

INNOVATION ISLANDS





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Supports equitable access to the park and waterfront by investing in local community organizations and leaders:

- 5k grant & 200 free ferry tickets
- 50 organizations supported
- Over \$200,000 awarded





“An opportunity that felt both new and empowering.”
-Vania Arroyo (grantee), BlackBrownBoston

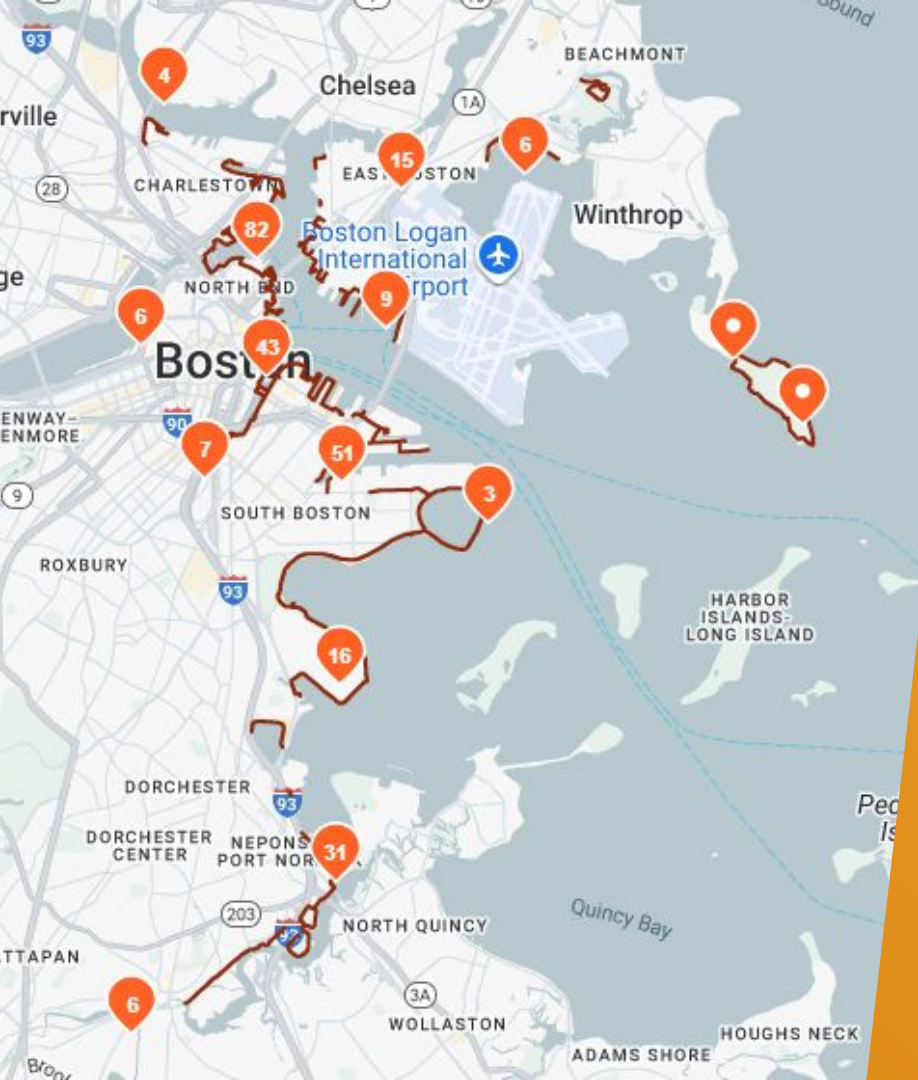


Sample of Events:

- Hip Hop performance showcase by and for the Deaf community
- Southeast Asian Coalition of MA community outing with lion dancing and
- STEM activities for black and brown youth
- BIPOC artists retreat
- LGBTQ+ historical picnic



Innovation Harborwalk



Innovation Harborwalk

Bringing the same island vibrancy to the waterfront! Combining the logistical ease of a land-side event with beautiful views of the harbor:

- Piers Park
- Castle Island
- Charlestown Navy Yard
- Seaport/Commonwealth Pier
- Long Wharf
- Christopher Columbus Park
- ...and more!

Welcome to Spectacle Island

The highest point of the Harbor, Spectacle Island is ideal for outdoor adventures. Over the years, the land has served several purposes, from supporting Native Americans, to farming and industry.

- Visitor center
- Bathrooms
- Hiking trails
- Informational signage
- Small swimming beach (NO lifeguard)



The Park Partnership!



boston planning &
development agency



THOMPSON ISLAND
OUTWARD BOUND
EDUCATION CENTER



Innovation Islands: How it started

In 2022, in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the Boston Harbor Islands as a national park and 50th anniversary as a state park, the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership awarded 12 local nonprofits with grants to support the development of new experiences that meet the unique needs of their community.

We've continued awarding new grantees every year since. We hope grants will empower and invest in our community partners, amplifying their impact, voices, and presence within the park.



WHO should apply?



We hope to partner with groups that may be underrepresented in island visitorship or programming. This includes but is not limited to:

- LGBTQIA2S+ communities
- Communities of color
- Deaf communities
- Environmental justice populations
- Cultural groups



Who should apply? **Eligibility**

Local individuals, community leaders, nonprofit organizations, and small businesses are encouraged to apply!

- 501(c)3 status is **NOT** required
- Certificate of Insurance (COI) is required (costs can be included in budget)
- 3 consecutive years maximum (eligibility resets after 2 year hiatus)
- Submit application by deadline - 2/27
- Timely reporting required for future eligibility

HOW are grantees selected?



Grant proposals are reviewed scored by a panel of reviewers from multiple organizations.

A cohort is select from highest scoring proposals.

The [2026 Rubric](#) is available online so you can write the strongest proposal possible! See bostonharborislands.org/innovation-islands for more info

WHAT comes with the grant?



AWARD AMOUNTS

- Up to \$5,000

TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT

- 200 free ferry tickets

CONSULTATION SUPPORT

- Virtual orientation
- Site visit(s)
- 2+ consultation meetings
- Assistance with permitting
- Info + Social media packet

Innovation Islands: Timeline

January 7 - Applications open

February 27 - Applications close

Early April - Award emails sent out

- Award emails will contain a Grant Agreement for you to read and sign
- You will need to finalize your program date and details during your consultations with Park staff

Paperwork

Application → Grant Agreement → Program Detail Form → Final Grant Report



WHEN are applications due by?



Applications must be submitted by:

11:59 pm EST on Friday Feb 27th

Funded programs will take place
between June and September

***Proposals for other dates may be considered
on a case by case basis.***

Questions?

Kinsey Mustafa-Widberg

kmustafawidberg@bostonharbornow.org

bostonharborislands.org/innovation-islands



Island Pass

Up to 100 Free Ferry Tickets for
community & school groups

bostonharborislands.org/free-access-groups



Better Beaches

Grants for programming on beaches
and beachfront parks

Apply by Jan 31st

savetheharbor.org/better-beaches

