



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Our City teams have worked every day over the last year to create the best version of Boston for every community.

Here's some of what we accomplished together last year.

***Announced in 2023 SOTC speech and accomplished this past year**

BASIC CITY SERVICES

- 7,000+ potholes filled
- Opened the newly renovated Marshall Pool in Dorchester and Paris Street BCYF Pool in East Boston
- 100,000 ft of crosswalks repainted
- Extended hours at 21 libraries
- AAA bond rating for ninth year in a row
- First city in MA to adopt fully gender-inclusive marriage certificates

ECONOMIC & WORKER EMPOWERMENT

- More than doubled the money awarded to local businesses and businesses owned by people of color
- Launched fund to support industry-specific technical assistance, educational programming, and consulting services designed to help small businesses compete for City contracts*
- 24 local businesses opened their first brick and mortar location or expanded into a new location and created 300 new jobs through SPACE grants*
- Construction safety ordinance passed

ARTS & CULTURE

- \$10M granted to 200 artists*
- Permanent rehearsal space secured in Brighton for 500+ artists
- 80 block parties supported and streamlined application process to make it easier for residents to host block parties
- Unveiled The Embrace to honor life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King
- Announced Street Theory, Inc. as the City of Boston's mural consultant, largest contract awarded by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture for public art

TRANSPORTATION

- Added e-bikes to the Bluebikes system and launched the lowest-cost annual bikeshare pass in the country
- 300 new speed humps built
- 5.7 miles of dedicated bus lanes built*
- 6M riders on the free 23, 28 and 29 bus routes, marking the highest ridership since becoming fare free
- Appointed Mary Skelton Roberts as Boston's first ever representative on the MBTA Board of Directors*

COMMUNITY SAFETY

- Lowest level of violent crime on record
- Historic police contract opens up paid detail opportunities, invests in officer education, and ends arbitration as a way to overturn discipline for most serious offenses.
- 800 guns taken off the street
- 300 responses to building fires
- 300+ residents received mental health treatment and care provided through EMS's new Alternative Response Unit
- Most diverse BPD recruit class graduated, with over 60% graduates of color. 59 of the 133 graduates speak a language other than English, representing 16 other languages
- First EMS cadet class in 2 decades and first ever BFD cadet class*

YOUTH & FAMILIES

- 400 early educators entered program to receive support from the City to pay for early childhood degrees and certificates, with a commitment to staying and teaching in Boston

- 300 more three and four-year-olds have access to universal pre-K, including seats in family child care programs for the first time
- Curley Community Center and Faneuil branch library reopened with renovations*
- Chronic absenteeism rate decreased by 7%
- AP African American Studies classes now available across 10 high schools
- Lowest rate of school leader turnover
- Added 20 electric school buses
- Year 13 at Fenway High School launched to give seniors access to a full year of free college at UMB*
- 300 learn and earn jobs, paying BPS students to take college classes over the summer
- Nearly 10,000 youth summer jobs, surpassing initial goal of 7,000
- Partnered with New England Conservatory to offer students free music programs
- 10 new gardens at BPS schools
- 500+ students between 4 and 13 years old learned to bike
- Became newest home for NWSL team, giving students access to professional facilities at White Stadium. This partnership is the only one of its kind in the country where a professional team will share a home field with a public school district

- 1,000 swim lessons provided to youth
- Began design for new community centers in Grove Hall and the North End*

HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT

- 250 residents supported in buying their first homes, including BHA residents
- Connected over 100 encampment residents at Mass and Cass with housing and treatment as part of efforts that led to the lowest unsheltered rate in the nation.*
- Restructured BPDA to focus on comprehensive planning, zoning reform, and zoning compliance, and grew from 183 to 226 employees, including new planning staff and a new Planning Advisory Council.*
- BPDA approved 16.6M net square feet worth \$10.2B of investment. This includes 7,389 net residential units, of which 31% will be income-restricted. This was the third highest year for housing approvals at the BPDA board in the last decade.
- Launched office-to-residential conversion program that has attracted proposals to turn 8 buildings downtown into 170 new units of housing
- Submitted home rule petition ending urban renewal to State Legislature*

- Advanced rent stabilization legislation to end rent gouging and protect families that was passed by City Council with a veto-proof majority by City Council and submitted to State Legislature*
- Selected members of a steering committee of real estate and civic leaders to advise on reforms to Article 80 of the Boston Zoning Code*

ENVIRONMENT & PARKS

- 8 new parks opened
- 1,300 new trees planted
- Ground broken on 15 new parks
- Fossil fuels banned in all new City construction and major renovations*
- New emissions standards passed for 5% of buildings that make up 40% of carbon footprint
- Program launched to help residents decarbonize triple deckers*

For more
information, visit:

[BOSTON.GOV/SOTC](https://www.boston.gov/sotc)

CITY of BOSTON

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