Vanderbilt Stadium

Year Built: 1922 | Capacity: 40,350
How can people engage with government to increase water justice?

Baltimore’s Water Accountability and Equity Act:
• Makes water affordable
• Provides due process
• Creates a participatory structure through which customers can influence water policy

What does the denial of water rights in Baltimore City look like?
• Economic, legal, and narrative components

Can this be changed via “participatory governance”?
• Uses input from people affected by a problem in order to solve it
• Risk: “cosmetic” participation only (where input is ignored, especially input from disempowered/marginalized people)
To thwart cosmetic participation: shift power to constituent voice

3 components of Baltimore’s participatory process (adaptable):

1. **Operationalized Participation**: make it easier to collect and assess input
   
   *Examples*: collect input via existing structures, e.g., dispute processes, data; use proxy to assess constituent interests (Customer Advocate Office)

2. **Constituent Primacy**: give weight to input from disempowered constituents
   
   *Examples*: establish proxy mandates; protect mission

3. **Structural Accountability**
   
   *Examples*: create penalties for inaction, e.g., Oversight Committee/legislation, public hearings
LESSONS IN THE FIELD:  
THE SHELBY COUNTY LEAD PREVENTION & SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

- ELECTED OFFICIALS
- GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
- BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
- COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS
- ACTIVISTS
- ADVOCATES

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