



Economic Opportunity & Inclusion Cabinet: OEI + DSD FY26 Budget Hearing

City Council Committee on Ways and Means | Tuesday, April 29, 2025



- ***Segun Idowu***, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion
- ***Donald Wright***, Deputy Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion
- ***Jolivia Barros***, Incoming Director of Operations
- ***Aliesha Porcena***, Director of Small Business

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSION CABINET (EOI)

OFFICE OF
ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY &
INCLUSION (OEI)

OFFICE OF
TOURISM, SPORTS,
& ENTERTAINMENT

DEPARTMENT OF
SUPPLIER
DIVERSITY

OFFICE OF
CONSUMER
AFFAIRS &
LICENSING

The background of the slide is a dark blue aerial view of a city, overlaid with a white line-art map. The map shows the outlines of various buildings, streets, and parks, providing a detailed urban context for the text.

THE EOI VISION

Defining economic equity

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSION CABINET



The vision of the Economic Opportunity and Inclusion Cabinet is of ***a resilient, equitable, sustainable, and vibrant city that centers people and creates opportunities to build generational wealth for all communities.***

The Economic Opportunity and Inclusion Cabinet
understands equity to be:

the proactive process of providing historically excluded communities the resources they need to live and thrive in Boston. Our focus is on establishing racial equity as a means of addressing historic inequities across the city.*

**This definition was crafted by the Equity and Inclusion Cabinet*

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DEMOGRAPHICS

Cabinet-wide staff diversity

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSION CABINET



EOI Cabinet Demographics

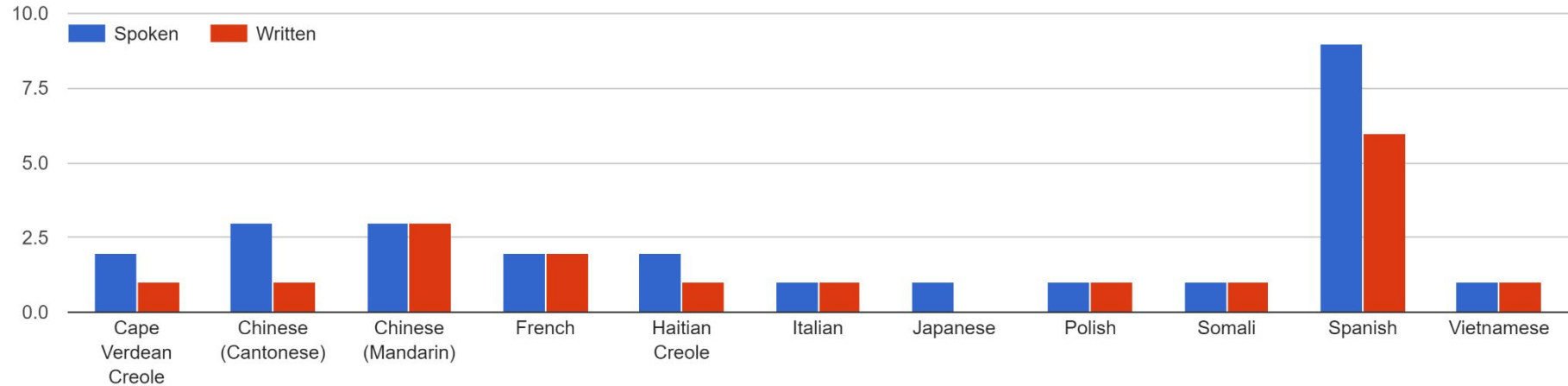


	AAPI	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	White	Not Specified	% BIPOC*
All Staff	7	28	14	38	10	51%
Top 10 Salaries	-	4	-	4	1	50%

**Does not calculate “Not Specified” into percentage*

EOI CABINET LANGUAGE SKILLS*

EOI conducts an annual language skills survey at the start of each FY. Our staff have advanced or fluent language skills in the following languages:



(*As of a 10/11/24 survey)

Missing from Boston's top 10 Languages: **Russian, Arabic, Portuguese**

OEOI Department Demographics



	Asian	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	White	Not Specified	%BIPOC*
All Staff	3	12	4	15	7	53%
Top 10 Salaries	-	3	-	4	3	27%

**Does not calculate “Not Specified” into percentage*

DSD Department Demographics



	Asian	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	White	Not Specified	%BIPOC*
All Staff	1	6	3	2	1	70%
Top 10 Salaries	1	4	2	2	1	78%

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MAYOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSION (OEI)

Overview and Accomplishments

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSION CABINET



Cabinet vs Department

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSION CABINET (OEI)

**Business
Strategy Unit**

**Office of Nightlife
Economy**

**Economic &
Strategic Planning**

**Operations
& Comms**

Policy

**Office of Small
Business**

**Cannabis
Equity**

Global Affairs

**Industry
Engagement**

**Main Streets
Program**

**Mobile Enterprise
Unit**

Outdoor Dining

OEOI Programs and Initiatives



OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSION

Business Strategy Unit: Leads on business attraction and retention, with a focus on Startups, Life Sciences, Tech, Backstreets industries, Global Affairs, and Cannabis Equity.

Economic & Strategic Planning: Responsible for placemaking and community-led neighborhood revitalization.

Operations: Responsible for managing the daily operations of the department, including the budget, compliance, personnel, and communications.

Policy: Responsible for providing landscape analyses of various economic and community development issues, as well as researching and developing policies that advance the vision of the Cabinet.

Nightlife Economy: Establishes initiatives and policies to enhance the late night economy in the city..

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

Main Streets: A network of 20 independent organizations that help create, build, & sustain healthy commercial districts.

Mobile Enterprises: Program that helps support food trucks and other mobile businesses.

Outdoor Dining: Develops policies and helps small business participate in a permanent outdoor dining program.

ReStore Program: Offers grants to help businesses design, improve, or repair signage, facades, or other exterior needs.

Technical Assistance: Connects entrepreneurs or business owners to subject matter experts who help them start or scale.

BOSNetwork: Provides skill-building opportunities, technical help, and networking to underrepresented entrepreneurial groups

Business Strategy

Business attraction



We have a mission of attracting and retaining companies, helping companies relocate and expand, as well as nurturing a supportive ecosystem for startups, with a focus on life sciences, tech, and other emerging industries. **In FY25, the Business Strategy team accomplished the following:**

- In collaboration with the Alliance for Climate Transition, the Downtown Boston Alliance, the Massachusetts Center for Clean Energy, and Schneider Electric, our office organized the inaugural **Climate Tech on the Plaza**. We brought together **40+ climate tech startups to City Hall Plaza, which attracted over 300 attendees**, ranging from policy-makers, tourists, students, investors and the general public. We are hosting this again on April 30th this year.
- Our office has engaged, recruited, or supported **141 companies of all sizes across many industries**, including the **new US HQs and grand openings for the Lilly Seaport Innovation Center, EMD Serono, and CarGurus**.
- **We succeeded in wrapping up our SPACE Grant program**. We received **~900 applications** and awarded 91 businesses approximately **\$10 million total in ARPA Funding**. Of those awarded, **75% are POC-owned, 65% are women-owned**.

Business Strategy by the numbers:

11

Business development events
and trade shows hosted

1,034

Total number of attendees
across sponsored programs

800

Estimated total # of jobs
created by 91 SPACE grantees



Business Strategy

Downtown revitalization

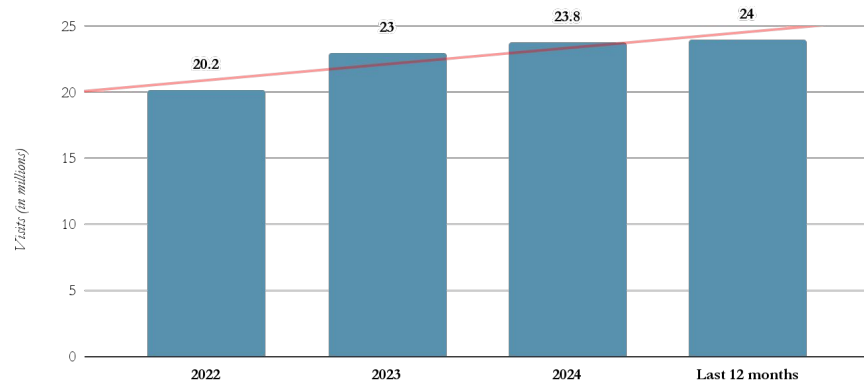


Since 2021, the Administration has partnered with key stakeholders across the advocacy, business, education, finance, hospitality, institutional, and residential communities to advance the recommendations provided by a 2022 Boston Consulting Group report, **“Revive And Reimagine: A Strategy To Revitalize Boston's Downtown.”**

1. Ensure the continued vibrancy of office space
2. Expand housing downtown
3. Expand the daily use of downtown beyond work
4. Enhance economic opportunity for underserved populations
5. Support connectivity and mobility downtown
6. Grow Boston's footprint as a global tourism hub

Downtown Visitor Trends

Provided by the Downtown Boston Alliance

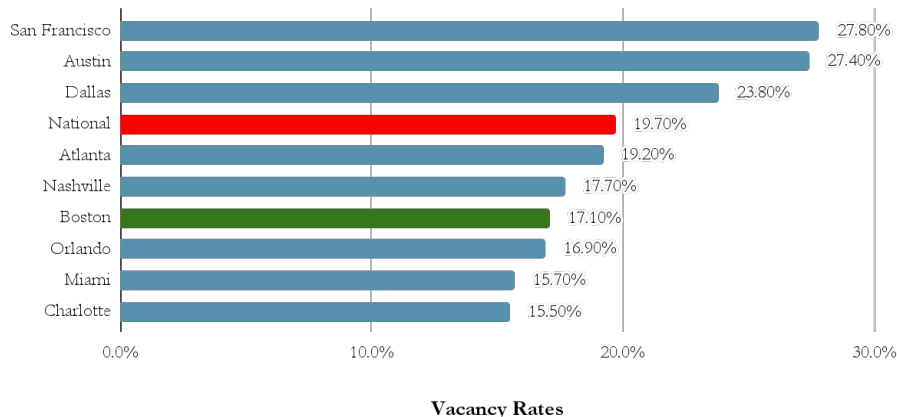


Brief Downtown Highlights (not exhaustive)

- Secured new owner for Faneuil Hall Marketplace
- Downtown Residential Conversion Incentive Pilot Program
- Hosted NHL Fan Fest, GLD Festival, Boston Marathon Fan Fest, TNT Roadshow, Climate Tech
- Canal Street pedestrianization
- DBA Winteractive series
- New/renewed leases by Dynatrace, Klayvio, Converse

National Office Market Trends

(source: CommercialEdge Feb. 2025 data via March 2025 Boston Real Estate Times report)



As a center of culture, life sciences, tech, and charm, Boston remains a global destination for foreign dignitaries and visitors. **In FY25, the Global Affairs team accomplished the following:**

- **Hosted G-LOCAL**, an event fostering connections between **50+ diplomatic representatives and business leaders** to enhance our global and local business ecosystem.
- **Welcomed 47 delegations from 20 countries to the city**, representing the rich diversity of our community.
- In April 2025, Mayor Wu signed a second **formal declaration of intent** (the first one was with Rome, Italy in FY24) with the **City of Athens, Greece**. By the end of Summer 2025, we aim to launch a Global Partnerships Application designed to strengthen and streamline our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process.



Global Affairs by the numbers:

723

International delegation and flag raising attendees visited City Hall

33

Large international companies engaged

3

Continents represented by foreign visitors

Business Strategy

Cannabis Equity



The City of Boston is committed to ensuring equitable participation at all levels of the cannabis industry and provides financial and other assistance to help reach this goal. **In FY25, the Cannabis Equity team accomplished the following:**

- **Expanding City Support to the Broader Cannabis Industry**
 - Launching a centralized Cannabis Hub and shifting from a business only focus to an inclusive, industry wide approach, while maintaining equity as a core priority.
- **Awarded \$190,000 in contracts to four technical assistance providers** to deliver direct one-on-one support to pre-certified and certified equity applicants and businesses.
- **Awarded a \$350,000 grant** to be distributed to eligible equity businesses.
- **Hosting our third annual Cannabis Empowerment Week June 15 - June 22, 2025** spotlighting career opportunities in the industry.



55

Pre/Certified Equity Applicants

32

Equity Applicant HCAs

7

Equity Applicants in Licensing Queue

15

Equity Applicants Open

7%
AAPI

69%
Black

17%
Latino

7%
White

Utilizing a FY24 Economic and Strategic Planning \$700k grant from the Barr Foundation:

Commercial Acquisition Assistance Program (CAAP) will combine forgivable capital tools—including down payment assistance, loan loss reserves, and interest rate buy-downs. ESP is working to utilize the grant in the following ways:

- **Staff support** - Hired Senior Advisor for Small Business and Corporate Financing
- **Legal assistance & Business study** - RFP's to be issued in May 2025

2025 FUSE Fellow - national nonprofit that enables local governments to create holistic solutions that advance racial equity and address pressing challenges facing urban communities. Focus is on:

- **Designing & implement** a strategic framework that drives community-led investments in historically overlooked neighborhoods



The Office of Nightlife Economy (ONE) was established in Spring of 2023 to foster a more vibrant and robust nightlife economy through identifying programmatic solutions, coordinating resources, and establishing policy.

In FY25, ONE:

- **Piloted** a second Social District Program on Temple St., utilizing state to-go cocktail policy and street closures to allow a defined open container zone.
- **Distributed** 33,000 drink spiking prevention covers to 40 bars and nightclubs.
- **Provided** “Stop the Bleed” training, a partnership with Brigham and Women's Hospital's The Gillian Reny Stepping Strong Center for Trauma Innovation.
- **Established** an “after hours” activation series at City Hall, which featured pop-up coffee shops, a comedy night, queer-friend speed dating, a pajama party, and cultural night markets.

Office of Nightlife Economy

Programmatic Highlight



Wake Up the Night Grant

In August 2024, the Office of Nightlife Economy **awarded \$301,581**, utilizing ARPA funding, to **41 grantees** to support nighttime activations and programming. All funding aligned with one of the following categories:

- *accessible programming*
- *cultural expression*
- *intergenerational*
- *spirit-free programming*
- *weekday activations*
- *youth programming*

Wake Up the Night by the numbers:

50

Events supported across 13 neighborhoods

102

Artists and performers featured

8,165

Boston area residents attended



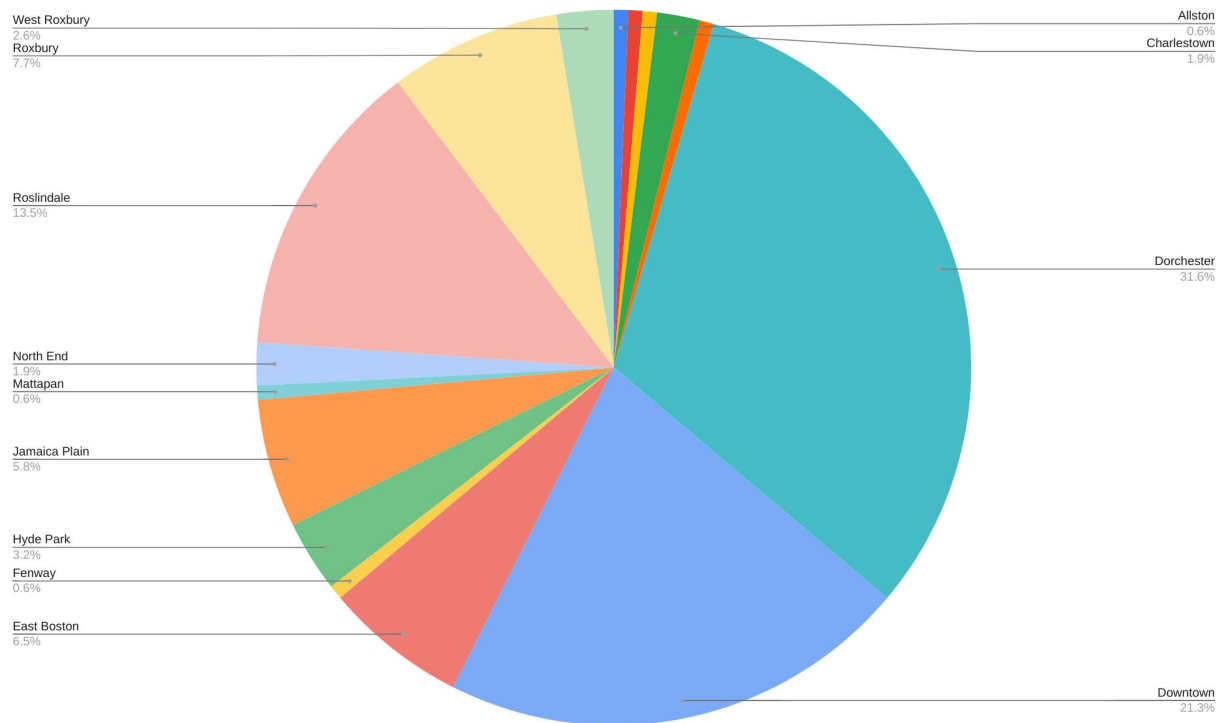
Office of Small Business

Programs by the numbers



Technical Assistance:

- **\$1,214,209** towards Technical Assistance (60% increase)
- **5,000+ hours** of dedicated 1-on-1 support
- **158** completed 1-on-1 support
 - 94 woman-owned (59%)
 - 102 minority-owned (65%)
 - 80 in low-moderate income areas
 - 3 cooperative businesses



ReStore Program:

- 25 completed projects across 34 businesses
- 8 additional projects already in the pipeline for FY26
- \$320,000+ towards signage and facade projects to date
- \$80,000+ more committed to project for end of fiscal year
- Currently piloting an updated on-line application that will make information clearer, streamline the process, and move projects forward more efficiently and quickly
- Participating businesses seeing increased foot traffic



Before and after: Blue Hill Ave., Mattapan



Outdoor Dining:

- 177 applications
- 113 Applicants approved
- Lowered insurance requirements from 2025 by up to 25%, to encourage small businesses to join

Office of Small Business

Creating an ecosystem where small businesses THRIVE!



- **May is Small Business month!**

- 30+ events that include:
 - Boston Means Business events (city-led)
 - Powered by Boston (City-sponsored)
 - Ecosystem Exchange (City-partnered)
- Curated social media content, staff spotlights, program updates, and much more!
- How can you be involved?
 - Spread the word!
 - Save the date: **Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025** – Legacy Awards Ceremony @ Calderwood Pavilion

Small Business Engagement by the numbers:

50+

Events led by the Office of
Small Business in FY25

60+

Community/partner events
attended or participated in

\$9.8M

Total spent on supporting
Small Businesses to date



Office of Small Business

Honoring Memorial Day during Small Business Month



★ VETERAN-OWNED ★

Business Certification Office Hours

MAY 21, 2025 | VIRTUAL | 11 AM - 1 PM

Join the City of Boston's Supplier Diversity Department for virtual office hours aimed at supporting veterans with business certification support and resources.

JOIN OFFICE HOURS AT [BOSTON.GOV/SD](https://boston.gov/sd)

Please note: The City of Boston does not certify Veteran-owned Small Businesses but recognizes those businesses that have been certified by the U.S. Small Business Administration and includes this designation in the directory with their City certification.

CITY of BOSTON  Economic Opportunity and Inclusion  Supplier Diversity  Veterans' Services 





★ VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESS ★

LIQUOR LICENSE OFFICE HOURS

MAY 28
3 PM - 5 PM

Held virtually via Zoom
Register at boston.gov/licensing

Join the City of Boston Licensing Board for virtual office hours aimed at supporting veterans through the liquor license application process.

CITY of BOSTON  Economic Opportunity and Inclusion  Licensing Board  Veterans' Services 



VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS FORUM

Thursday, May 29 ★ 3 PM - 4 PM

Join the Office of Small Business for a virtual forum discussing resources for veteran-owned small businesses.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER:
[BOSTON.GOV/SMALLBUSINESS](https://boston.gov/smallbusiness)

CITY of BOSTON  Economic Opportunity and Inclusion  Small Business  Veterans' Services 

The background of the slide is a dark blue aerial view of a city, overlaid with a white line-art map showing building footprints and street layouts. The map is centered on the city of Chicago, with the Willis Tower visible in the upper left.

THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLIER DIVERSITY (DSD)

Overview and Accomplishments

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSION CABINET



POLICY

Sheltered Market Program

We designate certain contracts for minority- and/or women-owned businesses.

MBE/WBE Utilization Goals

We set participation goals on select construction and professional services contracts that prime contractors are required to meet through subcontracting agreements with certified MBEs and WBEs.

Inclusive Quote Contract

Mayor Wu's 30B Home Rule Petition is now Chapter 334 of the Acts of 2022. This legislation allows City buyers to use an "Inclusive Quote Contract" for purchases up to \$250k (previously \$50k) IF they get quotes only from DBEs

INDUSTRY- SPECIFIC CAPACITY BUILDING

SCALE

Beginning in FY25, DSD launched its Supplying Capital and Leveraging Education (SCALE) Program, designed to assist a small cohort of small, diverse businesses operating in industries that represent areas of significant public spending. In addition to industry specific technical assistance through trusted business service organizations, the program will offer direct financial assistance to participants.

Since FY21, DSD has made nearly \$2M in grants to certified businesses. At least 8 businesses that received Opportunity Fund grants went on to bid on and win City contracts.

TOOLS

Buying Plan

The Buying Plan is a list of what City Departments plan to buy in a given fiscal year.

This tool is meant to give small businesses as much lead time as possible to submit competitive bids.

Departments are asked to update the list on a recurring basis so that it reflects the most up-to-date plans for purchasing.

Supplier Diversity

Diverse business certification



Our mission is to create opportunities for businesses of all kinds in Boston. Certification allows the City to better track its discretionary spending and helps us focus resources on growing the capacity of local firms. In FY25, the Supplier Diversity team accomplished the following:

- Hosted **10 community-based events** to encourage certification.
- Referred over **50 businesses** to technical assistance programs and resources.
- Provided close to **100 hours of support** to prospective certified businesses via weekly office hours.
- Partnered with Procurement to **publish digital equitable contracting dashboards** to Boston.gov, providing visibility on Supplier Diversity progress.



Certification program by the numbers:

(As of April 2025)

951

Certified business entities

173

Number of new certifications

10%

AAPI

42%

Black

17%

Latino

33%

Small local

2%

Veteran

58%

Women

Supplier Diversity

Launching the SCALE program



In FY25, we launched the **Supplying Capital and Leveraging Education (SCALE) Program**, which was developed to provide small, minority- and women-owned businesses with industry-specific technical assistance and grant funding of up to \$200,000. The Program focuses on industry categories that represent a large share of the City's public contracts:

1. Construction: Tradeswork
2. Construction: General Contracting
3. Design and Architectural Services
4. Food and Dining Services
5. Snow Removal and Landscaping



The program's purpose is to help businesses more effectively engage in public sector contracting. In FY25, the grant administrator, BDC Community Capital, awarded grants to 27 companies across each category.

Certification types of grantees:

33%

MBE

41%

MWBE

22%

WBE

63%

SLBE

Supplier Diversity

Cross-departmental collaboration



WHITE STADIUM CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITY FAIRS

Come meet members of the team and learn about opportunities to bid on contracts related to the design, construction, and operation of this transformational project for Boston Public Schools (BPS) Athletics and Franklin Park.

18
MARCH

National Center of Afro-American Artists
300 Walnut Avenue, Boston, MA 02119
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

15
APRIL

Lena Park Community Center
150 American Legion Highway, Dorchester, MA 02124
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

20
MAY

Grove Hall Library
41 Geneva Ave., Dorchester, MA 02121
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

24
JUNE

William E. Reed Auditorium
24 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02121
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

CITY OF BOSTON | BOSTON Public Schools | Black Male Advancement | Economic Opportunity and Inclusion | Operations | Supplier Diversity

ALX | BEC/MA | BOSTON MAIN STREETS | BOS. NATION | COMMUNITY ACTION | CIB | SRGE

REGISTER FOR ALL EVENTS: [BOSTON.GOV/WHITE-STADIUM](https://boston.gov/white-stadium)

The Departments of Procurement, Public Facilities, and Supplier Diversity, along with Boston Legacy FC, are working together to achieve shared contractor diversity goals for the White Stadium Renovation Project. Since launching this partnership, we have accomplished the following:

- Launched the **White Stadium Supplier Diversity Advisory Board**
- Hosted 2 of 4 community contracting opportunity fairs that have so far engaged **120+ stakeholders**
- Created a supplier diversity-specific web page to **track progress** toward these goals (boston.gov/departments/mayors-office/white-stadium-supplier-diversity-initiative)
- Have so far **achieved close to 30%** contracts awarded to MWBE's
- Continuing to engage various contractors to connect them with upcoming opportunities



Supplier Diversity

Diverse contracting quarterly snapshot



Mayor Michelle Wu

City of Boston | EQUITY IN CITY CONTRACTING

[Read the Equity in City Contracting Report](#)

DISCRETIONARY SPENDING DATA

WITH CERTIFIED MINORITY/WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES



CERTIFICATION TYPE: All

MBE

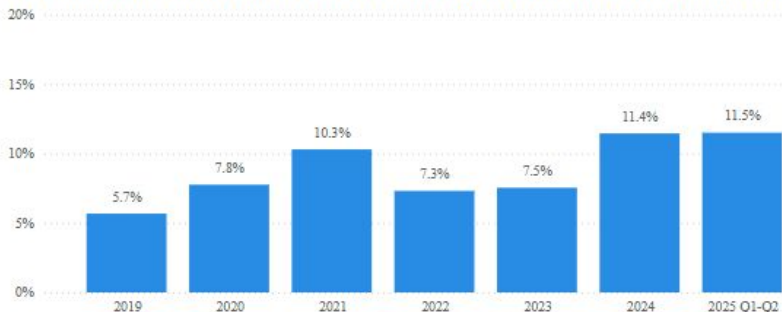
MWBE

WBE



Key Highlights

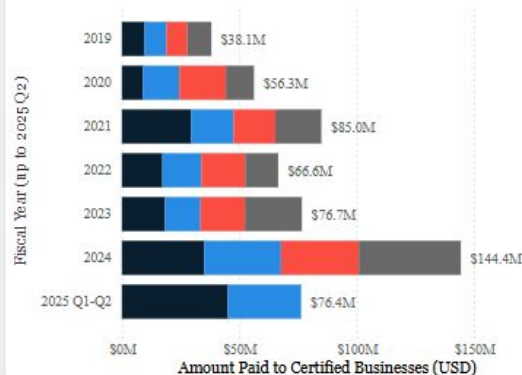
DISCRETIONARY SPENDING WITH CERTIFIED MINORITY/WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES



MBE	\$16,493,549	\$32,442,752	\$51,717,377	\$32,648,141	\$46,369,197	\$103,736,015	\$59,043,902
MWBE	\$2,375,101	\$3,317,748	\$6,314,552	\$7,668,215	\$6,207,494	\$7,937,932	\$3,920,681
WBE	\$19,253,081	\$20,514,831	\$26,949,342	\$26,254,062	\$24,109,151	\$32,740,692	\$13,386,014
Certified Total	\$38,121,732	\$56,275,330	\$84,981,272	\$66,570,418	\$76,685,842	\$144,414,640	\$76,350,597
Total City	\$677,073,787	\$775,810,100	\$875,788,350	\$810,773,708	\$1,017,400,544	\$1,761,481,530	\$663,887,088

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID TO CERTIFIED BUSINESSES

Fiscal Quarter ● 01 ● 02 ● 03 ● 04



547

of Unique Certified Businesses Paid

14,386

Total # of Unique Businesses Paid



Supplier Diversity



Procurement



Auditing



Analytics Team

Click the left and right arrows below to navigate between dashboard pages

Dashboard Modified: 03/21/2024

Updated Quarterly

[Questions or feedback?](#)

An aerial view of a city, rendered in white line art on a dark blue background. The map shows various building footprints, streets, and a large curved structure in the center. The text 'THANK YOU!' is overlaid in the middle-left area.

THANK YOU!

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSION CABINET





Economic Opportunity & Inclusion Cabinet: MOCAL + TSE FY26 Budget Hearing

City Council Committee on Ways and Means | Tuesday, April 29, 2025



- **Segun Idowu**, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion
- **Donald Wright**, Deputy Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion
- **John Borders IV**, Director of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment
- **Kathleen Joyce**, Executive Director of Consumer Affairs and Licensing

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSION CABINET (EOI)

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Defining economic equity

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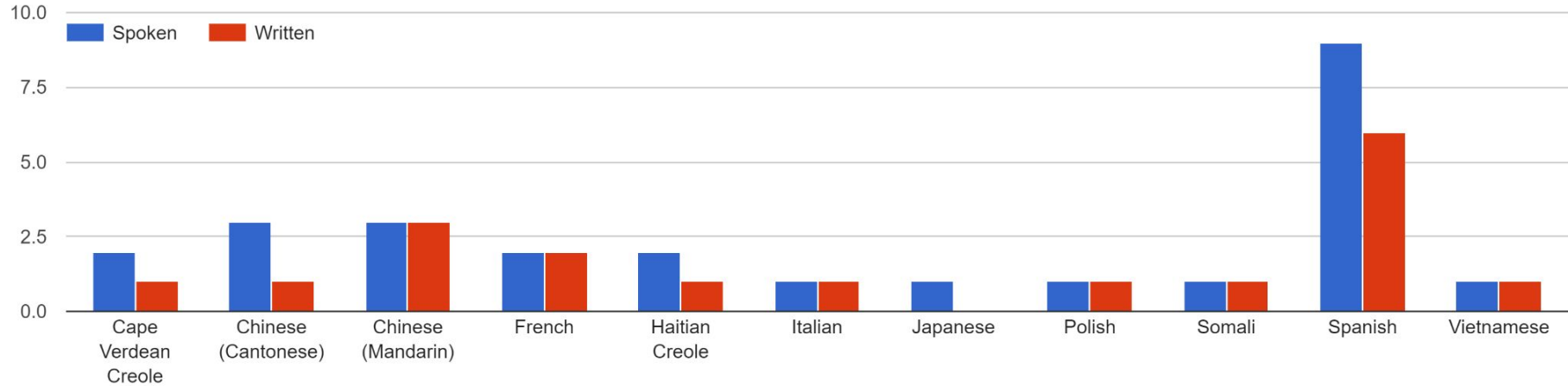


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TSE Department Demographics



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Top 10 Salaries	-	3	1	4	2	40%

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MOCAL Department Demographics



	AAPI	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	White	Not Specified	% BIPOC*
All Staff	3	7	4	13	-	52%
Top 10 Salaries	1	2	-	7	-	30%

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MAYOR'S OFFICE OF TOURISM, SPORTS, & ENTERTAINMENT (TSE)

Overview and Accomplishments

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSION CABINET



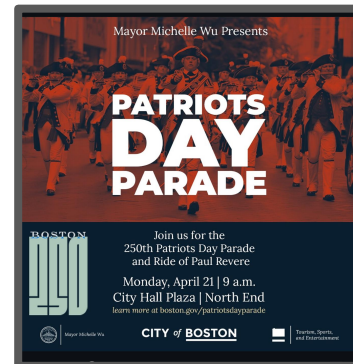
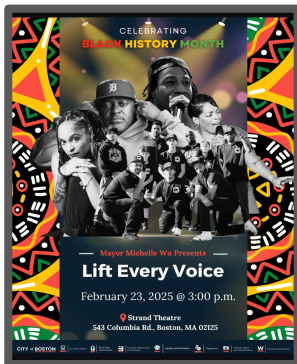
Department Work & Mission



- The Mayor's Office of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment supports these industries in Boston by producing events, supporting film and TV production, and marketing the City to world class events, conventions and visitors.
- Our mission is to advance tourism, sports, and entertainment in Boston and to promote participation in public celebrations from Boston residents and visitors from around the world.



Annual Events We Produce for the City



Annual Events We Support



- Anderson Tree Lighting (Hyde Park)
- BAMS Fest (White Stadium, Franklin Park)
- Boston Caribbean Festival (Roxbury)
- Age Strong Black History Month (Roxbury)
- Boston Police Memorial Mass (Roslindale)
- Caribbean Parade (Mission Hill)
- Chinatown Lion Dance Parade (Chinatown)
- Crispus Attucks Memorial (Downtown)
- Firefighters Memorial at Forest Hills Cemetery (Jamaica Hills)
- Fisherman's Feast (North End)
- Greek Parade (Bay Village)
- Hyde Park Juneteenth (Hyde Park)
- Haitian Parade (Mattapan)
- Italian Heritage Celebration (North End)
- Jazz in The Park at the Greenway (Downtown)
- Allston/Brighton Parade (Allston/Brighton)



Future Events

United States Semiquincentennial



Culminating in 2026, 250 years since the American colonies declared independence from the British Empire, we will pull together residents, visitors, planners, educators, artists, students, the business community, and politicians to recognize the importance of our culture and values.



Future Events

United States Semiquincentennial



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Future Events

2026 FIFA World Cup, Sail 250

B



- Boston is one of 17 U.S. host cities.
- The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be the largest to date with 80 matches featuring 48 national teams slated to take place: 60 in the United States, 10 in Canada, and 10 in Mexico.
- The Boston Consulting Group's research has estimated that individual 2026 FIFA World Cup host cities can expect to see up to **450,000 visitors** and a potential net economic impact of up to **\$480 million**.



- Boston is an official port of Sail250®, a global gathering of tall ships to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States.
- Since 1992, Sail Boston, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, has hosted **more than 500 international tall ships and vessels** of interest to Boston and many Massachusetts coastal communities.
- Taking place between July 11-16, 2026, the event expects 28 class A vessels (29 nations) and may attract millions of visitors to Boston

The background of the slide is a dark blue aerial view of a city grid, rendered in white line art. The lines represent building footprints and streets, creating a complex, geometric pattern. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down on the city.

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND LICENSING (MOCAL)

Overview and Accomplishments

Department Mission



- The Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing (MOCAL) supports and regulates various industries and entertainment activities, including restaurants, bars, hotels, cannabis establishments, and other businesses that bolster Boston's nightlife and overall economy.
- The Office also educates and mediates on behalf of Boston area consumers in order to facilitate successful resolution of consumer related complaints.



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND LICENSING (MOCAL)



**Licensing
Board**

**Cannabis
Board**

**Entertainment
Division**

**Consumer
Affairs**

**Special
Events**



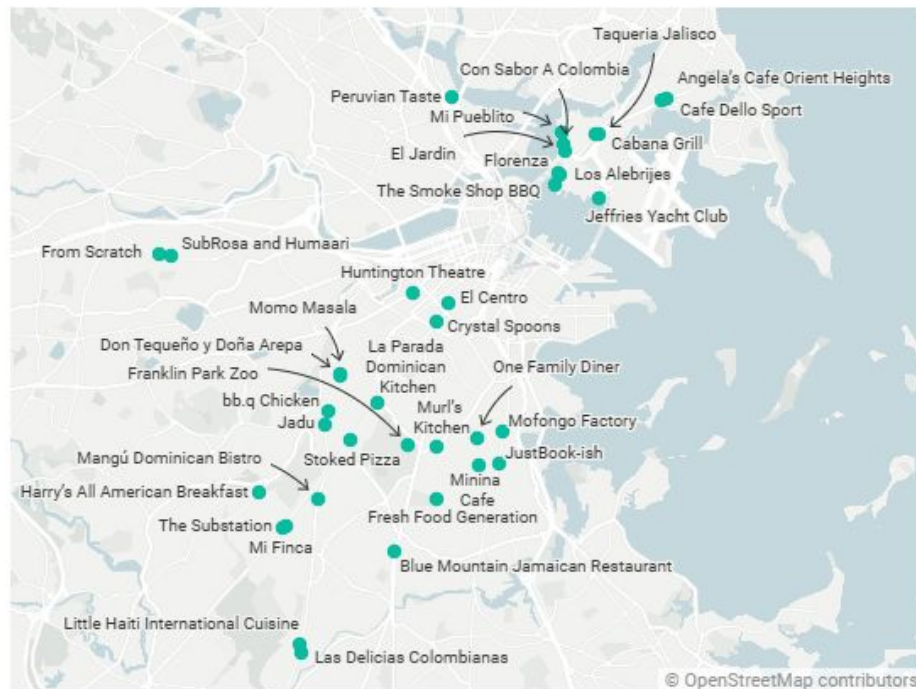


- The Licensing Board is a three member mayoral-appointed Board that issues and regulates the following categories of licenses:
 - Common Victualler
 - Alcoholic Beverages
 - Innholder
 - Dormitories/Lodging Houses
 - Billiards & Bowling
 - Fortune Tellers

- Received 225 new liquor licenses from the state, to be distributed over three years, through a successful Home Rule Petition.
- Developed process to review, hear, and approve applications for newly-available liquor licenses in batches.
- Approved the first round of 37 liquor licenses and announced the second application deadline, May 23 (see distribution map on next slide).
- Partnered with the Office of Nightlife Economy to distribute drink covers to licensed premises, following continued reports of non-consensual drugging.
- Processed and approved over 420 Special One Day Alcohol licenses.

Boston's newest liquor licenses

The Boston Licensing Board approved 37 new liquor licenses for these restaurants, bars, community spaces and other establishments.



- The Licensing Board engaged in significant community outreach to raise awareness of the new licenses and educate potential applications about the process and timeline. This outreach included:
 - *Informational Webinars*
 - *Presentation to Main Streets Directors*
 - *Neighborhood Information Sessions*
 - *Multilingual FAQs on the Board's Website*
 - *Postcard Campaign*
 - *Bi-Weekly Office Hours*

- The Boston Cannabis Board (BCB), established in 2020, is a mayoral-appointed seven member Board tasked with siting cannabis establishments within the City of Boston.
- The BCB's duty is to ensure equity in the issuance of cannabis licenses. Its enabling ordinance mandates that at least 50% of all cannabis establishments within the city have been certified as equity applicants by OEOI.

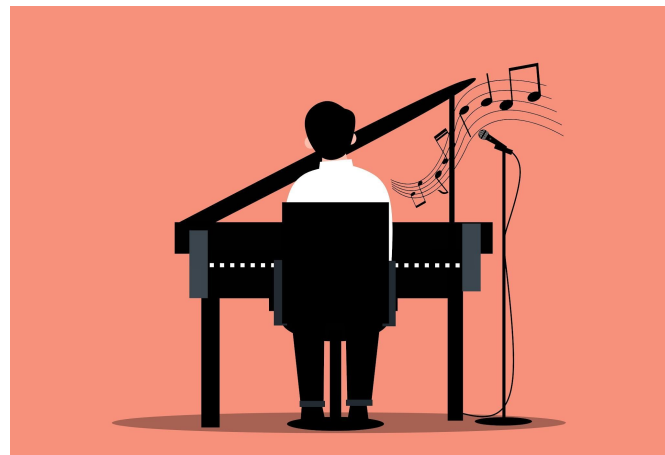
- The BCB issued **3** Cannabis Licenses in FY25
 - 3 Non-Equity
- The BCB executed **4** Host Community Agreements in FY25
 - 3 Equity
 - 1 Non-Equity
- There are **34** Cannabis Establishments open and operating:
 - 27 Marijuana Retailer Only
 - 5 Co-located Marijuana Retailer & Medical Treatment Center
 - 2 Marijuana Delivery Operators



Number of opened establishments in each neighborhood:

3	2	1	7	5	4	1	2	1	3	2	1	1	1
Allston/ Brighton	Back Bay	Charlestown	Dorchester	Downtown (includes Chinatown Leather District)	East Boston	Fenway/ Kenmore	Jamaica Plain	Mattapan	Roslindale	Roxbury	South Boston	West End	West Roxbury

- The Entertainment Division grants and regulates various licenses and holds hearings on violations and license applications. The Division issues licenses for:
 - Annual Non-live entertainment (ex. Background music including radio)
 - Annual Live entertainment (ex. DJ, band)
 - One-time Entertainment (temporary license for non-live and live entertainment)
 - One-time Carnival (temporary license for carnival games and rides)



- Approved **39** FY25 YTD new **non-live** entertainment licenses and **59** in 2024 including East Boston, Roxbury, Mattapan, and Downtown areas such as WNDR Museum and Museum of Ice Cream.
- Approved **15** FY25 YTD new **live** entertainment licenses in and 23 in 2024 including Dani's Queer Bar, Axe Throwing Club Boston, Titanic: Artifact Exhibit, F1 Arcade, and Broadway Golf Club.
- Approved **1,621** FY25 YTD **one-time** entertainment licenses (3.84% increase from FY24 YTD) and in **2,091** in 2024.
- Made updates to the Entertainment Licensing process to reduce the number of application hearings required.



- The Consumer Affairs Division works with the MA Attorney General's Office to educate consumers and help fight deceptive business practices within the City of Boston.
- In FY25, our catchment area expanded to assist in case mediation in Everett.
- The most frequent consumer complaints that our advocates mediate include:
 - *Online retail (Ex. Temu, Amazon, Wayfair, etc...)*
 - *Car Repairs & Sales*
 - *Phone & Cable Bills*
 - *Car Rentals*

Consumer Affairs

FY25 Accomplishments



- The office received a **\$94k** grant from the Attorney General's Office for the local consumer aid fund.
- We recovered over **\$325k** for Boston residents in 2024. **\$196k** FY25 YTD.
- Completed **11** consumer outreach events including tabling and presentations on scams/fraud.



- MOCAL regularly convenes a committee to assist applicants through the process of permitting outdoor events across the city.
- This committee includes the **Boston Police Department, Inspectional Services Department, Boston Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services, Boston Transportation Department, Department of Public Works, Office of Neighborhood Services, Boston Parks & Recreation Department**, and others depending on the details and location of the event.
- Processed of 730 special event applications (FY25 YTD) and 880 in 2024.

- Moved the special event application to a new portal and made significant updates to the application to collect more information up front.
- Worked with DoIT on updating the special event process.
 - *Categorize events into three tiers which will determine permitting requirements, deadlines, and processing times. Interactive tier tool available to help applicants determine the tier of their event.*
 - *New special event map to assist applicants where applicants can plug in an address and find out who the property owners are and how to reserve the space.*
- Created new google slide guides to help applicants understand the special event process better before they apply and the permitting process after they apply.
- Created a seasonal special event guide for applicants with several repeat events to reduce the number of special event applications required.

The background of the slide is a dark blue aerial view of a city, overlaid with a white line-art map. The map shows various city blocks, streets, and landmarks, including a large circular area in the center and a prominent building with a classical facade in the lower-left quadrant.

THANK YOU!

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSION CABINET

