

Preservation is Revolutionary

ANNUAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

June 11, 2026 | 521 Overlook at Fenway Park



2026 People's Preservation Choice Award Nominee

Paul Revere Mall

As the nation commemorates the United States Semiquincentennial, the renewed Paul Revere Mall stands as a powerful and timely expression of history, design, and civic life—an exemplary candidate for recognition.

At its heart, the iconic Paul Revere Statue by Cyrus Dallin captures Paul Revere mid-ride, aligned with the steeple of Old North Church. This unforgettable composition connects visitors directly to the moment that helped spark the American Revolutionary War, transforming the space into a living narrative of American identity.

Originally envisioned by James Michael Curley and designed by Arthur Shurcliff, the mall reimagined Boston's North End as a formal civic landscape—linking Old North Church and St. Stephen's Church through a cruciform plan defined by brick and bluestone paving, enclosing walls, and a rhythmic allée of linden trees. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is both a cultural landmark and a masterwork of urban design.

The recent renovation elevates this legacy through a seamless blend of preservation and innovation. Historic paving was restored, trees revitalized, and accessibility transformed with a universally accessible path from Hanover Street. The alignment of the Freedom Trail—traveled by millions annually—was clarified to enhance circulation and visitor experience.

Critical infrastructure improvements, including drainage upgrades and a fully modernized fountain originally designed by Henry R. Shepley, ensure long-term performance. Thirteen bronze plaques were conserved, lighting was sensitively updated, and masonry elements meticulously repaired.

Most importantly, the project reinforces the mall's defining viewsheds—reconnecting the statue, the churches, and the city into a cohesive and compelling spatial story.

This is more than a restoration—it is a reinvigoration of a nationally significant landscape at a moment of profound reflection. The Paul Revere Mall stands as a model for how historic public spaces can be renewed to serve contemporary audiences while honoring their past.