REDESIGNING THE CITY BUDGET
WEBSITE IN QUINCY, MA

METROBRIDGE
This report presents work completed by a team of students in an Emerging Media Studies course (User-Producers 2.0: Developing Interactivity) instructed by Boston University Assistant Professor Lei Guo. The information was compiled by Emily Robbins, MetroBridge Program Manager and Associate Professor David Glick, MetroBridge Faculty Director. The report was designed by Fatima Blanca Munoz, Program Manager at the Initiative on Cities.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ABOUT BU METROBRIDGE

MetroBridge empowers students across Boston University to tackle urban issues, and at the same time, helps city leaders confront key challenges. MetroBridge connects with local governments to understand their priorities, and then collaborates with Boston University faculty to translate each city’s unique needs into course projects. Students in undergraduate and graduate classes engage in city projects as class assignments while working directly with local government leaders during the semester. The goal of MetroBridge is to mutually benefit both the Boston University community and local governments by expanding access to experiential learning and by providing tailored support to under-resourced cities. MetroBridge is funded by the College of Arts and Sciences and housed at Boston University’s Initiative on Cities.
The Emerging Media Studies student team assisted the City of Quincy by redesigning (via prototype) an easier-to-read and more user-friendly budget website. According to key staff in the City of Quincy, the budget website is one of the most frequently viewed sub-pages in the city government website. However, the style, content, functionality of the current site makes it difficult for residents to find information (see Appendix A).

The scope of the website redesign aims to:
- Highlight key financial information
- Create search functionality
- Update budget information seasonally or quarterly
- Provide a financial news section for residents

The following design standards were developed for the prototype website:
The following are screenshots of the website prototype developed by the student team. The full site is available at: http://2019.philemerge.com/project2/.

HOMEPAGE

City of Quincy Budget

Search...

City Budget
Understand the budget right now
**Budget Categories**

This overview section provides information on what percentage of the entire budget those categories make up, with education, employee benefits and public safety being the largest.

- **Administration and Finance**
- **Public Safety**
- **Education** improves the quality of education for Osage residents, especially the public school system.
- **Infrastructure Management**

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**Seasonal Budget Key Number**

- **310** in budget dollars.
- **3** percent increase over 2019.
- **3** new department added.
- **4** primary sources of revenue.
BUDGET OVERVIEW

Overall Budget

The City of Quincy annual budget is the formal document that directs municipal spending from the beginning of the fiscal year beginning on July 1 and ending on the following June 30.

This page gives a glance at the overall budget information, and evoke more explorations of a clear, concise and accessible view of municipal spending.

Check detailed budget information by categories and departments of Quincy

Budget Overview

Budget trend from 2015 to 2019

Projected revenue portion

New tax growth

3 primary sources of projected revenue in the fiscal year 2019:

- Property Taxes
- State Aid
- Local Receipts and Intra-governmental transfers

In the last five years, more than $20 million in tax revenue has been added through new growth, allowing the City to maintain stable increases to its overall levy.
Budget Categories

WHAT WE DO

The budget is broken into 8 general categories:
Administration and Finance, Public Safety,
Education, Infrastructure Management,
Human Services, Culture and Recreation,
Debt Service, Employee Benefits.
DEPARTMENTAL SUB-PAGES

Administration and Finance

Mayor

The Mayor is the City’s Chief Executive Officer and is responsible for authorizing all expenditures, hiring of all employees, and negotiating all City contracts. The Office of the Mayor is responsible for oversight of all City departments, manages the City’s day-to-day operations, and coordinates all requests through the Consolidated Services program, which includes both electronic and phone requests for a wide range of City services. Eight positions are funded in the Mayor’s office. These include: the Mayor; the Executive Secretary (Chief of Staff); an administrative assistant; an executive assistant; two constituent service coordinators; the Director of Operations; and the Director of Policy and Information.

Education

Public education is strongly supported in Quincy for its all-important role in both the development of individuals as citizens and as productive members of the local and regional economy. Quincy Public Schools possesses a long-standing tradition for innovative curriculum and excellence in public education.

Quincy Public Schools is comprised of 11 elementary schools, five middle schools, two high schools, an early childhood center and a comprehensive extended and continuing education program.

Culture and Recreation

Celebrations

The Celebrations account pays for various community events, including Flag Day, the annual Christmas Festival and Parade events, the Lunar New Year Festival, as well as holiday and seasonal decorations.

Recreation

The Recreation Department leads, organizes and conducts outdoor and indoor leisure activities at parks, playgrounds schools and other facilities across the City. The Recreation Department promotes and organizes citywide programs, activities, and events for Quincy residents, often collaborating with other recreation providers. The Recreation Department also serves as a provider of recreation materials for the benefit of Quincy residents and organizations. Leisure activities in the Recreation Department help promote the physical health and social development of participants through exposure to high ideals and standards of fair play. Such opportunities contribute in a meaningful way to the quality of life in our community.
## BUDGET DATA

**Download Budget Data**

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APPENDIX A: CURRENT CITY OF QUINCY BUDGET WEBSITE