IDEAS *in* ACTION

External Oversight Board Meeting

November 10, 2026

Office of Participatory Budgeting

CITY of BOSTON

AGENDA

- 6:00 pm: **Meeting Overview**
    - *Motion to adopt meeting minutes*
- 6:10pm: **Upcoming EOB Meetings and Timeline**
- 6:20 pm: **Recap of Proposal Development Phase**
- 6:40 pm: **Draft Proposal Language for the PB Ballot**
- 7:25 pm: **Public Comment**
- 7:30 pm: **Closing**

MEETING MINUTES

- Sent to External Oversight Board members to review in advance of this meeting

Note: Minutes are posted in OPB's website, www.boston.gov/participatory-budgeting

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Date	Details
Nov. 10th - 24th	• *Proposals open for public feedback*
Late Nov. - Mid Dec.	• *Review and incorporate public feedback* • *Refine Proposals with Departments* • *Sign off and approval from CFO/ Mayor's Office*

Dec. 17th	• ***EOB Meeting (Virtual)***
	  ○ *Review Final Project Proposals*
	  ○ *PB Voting outreach and logistics*

Jan 15th to Feb 15th, 2027	• ***PB Voting!***
Feb 18, 2027	• ***In-Person Meeting to Announce Winning Projects!***

RECAP

PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FORUMS



THREE OCTOBER FORUMS

Residents reviewed and prioritized a short list of ideas from the 1,326 ideas collected in July 2026

- Based on **residents' lived experiences** and discussions of **community need**
- Participants conducted **equity and impact assessment** to prioritize ideas

12 project ideas selected through a collective vote.



Forum #2- Bolling Municipal Building, Roxbury



Forum #1 - Breaktime, Downtown Boston



Forum #3- Hyde Park Boston Public Library, Hyde Park

OCTOBER FORUMS

Forum #1: Breaktime, Downtown Boston/Chinatown

Thursday, October 1st



Community Partners

- Breaktime
- Brazilian Women's Group
- Allston Brighton Health Collaborative
- Center to Support Immigrant Organizing
- EASTIE Coalition
- Eastie Farm
- Turkish American Cultural Society of NE
- Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center

Languages

- English
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- Cantonese

Forum #2: Bolling Municipal Building, Roxbury

Wednesday, October 7th



Community Partners

- ACEDONE
- Agencia ALPHA
- Center to Support Immigrant Organizing
- Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative
- Dunk the Vote
- Madison Park Development Corporation
- Sociedad Latina

Languages

- English
- Spanish
- Somali

Forum #3: Hyde Park Library

Thursday, October 15th



Community Partners

- Allston Brighton Health Collaborative
- Center to Support Immigrant Organizing
- Dominican Development Center
- Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative
- True Alliance Center
- Together Hyde Park

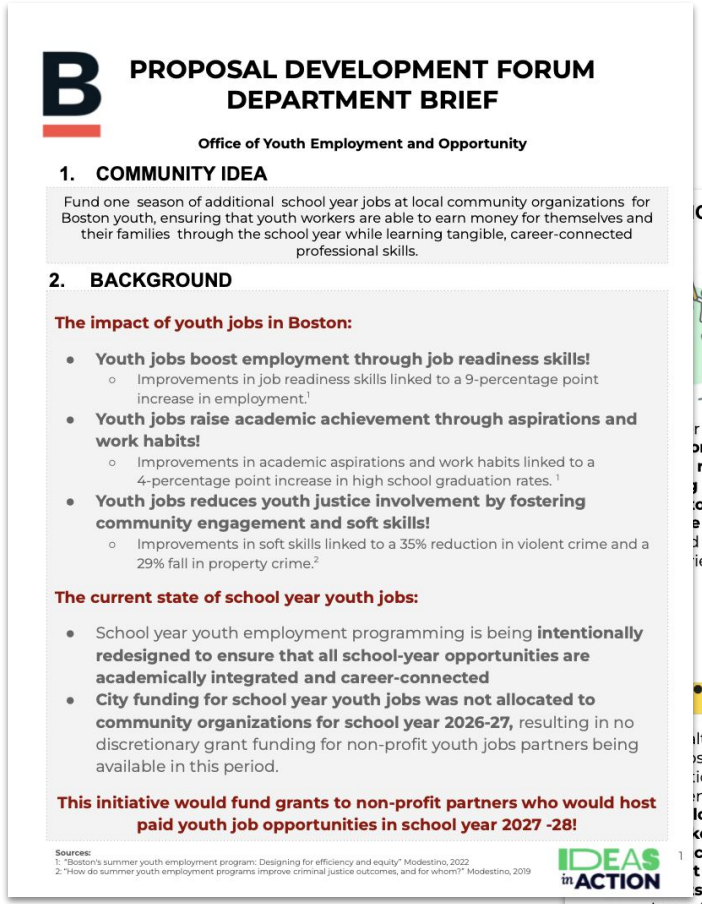
Languages

- English
- Spanish
- Haitian Creole

NOVEMBER FORUMS: CITY DEPARTMENT COORDINATION

Coordinated with City Departments on the selected 12 project ideas:

- Identified appropriate city departments
- Initial review and discussion of project ideas
- Coordination on 1-page briefing document for each idea
  - *Background/ context*
  - *Supporting data/ research*
- Guidelines for forum participation
- Coordination on next steps post November forums



PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM
DEPARTMENT BRIEF

Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity

1. COMMUNITY IDEA

Fund one season of additional school year jobs at local community organizations for Boston youth, ensuring that youth workers are able to earn money for themselves and their families through the school year while learning tangible, career-connected professional skills.

2. BACKGROUND

The impact of youth jobs in Boston:

- **Youth jobs boost employment through job readiness skills!**
  - Improvements in job readiness skills linked to a 9-percentage point increase in employment.[1]
- **Youth jobs raise academic achievement through aspirations and work habits!**
  - Improvements in academic aspirations and work habits linked to a 4-percentage point increase in high school graduation rates.[1]
- **Youth jobs reduces youth justice involvement by fostering community engagement and soft skills!**
  - Improvements in soft skills linked to a 35% reduction in violent crime and a 29% fall in property crime.[2]

The current state of school year youth jobs:

- School year youth employment programming is being **intentionally redesigned to ensure that all school-year opportunities are academically integrated and career-connected**
- **City funding for school year youth jobs was not allocated to community organizations for school year 2026-27,** resulting in no discretionary grant funding for non-profit youth jobs partners being available in this period.

This initiative would fund grants to non-profit partners who would host paid youth job opportunities in school year 2027 -28!

Sources:
1: "Boston's summer youth employment program: Designing for efficiency and equity" Modestino, 2022
2: "How do summer youth employment programs improve criminal justice outcomes, and for whom?" Modestino, 2019

IDEAS in ACTION



G DATA/ RESEARCH

r 2026, **90%** **n youth** **reported** **better** **o enter the** following summer ience.[1]

Boston youth workers are **critical to their communities**, providing a wide range of essential labor including **childcare, environmental services, and community engagement.**[1]

Youth jobs programs provide **indispensable opportunities for youth with disabilities, immigrant youth, and youth who speak English as a second or other language.**[1]

lth disparity ston is ional and nched. **lds of color** **kely to have** **cy savings,** **t funds, and** **s** than white households.[2]

The majority of youth workers in City of Boston employment programs are **lower income youth of color.**[3]

73% of youth workers in City of Boston employment programs report **contributing to their household expenses.**[3]

1: Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity, 2026 Survey data
2: "The Color of Wealth" Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, 25 Mar. 2015
3: "Boston's summer youth employment program: Designing for efficiency and equity" Modestino, 2022

IDEAS in ACTION

RECAP: NOVEMBER PROPOSAL DRAFTING FORUM

Residents drafted proposals with City staff

- **Part 1:** *Participants shared why ideas are important to them and their community*
- **Part 2:** *Departments provided relevant context and data on the pre-selected project ideas (issue education)*
- **Part 3:** *Residents drafted proposal language in collaboration with City Departments*
    - *Proposal Template: Who, What, Why, How?*

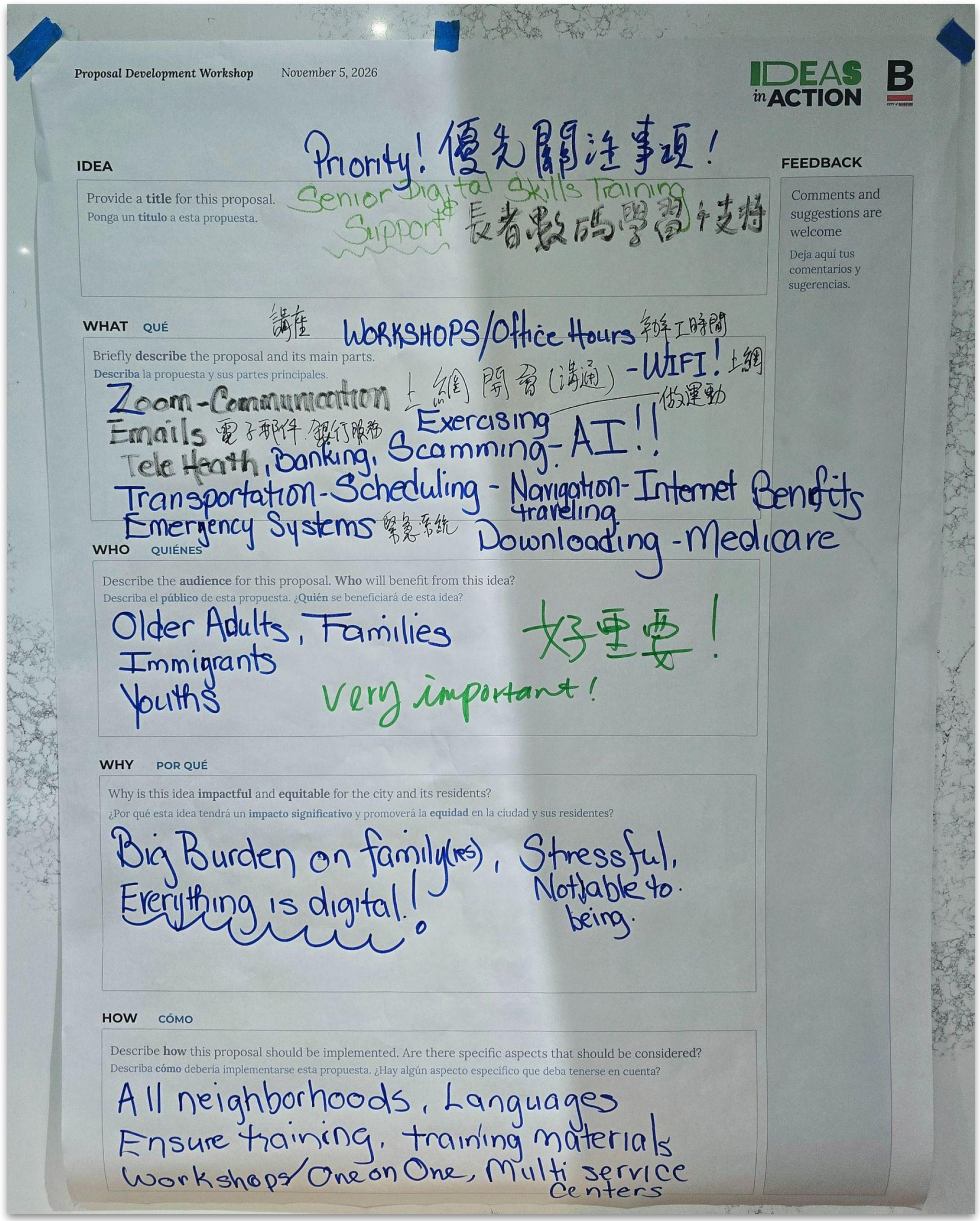




Highlights

- **82 residents** attended the November forums
- **15 Community Partners** helped to recruit residents
- **Languages**: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Cantonese

RECAP: NOVEMBER PROPOSAL DRAFTING FORUM



DRAFT PROPOSALS



DRAFT PROPOSALS

Community Resources

- Increased Programming at Community Centers (BCYFs)
- Funds for Legal Representation and Additional Support for Immigration Legal Processes
- Housing Crisis Fund

Education, Youth, Families, and Older Adults

- School Year Youth Jobs
- Digital Skills Training Support for Older Adults

Health and Wellbeing

- Substance Abuse Awareness for Minors
- Postpartum Meal Delivery Program
- Weaving Well-Being

Arts & Culture

- Arts for All, Equity for Every Heart!

Streets & Sidewalks

- Connect and expand the High-Comfort bike network
- Safe Streets are Lit!

Environment, Sustainability, and Food Access

- Access to Affordable & Fresh Groceries

DRAFT PROPOSAL #1

Community Resources

Increased Programming at Community Centers (BCYFs)

This proposal will add financial literacy, community arts, youth connection and senior programs to BCYF sites, with a focus on reaching young adults ages 20-30, seniors, and other populations who experience higher barriers to accessing these resources. Funding may go towards contracting professionals to run these programs, improving equipment, and creating marketing materials to increase outreach.

DRAFT PROPOSAL #2

Community Resources

Funds for legal representation and additional support for immigration legal processes

This grant proposal will provide funds to nonprofit and legal organizations that offer direct legal support to immigrant families with economic limitations who are at risk of detention or deportation. The goal is to make sure access to legal help does not depend on someone's immigration status or ability to pay.

DRAFT PROPOSAL #3

Community Resources

Housing Crisis Fund

This fund will help to pay for rent, utilities, mortgage, security deposits, and moving costs, with simple documentation, no court summons requirement, and a fully public application so everyone can apply. It prioritizes larger families, single-parent households, families of students without stable housing, youth and young adults, and immigrants (including those with TPS) who are spending over 50% of income on housing, lost a job, or are facing eviction. The money will be distributed through partnerships with grassroots organizations.

DRAFT PROPOSAL #4

Education, Youth, Families, and Older Adults

School Year Youth Jobs

A one time grant program to fund paid jobs for Boston youth ages 14-24 at nonprofit and community organizations, supporting 10-15 hours a week from October through May, with specific inclusion of immigrant youth. Evidence shows that paid youth jobs reduce justice involvement and improve graduation rates, while also providing essential family income and, at many nonprofits, childcare for families with young children.

DRAFT PROPOSAL #5

Education, Youth, Families, and Older Adults

Digital Skills Training Support for Older Adults

This program will create workshops and one-on-one office hours in multiple languages to teach older adults how to use Zoom, email, telehealth, online banking, spot scams, navigate Medicare, and more. The goal is for older adults to navigate the digital world more independently.

DRAFT PROPOSAL #6

Health and Wellbeing

Substance Abuse Awareness for Minors

A youth-led campaign and workshop program to teach minors about the effects of substance abuse, through peer-to-peer education. It will also work with schools, parents, and youth to provide multilingual education through existing community networks. The goal is to reduce overdoses, lower drug abuse, and give our youngest residents real knowledge from people they trust while also expanding opportunities for youth leadership.

DRAFT PROPOSAL #7

Health and Wellbeing

Postpartum Meal Delivery Program

An eight-week program to deliver nourishing meals and fresh produce while also providing behavioral health support, wellness experiences, and community connection for pregnant & post partum parents navigating recovery, food insecurity, and limited support. It will support partnerships with health centers and local businesses, and includes workshops and paid work opportunities with partners. Former participants will be invited to support newer members, creating a cycle of care that keeps growing.

DRAFT PROPOSAL #8

Health and Wellbeing

Weaving Well-Being

A grant initiative to provide trainings and multilingual resources to expand well-being, mental health support, and a sense of belonging for immigrant residents of all ages. It will work through partnerships between MOIA and community organizations, and using community centers as gathering spaces. There will also be support in connecting with residents to English-language classes.

DRAFT PROPOSAL #9

Arts & Culture

Arts for All, Equity for Every Heart! Welcoming, Advancing & Appreciating Arts & Culture for All with an Equity Lens

This proposal funds city-led arts grants, programs, and events to support underrepresented artists and communities, while compensating artists for their work. It will partner with universities and local businesses, and may include food and cookouts as part of the events. The goal is to build community, support mental health, heal division, and strengthen the local economy.

DRAFT PROPOSAL #10

Streets & Sidewalks

Connect and Expand the High-Comfort Bike Network

This proposal will allow the City's Streets Cabinet to expand the high-comfort bike network, creating connections to existing bike routes a in areas where few exist.

The project will prioritize expansion into areas of high-crash corridors, intersections, lower-income populations, and environmental justice zones. It will also leverage the planning process to build a broader bike community, engaging residents who currently identify across the spectrum of rider types (strong and fearless, enthused and confident, interested but concerned, and no-way-no-how).

DRAFT PROPOSAL #11

Streets & Sidewalks

Safe Streets are Lit! A More Nuanced & Innovative Approach to Street Lighting Safety for Everyone

This proposal will fund new technologies—like rapid flash beams, flashing lights on stop signs, or other safety measures—at locations that include protected bike lane intersections, greenway crossings, and areas where seniors and children are most at risk. The city will coordinate with BPS and community partners to choose locations, use before-and-after yielding studies to measure results, and share findings with the public.

DRAFT PROPOSAL #12

Environment, Sustainability, and Food Access

Access to Affordable & Fresh Groceries

This proposal will expand physical access to fresh food by increasing food coupons, offering discounted foods, expanding farmer's market coupons, and funding cold storage so community organizations can better serve people when and where they need it. It focuses support for low-income families, food-insecure individuals, and people who have been left out by existing programs.

NEXT STEPS

November 11th to November 24th

- *2-week public comment period for draft proposals*

Late November to Mid December

- *Review and incorporate public feedback*
- *Refine Proposals with relevant City Departments*
- *Sign off and approval from CFO/ Mayor's Office*

Mid December/ Early January

- *Prepare PB Voting Platform, translating proposals in multiple languages*
- *Share final proposal language with EOB / Public*

January 15th to Feburary 15th

- *FY27 PB Voting period*

PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT IMPROVEMENTS

- OPB worked with ASG to recruit **facilitators from Main Street organizations** in each of the selected neighborhoods. In partnership with the Northeastern Center for Design, facilitators and interpreters received a **1.5 hour in-person training** prior to the October forums, and a **1 hour virtual training** for the November forum.

- Hosted separate **info-sessions** with City Departments and contracted community partners to prepare for forum logistics and recruitment

- OPB worked closely with the **City's Office of Language and Communications Access**, contracting with an interpretation service provider to more effectively determine language needs for each of the forums.

- Started forums earlier to **allow for more discussion and proposal selection/drafting time**.

- Continued to offer **childcare, refreshments, and language accessibility**.

CYCLE THREE
PB VOTING



FY27 VOTING UPDATE

ONLINE VOTING

Logistics:

- Working with the Department of Information and Technology at the City of Boston to develop email verification system for online PB voting.

Languages:

- All online and paper ballots will be multilingual and available in English, Cantonese, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

IN-PERSON VOTING

- City Hall ballot voting with Age Strong volunteers *(confirming)*
- Exploring continued partnerships with selected BCYF sites
- **NEW:** In-person voting options for community organizations, where an OPB staff will attend planned community events with voting materials.

PUBLIC COMMENT

10 minutes, 2 minutes per person

