



RACIAL EQUITY



BUDGET TOOL

2027 BUDGET CYCLE

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By achieving racial equity, Milwaukee is the healthiest county in Wisconsin.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY VISION STATEMENT

Overview

Racism has been and is a public health crisis in Milwaukee County. According to the County Health Rankings, Milwaukee County has consistently been, one of the lowest-ranked counties for health in Wisconsin and, according to Federal Reserve Economic Data, Milwaukee County is one of our nation's most racially segregated areas.

According to 2019 statistics, a white person lives, on average, nearly 14 years longer than a black person and the infant mortality rate is nearly three (3) times higher for black infants compared to white infants. Race is a social construction with no biologic basis, yet racism may produce an assigned societal value based on the way a person looks that has resulted in race being a consistent predictor of a person's quality and length of life.

Racism (not race) is a leading indicator of health because it structures access to opportunity like housing, education, employment, food, safety, and care. When access to opportunity is structured unequally, health outcomes follow that pattern. Other forms of oppression (i.e., ableism, sexism, etc.) operate through similar pathways, and when they intersect with racism, the impact on health compounds.

When we examine and correct the structural barriers created by racism, such as inequitable housing policy, underinvestment in neighborhoods, food apartheid, or unequal access to capital, we are also strengthening the infrastructure that also affects women, people with disabilities, older adults, Veterans, immigrants, and others who face systemic barriers in Milwaukee County.

The Racial Equity Budget Tool (REBT) enables departments to critically assess the impacts of budget decisions. The tool is structured around Milwaukee County's strategic focus areas to help departments and decision makers be better stewards of public resources.

Milwaukee County's Racial Equity Budget Tool (REBT) is designed to:

Make intentional connections between the strategic plan and the budget.

Use racial equity as the key guiding principle for important decisions regarding investments or disinvestments.

Initiate conversations on topics related to the three-year strategic objectives among department leaders and employees.

Provide baseline data on departmental efforts to inform enterprise-wide decisions.

Milwaukee County Strategic Focus Areas

In 2019, Milwaukee County launched its first strategic plan in 20 years. This plan explicitly recognizes that racism is a public health crisis and leads with the vision that: **By achieving racial equity, Milwaukee is the healthiest county in Wisconsin.**

As part of the strategic plan, Milwaukee County leaders have committed to use a racial equity budget tool to ensure resource allocations advance the strategic focus areas and vision. The questions in this budget tool were guided by the strategic plan and were informed by best practices from other jurisdictions and the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE).

1. Create Intentional Inclusion

- Reflect the full diversity of Milwaukee County at every level of County government.
- Create and nurture an inclusive culture across the Milwaukee County government.
- Increase the number of Milwaukee County contracts awarded to minority- and women-owned business.

2. Bridge the Gap

- Determine what, where, and how we deliver services based on the resolution of health disparities.
- Break down silos across Milwaukee County government to maximize access to and quality of services offered.
- Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions.

3. Invest in Equity

- Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities.
- Enhance Milwaukee County's fiscal health and sustainability.
- Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities.

Instructions

1. Submit only one REBT per department.

The REBT should reflect an analysis of the suite of budget decisions per department. Within answers to each question, **details may be provided at the division level**, as determined appropriate. Decision points should be analyzed as part of the comprehensive effort that your department is undertaking in addressing racial equity in programs, plans, policies, and power structures. Since departments are often tasked with cutting their budgets to reflect a reduction from their previous fiscal year's budget, a REBT should also include an analysis of how proposed reductions may or may not burden Black and Brown individuals and communities.

2. Keep the focus on the analysis of departments' improvements, reductions, and overall budget.

The REBT will focus on a racial equity analysis of decisions for new policies, programs, and plans under consideration, and the department's ongoing commitment to racial equity.

3. Use demographic data to help your department determine benefits and burdens of new decisions and overall budget.

State and federally collected demographic data resources are provided in [Appendix C](#). Departments are encouraged to

use any data they collect on their service users throughout the completion of the REBT. Data from other relevant and credible sources a department may have is also acceptable.

4. REBT technical assistance information and opportunities.

If you have questions related to the 2027 REBT, please attend one of the Strategy, Budget and Performance Open Office hours and bring the questions. All persons who may be expected to assist the department director in completing the REBT will be encouraged to participate.

- If you understand the question, but have difficulty determining how to answer a question, please contact your Budget Analyst for assistance.
- The Office of Equity should only be contacted on questions related to the racial equity components (glossary, concepts, etc..) that are unclear and cannot be addressed by your Budget Analyst. Send correspondence via email to equityoffice@milwaukeecountywi.gov.



RACIAL EQUITY BUDGET TOOL

Date Submitted:

Department: Milwaukee Art Museum

Please note: each response field below has a 2,500-character limit.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 1: CREATE INTENTIONAL INCLUSION

1. What activities are you doing to attract and retain a diverse and inclusive workforce in your department? What are the associated costs of these activities?

We are an equal opportunity employer with established non-discriminatory policies and procedures. All open positions at the Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) are advertised internally and externally. We regularly use the following channels to attract and retain a diverse and inclusive staff: Postings on ZipRecruiter, LinkedIn, Indeed, and Milwaukeejobs.com. These recruitment platforms are intentional in their outreach to a diverse and underrepresented talent pools. Milwaukeejobs.com meets Government Compliance (OFCCP/EEO/AA) standards. Milwaukeejobs.com connects MAM with qualified candidates through job boards that serve minorities, women, people with disabilities, and veterans.

2. How do you use professional development and advancement opportunities to promote equity in your department's workforce? What resources are used to support these opportunities for professional development and advancement?

The Museum has historically budgeted for professional development opportunities at regional and national conferences for staff throughout the institution. Learning & Engagement, Conservation, and Curatorial staff are encouraged to present at conferences. Staff also join affinity groups such as the National Art Education Association's BIPOC Space for Museum Educators, and the American Alliance of Museums BIPOC Museum Professionals Affinity Group (launched in 2026). These groups convening virtually with professionals nationwide.

The Museum also has a long history (40+years) of recruiting teen interns. Each year, the MAM hires ~40-50 diverse teen interns to learn about the Museum's collection and the job opportunities museums have to offer. This program helps to build the pipeline for future diverse employees in the museum field. Alumni from this program have gone on to work in the arts as teachers, designers, curators, conservators, and art librarians throughout the country. They have all said their MAM internship was when they realized they could have a career in the arts. The museum is also overhauling our wider internship program to make internships equitable for all interested parties. All of these efforts provide professional development and help to build a more diverse workforce in the future.

3. Our employees can be a great resource for innovation and knowing what is working well and what needs work. Have you engaged a diverse group of frontline employees to inform decisions about your proposed budget changes? If yes, how was input solicited, who was involved, and what were the results?

The Extended Leadership Team (ELT) was formed in fiscal year 2025 (September 2024 – August 2025) to grow the leadership and decision-making capacity of the MAM. The ELT comprises several dozen staff members across the institution, with representation from each department. Together, this body will support the multi-channel communication of what is working well and what needs work, including around proposed budget changes. While ELT is still developing, the work of the group thus far has included: an Accessibility Task Force, that is assessing our institution to move toward universal design; a Staff Site Task Force that creates a central communication tool for all our employees and continued feedback on major initiatives and challenges facing staff.

4. Are you tracking contracts with minority and women-owned business? If yes, please share percentages of each. If no, why not?

Institution-wide tracking of minority and women-owned businesses remains an ongoing process. Several years ago, tracking minority and women-owned business was one of the DEAI cross department goals of the Museum. Our greatest success has been within Community Dialogue, a programming area of the Learning + Engagement Department. Community Dialogue oversees adult programming including our Free Day + Celebration, Expert Series, Guest Gallery Talks, and Haberman Local Luminaries events. Across these programs between September 2025 – August 2026 90% of our contracted guest artists, speakers, and performers are minority and women-owned business (61 out of a total 68 vendors).

Commitments continue in departments across the Museum to contract minority and women-owned businesses, but a comprehensive tracking system is not yet in place. We are continuing to pursue the goal of developing a CRM system available to all staff to easily track, maintain, and update partnerships. The hiring of our new Chief of Business Enterprises, will hopefully help to usher-in a museum-wide data tracking system.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 2: BRIDGE THE GAP

5. How and when have service users, in diverse and inclusive communities, and other key stakeholders been engaged to inform decisions about changes in funding levels for services provided in your requested budget (who was involved, what was the forum, what were the results)?

The Museum is governed by a Board of Trustees who approve the annual budget (~15% of the Board of Trustees are persons of color). Women have strong leadership roles at the Milwaukee Art Museum—led by a female director, with 78% of the senior management staff and 47% of the Board of Trustees being women. Under MAM's strategic direction launched in 2020, we are shifting from traditional models of programming and outreach to practices that better embrace multiple points of view. This includes developing new approaches to connecting with our community to understand and respond to the role the museum wants to play in their lives. As MAM moves toward a more participatory model of engagement, we are placing greater emphasis on process over product and transformative relationships versus transactional relationships.

The Milwaukee Art Museum currently has had two advisory groups: Our Community Advisory Group (formed in early 2019 to help launch our Strategic Direction; sunset in 2023, but we continue to maintain relationships that are project-based) and our Native Initiatives Advisory Group (formed in 2021; still active). These advisory groups have been central in shaping our efforts around programming, interpretation of our art collection and exhibitions, and helping staff to prioritize where we invest resources (staff time, labor, and finances) to launch and sustain efforts. The Community Advisory Group, for example, was central in helping us create new programming opportunities (e.g., the model for our "Free

Days + Celebrations”) and physical updates to our campus (e.g., signage, visitor amenities, etc.) to further develop a welcoming atmosphere at the Museum.

Our Native Initiatives Advisory Group has helped guide the reinstallation of our American Galleries in June 2025. The gallery, *Homelands: Mně'nának, Māēnāēwah, Tešišik*, reasserts the presence of Native people in American art through works primarily from the region now known as Wisconsin and the Western Great Lakes. In November 2025, we collaborated on a symposium held at UW-Milwaukee, around the work of the Native Advisory group and focused on the relationship between museums and Native communities. In the coming year we will be working together on exhibition programming and interpretation for two exhibitions: *Beneath the Surface: Mining and American Photography* and *Water's Edge: The Art of Truman Lowe*.

6. Describe ways in which demographic and economic data were used to prioritize resource distribution. (Data can include sources found in the resources section of this tool, department collected data, or any other relevant data from other sources.)

Regarding programming and contracts with vendors, we've continued using Working Artists and the Greater Economy's (W.A.G.E) fee calculator to determine standard pay rates for artists and vendors. This calculator has been used regularly across Community Dialogue/Learning & Engagement and Curatorial Departments to guide an equitable rate of pay across vendors—from local community members who serve as guest gallery talk presenters to regional and national artists who serve as keynote speakers, as well as guest performers and teaching artists for our multi-generational programming.

U.S. Census Bureau data is also referenced for prioritizing resource distribution to Milwaukee County's majority African American and Latinx populations in our youth programming, including the Junior Docent School Program, Teen Internships, and distribution of free summer passes for families. In addition, students attending Title 1 schools or receiving free or reduced lunch are prioritized for scholarship funding to attend studio classes and summer camps at the Museum.

7. a. How does your budget reflect efforts to work across departments to break down silos to maximize access to and quality of services offered? b. How does this help us achieve the vision of achieving equity and health?

Our institutional goals established several cross-departmental groups to address issues such as knowledge management, partnerships and vendor groups, inclusive language, accessibility, Native Initiatives, and assessment and evaluation. In addition, we continue to refine our institutional calendar and program planning processes to ensure cross-departmental work and an opportunity for all interested staff to give their input. All these efforts help the institution work together to successfully actualize our mission: to connect people to art, each other, and the world.

8. What are the expected benefits and potential unintended consequences to disadvantaged communities of your proposed budget changes?

a. What analysis did you do to determine the expected benefits and potential unintended consequences?
The expected benefits are a more diverse workplace, board, and visitor base that engages the community through art.

b. What will your department do to mitigate unintended consequences resulting from your proposed budget changes?

Each program is reviewed and evaluated for expected results and will be adjusted as needed. The Museum is currently undergoing outside evaluations to help us create our own metrics for evaluating visitors' sense of belonging and connection to the Museum.

c. What are the demographic impacts of any fines and fees accessed by your department? Are there disproportionate impacts on any particular groups? n/a

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 3: INVEST IN EQUITY

- 9. If your department were to receive some additional funding for addressing equity, what specific strategic plan priority would you address, what would be the project/activity and intended outcome, and how much would it cost?**

Additional funding would allow us to continue creating an institution-wide plan for inviting, engaging, and sustaining relationships with community members that center belonging. We will use funds to continue to grow our abilities to offer greater access to our community by using funds for free passes, free days, and/or discounted rates. Moreover, year over year, we continue to see how integral our Studio in the Community program continues to be and we don't want to limit requests to be at locations across our city due to a lack of resources. We hope to use additional funding to reimagine our staffing model so that we remain accessible and available thereby furthering our educational programs for MPS schools, offer more DEAI training for staff, volunteers, board members, and strengthen our mission.

- 10. What is your department doing to dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities, including meeting multilingual needs, accessibility barriers, food apartheid, financial empowerment or other factors that impact the stability and wellbeing of people in Milwaukee County?**

Museum Board of Trustees: Adopted a new strategic plan to focus our work on connecting people to art, each other and the world. This plan includes our previously passed acquisition strategy focusing on the work of underrepresented artists and narratives. Senior Leadership Team: We have expanded and diversified the Senior Leadership Team to strengthen bidirectional communication and decision-making.

Centering audience-centered storytelling in our interpretation efforts that place relationships with community members and process as the highest priority. We are expanding our audio guide offerings to develop multilingual tours for our permanent collection and future exhibitions, and also increasing the use of bilingual printed materials. The Museum also has multilingual volunteer docents to lead both school and adult tours and offers assisted hearing devices and/or ASL interpreters on request.



Appendices

Appendix A:
Glossary

Appendix B:
Frequently Asked Questions

Appendix C:
Resources by Strategic Focus Area

Appendix D:
Community Engagement Frameworks

APPENDIX A

GLOSSARY

Communities of color: In the context of the Milwaukee County Racial Equity Budget Tool, the term communities of color is interchangeable with Black and Brown communities and inclusive of all non-white populations of color.

Historically marginalized communities: A collective term for referencing communities that have historically experienced inequities where they learn, live, and work that were/are not optimal due to disenfranchisement, disinvestment, marginalization, racism, and other systems of oppression.

Diversity: Diversity includes all the ways in which people differ, and it encompasses all the different characteristics that make one individual or group different from another. It is all-inclusive and recognizes everyone and every group as part of the diversity that should be valued. A broad definition includes not only race, ethnicity, and gender — the groups that most often come to mind when the term “diversity” is used — but also age, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, education, marital status, language, and physical appearance. It also involves different ideas, perspectives, and values.

Diverse group: As it relates to question 5, an intentional effort to include individuals from different racial, ethnic, gender, and social backgrounds proportionate to the diversity of the department.

Economic data: Numerical data collected based on service delivery criteria determined by departments.

Equity: The just, fair, and impartial treatment, acceptance, or behavior of people without favoritism or discrimination. Equity means righting wrongs, doing what’s right, and giving people what they need to thrive, which is different from equality, which means everyone gets the same thing regardless of circumstance or need.

Food Apartheid: Inequity in the food system on the basis of race, class, and geography that are the result of discriminatory planning and policy decisions.

Frontline employees: A grouping of Milwaukee County employees that serves as the initial point of contact for service users or a range of employees from all levels of the

workforce with emphasis on the inclusion of direct service rendering staff.

Inclusion: Assurance that the culture, values, and opinions of individuals and groups are represented in the decision-making processes.

Inclusive workforce: A workplace environment that recognizes the contributions of all employees, while valuing their social status, race, gender, or other demographic classifications.

Key stakeholders: Both internal and external individuals, agencies, or organizations who participate in the planning, development, implementation and decision-making process of an activity, process, or service delivery. (AMOP: Key stakeholders are service users, the workforce, partners, governing boards, donors, suppliers, taxpayers, regulatory bodies, policy makers, funders, and local and professional communities.)

Multilingual needs: The ability of Milwaukee County departments to address linguistic needs for all service users through staffing, documentation, and other communication platforms.

Professional advancement: Opportunities for staff to build their capacity and ascend or pursue lateral movement to further advance their career trajectory.

Racial data: Demographic data collected by Milwaukee County departments that identifies the race/ethnicity of service recipients.

Racial equity: The just and fair inclusion of all people in society, regardless of their race/ethnicity, with unfettered ability to participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. Racial equity is achieved when race no longer determines one’s health and socioeconomic outcomes and when everyone has what they need to thrive and decide what’s best for themselves, their families, and their communities, no matter where they live.

Service user: Current or potential user of Milwaukee County services.

Unintended consequences: Outcomes of a purposeful action that are not intended or foreseen.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PURPOSE

1) What is the purpose of using this tool?

The Racial Equity Budget Tool (REBT) has many intended purposes:

- It is about making an intentional connection between the strategic plan and our budget. We cannot sufficiently change our institution if we do not think critically about how and what we are spending money on.
- Whether we are making investments or disinvestments, we must do so with racial equity as the key guiding principle to those important decisions.
- It is meant to spur conversation on topics related to the strategic focus areas among department leaders and employees so we are all challenging ourselves to think critically about our efforts to advance the vision.
- This tool is an opportunity to baseline departmental efforts to make informed enterprise-wide decisions.

These are only some of the many answers to why we are using a tool to assess budget decisions.

2) What other jurisdictions have used a racial equity budget tool? Where did the budget tool questions come from?

Milwaukee County's REBT builds on the success of other jurisdictions in implementing a budget tool. Jurisdictions Milwaukee County looked to for guidance include the City of Seattle, the City of Portland (Ore.), King County (Wash.), and the City of San Antonio. Resources from the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) were also used. The questions are largely framed around Milwaukee County's strategic plan.

3) How does this tool work when departments must make budget cuts year over year? What is the point of doing this when departments don't have a lot of latitude about what disinvestments to make?

Milwaukee County's structural deficit and budget challenges

are no secret. However, Milwaukee County still has an annual budget of over \$1 billion. Whether the County is making disinvestments or investments, those decisions must be made with racial equity at the forefront of decision-makers' minds. Departments should think critically about their current assumptions and spending versus shifting investments to address root-causes of inequities.

COMPLETING THE TOOL

4) Are there right answers to the questions?

Responses to this tool will inform our future action to see where Milwaukee County can improve on the path to health and racial equity. There are no right answers to the questions, and each department is starting in a different place, serves different people with different needs, and faces a different set of barriers and opportunities. While there are no right answers, the information provided in the tool will be used for decision making throughout the budget process and will be available to the public. Therefore, answers should be robust, defensible, and easy to understand. Your department's answer may look very different than another department's answer and that is okay as long as the answers address the question.

5) What if there are inequities to other groups other than racial groups? Should we be talking about those inequities in our analysis?

Yes! Milwaukee County is race forward, but not race exclusive. If there are other inequities identified in your analysis, please include them.

6) Does every department complete one tool, or is it one tool for each division?

Please submit one tool per department. Responses can be broken down at the division level within your department's tool, as appropriate. All questions should be completed.

7) Who is responsible for filling out the budget tool?

The department head is ultimately responsible for the content in the REBT. It is up to department leadership to determine who in their department is most appropriate to be involved in completing questions in the tool, which will differ

from department to department. Likely people to include are department leaders, fiscal staff, and administrative staff.

8) Is this tool supposed to imply that we should be taking actions on each of these items? Are the questions meant to be directives to departments?

A budget is a reflection of priorities. Ultimately, Milwaukee County's budget should reflect our values and advance our vision and strategic plan. However, we acknowledge our organization is on a journey to continuously improve our efforts toward health and racial equity. The REBT is meant to spur conversations among department leaders and

staff about what they are and are not able to do in a given budget year to advance the vision. To that end, the tool is not an absolute directive to departments. We fully expect that some departments' answers to some of the questions will be that they are not doing anything this year with an explanation about why that is the case. Looking ahead

to future years, departments will be expected to show how their budgets help Milwaukee County make progress toward its vision.

9) How do I use this when my work is statutorily required?

What services Milwaukee County provides is often statutorily required. However, how we do our work usually is not a directive. This tool is meant to challenge us all to think about how to do the enormous part of our work that is within our discretion and control.

10) Is there a standard approach all departments are expected to take to answer the questions?

No. Answer the questions based on the approach your department currently takes on these items.

11) What type of analysis is expected for

each of the questions?

It depends on what your department is currently doing in each area. Please use the diverse expertise and experiences of staff in your department to determine the most appropriate way for your department to answer the questions.

12) What part of the budget is this tool being applied to?

The REBT will focus on an equity analysis of decisions for new policies, programs, and plans under consideration, and the department's ongoing commitment to equity. Your department is asked to identify what considerations are considered in the overall budget to maximize equitable outcomes.

USING THE DATA

13) Who will receive the data departments provide in the REBT? Who will be expected to answer questions about the information provided?

Responses to the REBT will be publicly available and will be presented to the County Board. If any decision-makers (e.g., County Executive, County Board Supervisors, department directors) have questions about the information provided in the REBT, the department should be prepared to answer them. We are all partners in Milwaukee County's strategic planning effort to achieve racial equity, and the budget tool is in-part meant to inform and focus conversations around strategic priorities, understanding that not all questions have known answers or solutions.

APPENDIX B

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

14) What if someone questions the analysis, conclusions, or recommendations made in the budget tool?

Like all research and analysis, there will be questions and critiques and we should embrace these important conversations. The work presented in the budget tool should be defensible, but most of these questions do not have a clear right or wrong answer. If someone finds something wrong in the analysis, then we need to fix it. However, if it is a question about the interpretation and meaning of the analysis, then we can make space for different perspectives to find the best path forward with the information we have available.

15) Will the budget tool submissions be scored?

No, the REBT submissions will not be scored. However, they will be made available to the public and reviewed by the County Executive's office, the Office of Equity, the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget and the County Board.

LOGISTICS

16) When will the budget tool be due?

The REBT is due on July 15 — the same due date as the requested budget.

17) Where do I go if I have questions?

If you understand the question, but have difficulty determining how to answer a question, please first try to problem solve within your department by looping in additional experts (e.g., people leaders, frontline staff, etc.).

If you need assistance understanding what the question is asking, contact your Budget Analyst for assistance.

The Office of Equity should only be contacted on questions related to racial equity components (glossary, concepts, etc.) that are unclear and cannot be addressed by your budget analyst. Send correspondence via email to equityoffice@milwaukeecountywi.gov.

APPENDIX C

RESOURCES BY STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 1: **Create Intentional Inclusion**

- [2020 Milwaukee County Workforce Audit](#)

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 2: **Bridge the Gap**

- [American Community Survey](#) (from US Census Bureau – descriptions below from US Census Bureau)
 - [Data Profiles](#) have the most frequently requested social, economic, housing, and demographic data. Each of these four subject areas is a separate data profile. The data profiles summarize the data for a single geographic area, both numbers and percent, to cover the most basic data on all topics. (Can compare state/County/Municipal data. With some effort, can get zip code level data.)
 - [Narrative Profiles](#) are short, analytic reports derived from the ACS 5-year estimates. Each Narrative Profile covers 15 different topic areas and provides text and bar charts to display highlights of selected social, economic, housing, and demographic estimates for a selected geographic area. (Easy to get zip code level data)
- [Personal Income Data](#) (Bureau of Economic Analysis) Per Capita Personal Income by State/County, 2016 – 2018 for the entire nation.
- Per Capita Income by County
- [Public School Enrollment](#) (Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction)
- [Private School Enrollment](#) (Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction)
- [State of Wisconsin WBE/MBE/DVE](#) This provides a list of all Woman/Minority/Disabled Vets Business Enterprise information. You can search by business name, by product/service, and by location.
- [Milwaukee County Diversity and Compliance Website \(B2GNow\)](#) Links to certified lists for the State of Wisconsin ACDBE/DBE/SBE Directory and the Milwaukee County approved DBE/SBE vendors (training available on using system).

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA 3: **Invest in Equity**

- [Community Engagement Toolkit](#)

Additional County Resources

- [Strategic Plan \(Objectives\)](#)
- [Health and Equity Framework](#)

Disparities in Food Access

- [Food Apartheid](#)
- [Food Access](#)

Community Engagement Frameworks & Guidance

Community Engagement connection to the REBT Tool and Budget Alignment

These frameworks help guide users of the REBT tool to think critically about how budget decisions align with the strategic plan and advance racial equity. By applying the continuum, staff can assess whether their fiscal choices reflect appropriate levels of community involvement, ensure that decisions are informed by community priorities, and understand the equity impacts of how resources are allocated. This supports intentional, equity-centered budgeting rooted in community voice and shared responsibility.

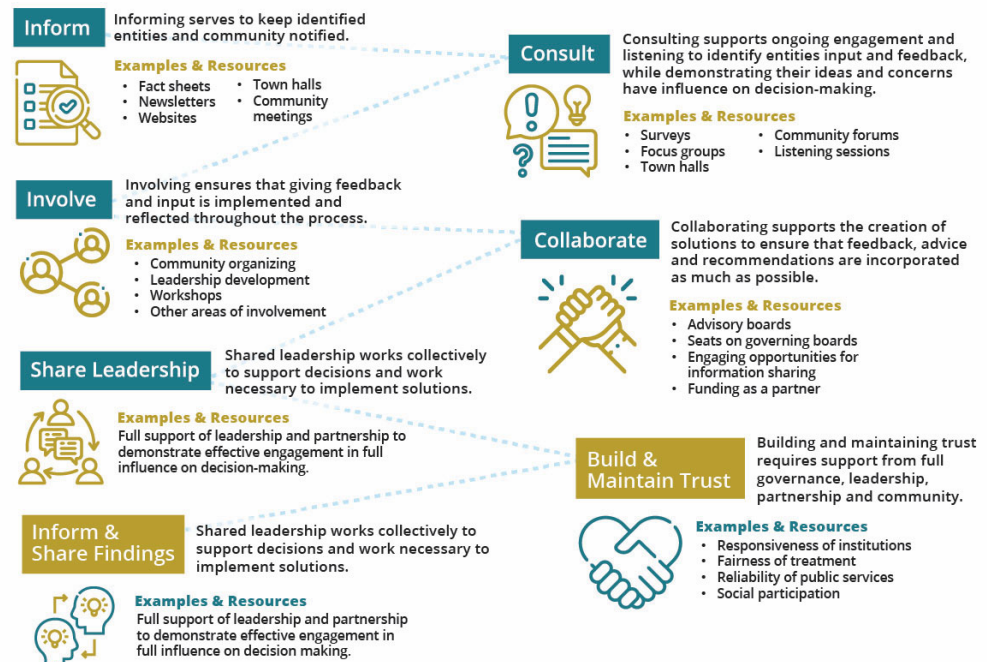
Summary of the Community Engagement Frameworks

The Community Engagement Continuum & Breaking Down the Path outlines five levels of engagement—Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate, and Share Leadership. supported by practices that build trust and ensure findings are shared transparently. At the early stages, engagement focuses on providing information and gathering feedback through tools like fact sheets, surveys, and town halls. As engagement deepens, community members help shape decisions, co-create solutions, and participate in shared leadership structures such as advisory boards or governing bodies. Across all stages, trust-building, transparency, responsiveness, and partnership are essential for meaningful and equitable involvement.

Community Engagement Continuum

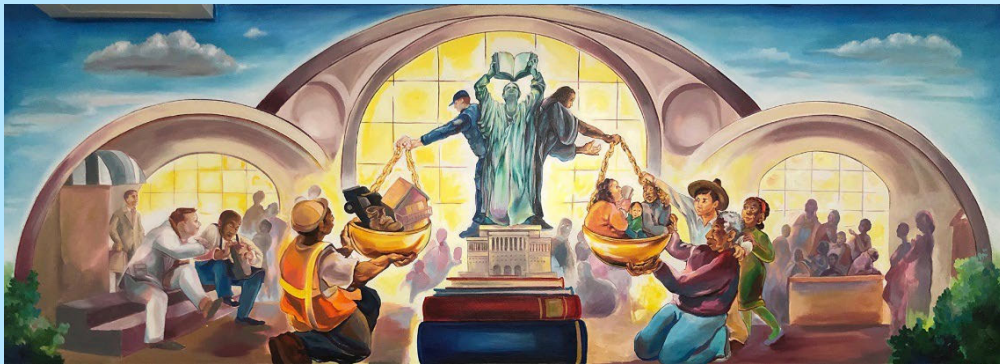


Breaking Down the Path



For future assistance, please access OOE's Technical Assistance program by sending us an email at OOEAssist@milwaukeecountywi.gov For direct self-serving tools around our Community Engagement efforts, please visit the [Office of Equity Community Engagement web page](#)

ON THE COVER



“ WELCOME TO THE PEOPLE’S HOUSE ”

Artist: Tia Richardson

Commissioned in 2020. Used with permission of the artist.



ONE COUNTY ONE VISION

By achieving racial equity, Milwaukee
is the **healthiest county in**
Wisconsin.

County.milwaukee.gov/vision

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