



Allston-Brighton Needs Assessment

Community Engagement Launch: August 9th, 2023



Allston-Brighton Needs Assessment Agenda

1. Overview
2. The BPDA
3. Meet the Team
4. The Needs Assessment Process
5. Timeline to Completion
6. Next Steps



Overview

About the Needs Assessment

This summer, the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) is conducting a needs assessment for the Allston and Brighton neighborhoods. This needs assessment will examine services within the Allston-Brighton community under three main categories:

- 1 Basic Needs** which covers things like safety, food security, and housing.
- 2 Access to Opportunity** relates to education, employment, and transportation.
- 3 Community Needs** are about ensuring access to amenities like open space, arts and culture, and civic engagement.

Over the coming months, the people who live, work and form part of the Allston and Brighton neighborhoods will have the opportunity to have their voices heard as part of the needs assessment. There will be multiple opportunities to get involved and give important feedback about the neighborhood and how it can best serve you, your family, and the wider community.



The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA)





Outline of Mayor Wu's Vision for the BPDA + What's Coming

2023

The need for change

Mayor Wu charged the BPDA with improving how planning and development are done in Boston to make the process more predictable for both community members and developers.

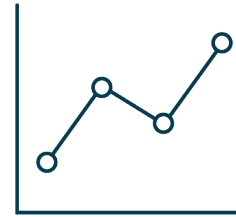
Our Goals



Address today's challenges: **resilience, affordability, equity**



Lead with **planning** to set a **citywide vision**



Embrace growth while creating a **predictable process**



Build **trust** with communities through **transparency**

Our Approaches



- Implement a new charter and mission
- Legally end Urban Renewal and replace it with modern tools
- Ensure public land serves public good



- Plan for growth and the future through neighborhood and citywide initiatives, such as our Design Vision
- Establish new Planning Advisory Council



- Update Article 80 code and process for staff, developers, and community members
- Update and modernize our zoning code to be more predictable



- Improve coordination and communication across agencies and with Boston residents
- Create community process for Article 80 that is consistent, inclusive, and predictable



Upcoming changes + engagement

2023

2024 and on

Winter-
Spring

- Home Rule Petition passed Council and sent on to State House
- Two RFPs issued for analysis of Article 80 operations and community engagement

Summer

- Lead public engagement efforts for -
 - Design Vision
 - Article 80 process improvements
 - Opportunity to weigh in on city's progress towards resilience, affordability & equity

Fall-
Winter

- Kick off Planning Advisory Council
- Continue public engagement
 - Share early findings from Article 80 analysis
 - Finalize City Design Vision

- Move staff to become a City agency
- Update approach to planning through increased coordination across departments and focus on city-wide efforts
- Kick off efforts to update city-wide zoning code

Learn more here:

<https://www.bostonplans.org/about-us/mayor-wu-vision-for-the-bpda>

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Planning in Allston and Brighton



Allston-Brighton Needs Assessment

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*BPDA Team: Yari Cortez, Planner and Joe Blankenship,
Transportation*



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**Allston-Brighton
needs assessment**

History of the Allston Brighton Needs Assessment

- Requested by **Harvard Allston Task Force** during ERC public process.
- Harvard University **committed \$1m** as part of the ERC Phase A mitigation and community benefits package.
- **2008 Needs Assessment** was a **broad conversation about community needs specific to the Harvard Master Plan for Campus Development**, not necessarily focused on Allston-Brighton planning and development outcomes.
- Opportunity for alignment with the **upcoming Allston-Brighton neighborhood plan** and encourage outcomes that can be achieved through planning & development.

“where are the services lacking, what infrastructure needs repair and improvement? Why are people hurting? Research and obtain valid and reliable community insights on the needs of our residents.”

*- Harvard Allston Task Force,
November 2, 2021*

Goals of the Allston Brighton Needs Assessment

- 1. Prepare for the coming Allston-Brighton Neighborhood Plan.**
 - Direct recommendations for land-use, transportation, housing, open space, climate resiliency, and priority sub-areas within Allston-Brighton.
- 2. Empower the community to make modifications or community benefits requests from development projects.**
 - Information regarding neighborhood services, infrastructure, and how equity concerns and basic needs might be addressed.
- 3. Provide other City agencies and local non-profits with analysis to inform their decision-making**
 - City agencies and other groups focused on parks, transit, arts & culture, financial justice, health, and other topics may benefit from the findings in building momentum and/or consensus for requests from developers, policy, and programming initiatives.

Equity Framework

Key Impact Considerations:

- Access to Community Engagement
 - Language Access / Cultural Competency
 - Hearing / Sight Accommodations
 - Outreach Methods and Engagement Strategies
 - Community feedback should be assessed using Allston-Brighton demographics
- “Nothing about us without us” Approach
- All Analysis Topics should address 4 core equity questions:
 1. How was this need identified?
 2. How many residents are affected by this need?
 3. What are the demographics of the affected population?
 4. Where in Allston-Brighton are these needs the greatest geographically?
And how does it compare to greater Boston?

Procurement and Consultant Selection

The BPDA received 5 proposals in response to the RFP. The comparative evaluation criteria stated in the RFP were applied by the evaluation committee, which included BPDA Planning Division staff and resulted in the final selection of team “AURA”, a collaboration between ASG, Utile, Rivera Consulting, and the Allston-Brighton Community Development Corporation (ABCDC) bring:

- Substantial knowledge and expertise
- Deep understanding of the Allston-Brighton community
- Methods for and a commitment to an equity driven approach to the needs assessment



Meet the Team

Team AURA

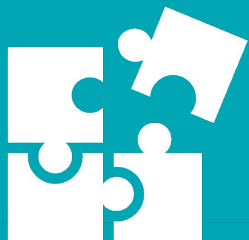
The team conducting the needs assessment is the AURA team. AURA is an acronym for the four organizations working together to complete the needs assessment. Team AURA are working together on background research and on-the-ground engagement within Allston and Brighton:

A - Archipelago Strategies Group (ASG)

U - Utile Design

R - Rivera Consulting Inc

A - Allston-Brighton Community Development Corporation





The Needs Assessment Process

Key Pieces of the Needs Assessment



Background research, data mapping and analyzing to establish a baseline for understanding the people and places that make up Allston and Brighton



Based on the research, creating a plan of action to engage and gather feedback from the community



Executing 2 months of community outreach to include a survey, events and multiple touchpoints within the community

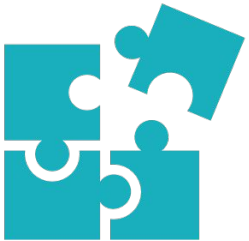
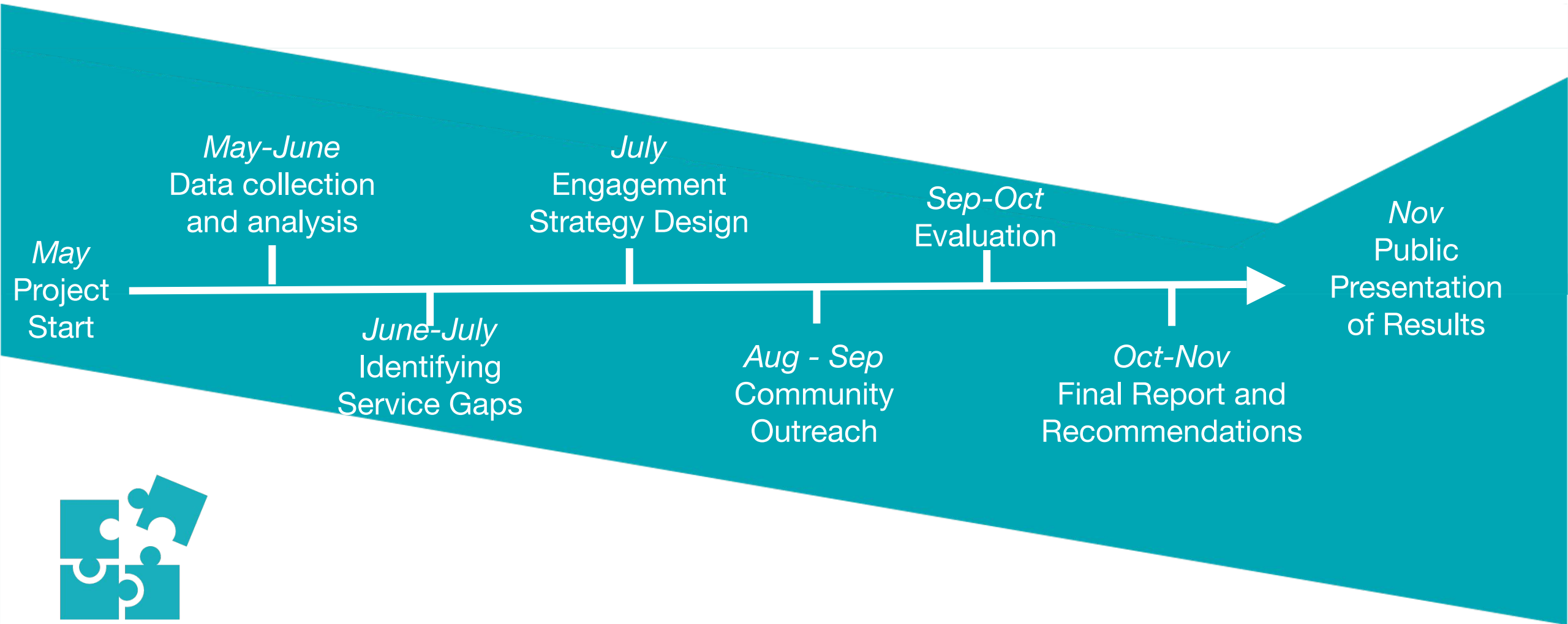


Gathering feedback into a report that will guide future plans for Allston and Brighton to get the resources they need most



Timeline to Completion

Needs Assessment Timeline





Next Steps

How to get Involved



Team AURA will have a presence at events around the neighborhood where you can come and speak to an ambassador to share your feedback.



The Allston and Brighton survey is LIVE and you can give feedback anytime, any place using the online version. Or you can complete with the help of an ambassador.



Look out for literature with more information available in the neighborhood in the coming weeks.



Visit the dedicated website for updates on events and project progress.

Language Access

English
Español
Português
Русский
中国人 + 中國人

Website



www.bostonplans.org/allston-brighton-needs-assessment



Upcoming Events

- 8/11 PSF Block Party
- 8/12 McKinney Park block party
- 8/12 Brighton Marine barbeque
- 8/15 Meeting with AURA
- 8/16 Charlesview BBQ
- 8/16 Movie Night

- 8/18 West End 'Biggest Fun Ever' event
- 8/19 Brian J Honan Block Party
- 8/19 Open Streets
- 8/19 Commonwealth Housing Block Party
- 8/24 Faneuil Gardens Field Day
- 8/27 Brighton Bazaar @ Elks Lodge



Thank You!