



NEWS

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

State House, Room 337
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Contact: Debra O'Malley
Telephone: 617-727-9180

June 18, 2019

SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2019 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO THE JAMES ALEXANDER OF FINEGOLD ALEXANDER ARCHITECTS

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, Chair of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has announced that architect James Alexander has received a lifetime achievement award from the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

“The Massachusetts Historical Commission is proud to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of this year’s awardees,” said Secretary Galvin. “The projects the Commission recognizes this year are particularly diverse and represent the many creative ways that significant historic resources are being preserved across the Commonwealth. In addition to the projects, we are pleased to honor James Alexander, whose nearly 50-year career in architecture has included a great number of notable preservation projects.”

Mr. Alexander has been involved in preservation projects in Massachusetts and beyond since the beginning of his career. His early involvement in adaptive reuse, restoration, and renovation of historic buildings helped establish national standards for saving important historic structures at a time when urban renewal typically meant removal. His Newburyport Master Plan from the mid-1970s, which focused on adaptive reuse, won several awards, including the 1975 American Institute of Architecture Honor Design Award at the New England Regional Conference, the 1975 Henry David Thoreau Honor Award for Design Excellence, the 1976 HUD National Honor Award for Design Excellence, the 1976 DOT Federal Highway Administration Environment Award, and the 1980 AIA National Honor Award (the first time such an award was given for adaptive reuse). This plan for the historic city was a direct challenge to urban renewal and provided an alternative to sweeping demolition and redevelopment. The resulting rehabilitation of Newburyport’s historic downtown was both influential and groundbreaking.

Mr. Alexander has overseen many major preservation projects in Massachusetts. One is the rehabilitation of the early 20th century Tudor- and Classical Revival-style



NEWS

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

State House, Room 337
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Contact: Debra O'Malley
Telephone: 617-727-9180

Administration Building at the former Boston Sanitarium in Mattapan, now known as the Foley Residences, a project that used historic rehabilitation tax credits to create affordable senior housing. Other projects include: the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of Boston's Second Empire-style Old City Hall, designed by Gridley Bryant in 1862 and a National Historic Landmark; master planning (with the Boston Redevelopment Authority) and adaptive reuse of buildings at the Charlestown Navy Yard; and a current project, the restoration of the First Church of Christ, Scientist's vast Romanesque Revival-style Mother Church of 1884 and 1906.

Several of Mr. Alexander's other significant projects have received preservation awards from the Massachusetts Historical Commission in past years. These include a 2011 award for the Salem Jail Residences and a 2017 award for the restoration and rehabilitation of the Old Chapel at UMass Amherst.

Mr. Alexander has served on the Boston Landmarks Commission and as past chairman of Preservation Massachusetts. He was recognized as a fellow by the American Institute of Architects for his outstanding contributions to the profession through design excellence and his advancement of the profession. As an architect, mentor, and community leader, Mr. Alexander continues to bring experience and dedication to his role as a leading practitioner and advocate for historic preservation in Massachusetts.

This is the 41st year of MHC's Preservation Awards program. Projects are considered annually for awards in the categories of Rehabilitation and Restoration, Adaptive Reuse, Education and Outreach, Archaeology, Stewardship, and Landscape Preservation. Individuals are considered in the categories of Lifetime Achievement and Local Preservationist. Secretary Galvin serves as the chair of the 17-member Massachusetts Historical Commission.



NEWS

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

State House, Room 337
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Contact: Debra O'Malley
Telephone: 617-727-9180





NEWS

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

State House, Room 337
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Contact: Debra O'Malley
Telephone: 617-727-9180



Secretary Galvin is pictured presenting the award for James Alexander to two of his colleagues, as he was unable to attend, at an afternoon ceremony on June 6, 2019, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (photo of Mr. Alexander by Frank Monkewicz Photography; photo of (left to right) Rebecca Berry, Secretary Galvin, and Regan Shields Ives by Goodnough Photography).

###