

Legacy Fund for Boston Grant Guidelines - February 2024

History

The Legacy Fund for Boston (LFB) was established in 2018 with the sole purpose of managing charitable funds for the benefit of the City of Boston and its residents. The principal activity and purposes of LFB are to receive and distribute funds to enhance and preserve the character, sense of community and space, and cultural aspects of the City of Boston, with a particular focus on historic preservation. More specifically, LFB's efforts would result in Boston's continued presence as a vibrant, diverse, world-class city that respects, protects, and celebrates its historic resources coincident with enlightened development and change. LFB was incorporated as a public charity in 2022 as it began to receive charitable funds.

Mission

The Legacy Fund for Boston is a public charity which supports the endurance of places and spaces that are meaningful to Bostonians and the historic character of the entire city of Boston.

Eligibility to Apply

- Applicants must be qualified nonprofit organizations.
- Projects must be located within the City of Boston.
- Projects must relate to and/or promote historic preservation.

Focus Areas for Grants

Grants will be awarded to projects that focus on one or more of the following:

- Restoration/rehabilitation/preservation of historic resources including buildings, landscapes, statues/monuments, materials, or other historic resources
- Addressing gaps or needs in historic preservation and community vitality in Boston
- Expanding inclusivity and equity across Boston's diverse neighborhoods and are active in engaging those communities
- Educating about the history and evolution of the City of Boston
- Raising awareness about the importance of historic preservation
- Providing training for advocacy, trades, or other skills related to historic preservation
- Conducting research, studies, surveys, reports, plans, or other documentation needed to advance a project, initiative, or the practice of historic preservation in Boston
- Have or enable professional planning and/or design
- Include green design, energy efficiency, or decarbonization efforts
- Projects that are accessible and/or visible to the public or in the public realm, or are being redesigned to increase accessibility or visibility.

- Any other programs that support historic preservation.

LFB is soliciting proposals in a two-step application process, with an initial letter of inquiry, after which full proposals would be invited (as outlined in greater detail below). LFB will accept project-specific requests for planning grants and/or educational projects; capital preservation and/or restoration projects; and partnerships and collaboration. All applications must meet the eligibility requirements and be in furtherance of one or more of the focus areas noted above.

Sample uses of funds could include (not limited to):

1. Conduct a capital needs assessment or other study with a road map and sequence for facility preservation.
2. Design development for restoration efforts, i.e., creating drawings or renderings
3. Funding for capital investment in related buildings or landscape preservation, restoration, and/or rehabilitation
4. Acquisition of land, buildings, or easements for historic preservation purposes
5. Grants for other unmet needs related to historic preservation, planning, design, or implementation
6. Partnerships with City of Boston or other public agencies or organizations to address fundamental needs for preservation in the City of Boston
7. Programming, interpretation, or education programs related to Boston's diverse history

For the spring 2024 grant round, LFB is particularly interested in:

- Projects not able to be funded via other sources
- Projects nearing completion within 12-18 months of funding being awarded

The maximum grant request for 2024 is \$100,000. LFB anticipates funding a range of project sizes up to the maximum amount.

LFB will not accept proposals for:

- Support for individuals, including scholars pursuing academic research
- Support for legislation, lobbying, or other political activity
- Research not connected to a specific preservation, restoration, advocacy, or educational project

Directors

Kathy Kottaridis, Historic Boston, LFB Chair
Alison Frazee, Boston Preservation Alliance, LFB Treasurer
Carissa Demore, Historic New England, LFB Director
Deneen Crosby, LFB Director
Byron Rushing, LFB Director
Candelaria Silva-Collins, LFB Director
Gerald Ward, Museum of Fine Arts, LFB Director

LFB Directors will hold a virtual Applicant Forum on **March 25th from 1-2pm** to review the grant application process and answer applicant questions. Please click [here](#) to RSVP.

How to Apply

LFB will review grants in a two-step application process. Initial Letters of Inquiry (LOI) are due by **April 16, 2024** and will be reviewed by the current LFB Directors. A smaller number of projects will be invited to submit full proposals. Full proposal guidelines will be sent to those invited to the next round of review at the time they are notified. Applicants will be notified by early June, with full proposals due by September 1 and funding decisions made by December 1.

The maximum grant request for 2024 is \$100,000. LFB anticipates funding a range of project sizes up to the maximum amount. At this time, LFB is only accepting requests for single year grant awards.

Applicants at the LOI stage will be required to complete an online application requesting the following information. Please visit <https://goapply2.akoyago.com/hembar> to apply.

Fillable online form with the following questions:

1. Applicant organization or fiscal sponsor legal name, federal tax ID#, primary contact and mailing address, website, and address of project site, if different
2. Brief description of applicant organization, its mission, history, and current programs/services (one paragraph in online form)
3. Amount of current fiscal year organization operating budget
4. Requested amount
5. Type of support requested – program or capital
6. Program area: building restoration, outdoor, planning, education/outreach, advocacy, or other
7. Title of Program/Project
8. Program/Project summary
9. Total project budget amount and amount raised to date for this request

Uploads

1. Please submit a letter, to be uploaded as an attachment, which should not exceed two pages, which includes the following:
 - a. How the project meets the LFB mission and focus areas.
 - b. How you define the historic significance of your project, project site, or structure.
 - c. How the project contributes to the character and sense of place of your neighborhood or surrounding community.
 - d. Project timeline

- e. Please also indicate whether any permits or other public agency approvals must be secured for the project, whether they have been secured, and what the timeline is for consideration of any permit applications.
2. Optional:
- a. Images of site of proposed project, if applicable
 - b. Project timeline (if more detailed than can be accommodated in 1(d) above)

Definitions

All applications must have a goal or focus on historic preservation.

PRESERVATION IS DEFINED AS the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity and materials of an historic property. Protection, maintenance and repair are emphasized while replacement is minimized.

RESTORATION IS DEFINED AS the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period.

REHABILITATION IS DEFINED AS the process of returning a building or buildings to a state of utility, through repair or alteration, which makes possible an efficient use while preserving those portions and features of the building and its site and environment which are significant to its historic, architectural, and cultural values.

FAQs

1. How is LFB different from the Henderson Foundation or CPA? LFB is a new funding source, and is using this first round of grants to further develop its giving priorities, which will be refined and evolve over time. LFB would like to hear from the widest range of the preservation community about where its grants can add the greatest value and complement existing public and private sources.
2. How is LFB funded? LFB is a public charity which receives charitable contributions and grants from City agencies and private developers to mitigate adverse impacts from private development in Boston. LFB is not an endowed foundation. It sets an annual grants budget based on available funds.
3. Will the Fund make unrestricted, general operating grants? At this time, the Fund is prioritizing project-specific grants, including capital grants.
4. What criteria will be used to choose organizations to advance to the second stage of review? LFB Directors will select applicants whose projects most closely adhere to the mission and focus areas articulated above. Projects that present a clear program and plan, timeline, and articulation of how LFB funding can help complete a project or advance project goals will be prioritized.
5. Can we apply for a grant that is smaller than the maximum amount? Yes. LFB anticipates awarding a range of funding amounts up to the maximum amount.
6. What are the full proposal guidelines if we are selected to advance past the LOI stage? LFB will invite a selected number of applicants to submit a full proposal.

Those guidelines will be shared at that time, but will require a more detailed project plan, timeline, and documentation.

7. If our organization is not an incorporated nonprofit, are we eligible to apply? Organizations that do not have IRS tax exempt status may apply through a qualified fiscal sponsor.
8. Will the Fund be able to support small businesses or other private/for-profit entities? At this time the Fund will not support private entities.
9. Are there opportunities for emergency or time-sensitive funding? From time to time, LFB may make discretionary grants for time-sensitive projects.

Contact Information

The Legacy Fund for Boston's grantmaking is being managed and administered at Hemenway & Barnes LLP. Please direct any questions on the application process to:

Gioia Perugini, Director of Philanthropic Services

gperugini@hembar.com

617.557.9777

[The Legacy Fund for Boston](#)