

IDEAS *in* ACTION

External Oversight Board Meeting

September 17, 2026



Office of
Participatory
Budgeting

CITY of BOSTON

AGENDA

- 6:00 pm: **Meeting Overview**
 - *Motion to adopt meeting minutes*
 - *Board Meetings Schedule*
 - *Staffing Updates: Julia Morales & Tia Perkins*
- 6:10 pm: **Cycle One & Two Project Implementation Updates**
- 6:25 pm: **Cycle Three - Idea Collection Phase Recap**
- 6:35 pm: **Planning for Proposal Development Forums**
- 7:15 pm: **Public Comment**
- 7:30 pm: **Closing**

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Board Meeting Topics
October 22, 2026 (Email/Newsletter Update)	● Outcomes of October Forums ○ Resident-Selected Project Ideas
November 10, 2026 (Virtual)	● Proposal Drafting Forum Recap ○ Drafted Project Ideas for the PB Ballot ● Next Steps in Proposal Development ● Voting Logistics
December 17, 2026 (Virtual)	● Presentation of Reviewed Proposals for the PB Ballot ● Voting Logistics

MEETING MINUTES

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

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

Updates: Implementation of Winning Projects



FY25 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

Install Benches at High Ridership Bus Stops

FUNDED: \$150,000

The City's Transportation Department is installing benches at high-ridership bus stops across the City

STATUS: IN PROGRESS



Programs Supporting Incarcerated & Formerly Incarcerated Youth

FUNDED: \$250,000

Offers grants to nonprofit organizations to support youth 14-21 who are formerly or currently incarcerated, helping them build a brighter future

STATUS: COMPLETED



Rental Assistance for Boston Youth

FUNDED: \$200,000

Funds a pilot rental assistance program for Boston residents between 16-24 to stabilize their housing situation

STATUS: COMPLETED



Rat Prevention Initiatives in Dense Residential Areas

FUNDED: \$500,000

Aims to tackle rodent infestations in identified hotspots by improving waste management practices & reducing food access for rats

STATUS: IN PROGRESS



Expand Access to Fresh Foods

FUNDED: \$400,000

Offers grants to nonprofit organizations to bolster assistance programs for Boston residents facing food insecurity

STATUS: COMPLETED



Community Gardens in Neighborhoods with Limited Affordable Food Access

FUNDED: \$500,000

Offers grants to nonprofit organizations to build community gardens on underutilized land for public access and use

STATUS: IN PROGRESS



FY26 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

Immigrant Legal Defense Fund FUNDED: \$400,000 Supports programs that address the need for immigration-related legal assistance STATUS: IN PROGRESS	Neighborhood Fresh Food Access Initiative FUNDED: \$500,000 Provides funds to local organizations to increase access to healthy food in neighborhoods with higher food insecurity rates STATUS: COMPLETED	Bridging the Gap: Assistance for Housing Stability FUNDED: \$200,000 Establishes a flexible funding pool to help residents at risk of or experiences STATUS: IN PROGRESS	Immigrant Career Pathways: Bridging Language & Employment FUNDED: \$300,000 Provides grants for ESOL classes, skills training & certifications. STATUS: IN PROGRESS
Green My Block FUNDED: \$100,000 Transforms underutilized city-owned spaces along roadways and sidewalks through community-led greening initiatives STATUS: PLANNING	Workforce Training Programs Focused on Trades FUNDED: \$300,000 Provides grants to expand vocational training in trades with a focus on low-income residents STATUS: IN PROGRESS	Youth Financial Literacy & Empowerment Workshops FUNDED: \$250,000 Provides financial literacy workshops at youth job sites, local events, and colleges for young people ages 14-24. STATUS: PLANNING	Small Business Development Resource Program FUNDED: \$150,000 Offers technical assistance in relevant subject matter areas to support small business entrepreneurship across Boston. STATUS: PLANNING

Idea Collection Phase Recap



IDEA COLLECTION PHASE

- **PB Portal:**

- www.participate.boston.gov

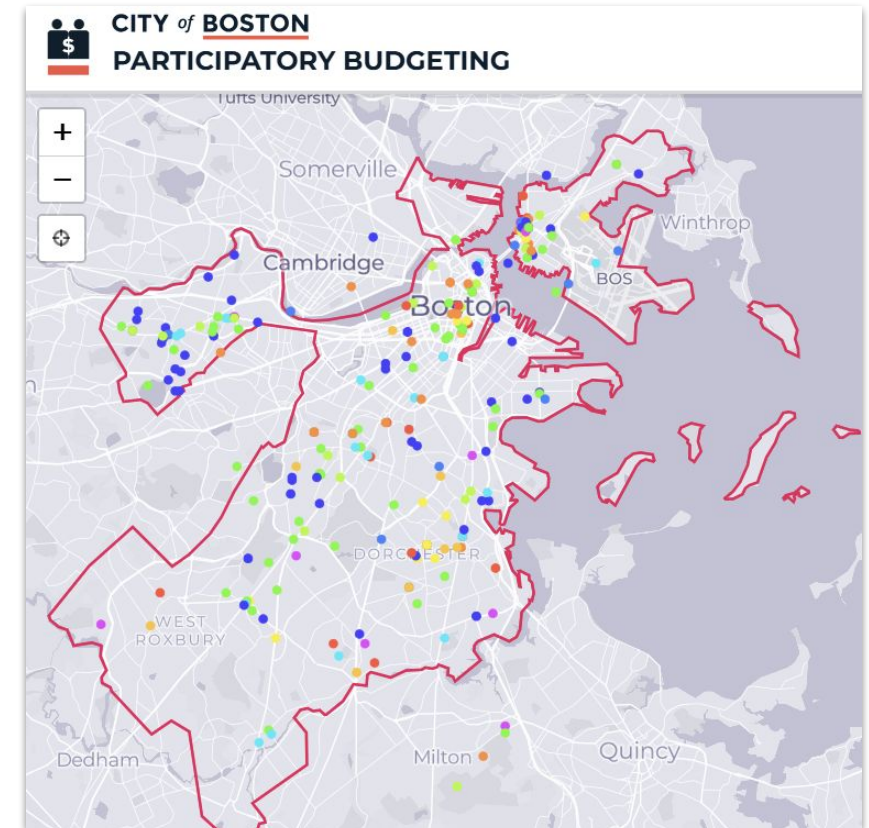
- **PB Phone Line:**

- (617) 635-3059

- **PB Corners:**

- City Hall
- Boston's Central Library
- 6 BCYF Community Centers

- BCYF Quincy (Chinatown); BCYF Curtis Hall (Jamaica Plain); BCYF Leahy Holloran (Oliver Hazard Perry School); BCYF Vine Street (Roxbury); CYF Hennigan (Jamaica Plain); BCYF Marshall (Dorchester).

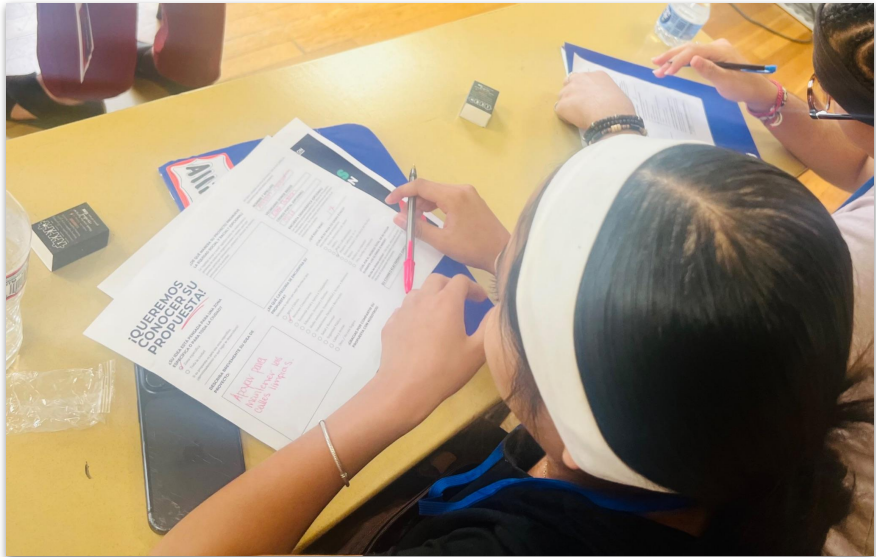


COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Agencia ALPHA
- African Community Economic Development of New England (ACEDONE)
- Allston Brighton Health Collaborative
- Blue Star Families of New England
- Brazilian Women's Group
- Breaktime
- Center to Support Immigrant Organizing
- Dominican Development Center
- Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative
- Dunk the Vote
- EASTIE Coalition
- Eastie Farm
- Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center
- Kings Amongst Kings Inc.
- Madison Park Development Corporation
- Sociedad Latina
- True Alliance Center
- Turkish American Cultural Society of New England

35+ Idea collection activities across the city!
(In-person and virtual workshops)

COMMUNITY PARTNER EVENTS



IDEA COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

IDEAS *in* ACTION

- There were a total of **1326** ideas collected!
- Community partners hosted **37 activities**, collecting a combined **659 ideas**
- The **one week extension** allowed for a greater number of ideas to be submitted.



Planning for Proposal Development Forums



KEY IMPROVEMENTS FOR CYCLE TWO

- **A two-step approach to Proposal Development + Public Comment:**

- **Three forums in October** for residents to review and prioritize the ideas collected over the summer. A total of 12 ideas will be selected by participants at events held in Downtown, Nubian Square, and Hyde Park.
- **One forum in November** where residents will draft ballot language of the selected proposals alongside City staff. This event will be held at City Hall.
- **Online Public Comment Period:** Mid to late November.

- **OPB hosting and facilitating events, community partners supporting recruitment**

- OPB, in partnership with ASG and Northeastern University, will take care of facilitation logistics, venue, refreshments, childcare, and interpretation to ensure a welcoming experience for participants at forums. Community partners will focus on helping recruit attendees from across the City.

OCTOBER WORKSHOP FORMAT + AGENDA

Residents at each October forum will **review and prioritize** project ideas from **3 broad categories**. Nine categories will be covered across the three forums.

1. Arrival

- Sign in, grab food, community networking

2. Overview

- Introductory remarks, forum objectives

3. Small Group Conversations

- Review ideas in pairs
- Complete Equity Rubric as a group
- Select two final ideas to present to large group

4. Large Group Voting

- Resident use dots to vote for their top 4 ideas to move onto proposal development (out 12 ideas)

5. Exit Survey and Closing - 7:30pm

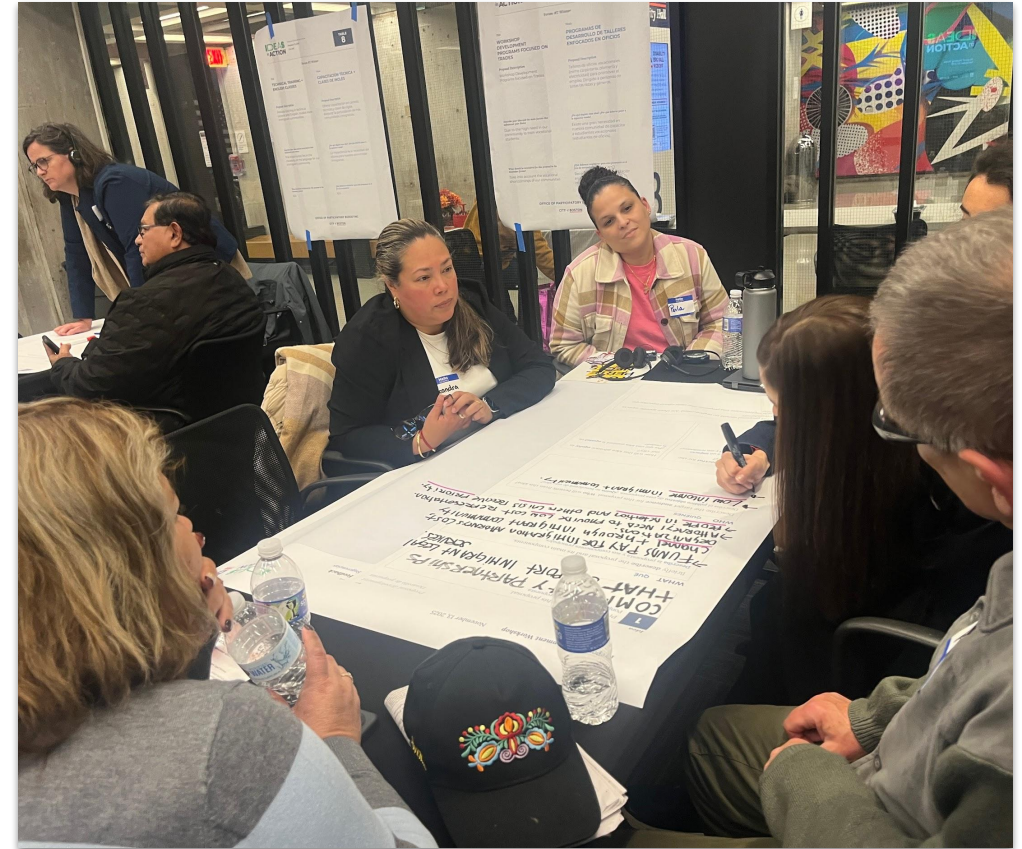
- Thank people for their participation, exit survey



NOVEMBER WORKSHOP FORMAT + AGENDA

During the **November 5th** forum, residents will work with City Staff to **discuss & draft** final proposals for the ballot.

- 1. Pre-meeting - 5:30pm**
 - Arrival, sign in, grab food
- 2. Meeting Start & Overview**
 - Introductory remarks, objectives for tonight
- 3. Proposal Drafting** *(One idea per table):*
 - Residents share why they care about this topic/idea
 - City staff provide context on the issue
 - Residents draft proposals with assistance from staff
 - Residents place draft proposals around the room
- 4. Exit Survey and Closing - 7:30pm**
 - Thank people for their participation, exit survey



October Forums

- **Proposal Development Forum #1:**

- **Date & Time:** Thursday, October 1, 2026 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
- **Location:** Breaktime, 63 Franklin St, Boston, MA 02110
 - **Community Priorities to be Reviewed:**
 - *Arts & Culture*
 - *Health & Wellbeing*
 - *Environment, Sustainability & Food Access*

- **Community Partners Supporting Recruitment**

- Allston Brighton Health Collaborative
- Brazilian Women's Group
- Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center
- Turkish American Cultural Society of New England

- Breaktime
- EASTIE Coalition
- Eastie Farm

- **Languages Expected**

- English
- Spanish
- Portuguese
- Cantonese

October Forums

- **Proposal Development Forum #2:**

- **Date & Time:** Wednesday, October 7, 2026 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
- **Location:** Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington St, Roxbury, MA 02119
 - **Community Priorities to be Reviewed:**
 - *Education, Youth & Families*
 - *Public Safety*
 - *Facilities, Parks & Recreation*

- **Community Partners Supporting Recruitment**

- African Community Economic Development of New England
- Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative
- Madison Park Development Corporation

- Agencia ALPHA
- Dunk the Vote
- Sociedad Latina

- **Languages Expected**

- English
- Spanish
- Haitian Creole
- Vietnamese

October Forums

- **Proposal Development Forum #3:**

- **Date & Time:** Thursday, October 15, 2026 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
- **Location:** Hyde Park Boston Public Library, 35 Harvard Ave, Hyde Park, MA 02136
 - **Community Priorities to be Reviewed:**
 - Community Resources
 - Local Economy & Worker Empowerment
 - Streets & Sidewalks

- **Community Partners Supporting Recruitment**

- Allston Brighton Health Collaborative
- Center to Support Immigrant Organizing
- Dominican Development Center, Inc
- True Alliance Center

- **Languages Expected**

- English
- Spanish
- Haitian Creole

October Forums

- **Proposal Drafting Forum #4:**

- **Date & Time:** Thursday, November 5th, 2026 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
- **Location:** 26 Court St. Boston, MA
 - *~12 ideas selected from the October forums will be drafted into project proposals for the PB Ballot.*
 - *All community partners will support with resident recruitment*

- **Languages Expected**

- English
- Spanish
- Haitian Creole
- Portuguese
- Vietnamese

UPDATED APPROACH - Cycle Two Proposal Dev. Forums

Mid-Late November:

- *Public comment period for resident-drafted proposals*

Early December:

- *Relevant City Departments, Legal team, and Finance Cabinet review final proposals, as needed.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

15 minutes, 3 minutes per person

