

BOSTON PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

The Pulse of Preservation

2024 Annual Report.



A LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends, as President of the Boston Preservation Alliance Board of Directors, I want to thank you—our members and supporters—for helping the Alliance grow stronger and more impactful with each new year.

The Alliance continues to be a vocal advocate for Boston’s built environment. Our overarching goal is to connect people to place through storytelling, events, and most importantly, advocacy. Although the built environment will always be the primary focus of our work, we have a renewed commitment to elevating the stories of each neighborhood that make Boston unique and a thriving place to live, work, and visit.

I hope you will be as energized as I am to reflect on our accomplishments in 2024, as well as to dream about all we will accomplish together in 2025. I want to express my gratitude to the staff: Deputy Director Matthew Dickey, Past Executive Director Alison Frazee, and Interim Executive Director Kimberlee Schumacher. Without the dedication of the staff and incredible Board of Directors and Young Advisors, none of this would be possible.

The generosity from you—our members and donors—enables the important work we do. Thank you for your partnership in caring for the City of Boston and protecting its vibrant people, places, and stories.

With gratitude



Regan Shields Ives AIA, LEED AP, Board President



Washington Street and the Ladder Blocks. Photo by Matthew Dickey.



THE PULSE OF PRESERVATION

What is preservation? It's a difficult thing to describe. Is it the way the light and shadow dance along historic brick facades in winter? Perhaps it's the smell of cannoli wafting from the North End? Or the sound of bagpipes marching down Broadway? Maybe it's the crush of people gathered on Dorchester Ave once a year for the Vietnamese Night Market, or dressed in vibrant colors for Carnival.

One thing is certain. Preservation is more than bricks and mortar.

It is the sights, sounds, experiences, and yes, architecture, that make a place unique. That define it.



Left: Vietnamese Night Market. Middle: Exploring Oxford Place in Chinatown
Right: Polish American Citizen Club exterior. Photos by Matthew Dickey.

Preservationists are storytellers. Truth-seekers who aim to tell the full story connecting people to place. Connecting people to the people before them. To the people around them. Storytelling is advocating. And advocacy is giving a voice to a community, saying their stories matter. Their history matters. This place matters.

The role of preservation is more important today than ever, as we navigate the weaving of politics and progress, promoting the full story while simultaneously embracing change and leaving space for the landmarks of the future. Cities are for people, and good preservation embraces the needs of great urbanism—climate resilience, housing density, and vibrant, stranger-filled streets.

I'm excited for the work ahead and thank you all for being part of this quirky metropolis we call Boston.

Matthew Dickey, Deputy Director



ADVOCACY

Legacy Fund

The Alliance helped establish the Legacy Fund in 2018 and has actively leveraged the fund in project mitigation, raising \$3 million (so far). In 2024, \$600,000 in funding was awarded to thirteen preservation projects across the city! These are not your standard preservation projects, but rather projects rooted in community and honest storytelling.

The Home for Aged Colored Women operated from the 1860s to 1940s. It closed and was largely lost to history. With support from the Legacy Fund, the names of the 130 elderly Black residents buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery will now be known and their stories re-memorialized. As will the stories of the residents at 42-44 Shirley Street, the likely home of those enslaved by Royal Governor William Shirley. And with help from the fund, America's oldest community theatre, the Footlight Club in Jamaica Plain will receive much needed maintenance.

Curatours

Preservation goes beyond bricks and mortar. Preservation is connecting people to the history around them. The Alliance partnered with the Dorchester Historical Society and Comfort Kitchen for a CuraTour that opened the **Dorchester North Burying Place**, the oldest Landmark in Dorchester. The gates are generally locked to the public and when history is locked away, it is forgotten.



Nearly 500 curious Bostonians joined us to tour the burial ground and connect with our shared history. Buried within are the remains of some of Boston's most prominent founding citizens, including minister Richard Mather and the first printer in Boston, John Foster. It also includes Governor William Stoughton, the Chief Justice during the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. It is Stoughton who sentenced 19 people to their deaths and is the namesake of Stoughton Street just outside the gates of the cemetery.

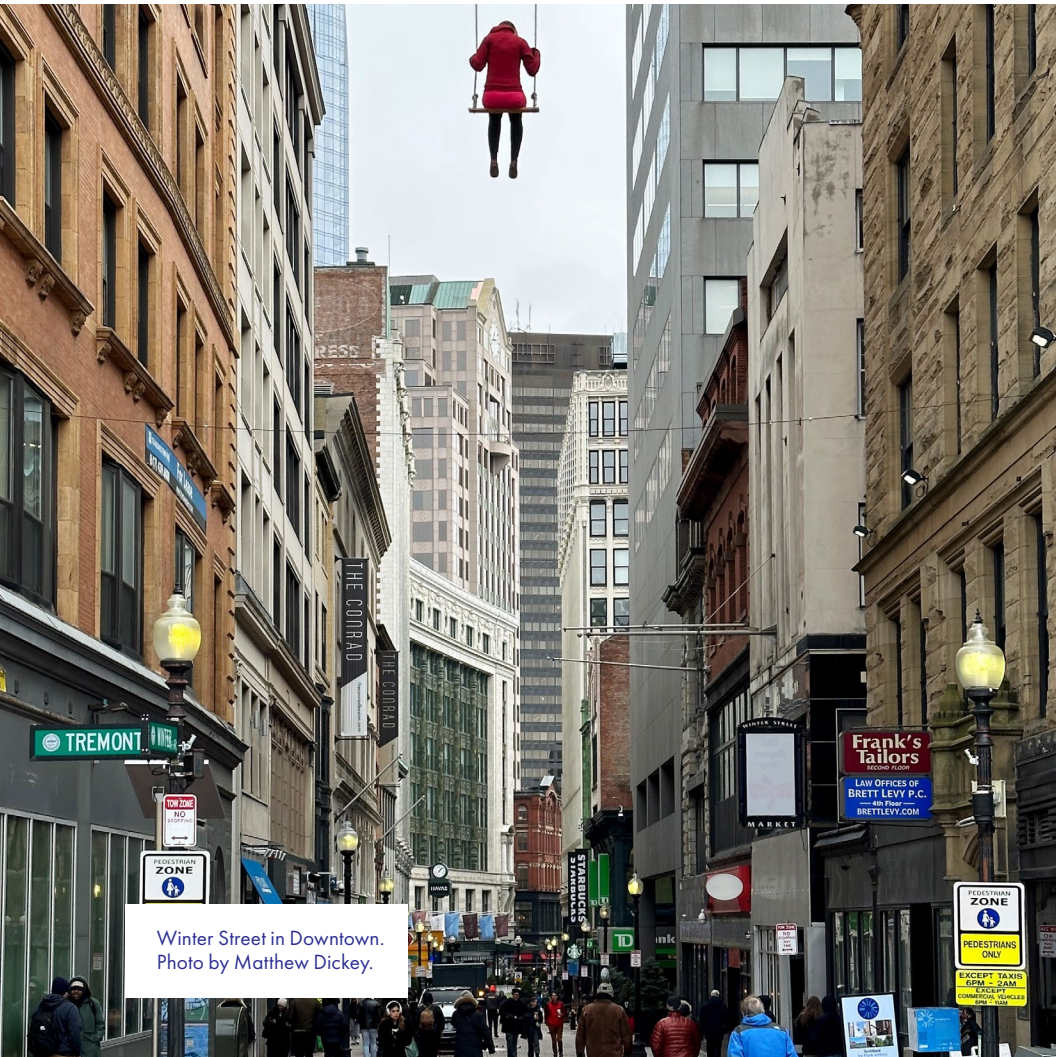


Bristol, Anne, Cambridge, and Betty are also buried here. Their stones are permanently marked with the names of their enslavers etched in slate. By opening the gates and connecting people to history, we can read their names and learn their stories. More CuraTours are in the works, so stay tuned as we continue to work to connect people to place.

Above Left: The Footlight Club in Jamaica Plain. Photo by Matthew Dickey. **Above Right:** Dorchester North Burying Place Open Gate Day. Photo by Matthew Dickey. **Left:** Dorchester North CuraTour. Photo by Nick Korn.

Plan: Downtown

The Alliance continues to be involved in zoning reform for Downtown Boston. It has been over 35 years since Downtown last went through zoning reform. The Alliance has worked with a team of neighbors and organizational partners in efforts to rezone Downtown Boston, with a focus on preservation and reuse of our rare and unique historic buildings. Boston's historic streetscapes are one of its primary assets. Every city has highrises, but only Boston has the Ladder Blocks and Boston Common, the nation's oldest park. We continue to advocate for a preservation-first zoning model that preserves our historic streetscapes and treasured landmarks, while suppling a canvas for new layers of history to be added.



2024 STATS

135,000

visits to our website

1,000+

people connected to place through tours, events, and programs

28,000
(and counting)

views on our Preservation Award Films

Top Stories of 2024

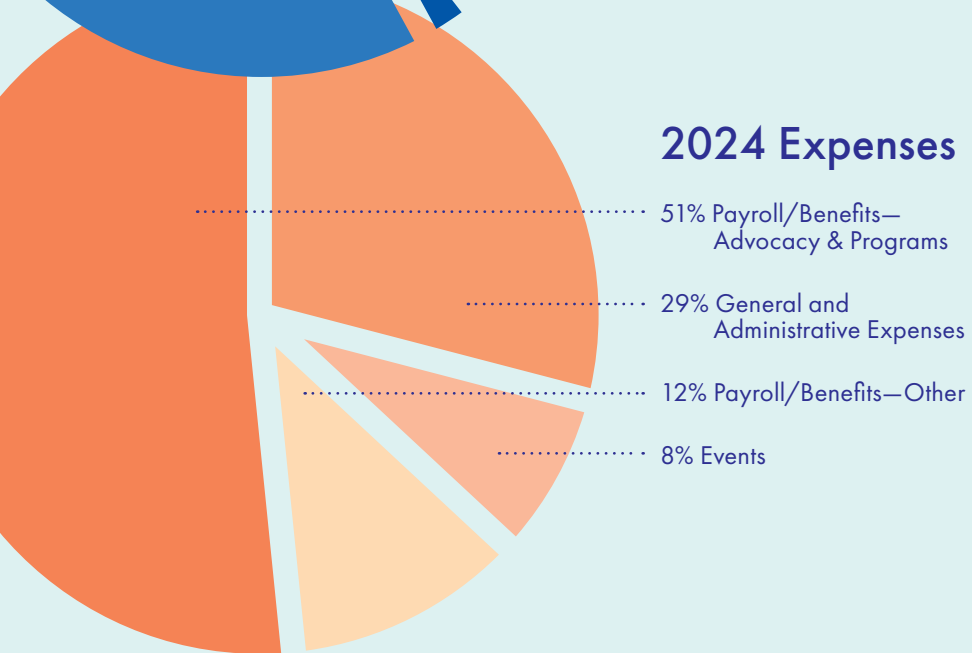
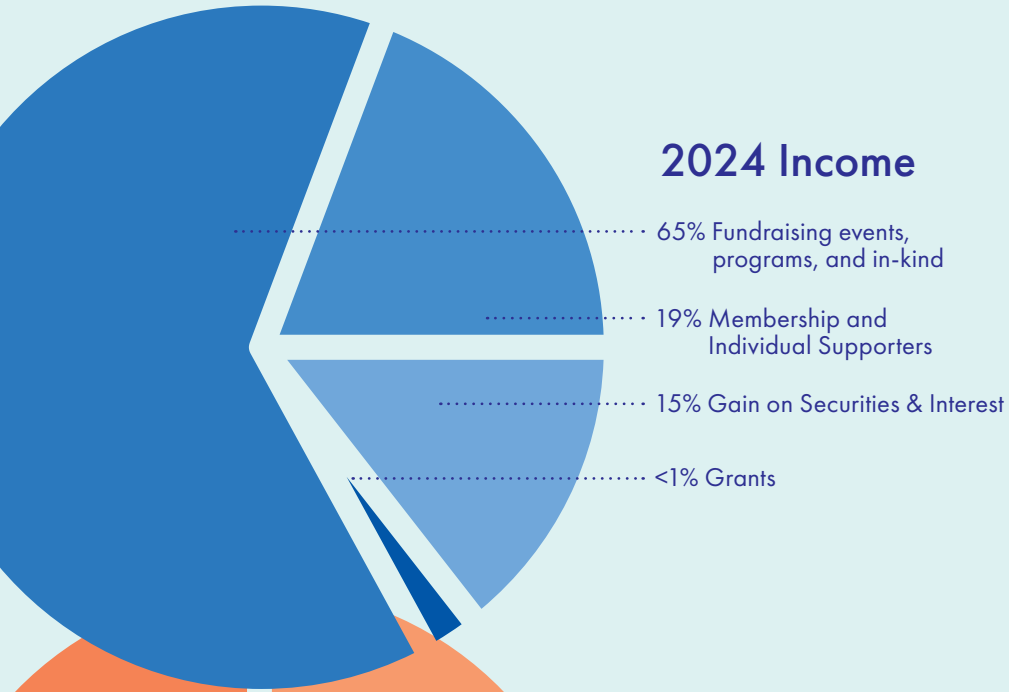
1. The Marliave Restaurant
2. The Secrets of 46 Beacon Street
3. Seven Magical Places in Boston
4. A Short History of Boston's Triple Deckers
5. Fort Hill Tower in Highland Park

Read them all at www.bostonpreservation.org

\$600,000

granted to preservation projects through the Legacy Fund

Winter Street in Downtown.
Photo by Matthew Dickey.



Statement of Activities

	2024	2023
INCOME		
Membership & Individual Support	\$98,576	\$209,549
Fundraising Events	328,735	265,031
Grants (including PPP)	2,000	5,000
Programs	-	-
In-Kind Support & Other Income	2,000	1,143
Total Income	\$431,311	\$480,723
EXPENSES		
Payroll/Benefits—Advocacy & Programs	\$209,948	\$164,339
Payroll/Benefits—Other	49,616	179,369
Events	33,244	116,803
Administration	(55,167)	32,944
Professional Services	79,530	9,950
Equipment/Software/Website	5,105	8,437
Other	90,846	7,393
Total Expenses	\$413,121	\$519,235
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$18,190	\$(38,512)
Other Income	-	-
Gain (Loss) on Securities & Interest	\$78,929	\$74,331
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$97,119	\$35,819

Statement of Financial Position

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Operating Accounts	\$90,682	\$61,507
Accounts Receivable	7,725	15,000
Unrestricted Reserve Accounts	748,928	650,998
Prepaid Expenses	2,723	1,818
Equipment	4,535	6,048
TOTAL ASSETS	\$854,593	\$735,371
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable & Accruals	\$33,496	\$9,009
Total Liabilities	\$33,496	\$9,009
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$801,597	\$708,597
Donor Restricted Assets	19,500	17,764
Total Net Assets	\$821,097	\$726,361
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$854,593	\$735,370

The First Church of Christ, Scientist

Iron Works

French Library

Lower Basin Barracks

EVENTS & PROGRAMMING

Big Dig Podcast

130-134 Arlington Street

Our award winners for the 2024 Annual Preservation Achievement Awards

2024 Preservation Awards. Photo by Hannah Spicher.

36th Annual Preservation Achievement Awards

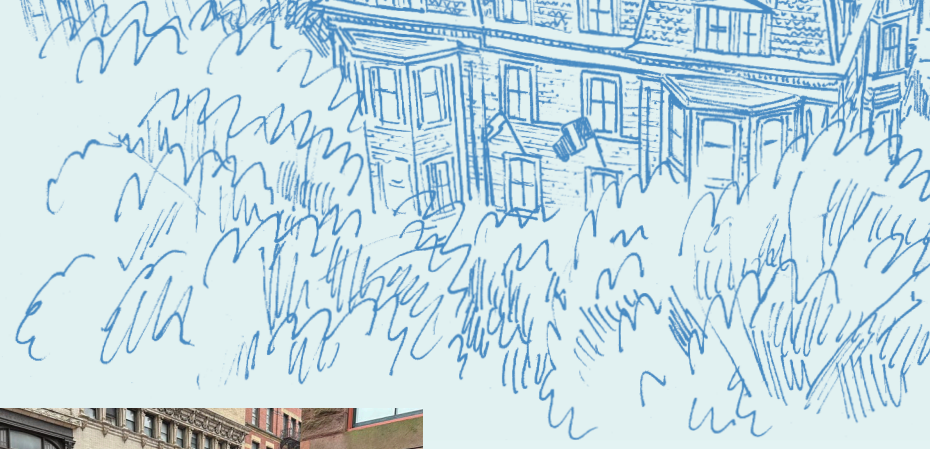
Every year, all around the city, historic buildings are artfully restored, renovated, and sensitively upgraded, new buildings are constructed that enhance their historic context, and educational tools like blogs, podcasts, books, and websites are created to share Boston's stories.

From the spunky reuse of a factory in South Boston to new green space along the Esplanade, good stewardship leads to great placemaking for the community. This year's Award recipients exhibit outstanding stewardship, creating gathering places in their neighborhoods through thoughtful adaptive use and restoration.

But preservation is more than bricks and mortar. It is also ensuring stories of our past are remembered and that we all understand how and why our cities look the way they do. Great storytelling is a form of preservation.

Boston is full of noteworthy preservationists, but none are more deserving of the Susan Park President's Award than **Jean Carroon and Goody Clancy**. Jean is a preservation architect, author, educator, and a tireless advocate for the stewardship of existing buildings. Together with Goody Clancy, Jean has been a leading voice in sharing that building reuse IS climate action.

And lastly, the Alliance has our Codman Award for Lifetime Achievement recipient, **Roger Tackeff**, to thank for our decades of success as Boston's leading preservation advocacy organization.



The Young Advisors

The Young Advisors (YAs) expand and amplify our mission by engaging Boston's professional community. They are active participants in the Alliance at all levels, from community outreach and policy discussion to social engagement. Throughout the past year our Young Advisors have hosted events sharing and amplifying the stories of Asian American and Pacific Islander histories in Boston.

They kicked off the year making cards of admiration for Chinatown coupled with a tour of the neighborhood. This was followed by a Mass Humanities-funded program in Little Saigon and a new twist on the popular Libations for Preservation event. We celebrated the remarkable contributions of **Kenzie Bok, Karilyn Crockett, Lorie Ferriss, and Tam Le** for their dedication to preserving the rich cultural and social fabric that makes Boston unique.

Left and Middle: Heartbombing in Chinatown. Right: On the Heartbombing Tour. Photos by Matthew Dickey.



Follow @PreservationHub on Instagram and be sure to subscribe to our newsletter to learn of future events hosted by the Young Advisors.



Hyde Park Open Streets.
Photo by Matthew Dickey.

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Johnson & Borenstein, LLC

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Building Enclosure Consultant

*Came off Young Advisors/
Board in 2024

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Kimberlee Schumacher**
Interim Executive Director

Matthew Dickey
Deputy Director

Ajanta Farrell
Intern (Summer 2024)

Caelen Schretzmayer
Intern (Summer 2024)

*Came off staff in 2024
**Joined staff in 2024

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2024 Libations for Preservation

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Finegold Alexander Architects
Goody Clancy
Ichiko
Jefferson's Reserve Bourbon
Matthew Cunningham Landscape Design LLC
Remy Cointreau USA
Rosaluna Mezcal
Shaw-Ross

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The HYM Investment Group
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A & A Window Products Inc.
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The Boston Preservation Alliance is proud to be supported by Mass Humanities. Mass Humanities is championing people and communities who gather to share stories and new perspectives.



Image credits from front cover:
 Dorchester North Open Gate Day.
 Photo by Matthew Dickey.

2025 Annual Meeting of Members

Beyond Bricks and Mortar



Featuring Danyson Tavares

Executive Director of the Boston
Society for Architecture

Architects work to create spaces for people. Preservationists work to share the full story of our past. How do architects and preservationists work together to connect people to place and ensure the built environment is a vibrant experience for all who wander through it? **Join us for an evening of conversation.**

About The Polish Club: The Polish American Citizens Club began in 1924 when a group of Polish World War I veterans invested their savings and purchased an old shoe factory, where they formed the Young Polish Men's Club.

In the late 1930s, the founders and members of Boston's Polish immigrant and Polish-American community came together to raise money and build a new building. In 1939, the new club, now known as the Polish American Citizens Club, opened its doors.



Register Today!

When: March 27, 6:00 pm
Presentation starts at 6:30 pm

Where: Polish American Citizens Club
82 Boston St, Boston, MA 02125