



QUILT KIT INSTRUCTIONS

QUILT WITH US

Calls to “defund” and “invest” echo in cities across the United States. Activists and policymakers are demanding cuts to police, debt servicing, and fossil fuels, and reinvestment in social services, financial safety nets, and renewable energy. Services that directly support, instead of harm, those most impacted by crime, poverty and public health issues, banding communities together with resources rather than fighting for scraps. Disproportionately, Black, Brown and immigrant communities face a double-edged sword of underfunding, aggressive law enforcement, and environmental conditions that challenge their very survival. While budgets are complex financial documents, they are also a mission statement for the city – a real-world accounting of officials’ priorities. Organizations that advocate for a just budget recognize that building a multi-issue and multi-racial coalition is necessary towards providing for all Philadelphians.

Stitching our Futures is a participatory art project that brings Philadelphians together to learn about the city’s budgetary process and imagine the possibilities of re-allocating funds towards community investment on their own terms.

What services do you currently use and access?

What services do you value?

What services would you defund?

What city services make you feel like you belong?

Quilting Suggestions

We invite you to create a quilt square that represents what you want to see from the city budget. Your pieces will be included in beautiful quilts displayed publically at the end of the budget season. To help you get started, we've compiled some research materials and suggestions for how to translate your ideas onto fabric. We can't wait to see what you come up with!

Cut out pieces of fabric to represent different priorities and sew them together or glue onto the background square. We suggest using old clothing, sheets, or other fabric you have available.

Use a technique called "applique" to sew/ glue pieces of fabric on top of your quilt square

Draw directly on the background block with fabric markers, paint, or other materials

Use the color pallet suggested, and/or label the categories on the square directly (or in a key)

Use embroidery thread to emphasize words, images, or symbols

QUILT AS A GROUP

Get a group together (online or safely distanced in person) to collectively decide how you want to allocate the city budget. Negotiations are key to this process. What can you agree upon?



Quilting Videos

RESEARCH & IDEATE

The city budget is a *financial plan* that details the government's projected revenues and expenditures for a defined period of time.

Operating Budget

Day to day services and programs

Capital Budget

Major Infrastructure investments

Other

Typically, narrow purpose. Examples are Enterprise, Fiduciary & Special Purpose



We are focused on the "General Fund" —

The primary fund supporting the operations of City government. Mainly financed through tax revenue (aka the money you pay)

Fiscal Year July 1 - June 30

Key dates

January: Operating Budget meetings with departments continue

February: Internal deliberations for Capital and Operating Budget. Recommendations prepared for the Mayor

April 15: Mayor delivers proposed Operating Budget, Five Year Plan, Capital Budget and Program; City Council budget hearings start

March/April: City Council holds Capital and Operating Budget hearings

May/June: City Council Budget hearings end; City Council passes annual Budget



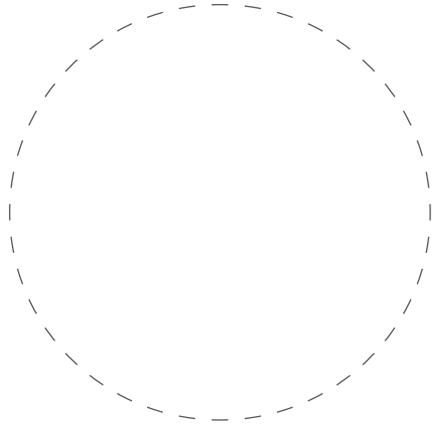
Resource Library



Budget Center FY21

What is prioritized in the current budget?

What would your pie chart look like?



Look at the priorities listed, imagine that the total needs to add up to \$100, how would you divide the money?

-  Non-Police Public Safety (fire response, ambulances, building safety, 911 and 311) _____
-  Education (preK through college) _____
-  Arts & Culture (special events, museums, public art, artist support) _____
-  Parks, Libraries, and Rec Centers _____
-  Public Health (COVID and other disease testing and prevention, opioid response, food and air quality protection, health centers, mental health services) _____
-  Police (including reforms) _____
-  Business Assistance & Regulation (permits, licenses, grants, and loans) _____
-  Sanitation (trash collection, recycling, neighborhood cleanliness) _____
-  Housing (rental assistance, home buying assistance, home repairs, foreclosure, and eviction prevention) _____
-  Anti-Violence Programs (youth programs, diversion programs, community interventions) _____

SKETCH YOUR IDEAS

Create your own pie chart or bar graph reflecting how you would allocate funds

Use the priorities listed on the left page and create a data visualization (pie chart, graph, abstract) to represent your allocations

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for sketching a data visualization or abstract representation of fund allocations.

Write a phrase that gets to the heart of what you want prioritized in the city budget

Examples:

"Healthier schools"

"End Cash Bail"

"Affordable Housing 4 all"

What services could use better funding? Can you draw those services?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the lower half of the page. It is intended for the user to write their response to the prompt above.



Register your quilt kit!

Questions? Contact
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