
Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee Meeting

November 06, 2023

1. RSMPOC

Welcome and Orientation

Meeting Recording

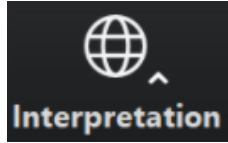
At the request of community members, this event will be recorded and posted on the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan webpage at

bit.ly/theRSMPOC for those who are unable to attend the Zoom event live.

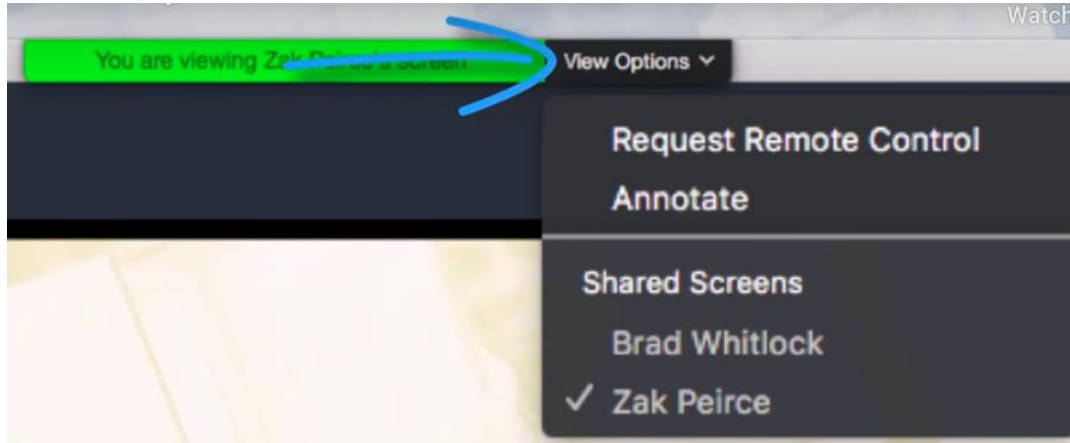
Also, it is possible that participants may be recording the meeting with their phone cameras or other devices. If you do not wish to be recorded during the meeting, please turn off your microphone and camera.

If your camera and microphone are off, you can still participate through the text chat feature.

Interpretation and Translation



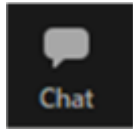
- “Spanish” –for Spanish
- “Haitian Creole” –for Haitian Creole
- “English” – for English
- “Cape Verdean Creole” - Cape Verdean Creole



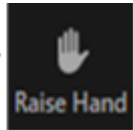
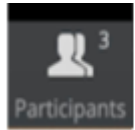
Zoom Tips

Welcome! Here are some tips on using Zoom for first-time users.

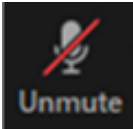
Your controls are at the bottom of the screen



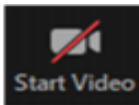
Use the chat to type a comment or ask a question at any time – Members of the RSMPOC/ BPDA will moderate the chat



To raise your hand, click on “Participants” at the bottom of your screen, and then choose the “Raise Hand” option in the participant box, or press *9 on your phone



Mute/unmute – Participants will be muted during the presentation – the host will unmute you during discussion if you raise your hand and it is your turn to talk. To mute/unmute on your phone press *6.



Turns your video on/off

Zoom Etiquette

We want to ensure that this conversation is a pleasant experience for all attendees.

- Please remain muted until called on. If you'd like to speak during this time please use the "Raise Hand" function in Zoom so a BPDA moderator can unmute attendees.
- Please be respectful of each other's time.
- We ask that participants limit their questions so that others may participate in the discussion. If you have more questions, please wait until all others attending have an opportunity to ask questions.
- If we are unable to get to your question at this meeting please put them in the Chat at the end or email jamarhl.crawford@boston.gov

Help us improve the Article 80 Development Review Process

We want to hear from you! Share your thoughts, feedback, and experience with us about the current Article 80 process.

Our Goal: Create a predictable and transparent process for our City's growth that builds trust with communities.

Scan the barcode or follow the link to participate in a brief survey.

Learn more here:
<https://bit.ly/improvingA80>

Scan code for survey



Follow link for survey

<https://bit.ly/A80survey>

Agenda

1. RSMPOC Welcome

2. **Project Updates** – *Each team will receive 15m total to present (max 10m) followed by Q&A (5m)*

- Office of Black Male Advancement
- Squares + Streets

RSMPOC Overview and Updates

First Monday of the month

January 9, 2023

February 6, 2023

March 6, 2023

April 3, 2023

May 1, 2023

June 5, 2023

July 10, 2023

****No Meeting in August****

September 11, 2023

October 2, 2023

November 6, 2023

****No Meeting in December****

RSMPOC Responsibilities

- The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee (RSMPOC) was created in 2004 as a result of the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan (RSMP).
- The RSMPOC is broadly representative of the Roxbury neighborhood and is made up of Mayoral Appointees, nominated by elected officials, neighborhood associations, and community organizations.
- The RSMPOC oversees the implementation of the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan and PLAN: Nubian Square.

Join. Engage. Take Action.

- **Join:** Join the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee, and/or a Project Review Committee (PRC).
- **Engage:** Attend public meetings. Ask questions. Invite neighbors, Roxbury civic groups and organizations, businesses, abutters or other community affiliates to public meetings.
- **Take Action:** Review and comment on projects, developments, and the planning initiative.

For more information about upcoming meetings, development projects and how to get involved, visit bit.ly/theRSMPOC

Original 2004 Master Plan Goals

- Enhance **civic & cultural life** in the neighborhood
- Promote **diverse & sustainable growth** with jobs for local residents
- Ensure **safe & convenient public** and **private transportation**
- Expand & improve **housing for a variety** of socioeconomic and age groups
- Create a **comfortable, lively, and safe public realm** that reflects the diversity of local residents
- Enhance **community participation** and **empowerment** through increased accountability of government, and institutions and businesses



Office of Black Male Advancement

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OUR MISSION

The Office of Black Male Advancement strives to improve outcomes and reduce systemic barriers to advancement for Black men and boys living in Boston. Our office works to empower Black men and boys. We want to ensure they have equitable access to opportunities in the City. As part of our work, we focus on policies, programs, resources, and local and national partnerships.

Our goal is to ensure Black men and boys have support to thrive and share in our City's prosperity.

Our Focus

- *Facilitate Black Men and Boys Commission meetings.*
- *Publicize report on Status of Black Men and Boys in Boston.*
- *Assist Black male constituents in accessing programs, services & critical information.*
- *Connect Black male-serving organizations to resources to better serve their constituents.*
- *Publicize critical resources to the Black male community.*
- *Support city, state, and federal governments, community based organizations and private sector to more equitably serve our Black male residents.*
- *Educate Boston residents on the Black Men and Boys Commission and Black Male Advancement programs.*
- *Monitor and advise city agencies and departments on issues pertaining to Black men and boys*
- *Design projects and programs that promote equity for Black men and boys which are not currently being implemented by existing city agencies.*
- *Perform outreach, communication, and liaison to Black men and boys related to community groups and organizations.*
- *Coordinate dialogues and action on behalf of city government to issues of concern to Black men and boys and related organizations.*

OUR PRIORITIES

- Economic Opportunity & Workers Empowerment
- Public Health & Wellness and Fatherhood & Families
- Education & Youth Advancement
- Affordable Housing & Pathways to Homeownership
- Community Safety & Returning Citizens
- Equity & Racial Justice

Our Programs

- **Black Men and Boys Commission:** *The 21-member Black Men and Boys Commission helps to advise the Mayor and the City of Boston on issues pertaining to Black men and boys. The Commission is made up of 21 community members with expertise, experience or knowledge on issues facing Black men and boys in Boston.*
- **My Brother's Keeper Boston:** *My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Boston program was established in partnership with the Obama Foundation and City of Boston, as the official Boston-chapter of the National MBK Alliance. The mission of the program is to dismantle the societal, economic, and educational barriers to the advancement of young Black males in Boston. MBK Boston aims to tackle these challenges through the concentration of policy, resources and partnerships. MBK Boston partners with local community based organizations, BPS schools, nonprofits and Colleges & Universities that serve Black Boys (ages 8-24) in Boston, and focus on the National MBK Alliance Milestones.*
- **Project Opportunity:** *Project Opportunity is a program that aims to create equitable opportunities for Boston residents with CORIs. The program (1) connects residents with free legal consultation for sealing or expunging records; (2) convenes panel discussions to address challenges and solutions for residents with CORIs; (3) connects residents with employment and training opportunities; (4) connects residents with key resources for well-being; and (5) trains City departments to meet the needs of residents with CORIs.*
- **Black Men Lead Boston:** *Black Men Lead Boston is a program for Black Men in Boston who wish to take more civic ownership and become leaders in the community. The program is a multi-week course for Black Male residents of Boston, prioritizes introducing participants to learning how to effectively navigate local government.*
- **Young Black Leaders Boston:** *Young Black Leaders Boston is a program for Black Boys in Boston who wish to take more civic ownership and become leaders in the community. The program is a multi-week course for Black Male residents of Boston, prioritizes introducing participants to learning how to effectively navigate local government.*

Our Reports

- *[The State of Black Males in Boston](#): This comprehensive report created by the Office of Black Male Advancement in partnership with Boston Planning and Development Agency's (BPDA) [Research Division](#). Using data gathered from a number of different peer-reviewed sources, the report is meant to help guide the Office's efforts to adequately address the systemic barriers to the advancement of Black Males in Boston.*

Demographic Data

- *Boston has approximately 90,000 Black male residents.*
- *25% of Black males are children under 18.*
- *Black male residents are represented in every neighborhood in Boston, with a higher concentration residing in Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan and Hyde Park.*
- *The countries with the largest number of foreign-born males are Haiti, Jamaica, & Cabo Verde.*

Our Housing Policy Recommendations

- *Increase pathways to generational wealth through access to affordable homeownership opportunities for first-time homebuyers in Boston*
- ***Black Affordable Housing Production Initiative:** Provide market-based subsidies to support the construction of new workforce homeownership opportunities prioritizing participation of teams that include partnerships with Black developers. Black developers may have insufficient financial capacity, net worth, and liquidity to carry large projects until initial financial closing and to support the many guarantees needed to participate in the real estate field.*
- ***Grow Down Payment Assistance Programs:** As an effective tool to bridge Black households to homeownership, help lower monthly mortgage payments and leverage more resources for mortgage approvals for Black households.*
- ***Support Credit Enhancement Programs:** Support programs that not only provide financial education, however, consider Credit building loan programs to pay down debt in the form of grants. With credit-builder loans, you make fixed payments to a lender and then get access to the loan amount at the end of the loan's term.*

Announcements

- **Community Empowerment Small Grant Fund:** *The fund allows community-based organizations serving the Black male community in Boston to receive funding for proven or promising programs that share our core values and are highly aligned with our strategies, goals and approaches to deepen their impact or bring their work to scale.*
- **Non Profit Capacity Building Institute:** *The capacity institute provides technical assistance to Community Based Organizations that share our core values and are highly aligned with our strategies, goals and approaches to deepen their impact or bring their work to scale. The institute provides nonprofit capacity-building solutions, through a combination of 1:1 coaching, peer-to-peer learning, fundraising, governance, board management, storytelling and compliance supports.*
- **R.E.A.C.H. 1000:** *BMA is working in partnership with BPS to connect young people with a network of individuals and organizations that serve as mentors. To support the first iteration of this program, BMA is looking to recruit 1,000 adult mentors over the next two years to connect with participating BPS students. As part of R.E.A.C.H. 1000, schools and mentees will have access to the following programs and learning opportunities: Black studies through dual enrollment; financial literacy; reading literacy, digital literacy; college and career pathways; and Generational Talent Small Grant. Mentees will also have an opportunity to engage with an Opportunity Lab, tailored for BPS Black seniors. The Lab will offer expert level technical support to scholars with their post secondary level plans, including higher education and careers.*

Our Team

- Frank Farrow, Executive Director
- Donte Peeples, Community Engagement Manager
- Jeysaun Gant, My Brother's Keeper Program Manager
- Elijah Richards, Resource Development Manager
- Branden Miles, Policy and Research Manager
- Maddrey Goode, Chief of Staff

Contact

bma@boston.gov

617-635-4708

THANK YOU

Introduction to Squares + Streets



1

Squares + Streets Overview



Overview

Squares + Streets, a new planning and zoning initiative that will focus on housing, public space, arts and culture, and transit in neighborhood centers and along main streets.



Squares + Streets Values and Goals

Expand Affordability

+ Facilitate growth in **mixed use zones** on neighborhood centers

+ **Reduce** resident transportation **spending**

+ Incentivize affordable **housing opportunities**

Promote Resilience

+ Promote **transit-oriented development**

+ Reduce vehicle dependence

+ Strengthen small **business ecosystems**

Advance Equity

+ **Expand access** to neighborhoods with rich transit

+ Open **investment pathways** for a wider range of property owners

+ **Spread** public and private **investment**

2

Squares + Streets Plans



Squares + Streets Planning Process



**SMALL AND SPECIFIC
AREAS**



**FOCUSED 6-9 MONTH
PROCESS**



**ACTION-ORIENTED
PLANS**

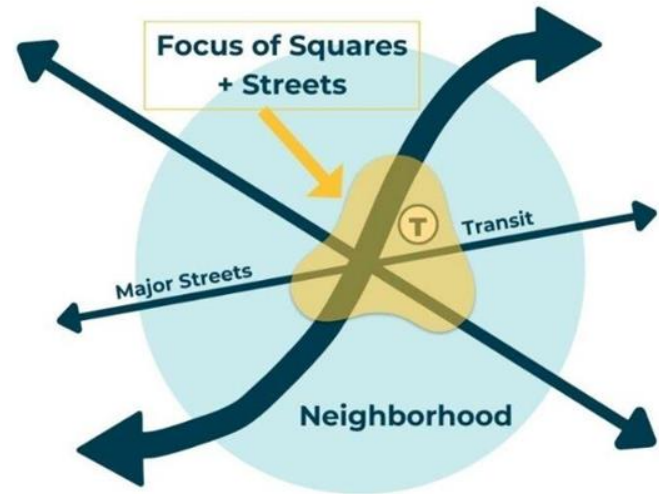


Small and Specific Areas



Boston's Neighborhood Commercial Centers

- Areas within 5-10 min walk of major transportation assets
- Existing activity hubs
 - Main Streets districts
 - Major civic anchors
 - Streets with clusters of existing commercial uses



Focused 6-9 Month Process



Action Oriented Plans



- **Partnerships** with other **City of Boston departments** to align planning with implementation pathways **that are achievable within 10 years:**
 - Programs and funding to promote and preserve small businesses, affordable housing, and arts and culture
 - Public space projects to address transportation, climate change, etc.
 - Plans for city-owned parcels
- Updated zoning to support housing and healthy business districts



3

Zoning Reform

Why do Squares + Streets need updated Zoning?

- **Diversify amenities** and uses in neighborhood centers to meet local needs
- **Reduce regulatory obstacles** for active uses and local businesses
- Set design and development standards that **support more housing options**
- **Ensure sustainable design** and green building standards
- Make the **zoning process** more **predictable, transparent, and accessible**



Creating Squares + Streets Zoning Districts Goals

Create zoning districts and their regulations for the various types of Squares + Streets areas



Create housing growth opportunities



Permit a mix of building uses and heights



Encourage active streets



Creating Squares + Streets Zoning Districts Timeline



4

Design Vision



Boston Design Vision



Which spaces do you use in multiple ways?

How do you feel traveling through spaces?

Tell us your stories and show us your views of Boston!

Where do you spend time with your communities?

Where do you like the look and feel of spaces?



boston planning & development agency

THANK YOU

RSMPOC Co-Chairs Norm Stembridge & Steven Godfrey

STAY CONNECTED: bit.ly/theRSMPOC

Jamarhl Crawford
jamarhl.crawford@boston.gov
617-308-4633