



Office of Participatory Budgeting

External Oversight Board - Meeting #24

- 6:00 pm: **Agenda Overview**
 - *Motion to adopt meeting minutes*
 - *Board Meetings Schedule*
- 6:10 pm: **Initial Evaluation Findings (Data + Soul)**
- 6:40 pm: **OPB Workflow Updates**
- 6:50 pm: **Community Priorities and Subtopics**
- 7:10 pm: **Logistics for Visioning Forums and Online Engagement**
 - *Implementation of Equity Guidelines + Proposal Draft Template*
- 7:40 pm: **Board Discussion**
- 7:45 pm: **Public Comment**
- 8:00 pm: **Closing**

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

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

Board Meetings Schedule



Date	Board Meeting Topic
October 3, 2024 (Virtual)	<i>Initial Evaluation Findings by Data+Soul Community Priorities & Subtopics Visioning Forums Updates/Coordination</i>
November 7, 2024 (Virtual)	<i>Visioning Forums Outcomes Virtual Meeting: Presenting Draft Proposals Statements to the Public (Virtual + Written Public Comments)</i>
November 19, 2024 (In-Person)	<i>Finalize Proposals (Incorporating public feedback)</i>
November 21, 2024 (Virtual TBD)	<i>Finalize Proposals cont. (Incorporating public feedback)</i>

Evaluation Findings

Data + Soul



Workflow Updates



Data Analytics

- *Creating Community Priority booklets for Visioning Forums*

Coordination with City Departments

- *Coordinating participation for Visioning Forums and Proposal Development Phases*

Visioning Forums Planning

- *Coordinating event logistics with contract partners*
- *Planning for facilitation training*
- *Creating presentation and other materials*

Evaluation

- *Preparing evaluation for Visioning Forums*

Voting Platform

- *Securing a contracting opportunity with Decision 21, the same vendor used for voting by NYC's PB process.*

Communications

- *Outreach and media strategy for Voting Phase*
- *PB Video*

Community Priorities + Subtopics



Nine (9) Community Priorities



Expanding Economic Opportunities

Transportation Safety and Access Initiatives

Youth Development and Opportunity

Housing Support and Resources

Urban Greening and Environmental Initiatives

Inclusive Community Spaces and Cultural Enrichment Programs

Community Health and Wellbeing

Public Space Enhancements and Maintenance

Community Resources and Social Equity Programs

Expanding Economic Opportunities

Programs aimed at boosting the local economy and supporting job opportunities. This could involve supporting small businesses, offering workforce development and job training programs, promoting entrepreneurship, and creating pathways to employment for underrepresented groups.

Subtopics

1. Assistance for Local Businesses and Entrepreneurs
2. Economic and Job Training Support

Housing Support and Resources

Initiatives aimed at addressing housing affordability and stability. This could involve rental assistance programs, offering resources for first-time homebuyers, legal assistance, and other housing support services.

Subtopics

1. Homeownership Assistance Programs
2. Renter Assistance Initiatives
3. Enhance and Expand Affordable Housing Options
4. Displacement Prevention Initiatives
5. Support for Housing Shelter Services
6. Housing Support Programs for Youth

Community Resources and Social Equity Programs

Initiatives that address social inequities and provide essential resources to underserved communities. This may involve offering legal assistance, language services, food security programs, and other supports, in addition to efforts to ensure equitable access to city services and opportunities.

Subtopics

1. Community Support Services for Seniors
2. Enhance City Services
3. Education and Skill Building Programs

Transportation Safety and Access Initiatives

Projects focused on enhancing the safety and accessibility of Boston's transportation network for all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and public transit riders. This may include the installation of traffic calming and traffic safety measures, enhanced crosswalks, protected bike lanes, improved street lighting, better street signage, public transit access infrastructure, and promoting alternative transportation options.

Subtopics

1. Bicycle Infrastructure Investments
2. Pedestrian Facility Improvements
3. Roadway Operations and Maintenance
4. Traffic Safety and Access Enhancements
5. Sustainable Transportation Initiatives
6. Transit Connectivity and Access

Urban Greening and Environmental Initiatives

Efforts to improve environmental sustainability and increase green spaces in the city. Projects may include planting trees, developing community gardens, implementing green roofs, enhancing parks, and launching programs that emphasize waste reduction and reduce carbon emissions.

Subtopics

1. Expand Green Spaces and Tree Canopy
2. Urban Gardening
3. Environmental Initiatives

Public Space Enhancements and Maintenance

Efforts to improve and maintain public areas such as parks, playgrounds, sidewalks, and plazas. Projects may include upgrading facilities, public restroom accommodations, lighting improvements, enhancing accessibility, installing public art, and ensuring these spaces are clean and safe.

Subtopics

1. Improving Public Amenities
2. Cleaning and Maintaining Public Spaces
3. Enhancing Community Playgrounds and Recreational Spaces
4. Repurpose Public Spaces

Youth Development and Opportunity

Programs designed to support the growth and development of young people. This includes after-school programs, mentorship opportunities, job training, educational workshops, recreational activities, and initiatives that encourage civic engagement among youth.

Subtopics

1. Expand Youth Jobs Initiatives
2. Youth Development through Sports, Arts, and Cultural Programming
3. Youth Learning and Skill Building Initiatives
4. Inclusive Community Spaces and Facilities for Youth
5. Financial Resources for Youth Services

Inclusive Community Spaces and Cultural Enrichment Programs

Projects that foster community engagement and celebrate cultural diversity. This may involve creating or renovating community centers, supporting local arts and cultural events, offering multicultural programs, and ensuring public spaces are welcoming and accessible to all.

Subtopics

1. Support Local Art Initiatives
2. Celebrating the Community
3. Senior Activity and Enrichment Programs
4. Family and Community Enrichment Initiatives

Community Health and Wellbeing

Initiatives focused on improving the physical and mental health of residents. This includes expanding access to healthcare services, mental health support, wellness programs, nutrition education, and activities that promote a healthy lifestyle.

Subtopics

1. Comprehensive Healthcare Services
2. Food Access Resources
3. Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
4. Community Safety Initiatives
5. Mental Health Support and Crisis Response

Visioning Forums & Online Engagement



Visioning Forum Meetings



Forum #1: Maverick Landing & NUBE

Friday, October 18, East Boston

- *Expanding Economic Opportunities*
- *Housing Support and Resources*
- *Community Health and Wellbeing*

Forum #2: Union Capital Boston

Thursday, October 24, Roxbury/Jamaica Plain

- *Transportation Safety and Access Initiatives*
- *Urban Greening and Environmental Initiatives*
- *Public Space Enhancements and Maintenance*

Forum #3: Center for Teen Empowerment

Wednesday, October 30, Dorchester

- *Youth Development and Opportunity*
- *Inclusive Community Spaces and Cultural Enrichment Programs*
- *Community Resources and Social Equity Programs*

EOB Public Virtual Meeting

Thursday, November 7, Virtual

- *Present 15 draft Community Priorities proposals*
- *Public comment available during meeting and one (1) week through email*

EOB Support:

- *Which Visioning Forum(s) can you attend?*
- *Are you open to help facilitate a small group at any of these?*

Implementation of Equity Guidelines



Part A: Equity Pre-Screen for Subtopics

- **Presentation:**
 - *Facilitators at small group tables introduce their assigned Community Priority and accompanying subtopics, highlighting a few ideas in each subtopic for reference. (Materials available in each table for further review)*
- **Equity Screen Discussion:**
 - *Based on your own experiences, which subtopics are of most significant priority in the community?*
 - *Will this categories of ideas have a meaningful impact on all Boston residents, including but not limited to priority populations (share definition).*
- **Subtopic Prioritization:**
 - *Participants will discuss all subtopics and **select the top 2 subtopics** for proposal development through consensus → Vote as back up plan*

Community Priority: Urban Greening and Environmental Initiatives:

Subtopics

1. *Environmental Initiatives*
2. *Expand Green Spaces and Tree Canopy*
3. *Urban Gardening*

Implementation of Equity Guidelines



Part B: Feasibility Assessment

- Review ideas under each of the selected 2 subtopics, and select the top 3 ideas based on lived experience, equity guidelines, and feasibility discussions with City staff

<u>Urban Greening and Environmental Initiatives: Subtopics</u>	
1. Subtopic: Environmental Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none">Idea A: Pilot free solar panels program for low-income Boston homeownersIdea B: Energy audits and consultations for first time home buyersIdea C: Increase access and expand community composting near public facilities (schools, rec centers, etc.)Idea DIdea E	2. Subtopic: Expand Green Spaces and Tree Canopy <ul style="list-style-type: none">Idea AIdea BIdea CIdea DIdea E

Implementation of Equity Guidelines



Part C: Equity Rubric

Score each of the six (6) project ideas against the following equity rubric and select highest two (2) for proposal development

Equity: Projects address ongoing and identified inequities in communities that would benefit all Boston residents, including priority populations.

- Priority populations include but are not limited to low income residents, residents with disabilities, public housing residents, veterans, youth, older adults, justice-impacted, undocumented residents, and residents with limited English proficiency.

Low contribution to advancing equity

Moderate contribution to advancing equity

High contribution to advancing equity

Impact: Projects will meaningful improve the community's quality of life.

- The project removes a barrier to accessing an existing resource.
- The project provides a resource to a part of the community which did not previously have access to this resource

Low: The project does not address any known need, or duplicates a service, in the community

Moderate: The project expands on an existing service/ the projects fills a gap in existing services

High: The project provides services that are not currently offered in a community

Example: Equity Scoring Rubric



	Idea: Pilot free solar panels program for low-income Boston homeowners	Idea: Energy audits and consultations for first time home buyers	Idea: Increase access and expand community composting near public facilities (schools, rec centers, etc.)
Equity Metric	High contribution to advancing equity	Low contribution to advancing equity	Moderate contribution to advancing equity
Impact Metric	High: The project provides services that are not currently offered in a community	Mid: The project expands on an existing service/ the projects fills a gap in existing services	Mid: The project expands on an existing service/ the projects fills a gap in existing services
Total Score	<i>High</i>	<i>Low-Mid</i>	<i>Mid</i>

WHAT?

What is the proposed idea? What is the problem is being addressed?
Describe key components of the idea and its objective.

WHY?

Why is this proposed idea a priority and beneficial to the community?

WHO?

Who in the community will benefit from this proposed initiative?

HOW?*

How should this proposed idea be implemented? Who should be involved in this initiative?

** May be touched upon during forums. Further discussion with departments.*

Proposal Example- Cambridge PB Cycle 8



Project Proposal: Home Essentials for Newly Housed Residents

Cost: \$60,000

Location: Subsidized housing units around Cambridge.

Long Description:

WHO

WHY?

While it is very exciting for previously unhoused individuals and families to get a new start with a subsidized unit, it is important to remember that when people lose their home, they also often lose most, or even all, of their belongings. Starting over is expensive. It can also be demoralizing to have a new place to stay, but nothing to cook, eat or shower with. Although there are a few furniture banks and other resources that assist with basic start-up furniture, free or inexpensive supplies and furnishing essentials are scarce.

A Home Furnishing Kit would address this need and include the following:

- Bed linens and coverings for each household member
- Towels for each household member
- Kitchen essentials: a set of new dishes/pots and pans/utensils/ and other cooking supplies
- Cleaning and laundry supplies such as a laundry basket, detergent, paper towels, sponges, etc.

WHAT?

All items in the kit would be purchased as new and distributed to previously unhoused residents who obtain subsidized housing. The project would be jointly administered by the City Manager's Office through the Housing Liaison office and the Department of Human Service Programs Multi Service Center.

HOW?

Agenda for Group Discussions



- 5:00 PM (40 mins):** **Welcome**
- Sign in, Food, and Introduction Presentation
- 5:40PM (5 mins):** **Divide into Small Tables- Community Priorities** (*max 2 tables per Community Priority*)
- 5:45PM (15 mins):** **Part A- Equity Pre-Screen for Subtopics**
- Review and discuss all subtopics
 - Based on their own experiences and Equity Guidelines, collectively **select top two (2) subtopics**
- 6:00PM (40 mins):** **Part B- Feasibility Assessment**
- **Discuss first selected subtopic (~20 mins)**
 - *Review types of ideas under each and select top 3 ideas (based on lived experience, equity guidelines, and feasibility discussions with City staff)*
 - **Discuss second selected subtopic (~20 mins)**
- 6:40PM (20 mins):** **Part C- Equity Scoring**
- **Equity Rubric (~20 mins)**
 - *Worksheet with OPB Equity Guidelines (equity, priority, impact) - select top 2 out of the 6 ideas*
- 7:00PM (30 mins):** **Draft proposals**
- Draft proposals for the two (2) selected ideas
- 7:30PM (25 mins):** **Proposal Selection**
- Post proposals around the workshop space
 - Residents will vote on top five priorities with sticky dots. One vote per project.
- 7:55PM (5 mins):** **Closing & Next Steps in the Process**

NOTE: Start time varies depending on workshop location. Three-hour events.

Board Discussion



Public Comment

pb@boston.gov

