

State Of Maryland

2025 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Thomas Johnson Elementary-Middle School		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
Ferguson	Edelson	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Baltimore City	\$100,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Thomas Johnson Elementary/Middle School with playground renovation including a new, inclusive, and engaging playspace		
7. Matching Fund		
Requirements:	Type:	
Grant		
8. Special Provisions		
☐ Historical Easement	☒ Non-Sectarian	
9. Contact Name and Title	Contact Ph#	Email Address
Sally Dorman		301-641-3789
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
KABOOM! Is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to end playspace inequity in communities around the country. Over the course of our 28-year history we have built over 17,000 playspaces in different neighborhoods throughout the United States. Since our launch in 1997, we have worked extensively in Maryland and specifically Baltimore. During this history, we have invested over \$11 million and built over 60 new playspaces. Currently, we are working with Baltimore City Recreation and Parks and Baltimore City Public Schools on ending disparities in their playground infrastructure through our national 25 in 5 initiative. Baltimore City was the inaugural partner in this national campaign to highlight and end racial disparities in playspace access.		

11. Description and Purpose of Project (Limit length to visible area)

Thomas Johnson Elementary/Middle School serves students from Pre-K through the 8th grade. There are currently 518 students enrolled. Less than 5% of students demonstrate the skills necessary to start kindergarten according to the states start of school year assessment. 35% of students are Title I eligible and 12% of students have some type of disability. The surrounding area has a childhood poverty rate of 29.6% which is 16-points higher than the national average. Only 49% of individuals own their homes. Approximately 1 in 3 children in Baltimore City are considered obese and suffer from dietary related illnesses. Active play can have a significant positive impact in improving those health statistics, as well as other improvements in students mental and physical health. A new playground at the school will encourage more students to play and be outside. It will also create an outdoor learning space teachers can use to engage students.

Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 12 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 13 (Proposed Funding Sources) must match. The proposed funding sources must not include the value of real property unless an equivalent value is shown under Estimated Capital Costs.

12. Estimated Capital Costs

Acquisition	\$0
Design	\$73,000
Construction	\$80,000
Equipment	\$80,000
Total	\$233,000

13. Proposed Funding Sources - (List all funding sources and amounts.)

LBI Funding	\$100,000
Private Donation Match	\$133,000
Total	\$233,000

14. Project Schedule (Enter a date or one of the following in each box. N/A, TBD or Complete)			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
2/15/2026	3/10/26	6/1/2026	7/1/2026
15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised	16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site	17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete	
0	540	540	
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
2023	\$250,000	Build and renovate playgrounds	
2024	\$750,000	Build and renovate playgrounds	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
KABOOM! 7200 Wisconsin Ave. Ste. 400 Bethesda, MD 20814		100 E Heath Street Baltimore, MD 21230	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	46 - Baltimore City		
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check One)			
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
☐	☐	☒	☐
22. Grantee Legal Representative		23. If Match Includes Real Property:	
Name:	Lysa Ratliff	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:	202-659-0215		
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value	
7200 Wisconsin Ave. Ste. 400 Bethesda, MD 20814			

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
50	50		
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond purposes)			
A. Will the grantee own or lease (pick one) the property to be improved?			Own
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			No
C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?			No
D. If property is owned by grantee any space is to be leased, provide the following:			
Lessee	Terms of Lease	Cost Covered by Lease	Square Footage Leased
E. If property is leased by grantee - Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	2,500		
Space to be Renovated GSF	2,500		
New GSF	0		

27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion	2026
28. Comments	
The Thomas Johnson Elementary/Middle School playground renovation project is scheduled to be completed next year. KABOOM! is committed to raising private funds to match a public investment to accelerate the pace of BCPSs schoolyard playground improvement project. We are currently raising funds to undertake other projects throughout the district through a combination of public and private funding, with the goal of renovating at least 5 playgrounds in Baltimore in 2026. KABOOM! is working with a number of community partners across Baltimore to ensure that the new playground reflects the design preferences of the children, parents, teachers, and staff. Our community driven design process has been shown to increase childrens engagement with the playground, which results in a wider distribution of the playgrounds health benefits. This will be KABOOM!'s third year working in Baltimore through a combination of LBI and public funding. Because of the General Assemblys investment KABOOM! has opened over a dozen new playgrounds since the beginning of our 25 in 5 initiative work and the City and School District administrations have invested millions more to improving their outdoor recreation infrastructure.	