaching and made up of many groups:

Local: Baltimore Algebra Project, DewMore Baltimore, NAACP–Baltimore

State: Maryland PIRG, ACLU–Maryland

National: Common Cause, NAACP–LDF, National Conference on Citizenship, Students Learn Students Vote Coalition

What can we create together?

Guiding Principles

1

All ideas are welcome

2

Encourage each other

3

Be as descriptive as you can!

4

Center your own community's experience

5

Don't be afraid to think big!

Breakout 1

What specific civic engagement strategies would advance your organization's goals?

- Voter registration drives in schools
- Community dialogues about hard issues
- Advocacy for more inclusive election administration or voting systems
- Art and music to make the voting experience celebratory

Group: 10 minutes   **Shareback: 5 minutes**

Breakout 2

What are the barriers to funding civic engagement in your organization?

- Slow approval processes
- Legal complexity (c3/c4 issues, etc)
- Fear of partisan perception
- Lack of quality applications
- Limited experience with the subject matter

Group: 10 minutes   Shareback: 5 minutes

Breakout 3

How do we secure capital from local and national sources to support civic engagement in Baltimore?

- "Zoom house parties" with individual funders
- Asset mapping connections to national funding
- Teaming up to advocate for govt support (city, SBE, etc) for community based efforts

Group: 10 minutes   **Shareback: 5 minutes**

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Continue these conversations

- Baltimore Votes will send you our report detailing GOTV efforts from members of our coalition early next week

THANK YOU!