

IDEAS *in* ACTION

External Oversight Board Meeting

June 17, 2025



Office of
Participatory
Budgeting

CITY of BOSTON

AGENDA

- 6:00 pm: **Meeting Overview**
 - *Motion to adopt meeting minutes*
 - *Board Meetings Schedule*
 - *Eloise*
- 6:10 pm: **Fiscal Year 2026 Budget**
- 6:20 pm: **Cycle One Implementation of Projects Update**
- 6:35 pm: **Cycle Two Updates**
- 7:00 pm: **EOB Report**
- 7:15 pm: **Public Comment**
- 7:30 pm: **Closing**

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Board Meeting Topics
July 17, 2025 (Virtual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Idea Collection UpdatesPlans for “Review Idea Categories” PhaseProject Implementation Updates

MEETING MINUTES

- Sent to External Oversight Board members to review in advance of this meeting

Note: Minutes are posted in OPB's website, www.boston.gov/participatory-budgeting

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET UPDATE



IMPLEMENTATION OF WINNING PROJECTS UPDATES



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Programs to Support Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Youth - \$250,000

- Grant application is live under the Office of Returning Citizens:
<https://city-of-boston.wizehive.app/program/youth-reentry-support/info>
- Deadline to apply: **July 3rd, 2025**

Rental Assistance for Boston Youth Ages 16-24 - \$200,000

- Mayor's Office of Housing will release the "Youth Tenant Stabilization Fund" in July through partnerships with nonprofit organizations serving at-risk youth.
- \$5,000 per household per each 12 month period. Funds can be used for:
 - Rental arrears, utility arrears, first month's rent, last month's rent, and security deposit, broker fee, moving truck
 - Eligibility: Be at risk of homelessness or recently displaced through no fault of their own; AND not be a full-time college or graduate student.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Rat Prevention Initiatives in Dense Residential Areas - \$500,000

Departments Involved: Inspectional Services, Public Works, Boston Housing Authority

- Expand the successful Charlestown pilot to BHA's Commonwealth and Patricia White developments in Brighton
 - Upgrade existing residential collection service to commercial level service
 - metroSTOR trash, recycling and compost bins
 - In unit trash, recycling compost containers and education for 665 units
 - Installation and cost of MicroShare Sensors

BHA Trash, Recycling and Compost Pilot at Charlestown



Current Trash Corral at Commonwealth



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Install Benches at High Ridership Public Transit Bus Stops in Boston - \$150,000

- Streets Team currently conducting an assessment of priority locations and drafting RFP to procure benches. Benches will have plaque indicating funding source: Ideas in Action.
- In communication with Disabilities Commission and Age Strong to ensure accessibility guidelines.
- Installation of 50 benches expected in late fall/early winter.

Support Community Gardens in Neighborhoods with Limited Affordable Food Access - \$500,000

- GrowBoston is finalizing proposal after a series of conversations with the City's legal team regarding feasibility or possible restrictions.

Expand Access to Fresh Foods in Boston - \$500,000

- Checking-in with the Office of Food Justice team in July to determine best use of resources given expected federal funding cuts to food access programs.

CYCLE TWO UPDATES



IDEA COLLECTION PHASE

- **PB Portal:**

- www.participate.boston.gov (Late June)

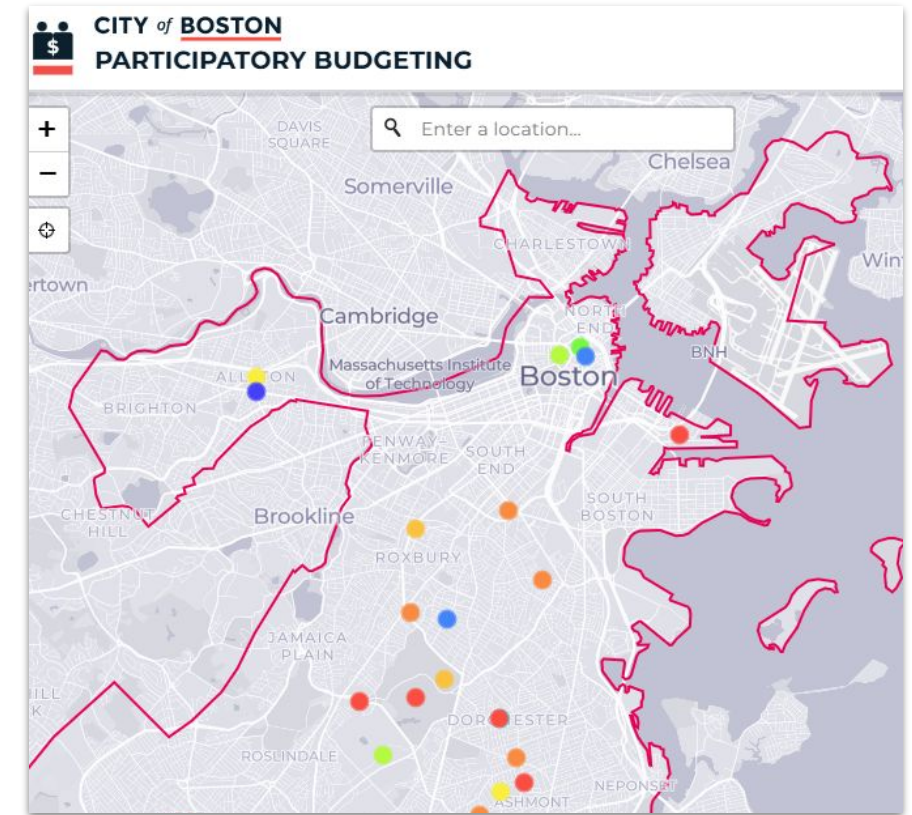
- **PB Phone Line:**

- (617) 635-3059 (July 1st)

- **PB Corners:**

- City Hall (July 1st)
- Boston Public Library Branches (July 1st)
- BCYF Community Centers (July 1st)

- Mattahunt (Mattapan), Curtis Hall (Jamaica Plain), Martin Pino (East Boston), BCYF Quincy (Chinatown), Holland (Dorchester), Leahy Holloran (Dorchester), Vine Street (Roxbury), Hennigan (Jamaica Plain, and Shelburne (Roxbury)



19+ COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Agencia ALPHA
- African Community Economic Development of New England (ACEDONE)
- Allston Brighton Health Collaborative
- Boston Center for Independent Living
- Brazilian Women's Group
- Center for Economic Democracy
- Center to Support Immigrant Organizing
- De Nosotros Foundation
- East Boston Community Council, Inc.
- EASTIE Coalition
- Eagle Hill Civic Association
- Fields Corner Crossroads Collaborative (VietAID)
- Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center
- Maverick Landing Community Services
- Neighbors United for a Better East Boston (NUBE)
- Sociedad Latina
- True Alliance Center
- Turkish American Cultural Society of New England
- Union Capital Boston

COMMUNITY PARTNER EVENTS

→ Idea Collection Workshops: 17 (14 in-person workshops and 3 virtual workshops)

- ◆ Neighborhoods Covered: Allston, Brighton, Dorchester/Fields Corner, East Boston, Hyde Park, Mattapan, Roslindale, Roxbury, South End, Mission Hill.
- ◆ Some will engage residents virtually (City-wide)

→ Tabling at events and community gatherings, door knocking, phone calls, etc.

- ◆ Brighton Farmers Market, The Model Cafe (Brighton)
- ◆ YES Youth Program and BCNC Focus Groups
- ◆ Red Sox Tabling Event (Sociedad Latina)
- ◆ East Boston Farmers Market (EASTIE Coalition tent)



CYCLE TWO UPDATES

- **Communications & Marketing**

- Coordinating the launch of Idea Collection Campaign with City's Press Team and ASG
 - Press release, digital, social, and earned media
 - Office of Neighborhood Services Newsletters
 - Departmental newsletters
 - Mayor's Coffee Hours (*Ongoing*)

- **Review Idea Categories, Proposal Development & Voting Phases**

- Partnering with the City's Analytics team to review and classify ideas (*OBM support*)
- Proposal Development & Voting Outreach Application for Contract Partners (*Early July*)
- Partnering with Northeastern's Center for Design to rethink Visioning Forums

EOB Report



PUBLIC COMMENT

15 minutes, 3 minutes per person

