



2026 Preservation Awards Nomination Prep Document

Each year, Preservation Massachusetts celebrates the individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to preserving the Commonwealth's historic resources. Preservation Massachusetts will select the 2026 award recipients from nominations received by the **April 11, 2026 deadline**.

The online Nomination Portal does not provide an option to "save" your progress, so we have developed this prep document to assist in organizing your nomination information in advance. We recommend you prepare your answers using this document as a guide and "cut and paste" into the online Nomination Portal.

If you are unable to use the Nomination Portal, please email jruddendube@preservationmass.org and we will assist you.

Nominees for the 2026 Awards must meet all of the following requirements:

- located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (for people or organizations, must have a demonstrated history of work in MA);
- completed within the last 5 years and currently in service; and
- submitted with a complete application. Incomplete or late nominations may not be considered.

AWARD CATEGORIES

The Paul & Niki Tsongas Award (Project/People): Recognizing those that have displayed the highest level of commitment to historic preservation in the Commonwealth.

Criteria:

- Groundbreaking project in terms of scale, difficulty, impact, and significance to preservation in the community, state, northeast region, etc.
- A model of preservation practice, technique, application, and partnership
- Creates and enhances opportunities for the community beyond the rehabilitation of an historic building
- Embodies the ideals, dedication, and belief in community-based preservation exemplified by both Senator and Congresswoman Tsongas

The Mayor Thomas M. Menino Legacy Award (Project): Recognizing preservation projects that are transformative, catalytic, embrace the community, create partnerships, and revitalize the best of the past to make something good for the future.

Criteria:

- Accelerates change in the community, in terms of investment and future potential
- Creates partnerships and involves the community
- Embodies the ideals of community, preservation, and belief that Mayor Menino exemplified

The Frederick Law Olmsted Award (Project): Recognizing dedication to the promotion of our cultural landscapes.

Criteria:

- Preservation/restoration of an important open space, park, natural resource, landscape, or landscape component of a larger project
- Planning and advocacy efforts on behalf of historic landscape preservation

The Robert K. Kuehn, Jr. Award (Project): Recognizing projects that meld collaborative partnerships with creative and cutting-edge ideas for the rehabilitation and active reuse of historic buildings.

Criteria:

- Involves unique and creative partnerships
- Includes green and sustainable elements, practices, or other innovative technologies

The Charles W. Eliot Award (People/Organization): Recognizing organizations with exceptional vision and excellence in planning for preservation.

Criteria:

- Advances limits of how preservation is perceived, practiced, and implemented
- Leads in promoting, educating, and expanding the narrative of preservation

The People's Preservation Choice: A public vote to select the favorite successful restoration and rehabilitation project. The winner will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on June 11, 2026. Projects nominated for other awards may also be considered for the People's Preservation Choice (PPC). You must opt in to be considered for this award, and you must complete the additional PPC project summary. This is how we will promote your project on our voting site.

Criteria:

- Successful restoration and rehabilitation of a local, state, or nationally significant historic building in Massachusetts
- Project resulted in increased and broadened awareness/appreciation for preservation within the community.

2026 PRESERVATION AWARDS NOMINATION QUESTIONS

Nominator Name, Email, Phone

Connection to Nominee - owner, consultant, architect, commission member, staff, etc.

Are you nominating a project, or a person/organization?

Nominee Name - *The name of the project or person/organization you are nominating. This is how we will refer to the awardee.*

Nominee Address (Street, City, State, Zip)

Nominee/Project Contact Email *For the project's main contact (e.g. owner, developer, etc.). This person will become the main contact if selected for an award.*

Nominee Website

Nomination Sales-Pitch

Provide a 1-2 page overview of your nominee and why it deserves a preservation award. Include interesting historic and current facts and major highlights, impacts, and contributions that the nominee has had on preservation in the community. Be enthusiastic and inspiring! Specific details to include:

- How does the nominee help positively define preservation?
- How does the nominee broaden the understanding, appreciation, and implementation of preservation?
- How does the nominee inspire others, both in the preservation field and beyond?
- List anything else unique or interesting about the nominee.

Award Categories

Indicate all award category(-ies) where you wish to be considered. Refer to the award descriptions and criteria provided at the beginning of this prep document.

To be considered for the 2026 People's Preservation Choice Award, you must select that option and provide the additional PPC narrative.

- The Paul & Niki Tsongas Award
- The Mayor Thomas M. Menino Legacy Award
- The Frederick Law Olmsted Award
- The Robert H. Kuehn, Jr. Award
- The Charles W. Eliot Award
- The People's Preservation Choice Award

QUESTIONS FOR PROJECT NOMINATIONS

Project Team List

If nominating a project, provide a complete list of the entire project team, their roles, and contact information (e.g. owner, architect, contractor, preservation consultant, funders and financial consultants, specialized preservation/conservation trades, engineers, landscape, environmental consultants, partner organizations, local/state agencies, etc.).

Include as many as you wish – we will incorporate this list into our final awards and want to ensure your team knows about the nomination and possible selection as an awardee.

Project Nomination Information

Please include a 1-2 page, detailed project narrative that includes information such as both the historic and current usage, completion date, project development costs, funding sources, challenges overcome, improvements and benefits to the community, historic preservation elements, economics impact, use of technology, sustainability goals, etc.

Historic Designations

- National Register of Historic Places
- Local Historic District
- National Register District
- Local Landmark
- National Historic Landmark Historic
- Landscape

QUESTIONS FOR PEOPLE/ORGANIZATION NOMINATIONS

People/Organizational Expertise & Work

Please select the nominee's areas of expertise or involvement with preservation from the following list.

- Leadership - Non-Profit/Advocacy/Grassroots Work
- Leadership - Public/Elected Office or Role Leadership -
- Private Business
- Advocacy
- Education
- Public Policy/Legislative Work
- Consultation
- Real Estate/Development
- Finance or Funding (Project or Program) Economic &
- Community Development
- Legal Expertise
- Construction
- Engineering
- Architecture & Design
- Craftsmanship & Materials Conservation
- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape Architecture/Preservation/Conservation
- Stewardship
- Archaeology

Additional Support Documentation

Attach any additional supporting documents for your nomination. Letters of support can be attached as PDFs.

Is the nominee being considered for a People's Preservation Choice Award? Y/N

People's Preservation Choice (PPC) Narrative

To be considered for the PPC, attach a 350-500 word description of the nominee that will be shared on our voting site. This is where you make your case to the public and share your story. Describe how the project defines preservation in the community or the Commonwealth, as well as other interesting facts about why YOUR nominee should be selected as 2026 PPC Winner. Be persuasive, inspiring, and enthusiastic!

High Resolution Project Photos with Credit

Attach up to 10 high-resolution JPEG images of the nominee. For projects, include before & after photos. For people or organizations, show the nominee at work or the results of their efforts. You may also submit short videos of your project. If the file size is too large, email jruddendube@preservationmass.org to arrange a file transfer. Please be sure to include photo credits, which can be provided as a separate document as needed.

To submit your nomination, click the submit button. A member of PM's staff will confirm receipt of your nomination within 3 business days. Thank you for your patience.

Questions? jruddendube@preservationmass.org