

Boston 250 Summer Programming and Marketing Grant Program

About the Program

The Boston Foundation, as part of the Boston 250 Initiative, is committed to supporting programming around the Semiquincentennial of the American Revolution in Boston in 2026. The 2026 Boston 250 Summer Programming and Marketing Grant Program is a competitive grant program that will award funds to support programming and marketing that tell the stories of Boston's revolutionary past and present and will increase attendance (from residents and tourists) to relevant events and neighborhood-centered activations.

Eligible projects will connect to historic themes of revolution and independence, celebrate the significant firsts in Boston history that make the city exceptional in our history and innovation, and/or take a creative or innovative approach to commemorating or celebrating the nation's semiquincentennial. Grant funds can be used for programming and marketing. This may include but is not limited to:

- Support for events and programming to amplify inclusive and/or innovative storytelling for tourists and residents
- Educational opportunities especially but not exclusively tailored to young people, connected to the 250th
- Support for local tourism organizations and companies to amplify inclusive storytelling for tourists and residents, including but not exclusively connected to new commemorative markers (Tour 250), historic sites, and trails in Boston.

Applicants must demonstrate how the project will increase the visibility of Boston's revolutionary past and present and increase attendance (from residents and tourists) to relevant events and neighborhood-based activations.

Grant Program Information

- **The Boston Foundation**
- **Source of Funding:** Philanthropic funds
- **Total Amount Available for Grant Program:** \$150,000
- **Award Amount per Grant per Organization:** \$5,000 to \$25,000

Timeline & Important Dates:

- **Application Launch Date:** May 4, 2026
- **Information Session:** Webinar, Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 2 PM
- **Application Deadline:** Friday, May 29, 2026 3 PM
- **Award Notification Timeline:** Monday, June 15, 2026
- **Grant Period** (grant-funded activities must be completed by this date): November 30, 2026

Eligibility Criteria:

- Any nonprofit organization 501(c)3 or for-profit institution with a nonprofit fiscal agent operating in Boston
- Have active and valid City and state licenses/registrations, if applicable
- While collaboration and creativity is encouraged, the application must be submitted by one eligible, lead organization.
- Applications must be complete, include all required documentation and be submitted, by the deadline, in order to be considered.
- **Ineligible Organizations:**
 - Any organization whose sole or primary purpose is to fundraise
 - Organizations not located in Boston

Application Instructions

- **DUE DATE:** All applications and required documents are due by **Friday, May 29, 2026, 3 PM.** (No extensions will be granted).
- Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are required.
- Take your time and be sure your application is complete before submitting. Applications that are missing critical information may be automatically disqualified.
- For longer response questions, draft your answers in a separate document and copy and paste them into the application.

Required Documents

In order to submit an application, *all applicants* will be required to upload completed versions of the documents below:

- An EIN by which we can certify your organization’s nonprofit status (or equivalent fiscal sponsor's nonprofit status);
- A Project Budget required for organizations requesting \$10,000 or more.

Applicant Organization Information

Organization Name*

Character Limit: 100

Organization Street Address*

Character Limit: 100

Organization City*

Character Limit: 25

Organization State*

Character Limit: 15

Organization Zip Code*

Character Limit: 15

Number of Organization's Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Employees*

Character Limit: 5

First Name of Person Completing this Application*

Or Grant Point of Contact

Character Limit: 50

Last Name of Person Completing this Application*

Character Limit: 50

Title of Person Completing this Application*

Character Limit: 50

Email Address of Person Completing Application*

Character Limit: 254

Phone Number of Person Completing this Application*

Character Limit: 25

Name of Organization Executive Director or Equivalent Leadership Role*

Character Limit: 50

Leadership Demographics (Optional)

Choose the options below that describe the identity of your organization's Executive Director or equivalent leadership role. These details are used for reporting purposes only and are optional.

Choices

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latinx
- Immigrant
- LGBTQI
- Living with a disability
- Man
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Non-binary, gender non-conforming, or genderqueer
- Older Adult (60+)
- Returning Citizen
- Veteran
- Woman
- White
- Youth
- Prefer not to answer
- Other (write-in)

If Other, please write-in here

Character Limit: 250

Is your organization a registered 501(c)(3) tax exempt non-profit?*

Nonprofit status is not required to apply for a grant. However, you will be required to partner with a fiscal sponsor before you can receive grant funding.

Choices

- Yes, we are a tax-exempt nonprofit organization
- We will be working with a fiscal sponsor
- We are part of a city or state agency

Additional Organization Information

The below information is required for all 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

Organization EIN

If you represent a tax-exempt nonprofit, a valid 9-digit Employer Identification Number (EIN) is required.

Character Limit: 25

Organization's Operating Budget

Please attach a copy of your organization's board-approved operating budget for its current fiscal year. If you are representing a group that does not have an operating budget, do not upload a document below.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Fiscal Sponsor Information

- A fiscal sponsor is not required to complete this application. However, if you are operating without nonprofit status, **you must obtain one in order to receive funding from the Boston Foundation.**
- If you are already working with a fiscal sponsor who operates as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization, please provide their information below.
- If you do not yet have a fiscal sponsor, skip the questions below and begin the next section.

Fiscal Sponsor's Organization Name

Character Limit: 25

Fiscal Sponsor's Organization EIN

Character Limit: 25

Fiscal Sponsor's Organization Street Address

Character Limit: 100

Fiscal Sponsor's Organization City

Character Limit: 25

Fiscal Sponsor's Organization State

Character Limit: 25

Fiscal Sponsor's Organization Zip Code

Character Limit: 10

Fiscal Sponsor's Organization Contact First Name

Character Limit: 15

Fiscal Sponsor's Organization Contact Last Name

Character Limit: 25

Fiscal Sponsor's Organization Contact Person Email Address

Character Limit: 254

Fiscal Sponsor's Organization Contact Person Phone Number

Character Limit: 15

Project Proposal

Project Title*

Provide a concise title for your 250th Anniversary project.

Character Limit: 100

Project Description*

Character Limit: 5000

Project Dates*

Project activities funded by this grant program must occur between May and November 2026.

Character Limit: 50

Service Goal*

How many people do you anticipate will be served through your proposed project?

Character Limit: 6

Target Community*

Please describe the communities that your project will primarily serve. If you focus on specific neighborhoods, please mention which. If your proposal aims to outreach to communities not primarily served by your organization, please outline your strategy to do so.

Character Limit: 2000

Neighborhoods Served*

What neighborhood(s) will your project primarily serve?

Choices

Citywide (all neighborhoods)

Allston

Back Bay

Bay Village

Beacon Hill

Brighton

Charlestown

Chinatown

Dorchester

Downtown

East Boston

Fenway

Hyde Park

Jamaica Plain

Kenmore
Leather District
Mattapan
Mission Hill
North End
Roslindale
Roxbury
Seaport District
South Boston
South End
West End
West Roxbury

Vision and Clarity: Project Scope & Connection to Boston 250*

Describe the vision for your project. How does it relate to the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution? Specifically, how does it prioritize engaging diverse stories or previously lesser-known narratives?

Character Limit: 5000

Vision and Clarity: Goals & Deliverables*

What is this project trying to achieve, and what is its value to the community? Please list the specific outcomes and deliverables

Character Limit: 2000

Impact: Alignment with Boston 250's Goals*

Please describe how your project uplifts Boston's revolutionary past and present. How does your work highlight "everyday revolutionaries" and contribute to a more complete narrative of the city's history?

Character Limit: 5000

Impact: Measuring Success*

How will you measure the success of this project? Please provide specific metrics you plan to track (e.g., anticipated attendance, marketing reach, economic impact, or specific financial goals).

Character Limit: 1000

Ability to Execute: Project Timeline*

Please provide an achievable timeline for your project. Note that all grant-funded activities must be completed within the designated grant window.

Character Limit: 500

Ability to Execute: Permissions & Internal Support*

List the permissions, permits, or internal organizational supports that are already in place. Are there any critical approvals still needed?

Character Limit: 500

Alignment & Partnerships: Community Planning*

How is this project consistent with existing community and regional plans around economic development and the Semiquincentennial (250th) commemorations?

Character Limit: 1000

Alignment & Partnerships: Stakeholder Involvement*

Describe the involvement and support of relevant stakeholders. If you are leveraging these grant dollars with private funding, please provide details here (not a requirement).

Character Limit: 1000

Additional Project Information (Optional)

Please use this space to tell us any additional information about your proposed project.

Character Limit: 2000

Document Upload (Optional)

Upload any additional documents, photos, maps, brochures, or charts about your proposed project.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Project Budget

Proposals seeking less than \$10,000 are required to submit a budget narrative. Proposals seeking \$10,000 or more are required to upload a project budget and submit a budget narrative.

Allowable Expenses

- Salaries and associated benefits of staff delivering the program, this may include Executive Directors if they spend a certain percentage of their time on the grant funded program
- Where applicable, please annotate what percentage of the salary and associated benefits you are seeking support for (i.e., 0.5 FTE)
- Equipment, supplies and/or materials associated with the program
- Temporary space fees and/or rental for the program
- Transportation required for the program
- Advertising and publicity expenses for the program
- Local conference, seminar or training attendance related to the program
- Program planning / evaluation

- Technical assistance
- Food and beverage for program participants
- Other direct costs of the program
- Up to 10% of the grant budget can be for indirect/administrative costs

Expenses Not Allowed

- Alcoholic beverages
- Gift cards
- Fundraising activities (This includes salaries or associated benefits for fundraising staff time)
- Lobbying services
- Rent and utilities
- Salaries and associated benefits of staff not involved with directly delivering the program
- Any expenses not related to the described grant project

Funding Request*

For this project, what is the amount that you are requesting? Please note: applicants may request up to \$25,000 for this program

Character Limit: 25

Project Budget*

What are the total budgeted expenses for your proposed project?

Character Limit: 25

Budget Narrative*

Please provide a detailed breakdown of how you plan to use the funding you are requesting. Include an itemized list of expenses (e.g., staff, program materials, transportation, venue rental, etc.), along with their associated costs. Be specific about how each expense aligns with the goals of the program and any expected outcomes.

- Please include the grant timeline.
- Your budget can include up to 10% for indirect/administrative costs or a fiscal sponsorship fee.

Character Limit: 10000

Budget Attachment

Submit a project budget using the instructions below and upload it to this application. Required for requests of \$10,000 or more.

- Please include the grant timeline.

- Please only include this project's budget - you do not need to include your total organization's budget.
- Your budget can include up to 10% for indirect/administrative costs or a fiscal sponsorship fee.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Submission Certification

Please read and agree to the requirements and terms described below:

Nonprofit Standing

By submitting this application, I certify that the organization I represent, or the organization serving as a fiscal sponsor, is in good standing with both the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and the IRS.

Certification*

By entering your full name below and submitting this application, you accept and agree to the terms described above and to the terms of the grant program, and you certify that all information contained in the application is correct.

Please enter your First, Middle, and Last Name.

Character Limit: 50

SAMPLE