

SPARK

BOSTON'S FUTURE

Interested in applying to the SPARK Boston Council? We've taken questions from social media, our inbox, and applicants like you to help improve your application process.

Q: What is SPARK Boston?

A: SPARK Boston is Mayor Walsh's leadership and engagement council for the 20 to 35 age bracket, currently the millennial generation and increasingly Generation Z. We're looking for Boston residents who love this city, are between the ages of 20 to 35 and believe in the power of civic engagement. We're also looking for Boston residents who want to use their voices and talents to create dynamic and informative programming, which we leverage to affect policy and programs, ultimately improving the lives of Boston young adults. The Council serves as a focus group to city departments and programs, offering insights and advice on strengthening the bridge between millennials and local government. **You can apply to join at <http://bit.ly/sparkapp19>.**

Q: Who is an ideal SPARK candidate?

A: We're looking for Bostonians of all stripes - the Dunkin barista who coaches soccer to the State House legislative aide who goes to their civic association, the recent grad looking to give back to their neighborhood to the young parent trying to reclaim their time, the startup founder who tutors on the weekends to the nonprofit maven with a thriving crafting business. No matter where you are in your personal and civic journey, we want to see your application.

Q: Do you have to live in Boston?

A: Sadly, SPARK Council applicants must be Boston residents, but you are welcome to attend and collaborate on our events and be an Impact Award applicant once that period opens. We should also note we love meeting new folks to be speakers, collaborators, and community partners! If you have an upcoming event to partner on or are seeking a speaking opportunity, there might be a great fit to connect. Reach out to us at sparkboston@boston.gov if you're interested in chatting further!

Q: What's the timeline?

A: Monday, June 17th at 11:59 PM: Applications Close
Friday, July 12th: Applicants Notified of Acceptance to Second Round of Application Process
During July: Group Interview Dates for Second Round of Applicants Group Interview Dates: 7/23, 7/24, 7/29 (digital interview - please email sparkboston@boston.gov if this is your preference), 7/30, & 8/1.
Friday, August 23: Final Round of Applicants Notified
Saturday, September 8th: First Council Meeting of the 2019-2020 SPARK Boston Council, last meeting of 2018-2019 Council

Q: What is the time commitment for SPARK?

A: During their year-long Council term, each month Council members are required to attend one Council meeting every first Monday of the Month, attend one community meeting and report back, and attend one to two SPARK events. You may also work with other Council members for group projects. The upcoming Council term will begin in September 2019 and end September 2020.

Q: Do SPARK Boston meetings tend to be after work?

A: Yes - most of our programming starts at 6:00 PM or 6:30 PM on weeknights. We occasionally host events in the morning or weekends, but most of our programming happens after work.

Q: Who can I get a letter of recommendation from & who do I send it to? When do I send it? How many letters of recommendation can be submitted?

A: You can submit a letter of recommendation from a fellow millennial or Generation Z peer, civic leader, or former ONEin3 or SPARK Council member. You or your letter writer send it to sparkboston@boston.gov. You can submit your letter after submitting your application, we simply request that you submit it before applications close on Monday, June 17. You can submit no more than two letters of recommendations and we strongly encourage one letter of recommendation.

Q: How long does the application take to complete?

A: The application can take anywhere between 30 to 60 minutes, so take your time! We recommend that you go through the application, copy the questions onto a separate document to think about at your leisure, and then submit your answers once satisfied by the Monday, June 17 deadline.

Q: Is there a benefit to getting applications in sooner rather than later?

A: Absolutely not! So long as you submit by Monday, June 17, we're excited to have your application.

Q: The application asks what civic groups are you already involved in, but what if I haven't gotten involved yet but hope to find my in through SPARK. How do you recommend I respond?

A: No worries at all - we want to see your application! We'd love to better understand what you want to get out of SPARK, what you're passionate about, and what programming you'd like to tackle if selected. We'd love to have your time on SPARK Boston guide you to your next civic opportunity. We partner with a variety of community groups to help introduce Council members and SPARK event attendees and audience members to different opportunities to serve or give back civically.

Q: What do I do if I change neighborhoods during the application process?

A: Please let us know as soon as possible. Changing neighborhoods is not a big deal but we appreciate the heads up as soon as possible. We try to broadly have candidates from each neighborhood, so understanding where you will be moving to may help us in that goal.

Q: How can I get stay on top of SPARK Boston news and updates?

A: You can check our website at www.boston.gov/spark and follow us on Twitter at [@SparkBoston](https://twitter.com/SparkBoston), Instagram at [@sparkbos](https://www.instagram.com/sparkbos), and on www.facebook.com/SparkBoston/.

Q: Does SPARK interact or network with any department or branches or city or state government?

A: Absolutely! The Council serves as a focus group for City department heads and leaders come, we often ask City staff and elected officials to come speak at our events, and we often team up with City and state departments and initiatives on public awareness campaigns, social events, volunteer service, and more.

Q: How do I get in touch if I have any questions?

A: Email our Director Amy Mahler at sparkboston@boston.gov!