

Preservation is Revolutionary

ANNUAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

June 11, 2026 | 521 Overlook at Fenway Park



2026 People's Preservation Choice Award Nominee

The Corinthian

The Corinthian stands as a compelling example of how historic preservation can honor the past while thoughtfully embracing the future. Originally constructed in 1915 as St. Charles Borromeo Church, this Italian Renaissance Revival landmark has long served as a spiritual, architectural, and cultural anchor in Waltham. Designed with enduring materials and classical proportions, the building was meant to last — and it has, even surviving a devastating fire in 1927 that left its core structure intact.

When the church's original use concluded during the COVID-19 pandemic, the building faced an uncertain future shared by many historic religious properties: vacancy, deterioration, and potential loss. Rather than allowing this irreplaceable structure to fade, the development team approached the project with a clear and thoughtful vision — to preserve the soul of the building while ensuring its continued relevance.

Through careful adaptive reuse, The Corinthian retains its defining architectural features, including its scale, craftsmanship, and iconic presence, while introducing new residential use that respects its historic character. This balance between preservation and evolution reflects a deeper understanding of what preservation truly means. It is not about freezing a building in time, but about guiding change with intention — allowing historic structures to remain active, occupied, and valued.

What makes this project especially meaningful is its deep connection to the community. The development team is rooted in Waltham, bringing a personal sense of responsibility and pride to the work. This is not simply a redevelopment project, but a commitment to honoring the city's history while contributing to its future.

The Corinthian also serves as a model for the adaptive reuse of historic churches across Massachusetts and beyond. These structures often present complex challenges, both practical and emotional. By approaching the project with sensitivity, transparency, and respect, the team has demonstrated that preservation can be a forward-looking solution — one that maintains architectural beauty, reduces environmental impact, and preserves cultural memory.

Ultimately, The Corinthian redefines preservation as an active and living practice. It shows that with care and vision, historic buildings can continue to serve their communities in meaningful ways. For its thoughtful execution, respect for historic character, and commitment to long-term stewardship, The Corinthian is a deserving candidate for the People's Preservation Choice.