

# IDEAS *in* ACTION

*Winning Ideas and Community Celebration*

*February 19, 2026*



Office of  
Participatory  
Budgeting

**CITY of BOSTON**

# AGENDA

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- 6:00 pm: **Registration & Refreshments**
- 6:15 pm: **Overview of Ideas in Action 2025-2026**
- 6:25 pm: **Announcement of Winning Projects**
- 6:35 pm: **Implementation Updates**
- 6:40 pm: **Looking Ahead Activity (Data+Soul)**
- 7:10 pm: **Open Discussion / Networking**
- 7:30 pm: **Closing**

# UPCOMING BOARD SCHEDULE

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DATE	DETAILS
<b>March Email Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Proposed Rulebook Updates</i></li><li>• <i>Evaluation Report Updates</i></li><li>• <i>Nominees for EOB Co-Chairs</i></li></ul>
<b>Thursday, April 16th</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Vote on EOB Co-Chairs</i></li><li>• <i>Rulebook Updates</i></li><li>• <i>Evaluation Report Presentation</i></li><li>• <i>Updates on Awarded PB Projects</i></li><li>• <i>Logistics for Upcoming PB Cycle</i></li></ul>

# **Ideas in Action Recap**



# IDEA COLLECTION PHASE (July 2025)

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## PB Portal

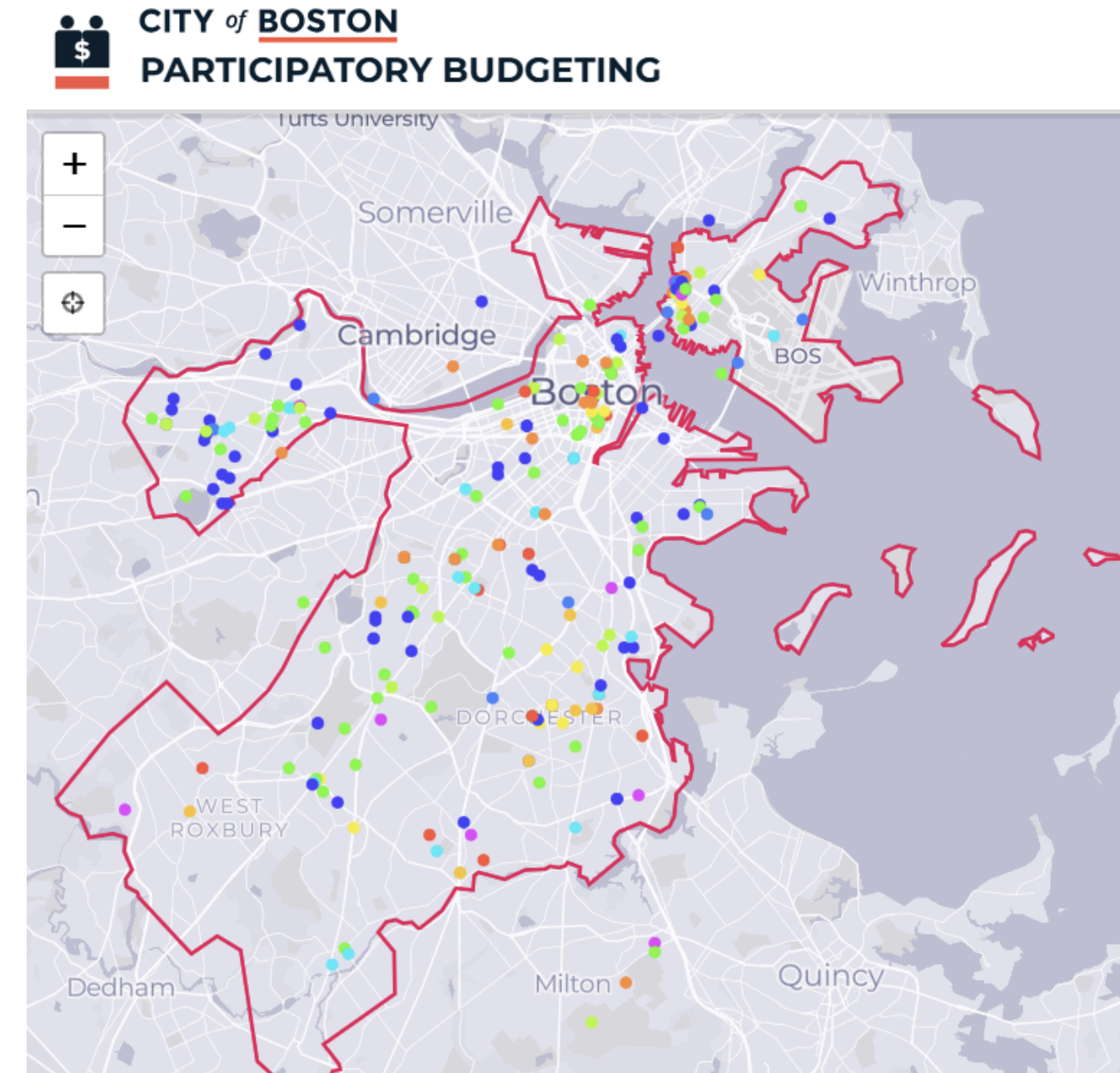
- [participate.boston.gov](https://participate.boston.gov)

## PB Phone Line

- (617) 635-3059

## PB Corners

- City Hall
- Boston Public Library Branches
- 10 BCYF Community Centers (new)
  - 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)



## Community Partnerships

- Contracted with **19 local nonprofits** to host culturally and community specific events/activities to collect ideas.

**IDEAS**  
in **ACTION**

# 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

# PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT (October - November)

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## THREE OCTOBER NEIGHBORHOOD FORUMS:

*Prioritizing the ideas, 3 categories discussed per event.*

**Part 1:** Residents collectively selected their top six subcategories of ideas collected over the summer

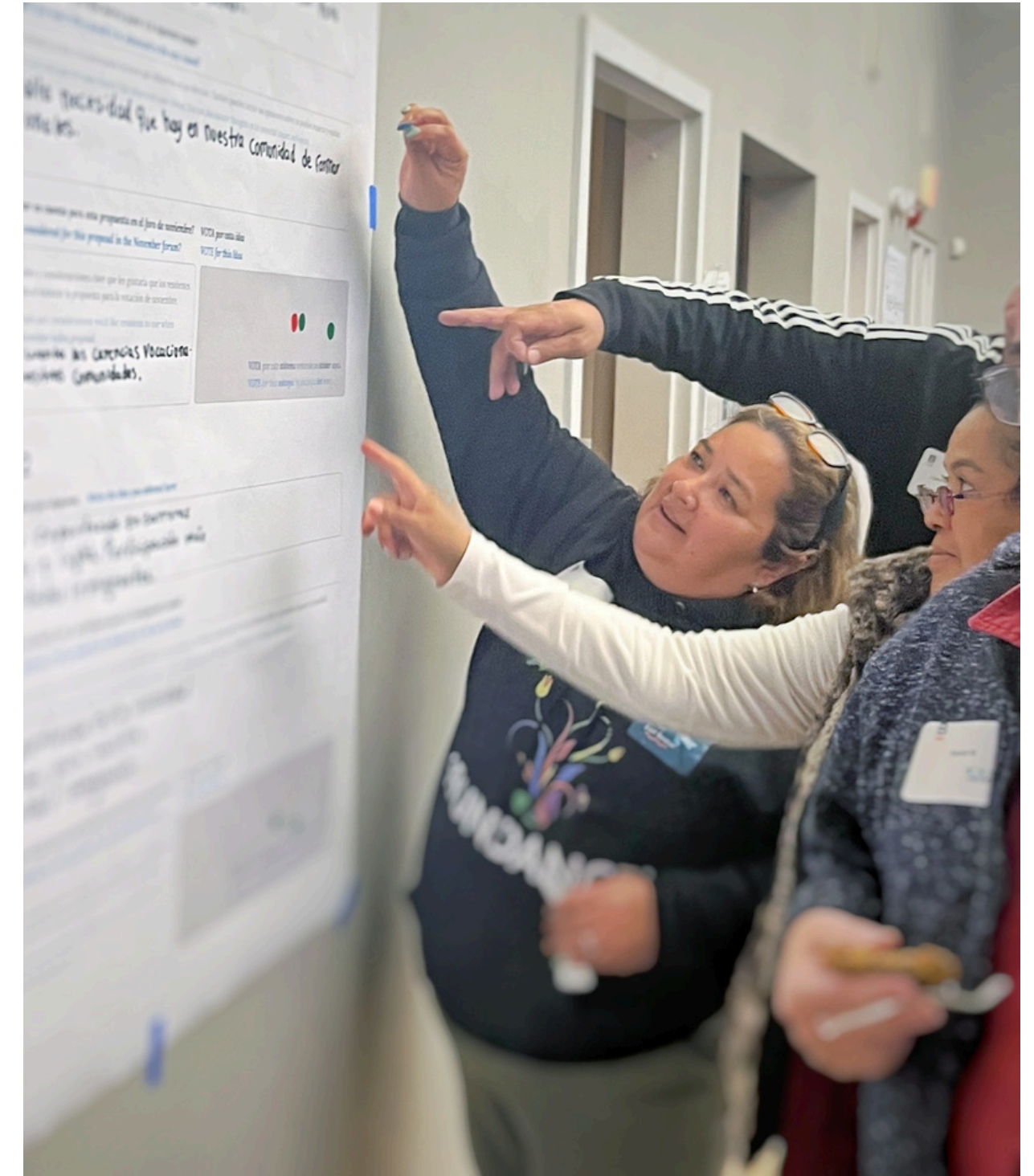
**Part 2:** Residents **reviewed and discussed** ideas under their assigned subcategory, with an **equity and community impact** lens

**Part 3:** Residents voted for their top 5 ideas at the end of each forum

- 15 pre-selected ideas at the end of the 3 forums

### Highlights

- **More than 130** residents attended the three October forums
- **15 Community Partners** helped to recruit residents
- **Languages:** English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole



# OCTOBER FORUMS

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## Forum #1: Mattapan Public Library

Tuesday, October 14th



### Community Partners

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

### Languages Covered

- English
- Haitian Creole
- Spanish

## Forum #2: Maverick Landing

Thursday, October 23rd



### Community Partners

- Maverick Landing Community Services
- Eastie Coalition
- Agencia ALPHA
- NUBE

### Languages Covered

- English
- Spanish

## Forum #3: Charlesview Community Center

Monday, October 27th



### Community Partners

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

### Languages

- English
- Spanish
- Portuguese

# PROPOSAL DRAFTING FORUMS

## TWO NOVEMBER FORUMS AT CITY HALL:

*Residents drafted proposals with City staff*

- **Part 1:** Participants shared why ideas are important to them and their community
- **Part 2:** Departments provided relevant context and data on the pre-selected project ideas
- **Part 3:** Residents drafted proposal language in collaboration with City Departments
  - Proposal Template: Who, What, Why, How?

### Highlights

- **65 residents** attended the November forums
- **10+ Community Partners** helped to recruit residents
- **Languages:** English, Spanish, Portuguese



# PB VOTING (January - February)

A total of **4841 Boston residents** voted online and in-person for their top 5 proposals!

Participatory Budgeting initiative

## Ideas in Action

An opportunity for residents to decide how to spend a portion of the City's budget.

Welcome to Ideas in Action, the City of Boston's new Participatory Budgeting initiative!

From January 15 to February 15, 2026, Boston residents can VOTE and decide on how \$2 million in Participatory Budgeting funds will be invested in community-driven projects across the City. Selected projects are a one-time, non-recurring investment, and will be implemented beginning this spring 2026.

Make your voice heard – vote for up to five (5) projects that will have the biggest impact on YOUR community!

### Voter Eligibility

I understand that to vote in Participatory Budgeting 2026, I must:

- Be a City of Boston resident
- Only vote one time
- Be at least 11 years old (or at least in 6th grade)

First name

John

Last name

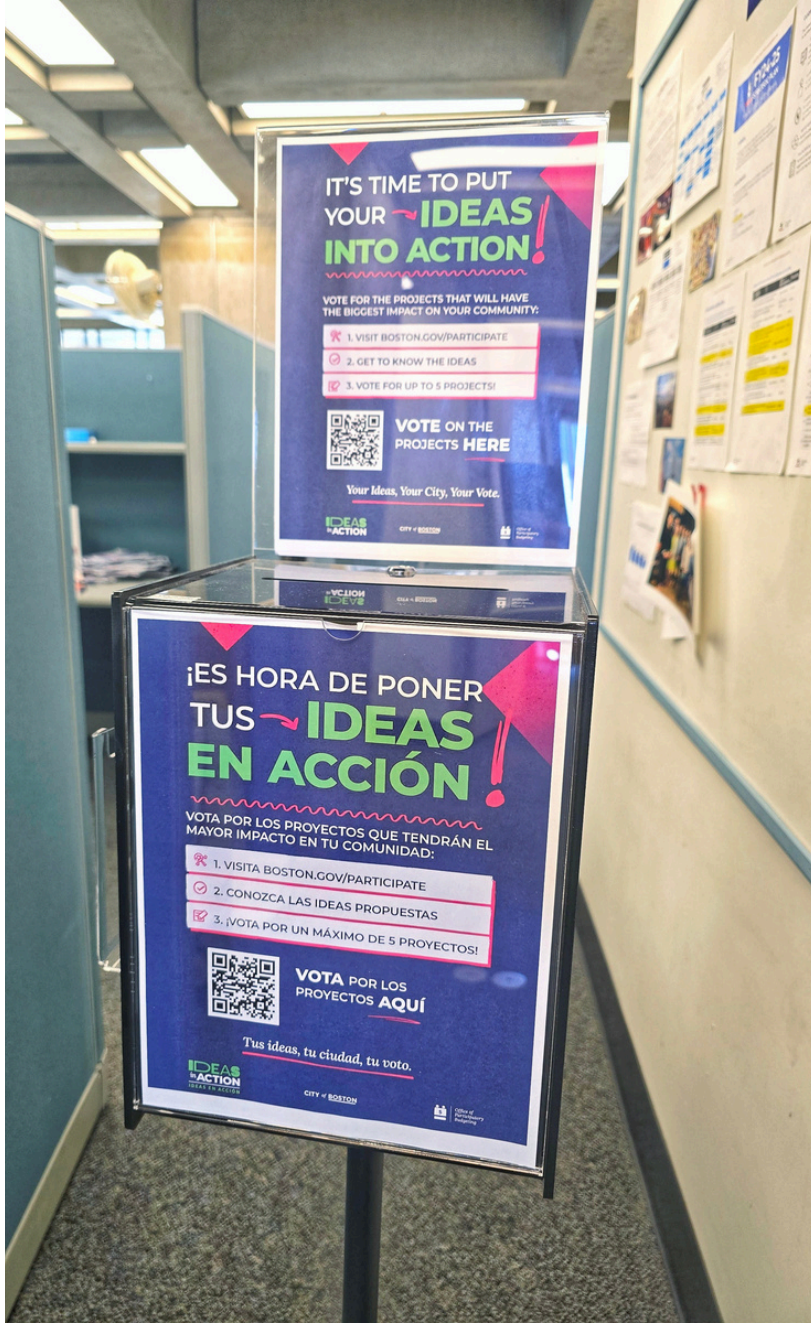
Smith

Neighborhood

select...

By checking this box, I affirm that these statements are true and that I meet the voting eligibility requirements

Confirm ✓



# 2025-2026 COMMUNITY & CONTRACTED PARTNERS

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- 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
- 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
- De Nosotros Foundation
- East Boston Community Council, Inc.
- Turkish American Cultural Society of New England
- Union Capital Boston

IDEAS IN ACTION 2026

# VOTING RESULTS!

Eight Winning Ideas! Votes Collected: 4,841

- 1 IMMIGRANT LEGAL DEFENSE FUND**  
Votes: 3,733 | Funds Awarded: \$400,000
- 2 NEIGHBORHOOD FRESH FOOD ACCESS INITIATIVE**  
Votes: 3,035 | Funds Awarded: \$500,000
- 3 BRIDGING THE GAP: ASSISTANCE FOR HOUSING STABILITY**  
Votes: 2,805 | Funds Awarded: \$200,000
- 4 IMMIGRANT CAREER PATHWAYS: BRIDGING LANGUAGE & EMPLOYMENT**  
Votes: 2,091 | Funds Awarded: \$300,000
- 5 GREEN MY BLOCK**  
Votes: 1,930 | Funds Awarded: \$100,000
- 6 WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON TRADES**  
Votes: 1,661 | Funds Awarded: \$300,000
- 7 YOUTH FINANCIAL LITERACY AND EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS**  
Votes: 1,556 | Funds Awarded: \$250,000
- 8 SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE PROGRAM**  
Votes: 1,202 | Funds Awarded: \$150,000

**IDEAS**  
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IDEAS EN ACCIÓN 2026

# RESULTADOS DE LA VOTACIÓN!

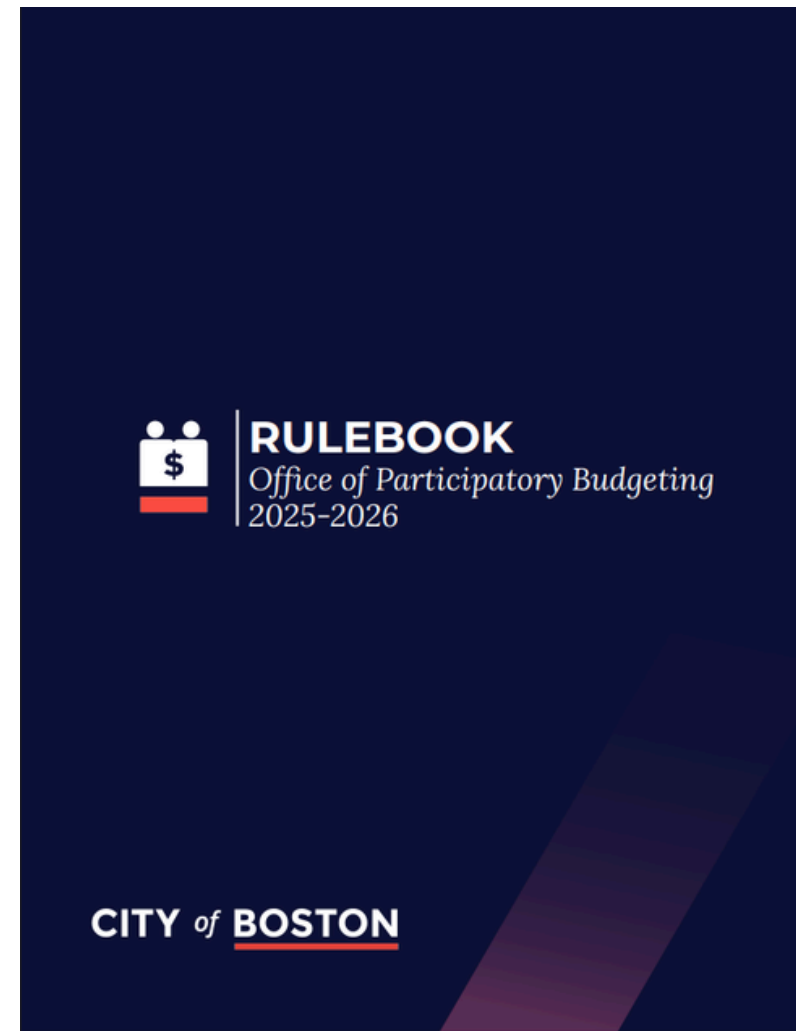
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# OPB's EXTERNAL OVERSIGHT BOARD

- Marilyn Forman
- Lisa Hy
- James Kennedy
- Carla Stovell
- Claire Teylouni
- Esther Chong Weathers
- Jarret Wright



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a democratic process where community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget. Participatory Budgeting is a practice that can deepen democracy, build stronger communities, and support a more equitable distribution of public resources.

The City of Boston's Office of Participatory Budgeting (OPB) was established to provide an official point of entry for Boston residents to contribute to the City's budget process. Through yearly PB cycles, the Office works to empower constituents and elevate community centered project ideas with an emphasis on advancing social and racial equity.

OPB and its External Oversight Board ("the Board") have created a "Participatory Budgeting Rulebook" to provide a set of rules and operations for Participatory Budgeting in Boston. A description of phases and timeline is summarized below:



### RULEBOOK DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING FOR IMPLEMENTATION

(March - June 2025)

The Office of Participatory Budgeting and its External Oversight Board, in meetings open to the public, reviews and adopts the parameters and procedures that will guide the implementation of Ideas in Action Cycle Two.



### IDEA COLLECTION

(July 2025)

Residents share project ideas with the Office of Participatory Budgeting to be considered for funding. Ideas can be submitted through an online PB Portal, a PB phone line, in-person at Public Library branches and at City Hall, and at events hosted with Community Partners across the City.



### REVIEW OF IDEA CATEGORIES

(Aug. - Sep. 2025)

OPB reviews all the project ideas shared by residents to determine eligibility and ensures they are categorized appropriately. Then, in partnership with the City's Data Analytics team and working closely with the Board, OPB will identify specific subcategories to sort and classify resident ideas in preparation for the Proposal Development phase.



### PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

(Oct. to Dec. 2025)

Residents will engage with OPB and relevant City Departments through a series of in-person forums to review, discuss, and assess the feasibility, equity, and impact of idea submissions. Forum participants will draft a ballot with up to 15 proposals, which will be finalized by OPB and the Board by reviewing and incorporating relevant online feedback.

OPB and City Departments will conduct a final feasibility assessment and determine estimated costs for each ballot proposal.



### VOTE

(Jan. 2026)

Residents will vote for up to five (5) ballot proposals. Voting will occur online and in-person at City Hall. Ballot proposals with the most votes will be awarded up to the funding cap for the particular PB Cycle.



### FUND PROJECTS

(Spring 2026)

OPB will work with City Departments to determine the most appropriate avenue to implement winning proposals. Implementation can happen via City Departments doing the work, or by offering contracts or grants to community organizations.



### IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING

(May 2026)

The Office will track and report on the progress of PB funded projects on its website and annual reports.



### EVALUATION

(Entire PB Cycle)

OPB and the Board will assess the outcomes of Ideas in Action Cycle Two, and monitor and track the implementation progress of PB-funded projects to ensure accountability and successful results.

# The Winning Ideas



# Winning Idea #1

## Immigrant Legal Defense Fund

This proposal provides **grant funding for immigration legal services** including consultations, application assistance, and legal representation for immigrants facing detention and deportation.

This initiative will **prioritize** detained immigrants, those at heightened risk of detention, and immigrant youth.

**Funding: \$400,000**

**Total Votes: 3733**



# Winning Idea #2

## Neighborhood Fresh Food Access Initiative

This proposal provides **funds to local organizations to increase access to healthy food** in neighborhoods with higher food insecurity rates.

Resources will be used to support food pantries, pop-up markets, farmers markets, food vouchers, or refrigerated food distribution.

**Funding: \$500,000**

**Total Votes: 3035**



# Winning Idea #3

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## Bridging the Gap: Assistance for Housing Stability

This proposal establishes a **flexible funding pool to help Boston residents at risk of or experiencing homelessness** to secure or maintain housing.

Through grants to nonprofit organizations, low-income individuals, people with disabilities, and those with intersecting marginalized identities would be able to **receive one-time financial assistance for housing-related costs** such as storage fees, arrears, moving costs, start-up expenses, and basic furniture.

**Funding: \$200,000**

**Total Votes: 2805**



# Winning Idea #4

## Immigrant Career Pathways: Bridging Language and Employment

This proposal provides **grants for ESOL classes combined with skills training and certifications** in childcare, construction, and small business development.

The program **addresses language barriers and workforce needs** for immigrant residents while meeting the city's demand for qualified workers.

**Funding: \$300,000**

**Total Votes: 2091**



# Winning Idea #5

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## Green My Block

This proposal **transforms underutilized city-owned spaces along roadways and sidewalks through community-led greening initiatives.**

The program provides contracting opportunities and resources for residents, schools, community groups and organizations to adopt, beautify, and maintain local spaces with native plantings. This initiative will prioritize heat-vulnerable locations while remaining accessible to all neighborhoods.

**Funding: \$100,000**

**Total Votes: 1930**



# Winning Idea #6

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## Workforce Training Programs Focused on Trades

This proposal provides **grants to expand vocational training in trades** such as HVAC, automotive, computer skills, and cooking, with a focus on low-income residents. T

he initiative creates pathways to better-paying jobs while addressing the community's need for skilled workers.

**Funding: \$300,000**

**Total Votes: 1661**



# Winning Idea #7

## Youth Financial Literacy and Empowerment Workshops

This proposal provides **financial literacy workshops delivered at youth job sites, local events, and colleges** for young people ages 14-24.

Sessions cover **banking, credit, investing, budgeting, and career readiness**, empowering youth to build financial skills and grow their wealth.

**Funding: \$250,000**

**Total Votes: 1556**



# Winning Idea #8

## Small Business Development Resource Program

This proposal offers **technical assistance in relevant subject matter areas to support small business entrepreneurship** across Boston.

The goal is to **create greater financial stability and capacity for small business**, which will ultimately benefit communities citywide. Resources will be made available through avenues that will attempt to target entrepreneurs who have not benefited from City supports and resources in the past.

**Funding: \$150,000**

**Total Votes: 1202**



# Not Selected Ideas

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<b>Rank</b>	<b>#Votes</b>	<b>Proposal Name</b>
<b>#9</b>	1071	Senior Caregiver Resources & Training Programs
<b>#10</b>	938	Community Litter Reduction Campaign
<b>#11</b>	804	Immigrant Stories Through Art: Creating Belonging, Building Connections
<b>#12</b>	610	Healing Through Art: Creative Pathways to Wellness
<b>#13</b>	587	Voices of Recovery: Sobriety Supports and Storytelling Pilot

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# **Implementation of FY25 Winning Projects**



# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

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## **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 **14 organizations**, out of over 40 applications, received grants totaling \$250,000. The work is expected to begin in winter 2025/spring 2026.

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

To support families during the November 2025 SNAP funding delay, the Office of Food Justice coordinated a \$400,000 response as part of a \$3 million Mayoral partnership with the Boston Foundation.

This funding included **\$100,000 for the Greater Boston Food Bank** to expand pantry distributions and **\$300,000 for 10 SNAP Outreach Partners** to provide direct grocery gift cards to impacted families.

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

The Mayor's Office of Housing released a “**Youth Tenant Stabilization Fund**” in July 2025 through trusted community partners working with at-risk youth in the City. Approximately **75%** of the funds have already been utilized to support youth in need.

# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

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

GrowBoston officially released their grant application on Monday, February 2nd, and it is currently live for submissions. Interested parties must submit their applications by **March 6th**, with award notifications expected to follow in **April 2026**. The grant period covers activities conducted between **May 1, 2026, and April 30, 2027**, and all grant-funded projects must be completed within this timeframe.

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

The Boston Housing Authority secured a contractor to 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. **Installation is expected this summer/fall.**

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

The City's Streets team is currently finalizing the procurement of 120 benches and assessing locations based on impact and need. Installation is due by **early fall 2026**, and all benches will include **plaques** acknowledging the resident-led PB process.

# BENCH SAMPLE ARRIVED TODAY!

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**Thank you for a great  
PB Cycle!**

