

IDEAS *in* ACTION

EOB Meeting

11/7/2024



Office of
Participatory
Budgeting

CITY of BOSTON

AGENDA

- 6:00 pm: **Agenda Overview**
 - *Motion to adopt meeting minutes*
 - *Board Meetings Schedule*
- 6:10 pm: **Overview of PB Visioning Forums**
- 6:25 pm: **Review Draft Proposals**
- 6:40 pm: **Board Comments**
- 7:00 pm: **Public Comment**
- 8:00 pm: **Closing**

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Board Meeting Topic
November 7, 2024 (Virtual)	<i>Visioning Forums Outcomes Virtual Meeting: Presenting Draft Proposals Statements to the Public (Virtual + Written Public Comments)</i>
November 21, 2024 (In-Person City Hall Pavilion)	<i>Final Review of Proposals</i>
December 5, 2025 (Virtual)	<i>Visioning Forums Evaluation Voting Logistics</i>

MEETING MINUTES

- 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

Visioning Forums & Online Engagement

October 2024



IDEAS IN ACTION: PHASES + TIMELINE

Participatory Budgeting is a democratic process where community members decide how to spend part of a public budget.



**IDEA
COLLECTION**
JULY 2024



**REVIEW
PRIORITIES**
AUG-SEP 2024



**VISIONING
FORUMS**
OCT 2024



**DEVELOPING
PROPOSALS**
NOV-DEC 2024



**VOTE ON
PROPOSALS**
JAN 2025



**FUND
PROJECTS**
SPRING 2025

IDEA COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Between July 1st and August 15th, **1,238 ideas** were collected through **multiple channels**.

- Online PB Portal
- Idea Collection Workshops
- PB Corners at City Hall and Boston Public Library Branches
- PB Phone Line



Idea Collection Workshop hosted by Maverick Landing & NUBE



Idea Collection Workshop hosted by Union Capital Boston

VISIONING FORUMS

Forum #1: Maverick Landing & NUBE

Friday, October 18,
East Boston
5:30PM to 8:30PM

**Expanding Economic
Opportunities**

**Housing Support and
Resources**

**Community Health and
Wellbeing**

Forum #2: Union Capital Boston

Thursday, October 24,
Roxbury/Jamaica Plain
5:30PM to 8:30PM

**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
5:00PM to 8:00PM

**Youth Development and
Opportunity**

**Inclusive Community Spaces
and Cultural Enrichment
Programs**

**Community Resources and
Social Equity Programs**

VISIONING FORUMS



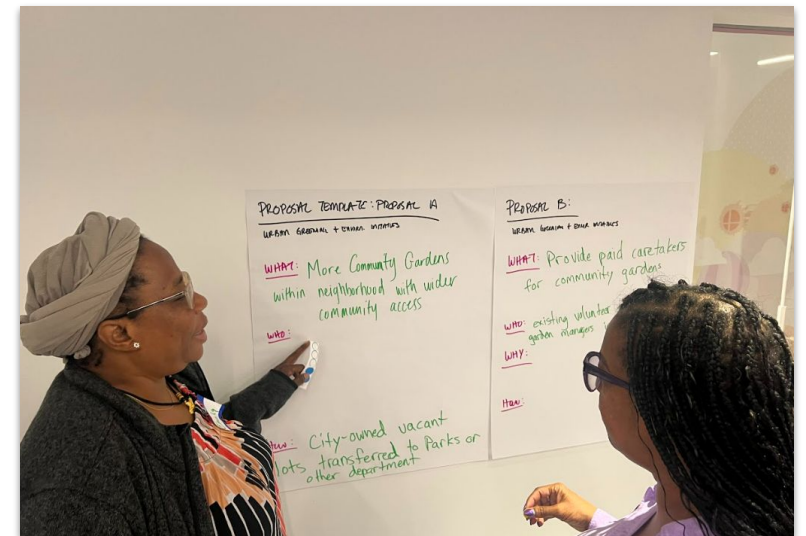
East Boston- Maverick Landing/ NUBE



Dorchester- Center for Teen Empowerment/ Sociedad Latina



Roxbury/ JP- Union Capital Boston



Roxbury/ JP- Union Capital Boston

PLAN OF ACTION FOR VISIONING FORUMS

1

Review and discuss project ideas with your peers. Ask questions and consider the guidance from City staff.

2

Identify two (2) project ideas that you'd like to see on the PB Ballot for January Voting.

→ *Must meet PB Criteria and be feasible to implement*

3

Review proposals from all tables. Vote for your top 5 projects!



FACILITATORS + CITY DEPARTMENTS



WORKSHOP GUIDANCE

Prior to Meeting

- Review and familiarize yourself with Community Priorities and subtopic ideas
- Reflect on how ideas interface with existing programs and services within your department

During Meeting

- Be prepared to sit or float near the assigned Community Priority tables
- Provide subject matter expertise on departmental/ cabinet initiatives and proposed ideas

Speaking Points

- Help assess the feasibility of proposed ideas- providing context to residents during exercises
 - If projects fall “out of scope” or are “not feasible,” discuss other proposed ideas that residents are interested in
- Projects should be:
 - City-wide in scale - not location specific

Visioning Forums - Detailed Agenda for Facilitators

TIME	WHO	DESCRIPTION
PRE-MEETING		
5:00 30 min	All staff	Facilitators arrive onsite <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the room for participants. • Set up the check-in table. • Ensure that slide projection works. • Assign each facilitator to a table and prepare to greet and host participants as they arrive. • Set up tables with easel/ poster pad/ writing materials • Set up refreshments and childcare
5:30 15 mins	Participants	Participants arrive (the advertised start time) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prompt participants sign in as they arrive • Grab packets and sticky dots • Ask participants to grab food and move to assigned tables
MEETING START + OVERVIEW		
5:45 25min	OPB (plenary)	Opening Remarks and Introductions Opening Slideshow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals and principles of PB in Boston • Objectives for tonight's forum • OBM Presentation on Budget
IDEA REVIEW + EVALUATION		
6:10 5 min	Table Facilitators	Table Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate introductions: suggest participants take 20-30 seconds to give their name, where they live, and why they chose to participate in today's forum. Moderator introduces themselves as an example.

CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The PB process prioritizes project ideas that build collective capacity on issues of social and racial justice.

Project ideas must meet the the following eligibility criteria:



Projects are limited to a **one-time expense**, and do not create new permanent positions.



Projects must be implemented or **managed** by the appropriate **City Department** or agency.



Project ideas may include **programs and services**, as well as physical **infrastructure projects**, such as community enhancements on City-owned public property.



Infrastructure projects on **private, state or federal** property are not eligible, such as projects concerning the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) or the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA).



Equity Scoring Rubric

Equity Metric: *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 Metric: *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

EQUITY SCORING RUBRIC

Low, Moderate, High

Project Ideas	Equity	Impact
Idea A	High	Low
Idea B	Moderate	Moderate
Idea C	High	Moderate
Idea D	Low	High
Idea E	High	High
Idea F	Moderate	Low

Proposal Development: Example

What:

Programs need resources to provide mental health support. In general we need a community-led mental health crisis response without police, and counselors and youth leadership programs and restorative/transformational justice in schools instead of police and punishment and surveillance.

Who:

Youth

Why:

In general mental health struggles are stigmatized when there are so many racist systems that beat down on people, and then when people need support they can't get it and instead are criminalized.

How:

Grants, having folks do 1:1 work, training youth, etc. To start with, some resources for programs to provide mental health support would help.”

Initial Reflections / Lessons Learned on Visioning Forums

- We achieved our objective at each of the three forums, acknowledging that it was an ambitious agenda.
- Not all city staff were knowledgeable about every type of idea, and some departments couldn't join us due to schedule conflicts. Also, needed more time for facilitator training.
- Some tables had participants advocating for particular issues and disregarded feasibility concerns.
- As a result, some ideas are broad and need additional input from the public and City Departments to ensure feasibility.

**REVIEW
DRAFT
PROPOSALS**



PROPOSAL EXAMPLES

[Additional Supplies for Unhoused Residents \(City of Cambridge\)](#)

Cost: \$50,000

Location: Citywide

Short Description:

Deliver critical supplies to unhoused residents through established programs, including items such as socks, hats, gloves, hand warmers, feminine hygiene products, and other items to assist people living in unsheltered situations.



<https://www.cambridgema.gov/participatorybudgeting/pbcycles/pbcycle10/additionalsuppliesforunhousedresidents>

PROPOSAL EXAMPLES

Parenting Education Program for Single and Teen Parents (NYC)

Cost: \$250,000

Location: Brooklyn Borough

Short Description:

Help single, teen parents gain and develop effective parenting skills.

Engage participants on weekly or monthly workshops/engagements to offer opportunities for personal and communal development.

Programming could offer diverse resource support, practical life skills workshops, parenting education supports, as well as regular individual coaching.



https://static.wixstatic.com/media/21159f_129331cd3af84f469434788fb6d73e26~mv2.jpg/v1/fill/w_640,h_426,al_t,q_80,usm_0.66_1.00_0.01,enc_auto/21159f_129331cd3af84f469434788fb6d73e26~mv2.jpg

PROPOSAL EXAMPLES

[Expanding Space for Street Trees \(City of Cambridge\)](#)

Cost: \$100,000

Location: To be determined based on need and impact assessments.

Short Description: Help our environment by removing pavement to expand space for new and existing trees. Removing pavement provides more soil space for tree roots, helps trees live longer and healthier, improves drainage, and reduces city heat.



<https://www.cambridgema.gov/participatorybudgeting/pbcycles/pbcycle10/expanding-space-for-street-trees>

DRAFT PROPOSALS

Expanding Economic Opportunities

Free space/incubator kitchen
low-income entrepreneurs.

Housing Support and Resources

Housing and rent for youth to cover
security deposits and expenses

Community Health and Wellbeing

Substance abuse programs for
prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation

Distribute gift cards via community
organizations to help low-income afford
food.

Create a program supporting at-risk
low-income youth in gun violence
recruitment

Transportation Safety and Access Initiatives

Benches at high-ridership bus stops for
seniors, disabled, youth, and all users

Pilot a non-police construction detail to
enhance pedestrian safety

Urban Greening and Environmental Initiatives

Community gardens in vacant lots to
address food insecurity

Plant fruit trees to support green space, and
provide affordable, organic produce.

Public Space Enhancements and Maintenance

Invest in rat prevention through increased
extermination efforts and deploying rat
birth control

Youth Development and Opportunity

Year round youth jobs for ages 14-24

Inclusive Community Spaces and Cultural Enrichment Programs

Offer nighttime sports and gym access to
promote community connection through
healthy activities.

Community Resources and Social Equity Programs

Services for elderly who do not live in
assisted living homes.

Creating feasible resource programs to get
information out on health resources.

Launch a "Future Prep" program for
formerly incarcerated youth, offering skills
training and grants

Proposal 1:

Expanding Economic Opportunities

Free space/incubator with a kitchen for low-income entrepreneurs. Creates opportunities to access a high-quality space. Fosters economic growth. Creates new employment opportunities.

Proposal 2:

Housing Support and Resources

Housing and accessible rent for youth between 16-28 that can cover security deposits and additional expenses in safe spaces.

Proposal 3:

Community Health and Wellbeing

Programs for prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of people and families struggling with substance abuse.

Proposal 4:

Community Health and Wellbeing

Make food more affordable by gift cards distributed by community organizations to low income people, public housing residents, single mothers, sick and disabled, etc.

Proposal 5:

Community Health and Wellbeing

Create a program that directs dollars and education to low income pre-teens and younger teens (10-15) who may be vulnerable to recruitment by criminal elements to engage in gun violence.

Proposal 6:

Transportation Safety and Access Initiatives

Benches at bus stops that do not have them. Prioritize bus stops with the highest ridership on major routes and streets to benefit the disabled, seniors, youth, and all users. This would enhance the safety, comfort for residents and improves access to transit. Work with the MBTA and City departments to determine bus stop inventory and prioritize stops for installation.

Proposal 7:

Transportation Safety and Access Initiatives

Pilot non-police construction detail (that was enabled in the most recent police contract but haven't been set up). This would benefit everyone, but especially elderly people with disabilities, parents with strollers, students and all pedestrians. This will make roads and sidewalks safer. The Boston Police Department and Transportation Department would need to figure out steps to implement.

Proposal 8:

Urban Greening and Environmental Initiatives

Build community gardens in vacant lots, including species that deter rodents, for community residents. This will create a healthier environment, beautify the community, address food insecurity, and build camaraderie among residents.

Proposal 9

Urban Greening and Environmental Initiatives

Plant apple, pear, grapevines, fig trees and bushes for community organizations and residents. This will create healthier air, protect our green space, help with food insecurity and be a cheaper source of organic produce.

Proposal 10

Public Space Enhancements and Maintenance

Invest in rat prevention efforts, such as more exterminators and rat birth control to get rid of the rat population in Boston. This would benefit the public, residents, and business owners from potential health hazards and address sanitary and health issues.

Proposal 11

Youth Development and Opportunity

Grants for youth jobs (18-24 an hour) year round (52 weeks) for youth ages 14-24. This would serve Black and Brown youth. There is a gap in the school year when youth are unable to work, affecting their ability to support themselves and provide for family. Creating 125 slots for youth, \$500K budget.

Proposal 12

Inclusive Community Spaces and Cultural Enrichment Programs

Services for elderly who do not live in assisted living homes. Services like helping clean their home, getting groceries for them, having a fun community day for elders + intergenerational events. Provide company to elders. This will help elderly people who are alone and don't have a lot of family, facing mental illness, those who are low income. This will also help people who are unemployed to have job opportunities that provide these services. This is how we help people who need it, who can pay and don't have family to help them. With the help of the City Officials giving money to Age Strong to give to a non-profit to disseminate to the elderly residents and provide these services.

Proposal 13

Community Resources and Social Equity Programs

Creating feasible resource programs to get information out on health resources. This would serve POC, low income individuals. To shine light on healthcare is a right! Everyone should have access to it. Educating people on their rights.

Proposal 14

Community Resources and Social Equity Programs

We want nighttime sports opportunities + gym time. Also, provide food for participants. This would help young people to relax at night. The people who work late. To help people distress and maintain good health. So there's better ways for the community to connect together through activities.

Proposal 15

Community Resources and Social Equity Programs

"Future Prep" Program for (formerly?) Incarcerated youth: Home economics, grant writing, college prep, entrepreneurship, trade schools for incarcerated youth. Expose youth to more diverse opportunities. Make youth feel more prepared for their future. Offering a grant through the Office of Returning Citizens to organizations serving the incarcerated youth population to expand their reentry services and programs.

Next Steps

- Review and incorporate public feedback from this meeting and the written comment period
- Work with relevant City Departments and the Office of Budget Management to refine proposals and add cost
- Finalize list of draft proposals for CFO certification

BOARD COMMENTS



PUBLIC COMMENT

Guidelines:

- *Maximum 5 minute comment period per person*
- *Limit comments to draft proposals only*
- *Provide written comments using Google Form (OPB's Website + Newsletter) by Friday November 15th.*



DRAFT PROPOSALS

Expanding Economic Opportunities

Free space/incubator kitchen
low-income entrepreneurs.

Housing Support and Resources

Housing and rent for youth to cover
security deposits and expenses

Community Health and Wellbeing

Substance abuse programs for
prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation

Distribute gift cards via community
organizations to help low-income afford
food.

Create a program supporting at-risk
low-income youth in gun violence
recruitment

Transportation Safety and Access Initiatives

Benches at high-ridership bus stops for
seniors, disabled, youth, and all users

Pilot a non-police construction detail to
enhance pedestrian safety

Urban Greening and Environmental Initiatives

Community gardens in vacant lots to
address food insecurity

Plant fruit trees to support green space, and
provide affordable, organic produce.

Public Space Enhancements and Maintenance

Invest in rat prevention through increased
extermination efforts and deploying rat
birth control

Youth Development and Opportunity

Year round youth jobs for ages 14-24

Inclusive Community Spaces and Cultural Enrichment Programs

Offer nighttime sports and gym access to
promote community connection through
healthy activities.

Community Resources and Social Equity Programs

Services for elderly who do not live in
assisted living homes.

Creating feasible resource programs to get
information out on health resources.

Launch a "Future Prep" program for
formerly incarcerated youth, offering skills
training and grants