# City of Boston Office of Participatory Budgeting

## External Oversight Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 10th, 2026

**EOB members present:**
Jim Kennedy, Carla Stovell

**OPB Staff present:** Renato Castelo, Director, Office of Participatory Budgeting; Julia Morales, Community Partnerships & Project Coordinator; Tia Perkins, Community Engagement Fellow

Director Castelo provided an overview of the agenda and the proposed schedule for the next few Board meetings. Upcoming board meetings will include December 17, 2026 and January before the voting process begins. Previous meeting minutes will be reviewed and adopted at the following meetings pending quorum.

Ms. Morales provided an update on the October forums, where residents reviewed and prioritized a short list of ideas from the 1,326 ideas collected in July 2026. Forums took place in Downtown/Chinatown, Roxbury, and Hyde Park, and included conversations in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Cantonese, Portuguese, and Somali. Of the ideas reviewed, 4 projects were selected at each forum through a collective vote, with 12 projects total moving forward to the proposal drafting stage.

Mr. Castelo then shared about the November forum. In advance of the forum, the Participatory Budgeting team coordinated with City Departments to review the selected 12 project ideas ahead of the forum. On November 5th, residents and city staff then came together at 26 Court Street, with 82 residents attending and 15 community partners supporting recruitment. At the forum, residents drafted proposal language in collaboration with City Departments.

Mr. Castelo then began sharing the drafted proposal language that came away from this forum, after some refining in conversations with the City's legal and procurement teams. He shared that this draft proposal language will then be open for public comment November 11 - 24th.

Mr. Castelo had to step away early, and Ms. Morales finished sharing the initial language for the 12 proposals. Board member Kennedy asked clarifying questions about the "Weaving Well-Being" proposal, as well as the meaning of "high-comfort" bike lanes. Board member Stovell shared her concern for the "Safe Streets are Lit!" proposal, emphasizing the importance

DRAFT

for any safety lighting to be red to encourage people to stop. Board members and residents also shared that additional context on City Department acronyms are helpful.

Board member Kennedy then stated that the collection of proposals is wonderful, and praised the participatory budgeting staff for their work on this process.

Ms. Morales then closed out the meeting with a public comment period. Comments centered on clarification on proposal information, including the focus on programming for the 20-30 age range at BCYFs for the “Increased Programming at Community Centers” proposal. A community member who had previously worked at a BCYF shared that there is a current gap in programming for this age range, and emphasized the importance of skills like financial literacy for this age group.

The public comment period then ended and Board member Stovell then adjourned the meeting at 6:47pm.

###

DRAFT