

# Preservation is Revolutionary

ANNUAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

June 11, 2026 | 521 Overlook at Fenway Park



**2026 People's Preservation Choice Award Nominee**

**Zeiterion (formerly known as the Zeiterion Theatre)**

The Zeiterion Performing Arts Center is not just a building. It is a place people fought for over generations.

For decades, “The Z” has been part of everyday life in New Bedford. It is where people gathered, celebrated, and felt connected. When it needed help, the community showed up. What started as a modest upgrade quickly grew into a \$37 million transformation because people cared that much. Local leaders, donors, and residents all came together to make sure this theater would not just survive but thrive.

This project listened to that energy. It kept what people love: the historic beauty, the memories, the feeling of walking into something special. At the same time, it opened the doors wider than ever before. The building is now fully accessible. New spaces like education studios and a speakeasy invite more people in, more often. It is no longer just a place you visit for a show. It is a place you belong.

The impact goes beyond the walls. The Zeiterion brings life to downtown New Bedford. It supports local jobs, draws visitors, and helps small businesses grow. But more importantly, it gives the community something to be proud of. This is why it connects so strongly with the public. People see themselves in this project. They helped shape it. They recognize it. They use it.

The Zeiterion's transformation shows what preservation can be at its best, not just saving a building, but keeping a shared story alive. It proves that when a community cares deeply about a place, that place can come back stronger than ever.