



WEBINAR GUEST BIO

Engaging community in budget decisions to build power

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Anita Dos Santos

Advocacy manager

Participatory Budgeting Project

Anita Dos Santos serves as the advocacy manager at Participatory Budgeting Project. She works with government agencies, schools and community-based organizations to develop strategies for implementing participatory budgeting. Prior to this role, she was an advocate for affordable housing and tenants' rights, providing holistic services to housing-insecure families and training partners to provide the same quality of care. Drawing on her community engagement work, Anita works to center and amplify community voice as the starting point for

transformation within our democracy. She holds a bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies from Queens College and is pursuing a master's degree in social work at Fordham University. She is a lifelong resident of New York City.



Benjii Bittle

Business development manager

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Benjii Bittle is business development manager of Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and director of the Public Health Centers for Excellence, a partnership with Spokane Regional Health District to advance best practices in public health nationally. His work at the intersection of equity, strategy and sustainability is fueled by a commitment to racial justice and authentic community engagement. His article [Sharing Power to Improve Population Health: Participatory Budgeting and Policymaking](#) was published in the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice in 2022.