



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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