



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Love Your Block?

Love Your Block is a new neighborhood beautification program by and for residents! The *Office of Neighborhood Services* is offering mini-grants and coordinated city services to support groups of residents that design their own neighborhood improvement project.

What type of projects are we looking for?

We're looking for projects that meet a neighborhood need and have community support. For example: a community garden on a vacant lot to reduce loitering and litter and provide a community gathering space and fresh produce. Other examples are: park or community center improvements, creating a mini-park or plaza, tree or flower planting, a public art installation and more. Be creative! Get together with fellow residents and brainstorm what you'd like to see in your neighborhood.

Where can projects take place?

Projects must be completed within the City of Boston.

Who can apply for the mini-grants?

Anyone within Boston can apply for the mini-grants, but they must organize a group of volunteers who will conduct the project and care for it long-term.

What can the grant funding be used for?

Grant funds are for material costs such as tools, paint, seeds etc. Additionally funds may be used for printing promotional materials such as flyers or providing snacks for volunteers on project days. Funds are not intended for use as salaries or stipends.

Where can I find volunteers or partners? Will someone help me recruit them?

Ask your neighbors and friends to participate and spread the word! We recommend reaching out to non-profits or neighborhood associations and are happy to help with this. We will also advertise the project and help determine the number of volunteers needed based on the project's size.

How many grants are available?

In order to support a range of project types and scales, the number of grants will be determined based on the applications received. Awards will be based on project needs.

Where can I find the application?

The application can be found on the Love Your Block website:

<https://www.boston.gov/civic-engagement/love-your-block/love-your-block-mini-grants>

Warning! There is no way to save the online application, it must be completed and submitted in one sitting. A PDF version is also available to print out and mail in.

How do I write a grant proposal?

Never written a grant proposal before? Don't worry! We have some instructional materials posted on our website: www.cityofboston.gov/loveyourblock. We also host Grant Writing Workshop throughout the application season. Please see *Important Dates* on the application for more details.

When will the grant applications be available? Due?

Grant applications were made available November 4, 2017.

Grant applications are available online now and due on January 22, 2018.

When will I know whether or not my application was accepted?

Grant recipients will be announced February 8, 2018.

When will projects take place?

Projects will take place in the spring and must be completed by May 31, 2018.

Contacts?

Kaira Fox, Rose Lovett, Janet White at loveyourblock@boston.gov or 617-635-3485

Social Media?

Twitter: @LYB_Boston **Facebook:** facebook.com/lybboston **Website:** boston.gov/loveyourblock **Instagram:** Love_Your_Block