

State Of Maryland

2026 Bond Initiative Fact Sheet

1. Name Of Project		
Leith Walk Elementary Tot Lot Playground		
2. Senate Sponsor	3. House Sponsor	
	Embry	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)	5. Requested Amount	
Baltimore City	\$160,000	
6. Purpose of Bond Initiative		
the acquisition, planning, design, construction, expansion, repair, renovation, reconstruction, site improvement, and capital equipping of the Leith Walk Elementary Tot Lot Playground		
7. Matching Fund		
Requirements:	Type:	
Grant		
8. Special Provisions		
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian	
9. Contact Name and Title	Contact Ph#	Email Address
Sally Dorman		202.659.0215
10. Description and Purpose of Organization (Limit length to visible area)		
<p>KABOOM! is a national nonprofit located in Bethesda, MD that is dedicated to ending playspace inequity in historically disinvested communities across America. We work with neighborhoods and school districts in Maryland, and other states, to create safe, engaging, and high-quality playgrounds that children help design and communities help build. We identify the areas we do our work in by prioritizing those that have experienced discrepancies in funding based on racial, economic, and social demographics across generations. Our data-driven and equity focused approach ensures that the kids we are helping through greater play access are the ones who can gain the most from the physical, emotional, and social benefits of play.</p>		

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

This project will provide the students at Leith Walk Elementary with a brand new schoolyard playground that is safe, engaging, and enhances positive student interactions in an outdoor space. A growing number of children across the United States, but especially in Baltimore, are faced with increasing physical and mental health challenges associated with a lack of physical activity. Baltimore childhood obesity and diabetes rates, 25.8% and 12.6% respectively, are already higher than state averages. According to a Baltimore City Schools survey, 40.6% of students reported having feelings of sadness or loneliness and 42% of families said having stress relievers available at the school would help their children. Having access to stress relievers, like playgrounds at recess, helps improve academic performance and reduces chronic absenteeism, which in Baltimore is amongst the highest in the nation at 48.7%.

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	\$0
Construction	\$120,000
Equipment	\$180,000
Total	\$300,000

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

Legislative Bond Initiative Funding	\$160,000
KABOOM! Matching Grant Funding	\$140,000
Total	\$300,000

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
04/01/27	06/01/27	08/15/27	08/18/27
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
0.00	175		200
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in the Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
2024	\$150,000	Construction of a new playground for the Elementary	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
KABOOM! 7200 Wisconsin Ave. Ste. 400 Bethesda, MD 20814		5915 Glennor Rd, Baltimore, MD 21239	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	43A - Baltimore City		
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check One)			
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal
[]	[]	[X]	[]
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
101	105	5000000.00	5000000.00
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

2015

28. Comments

KABOOM! has a public-private partnership (P3) with Baltimore City Schools that leverages private resources to match public investment in improving the quality of schoolyard playgrounds throughout the district. Over the last five years, KABOOM! has brought almost \$3 million in additional resources to the City and District to match the public resources which have been committed to this work. P3s are instrumental to bringing an entrepreneurial style of government which helps solve the challenges the public sector is being required to address in this rapidly evolving and dynamic environment.

The work we have done in Baltimore has been cited by national leaders in the outdoor recreation space at a variety of conferences and was recently the subject of a published KABOOM! case study on P3s. The support from Baltimore City Schools has been instrumental to our partnership and has made this initiative a resounding success. Working together with City Schools, KABOOM! employs an equity based evaluation system to select which projects to focus on. This equity based evaluation looks at the racialized history of Baltimores public investments from the early to late 20th century and how leaders are still dealing with the consequences of that history today. The private investment we have been able to secure to improve Baltimores outdoor recreation infrastructure is not only correcting this historic injustice but also putting our younger generation on a different public health outcome trajectory.

This work also relies on public sector partners, like the Maryland General Assembly, which has been instrumental over the last several years in expanding the public investment so that KABOOM! can leverage additional private matching funds. This support has accelerated our work and allowed this partnership to innovate with new and different kinds playspaces, like Nature Exploration Areas, which will be introduced to Baltimore City Schools in 2026.