Agenda

1. Housekeeping
2. Background on Fund
3. Criteria and Eligibility
4. Accounting and Past Projects
5. Application Process
6. Q&A
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Housekeeping
Zoom Tips

Your controls should be available at the bottom of the screen. Clicking on these symbols activates different features:
Important Information

- Gerald.Autler@boston.gov
- bit.ly/harvardflexfund
  - Fund guidelines
  - Link to online application
  - Sample successful applications from past rounds
  - This presentation
  - Video of this meeting
Important Information

- Allston Brighton Mobility Study
- Western Avenue Corridor Study and Rezoning
  - bit.ly/westerncorridor
  - bit.ly/westernaveaug26
- http://www.bostonplans.org/about-us/get-involved
Meeting Recording

- The BPDA will be recording this meeting and posting it on its website at bit.ly/harvardflexfund. The recording will include the presentation, Q&A, and public comments afterwards.
- Also, it is possible that participants may be recording the meeting with their phone cameras or other devices.
- If you do not wish to be recorded during the meeting, please turn off your microphone and camera.
COVID-19 Resources

Stay up-to-date with COVID-19 related announcements, City of Boston reopening plans, and resources for you and your community at:

boston.gov/coronavirus
2020 Census Update & Reminder

Key Dates:
August 11 - Doorknocking begins.
September 30 - Last day to respond.

Quick Facts:
As of 7/7, 52.2% (about 175,800) of Boston’s households have responded.
In 2010, the final response rate was 64.4%.

The Census has never been more accessible. You can respond:
Online (my2020census.gov)
Over the phone, or by mail.
13 different languages available.

Boston depends on your household to respond. For every person not counted, nearly $2,400 per year in federal funding is lost for the next ten years.
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Background on Fund
Background

- $5,350,000 fund created in 2013
- Community benefit associated with Harvard’s Institutional Master Plan, in agreement with Boston Planning and Development Agency and City of Boston
- Support projects that enhance the public realm and for which public sources of financing may be unavailable or inadequate.
- Public realm = streets, sidewalks, parks, etc.
- PRIMARILY for investments on public property
- ~$2,000,000 uncommitted
Executive Committee

- Gerald Autler, Boston Planning and Development Agency
- Lea Beaulieu, neighborhood resident
- Mark Handley, Harvard University
- Sabrina Dorsainvil, Mayor’s Office of New Urban Mechanics
- Bruce Houghton, Harvard-Allston Task Force
- Elsa Rojas, neighborhood resident
- Johanna Bernstein, City of Boston Office of Budget Management
- You ??
Other Funds

- Harvard Allston Partnership Fund
  - $100,000 distributed annually to non-profits serving the North Allston-North Brighton community

- Boston College Neighborhood Improvement Fund
  - Similar to Flex Fund, investments in parks and public realm improvements
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Criteria and Eligibility
Applicant Eligibility

- Public agencies (e.g. Boston Parks and Recreation)
- Non-profits (e.g. Artists for Humanity)
- Organizations with a fiscal sponsor (e.g. Friends of Herter Park)
- Sometimes individuals, possibly for-profits [case by case]

- **Public agency as a proponent or partner for projects on public property**
- Sound financial condition with adequate reporting and controls
- Ability to execute the proposed project or program
Project Eligibility

- Public realm enhancements, public parks and open space, neighborhood beautification, non-vehicular mobility improvements, streetscape improvements, public safety (e.g. transportation safety)
- Primarily for projects located on public property but potentially for property with public access OR projects that otherwise meaningfully enhance the public realm
Project Eligibility

- Achieve at least ONE of the following:
  - Enhance the aesthetic quality and user experience of the public realm
  - Enhance public safety
  - Enhance local business and economic activity
  - Support non-vehicular modes of transportation
  - Promote collaboration and civic and cultural growth
  - Showcase unique qualities of the Allston-Brighton neighborhood
Project Eligibility

- Demonstrates community support
- Public funding is not available or insufficient
- Located in Allston-Brighton, emphasis on area north of I-90
- In MOST cases, located on public property
- Planning and design, capital improvements, programming, temporary installations are all eligible
- Routine maintenance is NOT eligible
Additional Review Criteria

- Demonstrate potential for public engagement as a project outcome
- Demonstrate other sources of funding
- Partnerships with other organizations and utilization of community volunteers
- Project readiness
Accounting and Past Projects
Accounting

- $5,350,000 original fund
- ~$2,000,000 currently still uncommitted
- Grants have ranged from $3,400 to $1,900,000
Sample Past Projects

- Boston Bikes: Bluebikes stations ($50,000)
- Boston Police Department: VMS boards ($96,000)
- Charlesview: outdoor public programming ($8,850)
- Artists for Humanity: artistic bike racks ($65,000)
- Gardner Pilot Academy: outdoor gardens + turf field ($66,000 + 75,000)
- Friends of Herter Park: amphitheater improvements ($50,000 + 50,000)
- Public art: Lincoln/Franklin Street intersection ($100,000)
- Pollinator Pathways: improvements at Everett Street/Herter Park ($68,000)
- Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture: Allston Cultural Plan ($50,000)
- Boston Housing Authority: improvements at Faneuil Gardens ($226,000)
- Boston Parks and Recreation: Smith Field ($185,000 + $1,900,000)
Smith Field
Smith Field
Artists for Humanity

1 - Front

$\frac{1}{4}$" stainless steel

$\frac{3}{8}$" stainless carriage bolts & breakaway nuts

$\frac{1}{4}$" powdercoated steel

Color TBD
Herter Park Amphitheater
5 Application Process
Application Process

1. Review guidelines and sample applications and access online application at bit.ly/harvardflexfund
2. Submit application online and upload supporting materials
   - Longer narrative, images, letters of support in .pdf format
3. Deadline tentatively set for October 9 but CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES
4. Presentations shortly after deadline; Exec Committee holds open meeting same day or shortly after, announces decisions
5. BPDA Board Vote
6. Grantees sign grant agreements with BPDA, checks disbursed
Q&A

• Write your question in the chat.

OR

• Raise your hand or use chat to indicate you’d like to speak.
• Unmute microphone when called on.
• Please allow everyone space to participate.
• If you are joining only by phone, unfortunately, you will not be able to ask questions.
Zoom Tips

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Thank you

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