

EQUITY FRAMEWORK

To be adopted in PB Rulebook

	Components	Objective
PB Framework	Equity Statement Equity Goals Equity Guidelines (Equity, Priority, Impact)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reinforces equity in PB through process• Provides an equity framework to operationalize

EQUITY STATEMENT

Participatory Budgeting is designed to align with the City of Boston’s goal of embedding equity and inclusion into City practices. The process will build collective capacity through broadening resident engagement in local government, strengthening community relationships and partnerships, and cultivating trust and transparency in decision making for all Bostonians, including those who have historically faced barriers to participation. The Office of Participatory Budgeting is committed to a just and inclusive process, where every voice is heard and valued.

EQUITY GOALS

Foster a Collective City (PB Rulebook Guidelines- Partnerships & Trust)

Participatory Budgeting is an opportunity to bring communities together to foster a collective vision for Boston. Residents, local leaders, and City officials will unite in open dialogue about budget priorities, engage in shared decision-making in the PB process, and take collective action in shaping the future of the City. The intent will be to enhance the quality of life for all who call Boston home—a place where dreams can flourish, safety is paramount, opportunities are plentiful, and community thrives.

Enhance Civic Engagement and Strengthen Community Trust

(PB Rulebook Guideline-Civic Education & Empowerment | Partnerships and Trust | Accessibility)

The Participatory Budgeting process is committed to addressing barriers for public participation in local government, strengthening connections, and cultivating trust in the process. Community partners will co-lead efforts in identifying new opportunities to maximize resident participation, ensuring the creation of safe, inclusive, and culturally appropriate spaces

where education, resources, and decision-making is shared. Through this process, residents will help inform funding decisions that reflect their priorities and lived experiences.

Address Ongoing Inequities Originating from the Historical Legacies of Institutions of Power

(PB Rulebook Guideline- Equity & Inclusion | Development & Impact)

The City of Boston acknowledges its role in causing and perpetuating inequities in our society. Through Participatory Budgeting, the Office is committed to a process that gives voice to the diverse perspectives and interests of residents, with emphasis on investing and engaging those who have been historically excluded in decision making processes. As different communities require unique approaches to achieve fairness and equity, the PB process will invest and prioritize targeted and intentional investments that have the greatest impact.

EQUITY GUIDELINES

Equity: Historical legacies of institutions of power have shaped differences in access and power in the community. These disparities include the social, economic, structural and other barriers to the health and well-being of residents. Projects will address ongoing and identified inequities in communities.

Priority: Projects will engage all Boston residents, including priority populations such as residents who (1) cannot or do not participate in local government decision making; (2) residents who have been historically excluded or underrepresented; and (3) residents living in historically underserved neighborhoods.

Impact: Projects will meaningfully improve the residents' quality of life. It will remove barriers to accessing an existing resource and/or provide a resource to a part of the community which did not previously have access.