



## Meeting Summary

*Project*

Mozart Playground Improvements

*Purpose*

Community Meeting #2

*Meeting Date/Time*

March 25th, 2026, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

*Summary Date*

March 31st, 2026

*Location*

Hyde Square Task Force  
dance studio  
30 Sunnyside St,  
Boston, MA 02130

*Prepared By*

Yuhan Ji

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*Attendee*

Kevin Bogle, Boston Parks and Recreation Department  
Shanna Dixon, Boston Parks and Recreation Department  
Shauna Gillies-Smith, Ground, Inc.  
Olivera Berce, Ground, Inc.  
Yuhan Ji, Ground, Inc.

*Initial*

KB  
SD  
SGS  
OB  
YJ

Community Members

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- 1.00** **Project Schedule and Introduction**
- 1.1** KB introduced the project team and shared an update on the schedule. Because of changes in funding, construction is now expected to start in summer 2028, and the park is planned to open in 2029.
- 1.2** KB also reaffirmed that the Afro-Latin Music and Dance mural will be reinstalled as part of the project. In addition, he noted that planned improvements to the basketball court will proceed under a separate contract in 2026.

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**2.00 Review of Design Approach**

**2.1** YJ gave a quick summary of past meetings and community input, stating Mozart Park’s central role within the Latin Quarter Cultural District. She also shared community feedback at the community meeting and the youth workshop, including:

- Add more color to seating and ground surfaces.
- Design the park for people of all ages.
- Add shade and make the park usable in different seasons.
- Create space for different types of art.
- Make events better for both performers and the audience
- Improve lighting across the park
- Add fitness equipment for adults
- Create spaces for teens to hang out and socialize
- Add more seating for groups

**3.00 Design Concept**

**3.1** SGS explained what needs improvement in the park and the limits the team needs to work within. This included:

- Keep the four existing entrances.
- Keep key features, such as the Afro-Latin Music and Dance mural and the Reach sculpture.
- Some trees are dead or in poor condition, which gives a chance to improve parts of the park.
- The park is already divided into three main areas.

**3.2** SGS then introduced three design concepts—Desire Lines, Hyper Play, and Art Walk — each offering a distinct approach to the park’s layout and programming. She explained that these ideas are meant to start a conversation. She encouraged everyone to mix and match parts from each option when sharing feedback.

**3.3** Design Option 1 - Desire Lines - Líneas de Deseo

- Improves how people move through the park, including a new entrance path from Centre Street.
- Keeps the play area in the same location, with different play spaces inside one large fenced playground. Keep swings in their existing location.
- Updates the performance area with a shade structure, shaded seating, and a larger stage
- Adds a shaded seating area along Mozart Street with domino tables and benches

**3.4** Design Option 2 - Hyper Play - Juego Hiperactivo

- Uses curved paths to connect Centre Street to the park, and creates three areas on the north side: nature play with seating, swings, and an adult fitness area.
- Combines the main playground into one space and moves it between the Reach sculpture and the basketball court; the spray play area is also located here.

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- Moves and reshapes the stage so people can watch from three sides, with open space and stepped seating for year-round use.
- Adds a shaded seating area along the edge of the playground for parents, audiences, and other park users

**3.5** Design Option 3 - Art Walk - Paseo Artístico

- Turns the north side of the park into an art-focused space called the “Art Walk” under a canopy. This area includes small stages for spontaneous performances, spaces for temporary or permanent art, group seating, and shade structures
- Similar to Option 2 but slightly larger, the playground is combined into one area between the Reach sculpture and the basketball court. It includes play features for different ages and a six-seat swing.
- Like Option 2, the stage is placed in the center, with space for people to watch from three sides and room for the audience to spread out.
- Adds seating walls along the playground area for parents, event audiences, and everyday use.

**4.00**

**Community Discussion Summary**

- 4.1** Community members reiterated a strong desire for Mozart Park to become an destination centered around art. Participants encouraged the design team to include art throughout the entire park experience, rather than treating it as an separate feature. Participant emphasized the importance of strengthening the park’s identity through features such as signages, logos, or sculptural elements and gates.
- 4.2** Some community members said they like the seating along Centre Street. They shared that it is well used and an important part of the park. They also said the seating and tables along the edge help make the park feel welcoming and active from the street. This led to a broader discussion, including suggestions for potentially including step seating or steps to sit on, along the park edge facing Centre Street. People also suggested improving the mural area by adding a walkway and lighting. Community member also suggested introducing colorful lighting in the wooded areas.
- 4.3** Interest was expressed in painting a mural on the basketball court surface, referencing Malcolm X Park. KB noted that this idea is under consideration, though further research is needed due to maintenance challenges observed in similar installations.
- 4.4** Many attendees indicated a preference for the stage designs proposed in Options 2 and 3 and supported the broader vision of transforming Mozart Park into a destination for cultural programming and events.
- 4.5** Participants also encouraged a forward-looking perspective, envisioning the park as a space that reflects vibrant cultures, supports community gatherings, and fosters artistic expression for future generations. This led to discussions around including cultural elements throughout the park, culturally significant references, and broader Afro-Latin cultural representation. Additional ideas included incorporating musical play equipment, palapa-inspired shade structures, and programming opportunities such as poetry slams and

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- informal music practice.
- 4.6** A community member reminded the design team to think about maintenance when redesigning the spray pad.
  - 4.7** Sustainability was also discussed, with SGS noting that strategies will focus on thoughtful material selection and appropriate plant species.
  - 4.8** Questions were raised regarding the project budget. KB clarified that the base budget is \$1.7 million, with additional funding being pursued through the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant program.