



Economic Opportunity & Inclusion Cabinet: OEI + DSD FY27 Budget Hearing

City Council Committee on Ways and Means | Thursday, April 30



- **Donald Wright**, *Interim Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion*
- **Aliesha Porcena**, *Director of Small Business*
- **Andrea Caruth**, *Director of Supplier Diversity*
- **Jolivia Barros**, *Director of Operations*

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 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*



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

Overview and Accomplishments

Cabinet vs Department

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSION (OEOI)

**Business
Strategy Unit**

**Office of Nightlife
Economy**

**Economic &
Strategic
Planning**

**Operations
& Comms**

Policy

**Office of Small
Business**

**Cannabis
Equity**

**Industry
Engagement**

**Main Streets
Program**

**Mobile
Enterprise Unit**

**Outdoor
Dining**

**Technical
Assistance**

Business Strategy

Business attraction, retention, and engagement



The mission of the Office of Business Strategy is to actively engage with companies of all sizes, supporting their relocation, expansion, and long-term growth in Boston. We focus on attracting new businesses, retaining existing businesses, and building lasting relationships to ensure Boston remains a vibrant place for every business to succeed.

In FY26, the Business Strategy team accomplished the following:

- Our office has engaged, recruited, or supported **150 companies of all sizes across many industries**, including the **new US HQs and grand openings for Ionomr, Lovable, Lydian, the German American Chamber of Commerce - Boston Chapter, and Electrified Thermal Solutions.**
- In partnership with Startup Boston, our office produces a startup series aimed at supporting first-time founders and early-stage entrepreneurs. We have hosted 15 events, engaging over 1000 attendees
- On May 6th, our office will host **Climate Tech Crossing**, bringing together **over 40 climate tech startups** to highlight the climate innovation emerging from Boston.

15

*Business development
events hosted*

1048

*Total number of attendees
across sponsored programs*



Business Strategy

You Can't Beat Boston



"You Can't Beat Boston" is a new initiative launched in April 2026 to attract talent and investment, featuring a collaborative campaign, a theme song, a Harpoon Brewery partnership, and is a direct recommendation of the Mayor's Business Recruitment Taskforce, which convened and led by our office of Business Strategy in 2024 to advise the City on strategies to advance business recruitment and retention in Boston.

Thanks to a collaboration with the Mayor's Partnerships Team, the new fund is launching with initial seed funding of several million dollars from M&T Bank and will strengthen Boston's position as a premier global hub for talent and innovation while supporting local and international companies seeking to scale in the City.

Through the You Can't Beat Boston initiative, the City and its partners will:

- Champion global investment and inclusive economic growth;
- Serve as the central point of contact for businesses considering growing in Boston;
- Build and maintain relationships with existing businesses to support retention and growth;
- Develop and execute comprehensive marketing strategies for Boston.



Business Strategy

Global Affairs and International Business Development



As a global leader in life sciences, technology, and innovation, Boston remains a top destination for foreign trade and investment. **In FY26, the Global Affairs team accomplished the following:**

- **Hosted the Global Business Connect** event series, convening **50+** stakeholders from **30+** countries to expand Boston's global business network;
- **Welcomed 50+ delegations from 26 countries to City Hall;**
- In April 2026, Mayor Wu announced a multi-million-dollar business recruitment fund in partnership with **M&T Bank** and **The Boston Foundation** at the **U.S. - Spain Business Summit**, building on momentum from the Spanish government's new trade office in Boston.



Global Affairs by the numbers:

298

International delegation attendees visited City Hall

70

International companies engaged

6

Continents represented by foreign visitors

Business Strategy

Cannabis Industry Development



We are committed to ensuring equitable participation at all levels of the cannabis industry and provide technical assistance and opportunities for financial assistance to help reach this goal. **In FY26, the Cannabis Industry Development Team accomplished:**

- **Expanding City Support to the Broader Cannabis Industry:** we launched a centralized Cannabis Hub website and shifted from a business only focus to an inclusive, industry wide approach, while maintaining equity as a core priority.
- **Awarded \$280,100 in contracts to five technical assistance providers** to deliver direct one-on-one support to cannabis equity applicants.
- **Awarded a \$350,000 grant** that created financial support for eligible equity businesses.
- **Hosting our fourth annual Cannabis Empowerment Week June 15 - June 21, 2026** spotlighting the newly regulated Social Consumption license types.



4

Equity Businesses in
Licensing Queue

18

Equity Businesses
Opened

24

Pre-Certified
Equity Applicants

68

Certified
Equity Businesses

38

Equity Host
Community Agreements

67

TA Projects

26

Equity Applicants
that received TA

Economic and Strategic Planning

Placemaking, community-led neighborhood revitalization, & addressing wealth disparities



The Economic and Strategic Planning Team (ESP) works across EOI and City departments on a number of Chief and Mayoral priority led planning and economic development focussed initiatives. The small team consists of two full-time staff members as well as a Rappaport Fellow.

Commercial Acquisition Assistance Program (CAAP) will launch in May 2026 offering a variety of capital tools- including down payment assistance, loan loss reserves, and interest rate buy-downs to help small business owners acquire real estate for their business.

Invest Boston is a City-led initiative aligning Boston's public, private, and philanthropic partners to close structural gaps in capital systems to stabilize and grow Boston's small businesses and the neighborhoods they anchor. ESP recently applied for external financial support to continue to advance this initiative after hosting a FUSE Fellow for 1 year who focussed exclusively on advancing this effort.

Upham's Corner Implementation Plan builds upon goals established by the community over a 10+ year planning process, rooted in promoting economic development without displacement, by developing parcels in the neighborhood. The first project breaks ground in 2026, a 76,000 S.F., mixed-use building with 48 residential units (100% affordable) and approx. 5,000 S.F. of shared artists' workspace in a former art-deco bank hall.

Office of Nightlife Economy

Overview and Accomplishments



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.

Late Night Food Truck Pilot

The Late Night Food Truck program is about more than just meals. It's about unlocking new opportunities for Boston's entrepreneurs and increasing access to late-night food.

This initiative is a direct response to conversations with residents, workers, and businesses, as they indicated a need for more food options after hours.



28 New Vending Opportunities for Food Trucks

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

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

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

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

Neighborhood Access Program: Program that helps support microenterprises and businesses with capital.

Strategic Initiatives: Where policy meets implementation, this program helps to address policy gaps for small businesses.

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

70+

Events led or attended by OSB in FY26

157+

Community events led by Main Streets in FY26

117+

Site visits conducted by OSB to businesses

This program helps to address gaps within their business and provide pathways to for stability and growth. **Using a combination of Operating budget and CDBG funding our office has accomplished the following to date:**

- **\$1,084,310** towards Technical Assistance
- **3,100+ hours** of dedicated 1-on-1 support
- **106** ongoing and completed 1-on-1 projects
 - 64 woman-owned (60%)
 - 69 minority-owned (65%)
 - 43 in low-moderate income areas (40%)
 - 2 cooperative businesses
- **15+** Neighborhoods served

SMALL BUSINESS MONTH | EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES. CREATING OPPORTUNITIES.

FIT FOR BUSINESS

A workshop series for physical fitness business owners in Boston led by Jet Boston and the Office of Small Business.

6
MAY

**FIT FOR BUSINESS:
FOUNDATIONS OF GROWTH**

12 PM - 2 PM | JET Boston, 10 Taber Street

13
MAY

**FIT FOR BUSINESS:
BUILDING YOUR DREAM TEAM**

12 PM - 2 PM | JET Boston, 10 Taber Street

20
MAY

**FIT FOR BUSINESS:
EXPANSION AND SCALE**

12 PM - 2 PM | JET Boston, 10 Taber Street

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER:
[BOSTON.GOV/SMALL-BUSINESS-MONTH](https://boston.gov/small-business-month)

CITY of BOSTON



Economic Opportunity
and Inclusion



Small Business

This program **increases economic opportunity for small businesses** by helping to expand revenue, create jobs and bring vibrancy to our neighborhoods. **To date in FY26, the Office of Small Business has accomplished the following:**

- Assisted outdoor dining applicants by **providing consultations, accessible design templates, real-time application tracking, site visits**, and support with annual **license renewal**.

Other ways we have supported businesses include:

- Helped foster participation in the Outdoor Dining Program - **in FY26 we provided 10 businesses with Technical Assistance** to meet the requirements of the program (e.g. stamped site plans and vault letters from professional architects and engineers).
- Provided year round office hours sessions, 3 hours, twice per week, for constituents to drop in and ask questions related to the program and receive one on one support.
- Met with cities around the country to go over requirements for Outdoor Dining Programs to better support restaurants in Boston and mirror efforts to **create an all inclusive economic environment for small businesses, workers and communities to thrive**.

200

Program participants overall

\$100,000

Towards technical assistance

~ 25%

Lower insurance costs

So far, there are 151 applications submitted for the 2026 Outdoor Dining Season. We anticipate we will surpass last years numbers.

Office of Small Business

Main Streets



- The Boston Main Streets program is a comprehensive revitalization approach to **create, build and sustain healthy commercial districts and increase neighborhood vitality.**
- Today, **eighteen districts** cover Boston's unique neighborhoods and support the vibrancy and revitalization of local commercial areas.
- The Office of Small Business **oversees funding to this network of independent 501c3 nonprofits**, and collaborates with each director to support a comprehensive approach to creating, building, and sustaining healthy business corridors.



Top left to right: Misting tents deployed during heat emergency in Chinatown, Taste of Allston, Dorchesterfest
Bottom left to right: Chinatown clean up, Grand opening in Ashmont (Merry Go Round), Allston Clean Yo Block.

1,887

Businesses provided with technical support

399

Public events held

96

Businesses opened or expanded

566

Local jobs created

Boston's Legacy Business Program—launched in 2022. Each year, the program celebrates 30 long-standing, independent enterprises that make a strong contribution to the cultural, historical, and societal fabric of their community or neighborhood. Legacy Businesses are selected via a community nomination process in which Boston residents submit nominations via an annual nomination form. To qualify, small businesses must have operated for at least 10 years in the City of Boston and be a for-profit business entity.

6,517

Community nominations

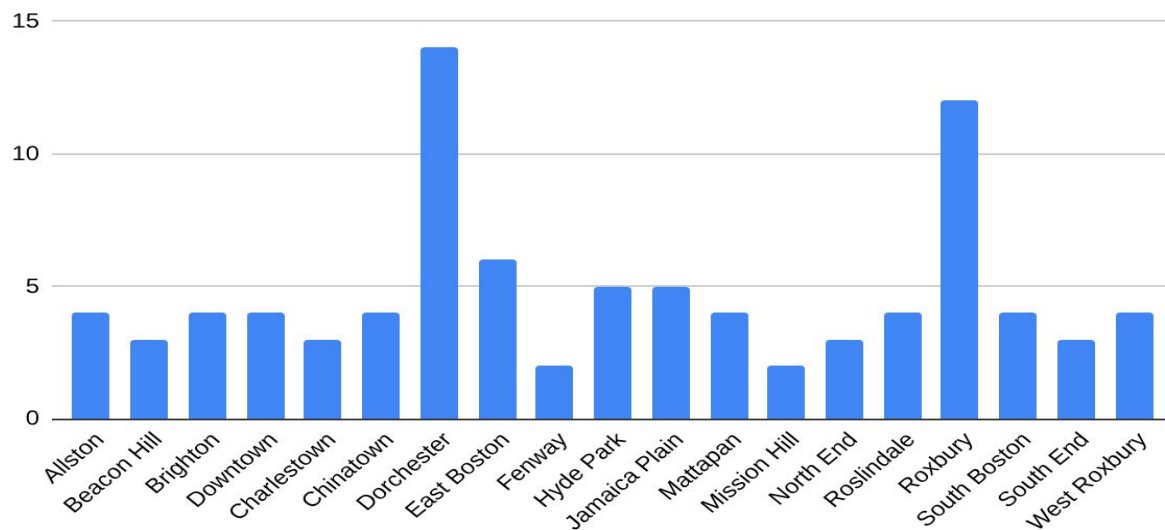
43%

Minority-owned

90

Small Businesses honored

Legacy Awardees by Neighborhood



Office of Small Business

Small Business Month Activation Grants: Exploring Possibilities, Creating Opportunities



Mayor Wu and the Office of Small Business launched Small Business Month, an annual opportunity to **highlight how local businesses shape Boston's neighborhoods and recognize the ecosystem and support network throughout the city.**

In year two we are primed to accomplish the following:

- **30+ events that include:**
 - *FIT for Business*: a three-part workshop series for owners of physical fitness businesses, hosted by JET Academy in Roxbury
 - *Your Team Matters*: a three-part workshop series on attracting and hiring the right staff
 - *From Chaos to Capital: Financials That Fuel Growth*. A workshop highlighting the importance of clean and accurate bookkeeping and how that can lead to capital
 - Over 20+ events supported by our Activation Grant
- Curated social media content, staff spotlights, program updates, business support, and much more!



Office of Small Business

Small Business Month Activation Grants: Exploring Possibilities, Creating Opportunities



- This spring the second Small Business Month Activation Grant awarded **\$130,000** to **20 community partners**.

- Individual grants of up to \$9,500 will support **over 30 events** across the City during the month of May.

Organization	Event Title	Neighborhood
Allston Village Main Streets	Allston Small Business Month Event and Promotional Series	Allston
Bikes Not Bombs	Small Business Saturday AM Rides	Jamaica Plain
Charlestown Business Alliance	May Day	Charlestown
Chinatown Business Association	Chinatown Business Wellness Activation	Chinatown
Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation	3rd Annual Women's Small Biz Expo	Dorchester
Downtown Boston Alliance	Bringing Your Business To Downtown	Downtown
Embrace Boston	Embrace Honors Harry Hom Dow	Boston Common
First Teacher and Frugal Books	It Takes a Village	Roxbury
Greater Ashmont Main Street	Greater Ashmont Hair Symposium & Showcase	Dorchester
Jamaican Association of Massachusetts, Inc	Family Founders Fest: Build the Business Together	Roxbury
JP Centre/South Main Streets	Cocktails & Marketing Talk	Jamaica Plain
Millennium Latino Project	Con Amigos x Boston Amigas	Back Bay
Motivation Church	The Marketplace & Money Lab	Roxbury and Hyde Park
South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation	Spring Into Small Business: South Boston's May Activation	South Boston
The American City Coalition	4th Annual Greater Roxbury Book Fair	Roxbury
The Record Co.	The Boston Small Business Fair & Creative Marketplace	Dorchester
Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts	First Stage Innovators Market	Roxbury
Veronica Robles Cultural Center	Latino Cultural Entrepreneurship Month	East Boston
Vietnamese American Community of MA	Boston's Banh Mi Showdown	Dorchester
We Are ALX	ALX Mercado	Hyde Park

Office of Small Business

ReStore Program



- **17 Completed** projects across **24 businesses**
- Approved **17 projects committing \$220,500 towards signage and facade projects to date**
- Projected to commit an additional \$246,500 to 7 projects by end of May
- Supporting the opening of **24 new small local businesses**
- ReStore awards were represented **across 11 of the City's neighborhoods**
- Implemented an on-line application that has streamlined the program and processes
- Hired an additional Senior Manager for Design Services, to increase program capacity



Neighborhood Access Loan and Grant:

- \$385,000 towards business support and capacity building which includes: **equipment, job creation and business expansion**
- 7 neighborhoods represented and 12 projects funded

Immigrant Business Assistance:

- Partnered with City departments to conduct informational sessions in **English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Vietnamese**, as well as a **general Caribbean edition** designed to engage and support diverse communities directly.

Strategic Initiatives:

- Developed online partner directory to streamline the search for small business resources and services.
- Organized biannual Small Business Resource Fair to bring City Hall and small business support into the neighborhoods.
- Held **5 member panel “Preparing Your Small Business for Markets”** to prepare small and micro businesses for pop up and seasonal markets.

Mobile Enterprises:

Food truck program participation over the past four fiscal years in the City of Boston:

- FY24: 26 vendors
- FY25: 25 vendors
- FY26: 20 vendors
- FY27: 46 vendors

Office of Small Business

Other supports and programming



BIZUNLOCKED BOSTON

BUSINESS ACCESS PROGRAM

Accelerate your business. Unlock your potential.

BizUnlocked Boston is a business access program that connects small business owners to the resources, expertise, and relationships they need to build lasting businesses that create jobs, stability, and sustainability in our local communities.

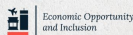
PARTICIPANTS GAIN:

- ✓ a clear understanding of business planning, operations, marketing, and financing.
- ✓ direct connections to resources that can support your business.
- ✓ the operational knowledge to run and grow your business confidently.

APPLY BY:
APRIL 10, 2026

LEARN MORE AND APPLY:
BOSTON.GOV/BIZUNLOCKED

CITY of BOSTON



HORA DEL CAFÉ PARA PEQUEÑAS EMPRESAS

Dirigido en español por la Oficina de Pequeñas Empresas

8 DE OCTUBRE
10 AM - 12 PM

Dahlia's Café
722 Dudley St
Dorchester, MA

Se invita a los propietarios de pequeñas empp y conectarse con la Oficina de Pequeñas Em Ciudad de Boston para conocer los programa disponibles.

¿PREGUNTAS? CORREO ELECTRÓNICO NILSON P. NILSON.PEPEN@BOSTON.GOV

CITY of BOSTON



SELEBRASYON SEMÈN ENTÉNASYONAL KREYÒL 2025

TI BIZNIS ORÈ KAFE

Led an kreyòl ayisyen

LENDI 27 OKTÒB
OÈ DIMATEN - MIDI

Marabou Café
1592 Blue Hill Avenue
Mattapan, MA 02126

Yo envite pwopriyetè ti biznis yo pou patisipe epi konekte ak Biwo Afè Kiltirèl ak Biwo Ti Biznis Vil Boston an pou aprann sou pwogram ak resous ki disponib yo.

KESYON? IMÈL: NILSON.PEPEN@BOSTON.GOV

CITY of BOSTON



CITY of BOSTON



Small Business

DOCUMENTATION OFFICE HOURS

HOSTED VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM

Bi-weekly on Fridays | 1 pm - 2 pm

Constituents and small business owners receive hands-on support with required documentation to access Office of Small Business assistance, including:

- ✓ City of Boston Vendor ID
- ✓ CDBG Eligibility Forms
- ✓ Property Affidavit Form
- ✓ and more!

LEARN MORE & JOIN OFFICE HOURS:
BOSTON.GOV/SMALLBUSINESS

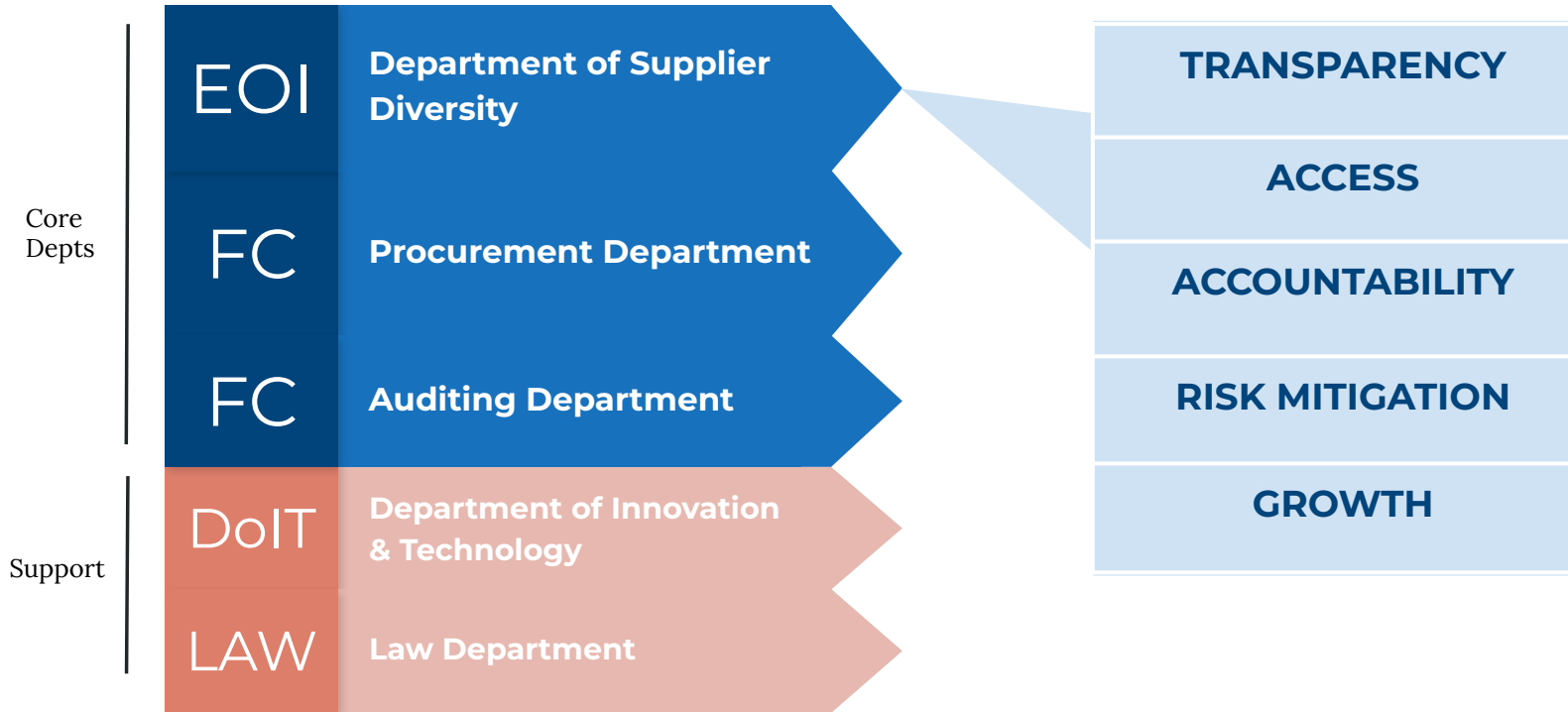
The background of the slide is a dark blue wireframe illustration of a city skyline, showing various buildings and structures in a perspective view.

THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLIER DIVERSITY (DSD)

Overview and Accomplishments

Supplier Diversity

Equitable Procurement Initiative Overview



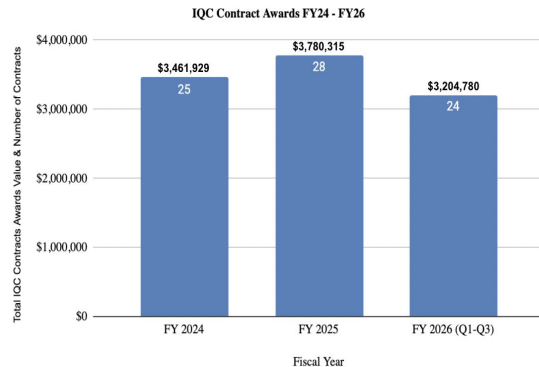
Supplier Diversity

Programs and Initiatives



POLICY

- **Diverse Business Certification**
- **MBE/WBE Utilization Goals**
- **Inclusive Quote Contract**



TOOLS

- **Certified Business Directory**
- **Equitable Procurement Dashboard**
- **Equitable Procurement Form**
- **White Stadium Advisory Group & Dashboard**
- **Technical Assistance & Training**

CAPACITY BUILDING

SCALE Program

Beginning in FY25, DSD launched its Supplying Capital and Leveraging Education (SCALE) Program, designed to assist a cohort of small, diverse businesses operating in industries that represent areas of significant public spending.

The program offered **industry-specific technical assistance** through trusted business service organizations in addition to **direct financial assistance** to participants.

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 FY26, the Supplier Diversity team accomplished the following:

- Participated in **13 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 2026)

962

Certified business entities

149

Number of new certifications

10%

AAPI

36%

Black

15%

Latino

48%

Small local

2%

Veteran

58%

Women

2025 Supplier Diversity Week

EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

27
OCTOBER

DIVERSE BUSINESS CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

Virtual Workshop via Zoom
6 PM - 7:15 PM

28
OCTOBER

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS 101: PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

Virtual Workshop via Zoom
11 AM - 12:15 PM

29
OCTOBER

BUILDING CONNECTIONS: A SUPPLIER DIVERSITY IN CONSTRUCTION NETWORKING EVENT

North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters
750 Dorchester Avenue, Boston, MA 02125
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

30
OCTOBER

SUPPLIER DIVERSITY SMALL BUSINESS NETWORKING MIXER

HUE Boston
90 Exeter Street, Boston, MA 02116
6 PM - 8:30 PM

31
OCTOBER

PROCUREMENT 101: A GUIDE TO BIDDING AND CONTRACTING WITH THE CITY

Virtual Workshop via Zoom
11 AM - 12:30 PM

REGISTER FOR ALL EVENTS: [BOSTON.GOV/SD](https://boston.gov/sd)

CITY OF BOSTON



The Department of Supplier Diversity works to increase contracting opportunities for diverse businesses through business community outreach and educating internal teams on how to work with more diverse businesses.

Key highlights from FY26 include:

- Increasing awareness of City contracting opportunities
 - City Buying Plan
- Outreach & Engagement
 - Supplier Diversity Week
 - Business to Business Networking
 - Black History Month Panel: Building Black Businesses in Boston
 - Collaborating with other agencies and communities
- Facilitating department-business connections
 - SCALE Connect Event



Supplier Diversity

Cross-departmental Collaboration



The Department of Supplier Diversity empowers departments to develop their relationships with diverse businesses. We aim to make it easy to engage with new suppliers and procurement strategies.



Key highlights from FY26 include:

- Trainings & Workshops
 - FY26 City-wide IQC Training
- Expansion on scheduled 1:1 meetings & ongoing consultations with A&F staff
- Assisting Departments in connecting with diverse suppliers
 - Equitable Procurement Form
 - SCALE Connect Event
 - Certified Business Directory

Supplier Diversity

Completed the SCALE program



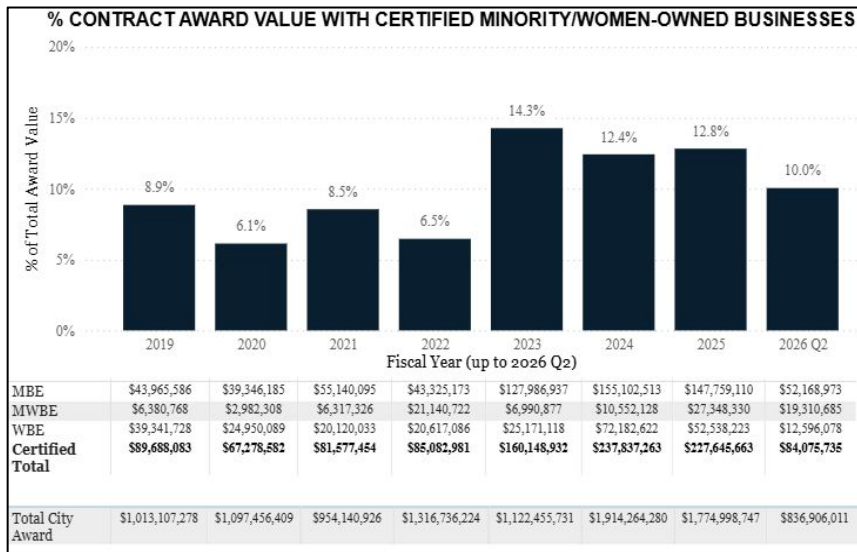
In FY26, we completed the **Supplying Capital and Leveraging Education (SCALE) Program**, which was developed to provide small, minority- and women-owned businesses with industry-specific technical assistance and grant funding of up to \$200,000. The Program focused on industry categories that represent a large share of the City's public contracts.

The program's purpose was to help businesses more effectively engage in public sector contracting. As of April 2026, the grant administrator, BDC Community Capital, awarded **\$5 million in ARPA-funded grants to 27 companies** across each category. SCALE businesses have completed their TA programs and are beginning to connect with City Departments and pursue City contracts.

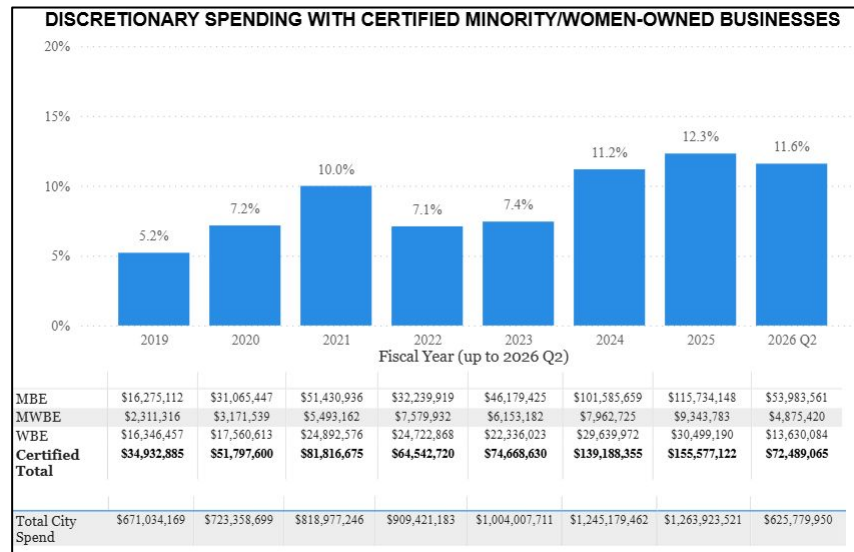


Supplier Diversity

Diverse contracting yearly snapshot



In FY26 Q1-Q2, 10% (\$84M) of City **contracting dollars** has been awarded to certified M/WBES



In FY26 Q1-Q2, 11.6% (\$72.5M) of City **discretionary spending** has gone to certified M/WBES

An aerial view of a city grid rendered as a white wireframe on a dark blue background. The buildings are represented by simple rectangular outlines, creating a sense of depth and perspective. The grid is dense, with many small buildings interspersed with larger structures.

THANK YOU!

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSION CABINET





Economic Opportunity & Inclusion Cabinet: MOCAL + TSE FY27 Budget Hearing

City Council Committee on Ways and Means | Thursday, April 30



- **Donald Wright**, *Interim Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion*
- **Amy Yandle**, *Director of Special Events*
- **Kathleen Joyce**, *Executive Director of Consumer Affairs and Licensing*

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSION CABINET (EOI)

OFFICE OF
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DEPARTMENT OF
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OFFICE OF
TOURISM, SPORTS,
& ENTERTAINMENT



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*



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

Overview and Accomplishments

- 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



Mayor Michelle Wu Presents

SUMMER DANCE PARTY SERIES

In collaboration with Democracy Beer Gardens

R&B Dance Party | Friday, July 25 | 5-10 p.m. | DJ Real P of *Silk*
 Island Vibes Dance Party | Saturday, August 9 | 3-8 p.m. | DJ Prince
 Old School Dance Party | Friday, August 22 | 5-9 p.m. | DJ Bruno

City Hall Plaza
 Free and open to the public
 Learn more at boston.gov/dance-party-series

CITY OF BOSTON

MAYOR MICHELLE WU'S

Enchanted Trolley Tour and Tree Lightings

Saturday, December 6 & Sunday, December 7

boston.gov/enchanted-trolley

CITY OF BOSTON

FRIDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT SERIES

August 29, 2025 | 12 pm - 2 pm | Som Adams Park
 FEATURED ARTIST

LILOU CHANCE

BOSTON.GOV/FRIDAY-AFTERNOON-CONCERT

CITY OF BOSTON

25th Annual BOSTON GOSPEL FEST

Leader Bank Pavilion

Headlining performance by **JOHN P. KEE**

Sunday, August 31
 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

BOSTON.GOV/GOSPELFEST

CITY OF BOSTON

Mayor Michelle Wu Presents

Independence Day Celebration

July 4th | 9 a.m.
 City Hall Plaza, Old State House

CITY OF BOSTON

Mayor Michelle Wu Presents

DONNA SUMMER Disco Party

Music by DJ Vince 1
 Performance by O'Mega Red

City Hall Plaza | Free & open to the public
 Friday, June 27 | 5pm - 9pm.

CITY OF BOSTON

Mayor Michelle Wu Presents

PATRIOTS DAY PARADE

Join the celebration

April 20, 2026 | 9 a.m.
 City Hall Plaza | North End

Learn more at boston.gov/patriots-day-parade

CITY OF BOSTON

MAYOR MICHELLE WU PRESENTS

DEAR SUMMER

AVAILABLE ON

NOW STREAMING

boston.gov/dearsummermixtape

CITY OF BOSTON

OPEN STREETS

HYDE PARK

HYDE PARK AVE. & RIVER ST.
 TO FAIRMOUNT AVE. & DAVISON ST.

SUNDAY AUGUST 10
 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

CITY OF BOSTON BOSTON.GOV/OPEN-STREETS

FALL FRIGHT MOVIE NIGHTS

Join us for FREE movies full of frights and fun, Thursdays in October!
 Movies begin at 6:30pm | Between India St. and Milk St.

SWIPE FOR MORE DETAILS →

Free popcorn, concessions, and swag will be provided, while supplies last!

CITY OF BOSTON

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)



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.



- We'll be highlighting the contributions of local revolutionaries and historically underrepresented voices by expanding public engagement with **community meet-ups and guided experiences, educational programming, exhibits and cultural showcases.**
- Our ongoing community integrations include collaborations with historians, cultural institutions and community leaders, as well as opportunities for residents and visitors to engage with history in contemporary ways.

Lasting Stories, Lasting Impact





- 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 expected to attract millions of visitors to Boston.

Open Streets

Family-friendly, pedestrian-focused events



- In the first five years of the Open Streets Program, over **\$2.8 million** has been reinvested back into Boston neighborhoods, with local businesses boasting as much as much as [300% increase in sales](#) at Open Streets events. Over **800** community partners and **60,000** attendees join us each year.
- Since absorbing the Open Streets contract from Streets in 2025, TSE has tailored the program to focus on **economic development**, **small business engagement** and **resident satisfaction**.
- In 2026, the Open Streets series will feature returning neighborhoods **Jamaica Plain, Mattapan and Allston/Brighton**, as well as the new addition of **Roslindale village**.



The background of the slide is a dark blue wireframe illustration of a city skyline, showing various building shapes and street layouts from an aerial perspective.

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 Boston's hospitality and cannabis industries.
- The Office licenses and coordinates all outdoor public events citywide, advancing public safety, mitigating neighborhood impacts, and supporting the successful execution of events ranging from local gatherings to major international activations.
- 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)





- 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*

- To date, the Licensing Board has granted 75 new alcohol licenses from the 225 newly-available licenses that were created in the legislation passed in 2024. At least one license has been granted in each of the 13 eligible ZIP codes.
- The Licensing Board passed regulations in January 2026 to allow beer and wine licensees to upgrade to an all alcohol license. To date, the Board has approved 31 upgrades pursuant to the new regulations.
- Partnered with the Boston Police Department and Office of Nightlife Economy to proactively offer public safety training to licensed premises in neighborhoods across the city.
- Processed and approved over 720 Special One Day Alcohol licenses (July 1, 2025 -April 23, 2026).

Licensing Board

FY26 Accomplishments



The Licensing Board engaged in significant community outreach to raise awareness of the new licenses and educate potential applications about the process and timeline. In FY26, the Licensing Board hired its first-ever outreach coordinator, thanks to additional investment from the City Council. This new outreach included:

- *Neighborhood business walks*
- *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.

Cannabis Board

FY26 Accomplishments



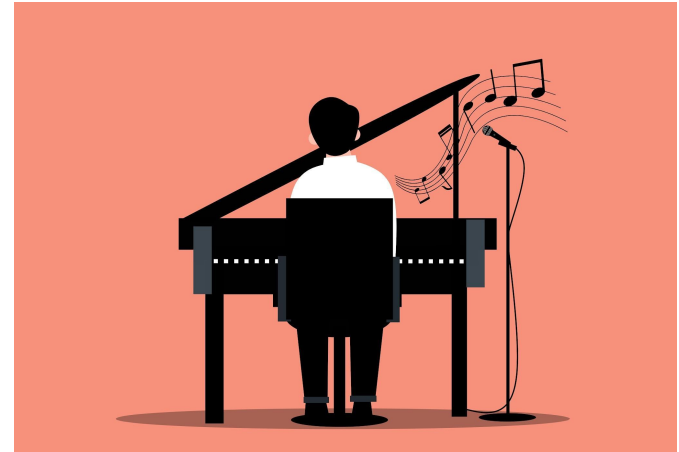
- The BCB issued 7 Cannabis Licenses in FY26
 - 4 Equity
 - 3 Non-Equity
- The BCB executed 6 Host Community Agreements in FY26
 - 5 Equity
 - 1 Non-Equity
- There are 39 Cannabis Establishments open and operating:
 - 33 Marijuana Retailer Only
 - 5 Co-located Marijuana Retailer & Medical Treatment Center
 - 1 Marijuana Delivery Operator



Number of opened establishments in each neighborhood:

3	2	1	9	4	5	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	1	3
Allston / Brighton	Back Bay	Charlestown	Dorchester	Downtown (includes Chinatown Leather District)	East Boston	Fenway/ Kenmore	Hyde Park	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 **50** FY26 YTD new **non-live** entertainment licenses.
- Approved **13** FY26 YTD new **live** entertainment licenses including Swingers (Indoor mini golf), Activate Games (Immersive games and puzzles), Don't Tell Aunty, Rosa Y Marigold, Cactus Club, and Park City
- Approved **1,664** FY26 YTD **one-time** entertainment licenses for indoor and outdoor entertainment (public events) including Fenway Park, Stage at Suffolk Downs, and the Pavilion.
- Renewed over 1,200 annual licenses.



- 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.
- The most frequent consumer complaints that our advocates mediate include:
 - Housing (landlord tenant/security deposit/code violations)
 - Online shopping (scams/return policies)
 - Auto (finance & leasing/lemon law/extended warranties/repossession)
 - Repair shop (billing issues/repair failures)
 - Car Rentals (billing issues)

Consumer Affairs

FY26 Accomplishments



- The office received a **\$97k** grant from the Attorney General's Office for the local consumer aid fund.
- We helped recovered over **\$214,000** in 2025.
- Completed **7** consumer outreach events including tabling and presentations on identity theft and youth online safety. **3** more events are scheduled.



- 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 over 780 special event applications (FY26 YTD) and over 1,000 applications in 2025 (200 more than last year due to more events).

- Continued to update the online Public Event application to obtain more information from Applicant in the beginning of process to reduce the number of committee meetings required.
- Implemented a process for repeat applicants with similar events to obtain a “seasonal” license reducing the number of public event applications that would need to be submitted resulting in an easier process for Applicants.

An aerial view of a city grid rendered as a white wireframe on a dark blue background. The buildings are represented by simple rectangular outlines, creating a sense of depth and perspective. The grid is dense, with many small buildings interspersed with larger structures.

THANK YOU!

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & INCLUSION CABINET

