

IDEAS *in* ACTION

External Oversight Board Meeting

September 18, 2025



Office of
Participatory
Budgeting

CITY of BOSTON

AGENDA

- 6:00 pm: **Meeting Overview**
 - *Motion to adopt meeting minutes*
 - *Board Meetings Schedule*
 - *Staffing Updates: Alexandra Mackay, Community Engagement Fellow*
- 6:10 pm: **Cycle One Project Implementation Updates**
- 6:25 pm: **Cycle Two - Idea Collection Phase Recap**
- 6:35 pm: **Planning for Proposal Development Forums**
- 7:15 pm: **Public Comment**
- 7:30 pm: **Closing**

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Board Meeting Topics
October 9, 2025 (Virtual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Implementation Updates• Proposal Development Forum Logistics• Updates about PB Voting
November 20, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposal Development early outcomes• PB Voting

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

**Updates:
Implementation of Cycle
One Winning Projects**



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

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

- The Office of Returning Citizens released a grant application in early May, 2025. A total of 41 organizations applied for funding to support impacted youth. A press release announcing the 11 awarded grantees and their project proposals will be released in September/October.

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

- The Mayor's Office of Housing released a “Youth Tenant Stabilization Fund” in July through trusted community partners working with at-risk youth in the City. The Office is actively receiving referrals from community organizations and expect that the program will assist at least 40 youth with up to \$5,000 for rental arrears, utility arrears, first month's rent, last month's rent, and security deposit, broker fee, moving truck, as needed.

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

- The Boston Housing Authority Released an RFP to furnish and install containerized enclosure systems for trash, recycling and compostable waste streams for rodent prevention for nine (9) BHA waste corral locations in Brighton: three adjacent developments at Commonwealth Family, Commonwealth Elderly, and Washington Street; and the Patricia White apartments.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

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

- The Streets Cabinet release a Request for Proposals (RFP) on September 10 to procure 60 benches. The RFP includes plaques for the benches to acknowledge the PB process and resident decision-making as the originators of this project. The MBTA will take care of storing the benches and installation, which saved us some money to procure 60 benches instead of the original 50. Installation is scheduled to happen by early spring, if not sooner. The Streets team is currently assessing where the benches will be placed.

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

- The Law Department is providing final guidelines on ways that our funding can be used to implement this project. We expect that GrowBoston will have an implementation plan within the next few weeks.

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

- OPB is meeting with the Office of Food Justice in early October to define their plans for implementation.

Idea Collection Phase Recap



IDEA COLLECTION PHASE

- **PB Portal:**

- www.participate.boston.gov

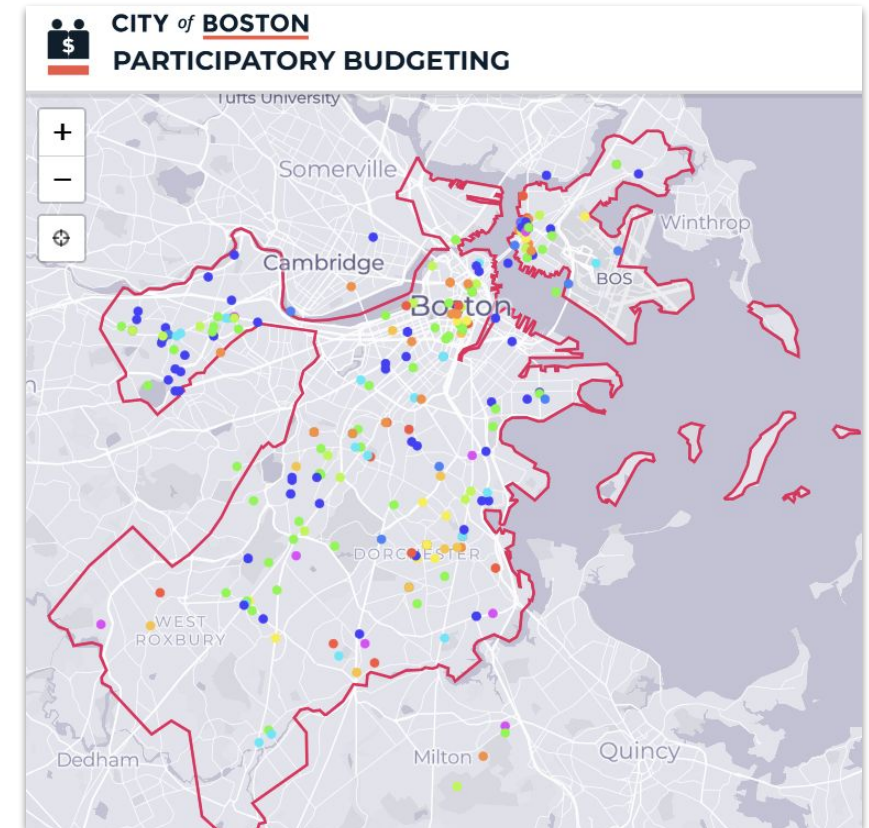
- **PB Phone Line:**

- (617) 635-3059

- **PB Corners:**

- City Hall
- Boston Public Library Branches
- 10 BCYF Community Centers

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



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
- 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

30+ Idea collection activities across the city!
(In-person and virtual workshops, tabling at community events, door knocking)

COMMUNITY PARTNER EVENTS





IDEA COLLECTION SNAPSHOT

1,203

IDEAS
SUBMITTED FOR
PB CYCLE TWO

* 554 IDEAS

CITY-SPONSORED EVENTS WITH
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

* 166 IDEAS

COLLECTED AT CITY HALL,
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARIES, &
BCYF COMMUNITY CENTERS

* 483 IDEAS

SUBMITTED VIA THE PB PORTAL
& PHONE LINE

FOR MORE INFO: [BOSTON.GOV/PARTICIPATE](https://boston.gov/participate)

CITY of BOSTON



Office of
Participatory
Budgeting

Neighborhoods	Ideas
East Boston	267
Dorchester	178
Allston/Brighton	139
Jamaica Plain	102
Chinatown	96
Roxbury	89
Roslindale	53
Fenway	53
Downtown	30
Mattapan	32

Evaluation Findings

Data + Soul



Planning for Proposal Development Forums



KEY IMPROVEMENTS FOR CYCLE TWO

- **A two-step approach to Proposal Development + Public Comment Period:**
 - **Three forums in October** for residents to review and prioritize the ideas collected over the summer. A total of 12-15 ideas will be selected by participants at events held in Allston-Brighton, East Boston, and Mattapan.
 - **Two forums in November** where residents will draft ballot language of the selected proposals alongside City staff. These two events will be held at City Hall.
 - **Online Public Comment Period:** Mid to late November.
- **OPB hosting and facilitating events, community partners supporting recruitment**
 - OPB, in partnership with ASG, will take care of facilitation, venue logistics, refreshments, childcare, and interpretation to ensure a more consistent experience for participants at forums. Community partners will focus on helping recruit attendees from priority populations.
- **Updates to Proposal Development Forums structure and agenda**
 - In collaboration with Northeastern University Center for Design, OPB is restructuring Proposal Development Forums so residents have more time to review ideas and engage more deeply.

October Forums

- **Proposal Development Forum #1:**

- **Date & Time:** October 14, 2025 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
- **Location:** Mattapan Public Library, 1350 Blue Hill Ave, Mattapan, MA 02126
 - **Community Priorities to be Reviewed:**
 - Community Resources (Examples: Homelessness & Housing Support Continuum, Hygiene & Essential Amenities, Immigration & Legal Aid, Language & Accessibility, etc.)
 - Education, Youth, Families, and Older Adults
 - Public Safety

- **Community Partners Supporting Recruitment**

- True Alliance Center
- Union Capital Boston
- Boston Center for Independent Living
- ACEDONE
- Center to Support Immigrant Organizing

- **Languages Expected**

- English
- Haitian Creole
- Spanish

October Forums

- **Proposal Development Forum #2:**

- **Date & Time:** Thursday, October 23rd from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
- **Location:** Maverick Landing Community Services, 31 Liverpool St, East Boston, MA 02128
 - **Community Priorities to be Reviewed:**
 - *Arts and Culture*
 - *Local Economy and Worker Empowerment*
 - *Facilities, Parks, and Recreation*

- **Community Partners Supporting Recruitment**

- Maverick Landing Community Services
- Eastie Coalition
- Agencia ALPHA
- NUBE (*To be confirmed*)

- **Languages Expected**

- English
- Spanish

October Forums

- **Proposal Development Forum #3:**

- **Date & Time:** Monday, October 27, 2025 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
- **Location:** Charlesview Community Center, 123 Antwerp Street, Brighton, MA
 - **Community Priorities to be Reviewed:**
 - *Health and Wellbeing*
 - *Environment, Sustainability, and Food Access*
 - *Streets and Sidewalks*

- **Community Partners Supporting Recruitment**

- Allston Brighton Health Collaborative
- Brazilian Women's Group
- Sociedad Latina
- Eastie Coalition

- **Languages Expected**

- English
- Spanish
- Portuguese

November Forums

➔ **Residents will learn relevant context about each of the pre-selected project ideas, and will work with relevant City Staff to draft the language of each proposal for the PB Ballot.**

- **Proposal Development Forum #4:**

- **Date & Time:** Thursday, November 13 from 5:30pm - 7:30pm
- **Location:** City Hall Room 801

- **Proposal Development Forum #5:**

- **Date & Time:** Tuesday, November 18 from 5:30pm - 7:30pm
- **Location:** City Hall Civic Pavilion

- **Community Partners Supporting Recruitment**

- | | |
|---|--|
| ○ ACEDONE | ○ Center to Support Immigrant Organizing |
| ○ Agencia ALPHA | ○ Eastie Coalition |
| ○ Allston Brighton Health Collaborative | ○ Maverick Landing Community Services |
| ○ Boston Center for Independent Living | ○ Sociedad Latina |
| ○ Brazilian Women's Group | ○ True Alliance Center |
| | ○ Union Capital Boston |

UPDATED APPROACH - Cycle Two Proposal Dev. Forums

Two sets of meetings for Proposal Development Phase:

During October forums, residents will help narrow project ideas. Each forum will focus on 3 categories, similar to last year.

- **Part 1:** Residents are presented with all the subcategories of ideas, and will select their top six by using sticky dots.
 - *This part is not about selecting specific ideas, but about the issues people care about and want to focus on during the forum.*
- **Part 2:** Each of the six subcategories will be assigned to a small group table
 - *Residents will **review and discuss** ideas under their assigned subcategory with an **equity and community impact** lens*
 - *The goal is for each small group to select their top 2 project ideas (12 ideas total for all 6 tables)*
- **Part 3:** Residents “vote” with sticky dots for their top 5 ideas at the end of each forum
 - *15 pre-selected ideas total from the three forums*

During November forums, residents will draft ballot proposals with City staff

- **Part 1:** Departments provide relevant data on the pre-selected project ideas (issue education)
- **Part 2:** Residents draft proposal language in collaboration with City Department

UPDATED APPROACH - Cycle Two Proposal Dev. Forums

Mid-Late November:

- *Public comment period for resident-drafted proposals*

Early December:

- *Relevant City Departments, Legal team, and Finance Cabinet review final proposals, as needed.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

15 minutes, 3 minutes per person

