



The Pryde

The Pryde is a transformative housing project that brings together the best of preservation, inclusivity, and sustainability. Located in the heart of Boston's Hyde Park, the project repurposes the historic William Barton Rogers School into a vibrant and welcoming home for LGBTQ+ seniors. This thoughtful adaptation addresses the unique needs of LGBTQ+ older adults, offering affordable housing and a sanctuary where residents can find a community in which to age safely and with dignity.

At the core of The Pryde is a commitment to preserving the past and creating a future of inclusion. The building, dating back to 1902 and last used as a school in 2014, now serves as a testament to how adaptive reuse can breathe new life into historic structures. The project retains the school's iconic façades and interior architectural elements while transforming its classrooms into 74 residential units and a community center that enriches the neighborhood. The design emphasizes accessibility, ensuring that every resident feels at home.

The project is deeply rooted in community engagement, with over 400 community members offering letters of support during the public RFP process. This strong foundation of collaboration has led to spaces that encourage interaction with the larger Hyde Park community, from the LGBTQ+ focused library and art rooms for expressive therapies to a gallery showcasing local artists. The project includes a new home for the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment (one of the first Black U.S. Army units to serve in the Civil War). These areas are designed to reduce isolation and promote lifelong learning, keeping the spirit of the school alive.

Preserving the building's historic features was a key priority throughout the design process. Original elements, including the gymnasium's glazed brick walls, steel stair railings, the cafeteria's terrazzo floors, and the auditorium's cast-gypsum frieze and coffered ceilings, were carefully restored. The classrooms retain many of their historic elements, with original wood floors, millwork, and slate chalkboards integrated into the new living spaces. The slate roof was replaced, original copper flashings and gutters were repaired and reinstalled, and the existing masonry was repointed and repaired. Historically appropriate windows were added, restoring the building's exterior to more closely resemble its original appearance.

The design team worked closely with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and

National Park Service (NPS) to ensure that the building's legacy was respected while adapting it to meet contemporary needs. The Pryde is designed to meet LEED Gold standards, with all-electric systems, energy-efficient windows that replicate the original historic windows, and a highly insulated envelope that ensures a comfortable environment for all residents.

The Pryde isn't just about creating more housing – it's about creating a lasting legacy. It stands as a beacon of hope and empowerment for LGBTQ+ seniors, offering them a place to live that is as rich in history as it is in opportunity. By blending historic preservation with modern design, The Pryde ensures that the stories of the past continue to shape the future, while providing a home that honors and celebrates diversity, inclusivity, and community.