



Summer Grant Program Information Session

April 22nd

Zoom Interpretation Services

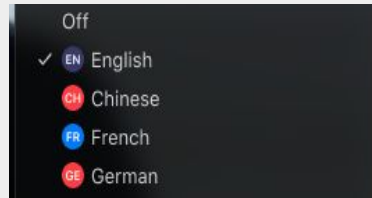
Spanish: Para traducción en **Español,**

1. Vaya a la parte baja de la pantalla, en la barra horizontal, y presione la tecla "Interpretation".
2. Luego seleccione el idioma que desea escuchar.
3. Después de seleccionar, usted entrará a la reunión en el idioma "Español".



Haitian Creole: Pou entèpretasyon **Kreyòl ayisyen,**

1. Ale nan kontwòl ba nan pati anba ekran an epi Klike sou "Interpretation."
2. Apre sa, klike sou lang ke ou ta renmen tande a.
3. Kounye a ou gen aksè a reyinyon an *Kreyòl ayisyen*.



Cabo Verdean Creole: Gossim bu ta entra na reuniao na **kriolu,**

1. Bai na barra de controlo horizontal na parte inferior di computador bu kalka na "Interpretation".
2. Depos kalka na idioma qui bu kre ovi.
3. Agora djabu sta ta entra na reuniaun em *creole*.



COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

For all participants:

- Maintain respect for others in this space.
- Use "I" statements when speaking; mention if you represent a neighborhood group or association.
- Limit comments to 2 minutes to ensure everyone has time to speak.

For the project team:

- We will collect and review your feedback.
- We will answer as many questions in the chat as we can.
- If your comments are not addressed during the discussion, please reach us at boston.gov/summer

MEETING OVERVIEW

Agenda:

- Block Party Grants
- Cultural Affairs Mini-Grants
- Question & Answer

Presenters:

- Luke Hines: *Mayor's Office*
- Nathalia Benitez-Perez: *Director, Office of Civic Organizing*
- Alexandra Valdez: *Executive Director, Office of Cultural Affairs*

THROW A
**BLOCK
PARTY**

With a “Revolutionary Games” Block Party Kit

CITY of BOSTON



Civic Organizing

BOSTON
250

BLOCK PARTY MINI-GRANT

We're excited to continue offering **Block Party Grants of up to \$750** to support residents and community groups in hosting neighborhood gatherings. Eligible expenses include food, games, and other party essentials.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and must be submitted by June 8, 2026 or until funds are exhausted.



BLOCK PARTY MINI-GRANT

Grants are available exclusively for events on public streets. A Play Street Closing Permit and Vendor ID must be obtained before the event to qualify for funding*. The Block Party Grant application is integrated into the same platform as the Play Street Permit application, allowing both to be completed at the same time. All grant-funded events must be free and open to the public.

**Applicants must apply for their own ID; IDs belonging to a previously-funded Block Party grantee (e.g. a neighbor) cannot be used in your application. Additional guidance on Vendor IDs is available at boston.gov/blockparty.*



APPLICATION STEPS

1

Vendor ID

(Procurement Department)

2

**Play Street Closing
Permit**

(Boston Transportation
Department)

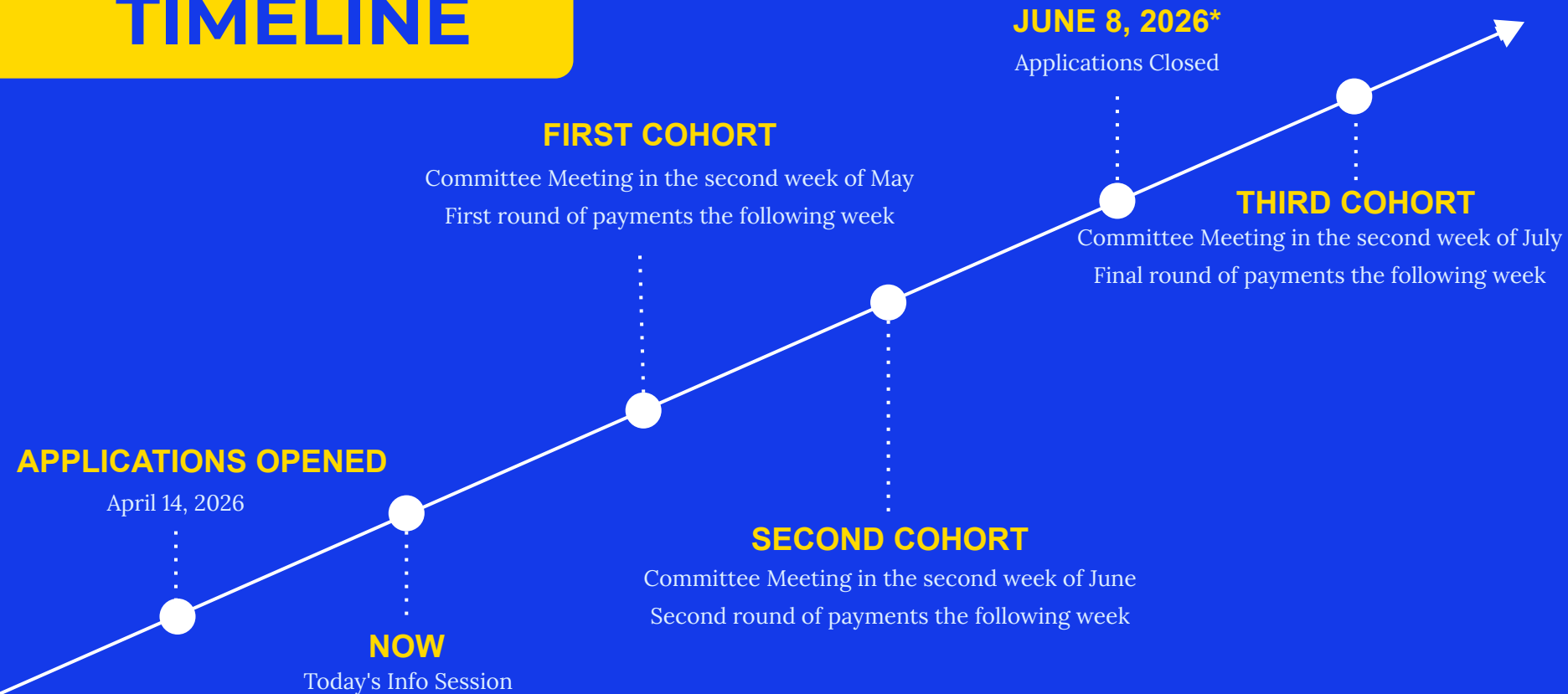
3

**Block Party Grant
Application**

(Office of Civic Organizing)



TIMELINE



*Applications will close on June 8, or earlier if funds are exhausted.



THINGS TO CONSIDER

Is this at a time that will impact neighbors? Will set-up start after 9am and clean up end before 8pm? How long will the event be? Is street sweeping expected for this time?

TIME

Are there any major holidays that would impact your event? Are there any major events in your neighborhood that would impact your party?

DATE

Will your location impact public transit? Is your location a major street? Are your activities on public or private property? Will objects be obstructing emergency vehicles?

LOCATION



WHAT TO BUY

YOU CAN BUY:

Food, party supplies, lawn games, or similar items.

GRANT FUNDING **CANNOT** BE USED FOR THE FOLLOWING EXPENSES:

Permit Fees, Alcoholic Beverages, Legal or Illegal Recreational or Medicinal Substances or Drugs, or items that will not be used during the Block Party



REVOLUTIONARY GAMES

BLOCK PARTY KIT

With Boston 250 and the 2026 World Cup on the horizon, we're encouraging community groups to host block parties that bring residents together through watch parties, creative activities, and shared experiences.

Important:

During the application, you will have the option to [opt in](#) to receive a kit if your block party is approved. The Revolutionary Games Block Party Kit will be available to applicants who are awarded the Block Party Grant.

What's included in the kit:

- Chalk
- Stencils
- Games, and more!
- Bubbles
- Themed temporary tattoos



ACTIVITIES ALLOWED WITH PLAY STREET PERMIT

- Close a residential street to through traffic
- Meet and connect with your neighbors
- Play games like foursquare and double-dutch
- Have activities like sidewalk chalk and blowing bubbles
- Arrange chairs, tables, tents (10x10 ft or smaller), or other easily movable items
- Have a potluck and serve free food



ACTIVITIES NOT ALLOWED WITH PLAY STREET PERMIT

- Grills: both propane or charcoal
- Amplified music, stages, risers, or performances
- Inflatable structures (bouncy houses), carnival rides, petting zoos, pony rides
- Occupancy by vendors, large tents (larger than 10 feet by 10 feet) or more than three small (10 feet by ten feet) tents
- Food truck operation or goods being prepared on the street or sidewalk
- Alcoholic beverages

ADDITIONAL PERMITS ARE NEEDED FOR THESE ACTIVITIES!



NOTE

- Block parties must take place on a **PUBLIC STREET** (not in a park, only on the sidewalk, or private property).
- Events must take place **by the end of September**.
- If you are applying as a **for-profit business**, you **are not** eligible for this grant.
- Recipients must keep all receipts for any Block Party-related purchases, as they may be needed later for auditing purposes.
- **If your block party is canceled**, you **MUST** notify the Office of Civic Organizing and provide a rescheduled date.
- **Submitting an application does not guarantee funding.**





SUBMIT A

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS
MINI-GRANT**

COMMUNITY BUILDING MINI-GRANTS

We're excited to continue offering **Community Building Mini-Grants of up to \$5,000** to support residents and community groups in hosting a family-friendly cultural event. Eligible expenses include food, games, and other party essentials. **Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and must be submitted by May 13, 2026** or until funds are exhausted. A City vendor ID is required to receive funds.



MINI-GRANTS EXAMPLES & PERMITTED USES

Mini-Grants can help fund events that celebrate and showcase the traditions, heritage, and contributions of Boston's diverse cultural communities including:

- Performances
- Festivals
- Heritage Month celebrations, and/or cultural exhibitions

Other Applicable Events Include:

- 1. Workshops & Educational Events:** One-time workshops, panels, or interactive events that share knowledge, skills, or cultural experiences with the public.
- 2. Neighborhood & Community Gatherings:** Inclusive, family-friendly events that bring residents together and foster connection at the neighborhood level.
- 3. Special Summer 2026 Events (FIFA World Cup, Tall Ships, Boston 250):** As Boston welcomes the world this summer for the FIFA World Cup, Tall Ships, and commemorates the Nation's 250th anniversary, we invite community organizations to help bring these historic moments to life at the neighborhood level.

MINI-GRANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



ORGANIZATIONS MUST:

- Be a nonprofit tax-exempt organization or have an official nonprofit fiscal sponsor
- Be in good standing with both the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and the IRS,
- Be Boston-based with demonstrated experience serving Boston residents
- Have experience with:
 - Fostering and promoting cohesion among the City's diverse communities;
 - Raising awareness of existing community programs and services; or
 - Elevating the contributions of the various cultures in our City.

EVENTS MUST:

- Be free and open to the public
- Be one-time (not ongoing programming)
- Take place in Boston
- Be completed by September 30, 2026

MORE QUESTIONS?

NEED HELP WITH THE PLAY STREET CLOSING PERMIT?

Please contact **Boston Transportation Department** at btdpermitbranch@boston.gov.

DO YOU NEED ADDITIONAL PERMITS?

Please contact **Consumer Affairs and Licensing** at specialevents@boston.gov.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR VENDOR ID?

Please contact **Procurement** at vendor.questions@boston.gov.

DO YOU NEED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE?

Connect with your neighborhood Liaison
Find out who your liaison is at:
boston.gov/departments/neighborhood-services

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BLOCK PARTY GRANT?

Please contact the **Mayor's Office of Civic Organizing** at civicorganizing@boston.gov.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS MINI-GRANT?

Please contact the **Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs** at mocaequity@boston.gov



THANK YOU!

Learn more at boston.gov/summer

CITY *of* BOSTON

