

*PLAN: Charlestown*

# Preserving Charlestown's Sense of Place Part 1

February 9, 2022



**boston planning &  
development agency**



# Welcome

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*Jason Ruggiero, Community Engagement Manager, BPDA*

# Meeting Recording

At the request of community members, this event will be recorded posted on the PLAN: Charlestown project webpage at <http://bostonplans.org/PlanCharlestown> for those who are unable to attend the Zoom event live.

Also, it is possible that participants may be recording the meeting with their phone cameras or other devices. If you do not wish to be recorded during the meeting, please turn off your microphone and camera.

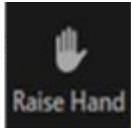
If your camera and microphone are off, you can still participate through the text chat feature at the end of the presentation.

# Zoom Tips

Welcome! Here are some tips on using Zoom for first-time users.  
Your controls are at the bottom of the screen



**Use the chat to type a comment or ask a question.** Members of the PLAN: Charlestown team will enable the chat at the end.



To raise your hand, click on "Participants" at the bottom of your screen, and then choose the "Raise Hand" option in the participant box



Participants will be muted during the presentation. The host will unmute you during discussion if you raise your hand and it is your turn to talk.



Turns your video on/off



# Agenda

- Welcome
- PLAN: Charlestown and Historic Preservation
- What is the Boston Landmarks Commission?
- Local Preservation Tools 101
- Questions and Next Steps

If you have a follow up item, please reach out to Jason Ruggiero (**[Jason.Ruggiero@boston.gov](mailto:Jason.Ruggiero@boston.gov)**) and we will be in touch as soon as possible.

# Zoom Etiquette

- Please remain muted until called on. If you'd like to speak during this time please use the "Raise Hand" function in Zoom.
- The chat function will be enabled at the end of the presentation (in keeping with convention from in-person meetings.)
- Please be respectful of each other's time.
- We ask that participants limit their questions so that others may participate in the discussion. If you have more questions, please wait until all others attending have an opportunity to ask questions.
- If we are unable to get to your question at this meeting, please put them in the Chat at the end or email **Jason.Ruggiero@boston.gov**

# COVID-19 Resources

Stay up-to-date with COVID-19 related announcements, City of Boston reopening plans, and resources for you and your community at:

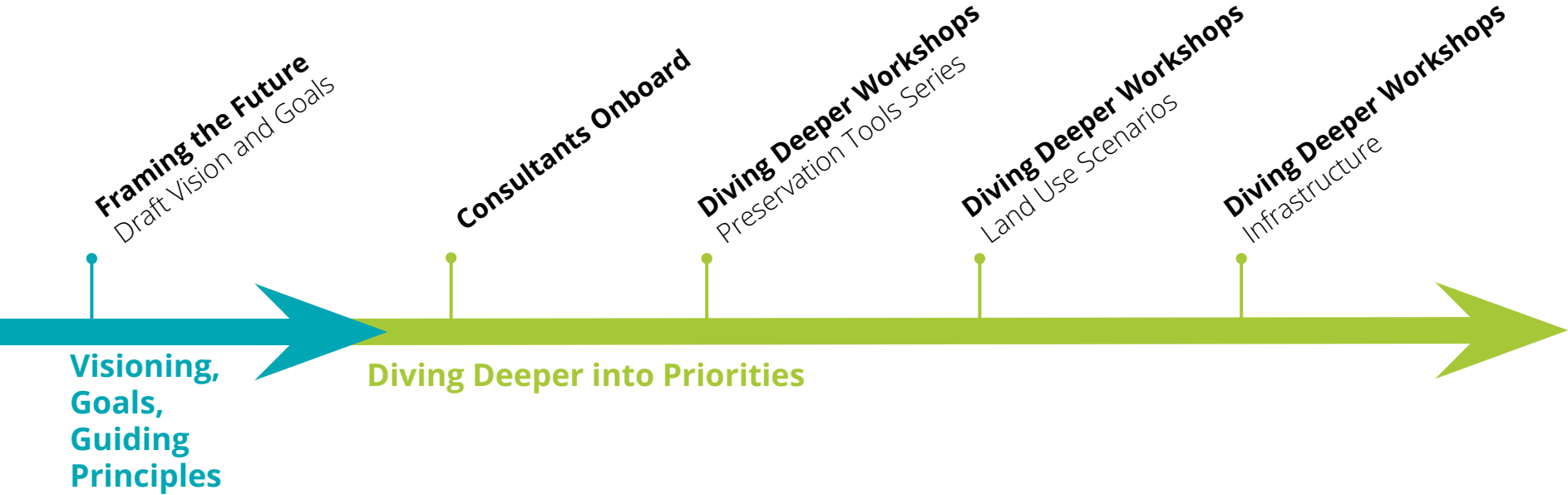
**[boston.gov/coronavirus](https://boston.gov/coronavirus)**

Content available in 16 languages.

The screenshot shows the City of Boston website page for COVID-19 resources. The header includes the City of Boston logo, Mayor Martin J. Walsh's name, and a seal. The main title is "CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) IN BOSTON". Below the title, there is a paragraph of text: "The state has updated guidance on the [Reopening Massachusetts website](#). We also continue to update City-specific guidance for Boston on [our reopening website](#)." To the right of this text, it says "July 12, 2020" and "PUBLISHED BY: PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION" with a logo. Below the main text, there is a section for "MULTILINGUAL CONTENT" listing 16 languages: العربية (Arabic), Kriolu (Cabo Verdean creole), 中文 (Chinese), Français (French), Kreyòl ayisyen (Haitian Creole), Português (Portuguese), and Русский (Russian). At the bottom, there is a section for "BOSTON (AS OF FRIDAY, JULY 10)" with the statistics "13,673 CASES | 9,683 RECOVERED".

# Where We're Going

*Next Phase: Diving Deeper into Priorities*





# PLAN: Charlestown and Historic Preservation

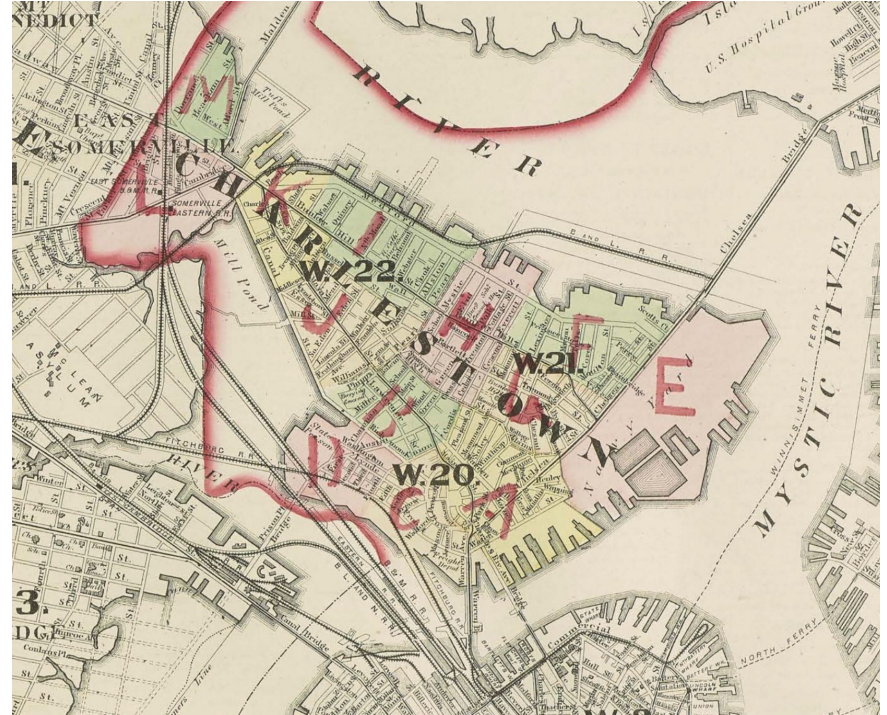
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*Meghan Richard, Urban Designer II, BPDA*

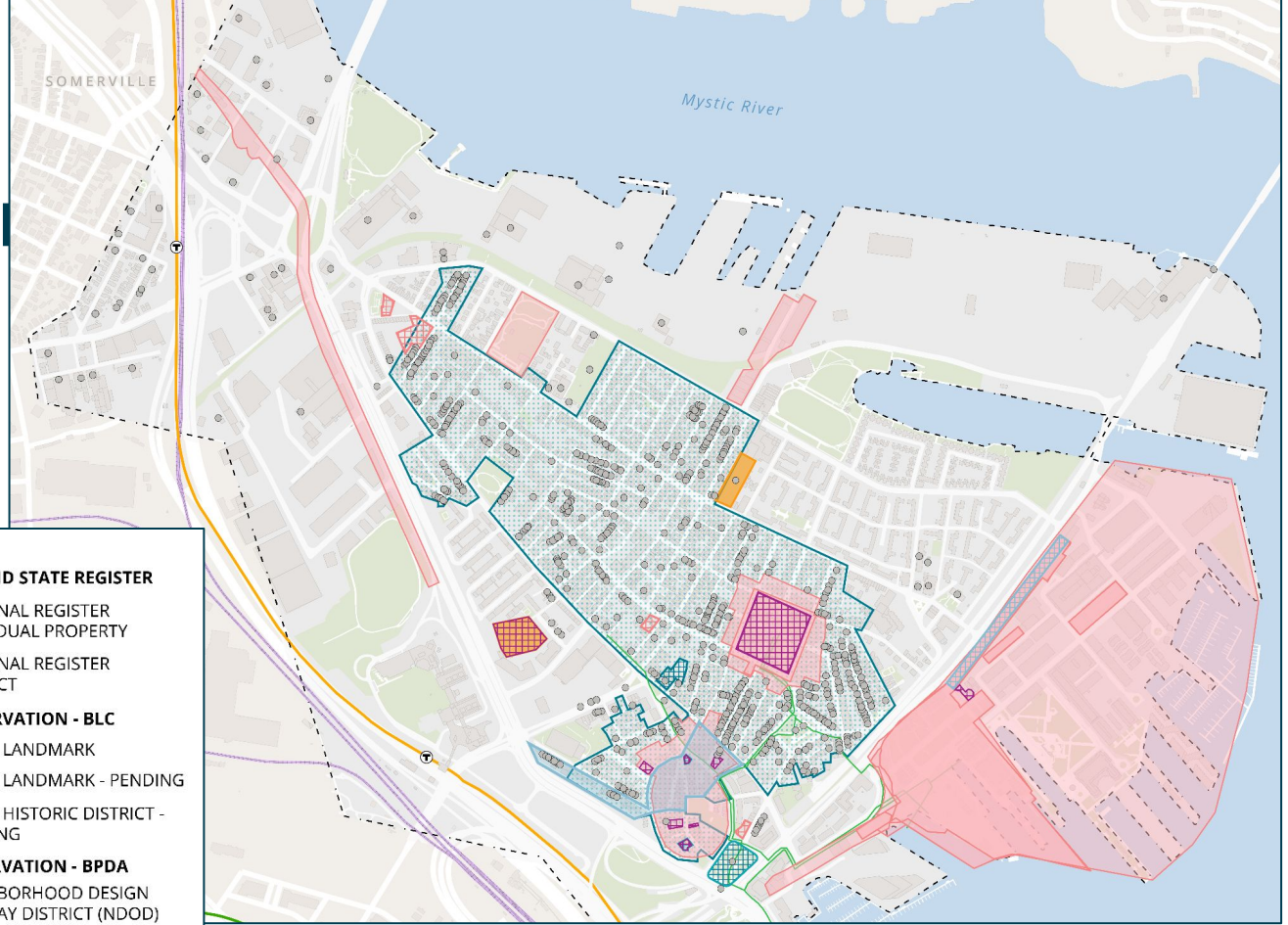
# Previous Preservation Workshops

*How has the past shaped the way Charlestown looks today?*

- In 1828, Mill Pond was filled, creating new land for Charlestown with new opportunities for buildings.
- Urban Renewal established new preservation restrictions for the existing fabric, and urban design guidelines that set design best practices for Charlestown.
- Various regulatory tools, such as Article 85 Demolition Delay, Neighborhood Design Overlay District and Landmark Designation, maintain the character of the neighborhood today.



# Historic Charlestown



## LEGEND

- CHARLESTOWN BOUNDARY
- EXISTING OPEN SPACE
- EXISTING BUILDING
- MBTA ORANGE LINE
- MBTA GREEN LINE
- COMMUTER RAIL
- HISTORIC TRAILS
- BURIAL GROUND
- INVENTORIED PROPERTY

### NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTER

- NATIONAL REGISTER INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY
- NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICT

### LOCAL PRESERVATION - BLC

- LOCAL LANDMARK
- LOCAL LANDMARK - PENDING
- LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT - PENDING

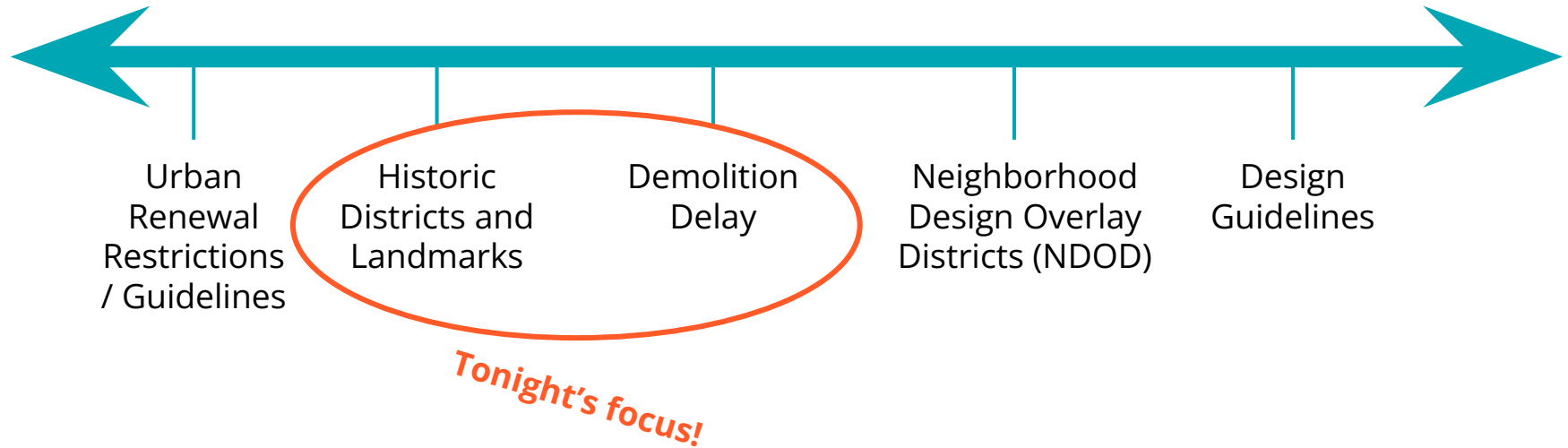
### PRESERVATION BY COVENANT

- PRESERVATION RESTRICTION

### LOCAL PRESERVATION - BPDA

- NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN OVERLAY DISTRICT (NDOD)

# Many local preservation tools are at work in Charlestown....





# Who is the Boston Landmarks Commission?

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*Nick Armata, Senior Preservation Planner, AICP; Boston Landmarks Commission*



# WHO WE ARE

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## BOSTON'S PRESERVATION PLANNING AGENCY ESTABLISHED IN 1975 UNDER THE ACTS OF CHAPTER 772:

- To **protect the beauty of the city of Boston** and **improve the quality of its environment**
- To **foster appropriate use** and wider public knowledge and appreciation of such features, areas, sites, structures and fixtures;
- To **resist and restrain** environmental influences adverse to such purposes;
- To **encourage private efforts** in support of such purposes; and
  - Promote the public welfare,
  - Strengthen the cultural and educational life
  - Make the city a more attractive and desirable place in which to live, work & visit.

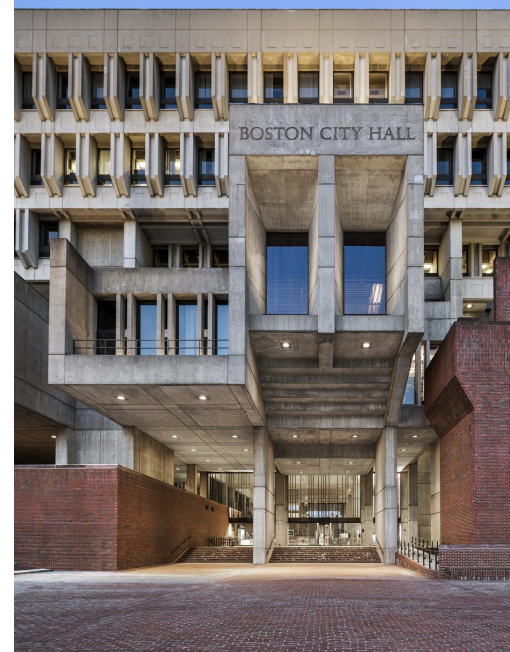


# WHO WE ARE: COMMISSION MEMBERS

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## COMMISSIONERS OF EACH DISTRICT

- **Boston Landmarks Commission Members**
  - Professionals in Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture
  - ALL **must** be Boston Residents
- **Charlestown Historic District (If Proposed)**
  - Commission nominated by neighborhood organizations determined by community
  - Serve terms (**not permanent positions**)
    - Typically 3 to 5 years
  - Must be residents of neighborhood
    - Types of residents (Renter, Owner, Business Owner etc) are determined by the community



# WHAT WE DO

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*There are over 8,000 protected properties listed as individual Landmarks or located within Boston's local historic districts.*

## THE BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION:

- *Administers design review for designated individual Landmarks and districts, and accelerated design review for pending Landmarks*
- *Issues violations and fines related to unapproved construction*
- *Supports State and Federal Designations*
- *Oversees **ARTICLE 85** of the City's Zoning Code and reviews all proposed demolition city-wide*
  - *if invoked, delay period is 90 days*





# WHAT WE DON'T DO

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## THE LANDMARKS COMMISSION DOES NOT:

- *Own Any of the Regulated Properties*
- *Order Properties to be Repaired/Changed*
- *Demolish Structures*
- *Regulate Use of Structures*
- *Regulate or Comment on Public Art*
- *Issue Historic Placards*



# Landmark Tools 101

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- *What is the difference between a National Designation and Local Designation?*
- *What does landmarking protect and how?*
- *What are the different types of local designations?*
- *Once a building is designated, how do you apply for review of work?*

slido



**Join at [slido.com](https://slido.com)  
#02129**

① Start presenting to display the joining instructions on this slide.

slido



**Name one building (other than the Monument) in Charlestown that you feels best represents your community.**

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

# YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

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## SCENARIO:

- The owners of a home decide to downsize and sell it. Their adult children have already bought their own homes in Charlestown many years ago.
- The home is subsequently purchased by a developer who would like to tear it down and build a new building.
- The new owner's proposal follows all of the rules set by the BPDA and ZBA (including zoning, Urban Renewal regulations, NDOD, design review, outreach, etc.)



# CURRENT DEMOLITION DELAY TIMELINE

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## COMPLETE APPLICATION

*Applications received by the Commission are reviewed by BLC staff to determine significance. A small percentage are significant: those developers must submit two alternatives to demolition.*

## DEMOLITION DELAY EXPIRES

*Developer is now free to move forward with any plans for the property. ISD is cleared to issue a demolition permit.*



\*Landmark petitions **CAN** be submitted at any time. But the timeframe to complete this process is often longer than the 90 day timeframe for Article 85.



# NATIONAL REGISTER DESIGNATION

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- National Register is often the **starting point** for local districts.
  - Local designation uses National Register to determine significance, and then uses designation to protect
- Analyzes and assesses the historic character and quality of the district
  - **Designates historic areas based on uniform national criteria and procedures.** Sets district boundaries tightly, based on the actual distribution pattern of intact historic properties in the area
- Financial Advantages:
  - Unlocks **federal and state tax incentives** for preservation purposes.
  - Qualifies property owners for federal and state grants for preservation purposes, when funds are available
- **Provides only a limited degree of protection from the effects of federally assisted undertakings.**
  - **Does not require conformance to design guidelines or preservation standards**
  - **Does not affect state and local government activities**





# LOCAL DESIGNATION

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The Boston Landmarks Commission may designate various resources (structures, sites, or objects, man-made, or natural) as local Landmarks. There are four criteria used to evaluate the significance of a resource:

- A property **listed on the National Register of Historic Places**
- A **resource at which events occurred** related to important aspects of cultural, political, economic, military, or social history.
- A resource associated with the **lives of outstanding historic personages.**
- A resource representative of **elements of architectural or landscape design** or **craftsmanship** that embody distinctive characteristics of a type inherently valuable for study of a period, style, or method of construction or development, or a **notable work of an influential architect**, landscape architect, designer, or builder.

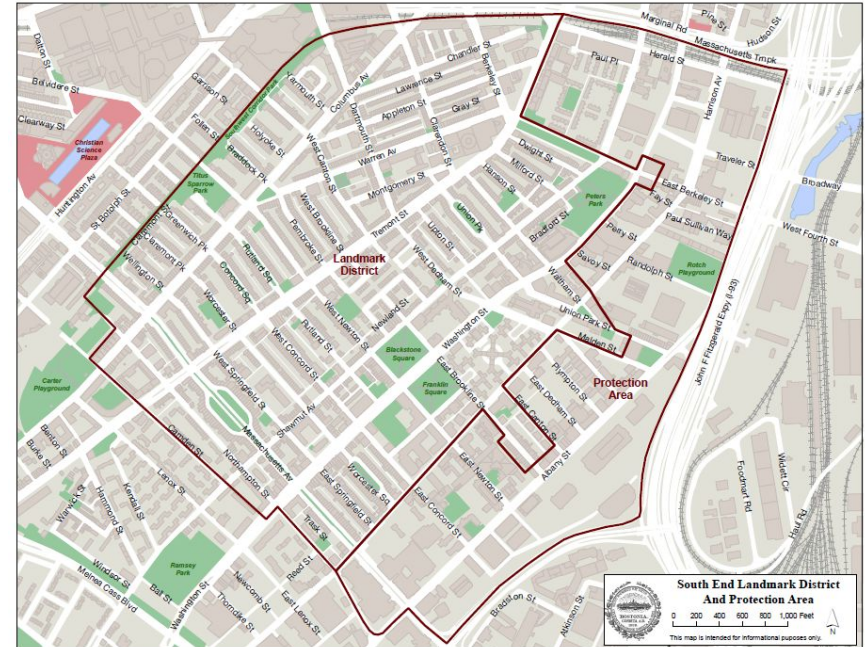
**YOU DO NOT NEED TO OWN THE PROPERTY TO PETITION TO LANDMARK IT**



# TYPES OF LOCAL DESIGNATIONS

Based on the resource's level of significance, the Commission may designate it:

- An **Individual Landmark**: an individual property, improvement or physical feature with significance above the local level.
- A **Landmark District**: an area with significance above the local level (State or National).
- An **Architectural Conservation District**: an area with significance at the local level.
- A **Protection Area**: an area adjacent to and contributing to the physical environment of an Individual Landmark, Landmark District, or Architectural Conservation District.



# WHERE AND WHAT WE REGULATE

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## **SOUTH END, MISSION HILL TRIANGLE, BAY VILLAGE:**

Facades **facing a public street or park and roof**

## **BAY STATE ROAD, BEACON HILL, ABERDEEN, ST. BOTOLPH:**

All architectural changes **visible from a public street  
or park**

## **FORT POINT CHANNEL:**

Architectural changes **visible from any public right of  
way**

## **BACK BAY:**

**All facades & roof**





# PAUSE FOR QUESTIONS



City of Boston  
Landmarks Commission



# DESIGNATION PROCESS TIMELINE

## MEET WITH BLC STAFF

To discuss landmarking expectations, timeframe, eligibility, etc. Designating a district is a lengthy process involving an appointed study committee.

## PETITION

The petition, once accepted, formally starts the process to investigate the history of the resource. The petition must be signed by 10 Registered Boston Voters OR a member of the Landmarks Commission. (or the Mayor)

## BLC VOTE

If Boston Landmark Commission accepts the petition for further study, the now pending landmark awaits a study report.

## STUDY REPORT

A completed study report is the next step in the process to designate a pending landmark. BLC has dozens of pending petitions awaiting funding for study reports.

## VOTE TO ACCEPT

Once a draft study report is ready, the Boston Landmarks Commission holds public hearings and votes to accept or reject. If accepted, the Mayor and City Council will also vote/veto.



# THE STUDY COMMITTEE AND REPORT

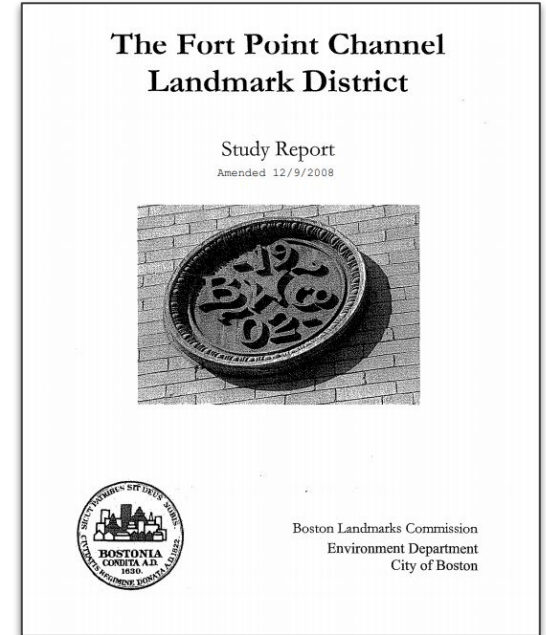
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The **STUDY COMMITTEE** is made up of a diverse group of local representatives consisting of:

- Architectural and Planning Professionals
- Local Historians
- Advocacy Group Members
- Dedicated Neighbors

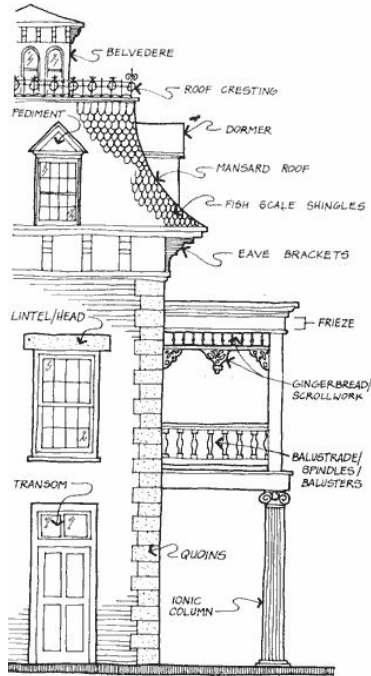
The Study Committee writes the **STUDY REPORT**. It includes:

- A historic timeline of a neighborhood or structure
- The important features and unique design elements
- A list of recommended policies
- Alternatives to designations
- Planning challenges
- Property assessments





# DESIGN GUIDELINES



## GUIDELINES A.K.A. STANDARDS & CRITERIA

- General: based on preservation best practices and;
- Specific: crafted for the particular proposed landmark to preserve character-defining features
- For historic district: can be as restrictive or as liberal as the study committee feels is suitable
- Guidelines are tailored to the neighborhood needs
- There is no one-size-fits-all set of guidelines
- There are **ALWAYS** exceptions to the rules



# Previous Preservation Workshops

*What characteristics of the built environment make Charlestown Charlestown?*

- The hilly topography
- Hierarchy of street widths (wider commercial streets and narrower residential streets)
- Uniform street wall with very little setback
- Smaller scale buildings (3 to 4 stories) that allow for light and air to permeate and interesting sightlines
- Building materials like brick, iron, and wood
- Maintenance of historic decorative details



# COMMON EXEMPTIONS

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Items that are routinely exempt in many landmark districts\*:

- *Window air conditioning units*
- *Landscaping (Some districts do regulate)*
- *Paint on wood*
- *Road surfaces*
- *Rear elevations*
- *Items not visible from a public street*
- *Temporary signs; for sale, coming soon, etc.*
- *Standard maintenance work*
- *Potted plants*
- *Holiday decorations*
- *Interior changes (unless designation includes interior).*



*\*Differs from district to district. Refer to district/landmark standards and criteria for specifics*



# NEW CONSTRUCTION

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## CREATING FUTURE LANDMARKS

- *Each study report will lay out how new construction can be approved.*
- *Identify neighborhood patterns*
- *Design should complement, not replicate*
- *Fit in by matching height, setback, facade materials, architectural style, & massing*





# NEW CONSTRUCTION

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*New construction does not necessarily have to match historic architecture, but it should follow the existing neighborhood formula as identified in the study report and district/landmark standards and criteria.*



424 Massachusetts Avenue, South End Boston, MA



73 West 126th Street, Harlem New York, NY



# NEW CONSTRUCTION

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*New structures should be influenced by its surroundings.*







# PAUSE FOR QUESTIONS



City of Boston  
Landmarks Commission



# APPLYING FOR [REVIEW] WORK

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*All work within the purview (determined through study report) requires an application & fee:*

- *Applications are accepted on a rolling basis for a monthly public hearing.*
- *Fees typically range from \$25 to \$100. New construction is typically a percentage of the cost of work.*
- *Applications will be labeled as follows:*
  - *Exempt*
  - *Administrative*
  - *Design Review*



# TYPES OF REVIEW

**EXEMPT:** Work falls outside the purview of the Commission; District/Landmark Specific

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**ADMINISTRATIVE:** Routine work that involves no architectural or material changes:

- Brick Repointing
  - Roof Replacement
- 

**DESIGN:** Architectural / Material Changes

- Building Additions
- New Window openings
- New siding types

HEARING ATTENDANCE	
REQUIRED	NOT REQUIRED
	✓
	✓
✓	

**\*URGENT REPAIR OPTIONS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR TIME SENSITIVE MATTERS**

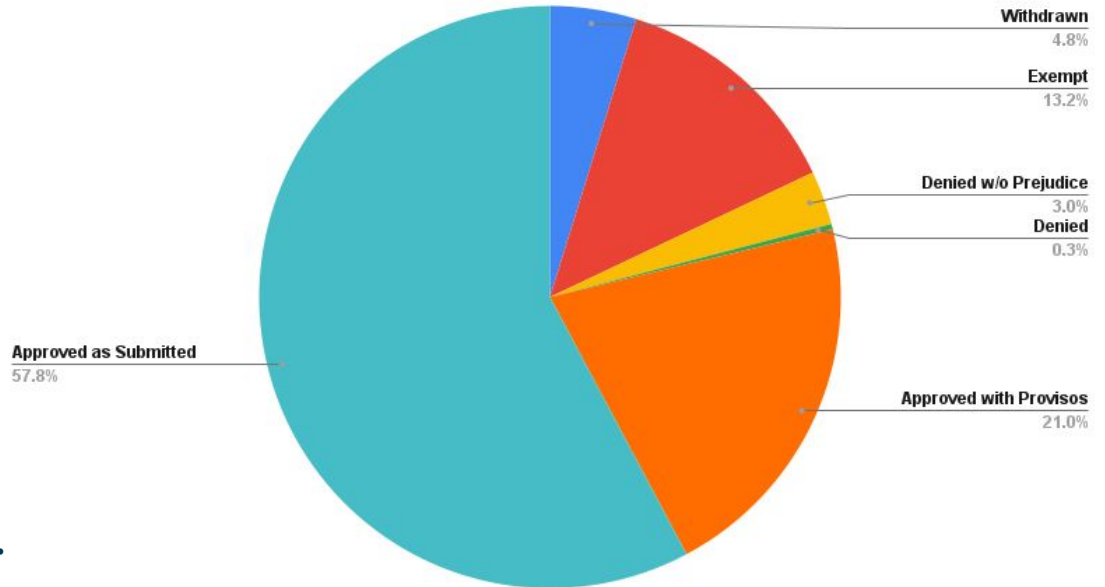


# APPLICATION DECISIONS

## 2021

- Approximately 1,500 Applications Processed
- 9 Districts and 80+ Landmarks
- Once applications are determined to be complete, **average approval time frame** is around **3.5 weeks\***.

APPLICATIONS BY FINAL DECISION



\*Does not include urgent repairs or exempt work



# REVIEW APPLICATION


- Application is now online!
- Application is submitted **after** all other city approvals are obtained.
- Staff must determine if **application is complete** to be placed on the next agenda.
- Check application **deadline schedule** for dates.
- Application **fee must be included**.
- Once approved, **approval letter will be issued** to provide to building department for permit.

Page TWO of two: Application for Certificate of Appropriateness-or-Design Approval-or-Exemption REVISED JUL 14

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION: Please include all required documentation with this application; review instructions carefully for details.

ESTIMATED COST OF PROPOSED WORK: \_\_\_\_\_

IV. DULY AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES. (both required)

	APPLICATION CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS-or- DESIGN APPROVAL-or-EXEMPTION	For Office Use Only
	Deliver or mail to: Environment Department Boston City Hall, Rm 709 Boston, MA 02201	APPLICATION # _____
	DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM BY FAX OR EMAIL. DO NOT STAMP THIS BOX	RECEIVED _____
		FEE _____
		HEARING DATE _____

The names, telephone numbers, postal and e-mail addresses requested below will be used for all subsequent communications relating to this application. Environment Department personnel cannot be responsible for illegible, incomplete or inaccurate contact information provided by applicants.

**I. PROPERTY ADDRESS**  
NAME OF BUSINESS/PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**II. APPLICANT**

CONTACT NAME _____	RELATIONSHIP TO PROPERTY _____
MAILING ADDRESS _____	ZIP _____
PHONE _____	EMAIL _____

**PROPERTY OWNER**

CONTACT NAME _____	CONTACT NAME _____
MAILING ADDRESS _____	ZIP _____
PHONE _____	EMAIL _____

**ARCHITECT**

CONTACT NAME _____	CONTACT NAME _____
MAILING ADDRESS _____	ZIP _____
PHONE _____	EMAIL _____

**CONTRACTOR**

CONTACT NAME _____	CONTACT NAME _____
MAILING ADDRESS _____	ZIP _____
PHONE _____	EMAIL _____

**III. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK**  
A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSED WORK MUST BE GIVEN IN THE SPACE PROVIDED BELOW, OR THE APPLICATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. This description provides the basis for the official notice and subsequent decision, and it must clearly represent the entirety of the project. Additional pages may be attached, if necessary, to provide more detailed information.

[www.cityofboston.gov/landmarks](http://www.cityofboston.gov/landmarks)  
 Boston City Hall, Room 709, Boston, MA 02201

Page ONE of two: Application for Certificate of Appropriateness-or-Design Approval-or-Exemption REVISED JUL 14



# PROS AND CONS OF LANDMARK DESIGNATION

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## PROs

- Legislation has “teeth” to identify and **protect character** of historic buildings by identifying important architectural features.
- **Decisions are made by the community-appointed commissioners.**
- Fine details of new construction can be mandated, rather than suggested.
- Most **unnecessary demolitions** can be prevented.
- **Helps achieve environmental goals** by reducing landfill waste from complete demolition.
- Public realm changes are regulated.

## CONs

- **Does not** regulate use.
- An extra step in the building process.
- Potential to be **restrictive** in terms of proposed exterior changes such as rooftop additions, new window openings.
- Recommended **building materials are often more costly** do to their high quality. (Example: wood windows vs. vinyl windows.)
- Some changes will be denied.





# KEY TAKEAWAYS

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- YOU **DO NOT** NEED TO OWN THE PROPERTY TO PETITION TO LANDMARK.
- LOCAL LANDMARK DISTRICTS CAN **REGULATE SMALL-SCALE AND PUBLIC REALM CHANGES.**
- **COMMISSION MEMBERS ARE** COMPILED FROM **COMMUNITY MEMBERS.**
- **NEW CONSTRUCTION** DOES NOT HAVE TO MATCH HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE, BUT **SHOULD BE INFLUENCED BY ITS SURROUNDINGS.**
- APPLICATION PROCESS ACCOUNTS FOR STANDARD REPAIRS AND ARCHITECTURAL CHANGES.
- UNNECESSARY DEMOLITIONS CAN BE PREVENTED!
- **EMERGENCY REPAIR OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE.**
- **NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGE IS INEVITABLE, BUT CAN BE MANAGED THROUGH PRESERVATION TOOLS.**



# QUESTIONS?



*City of Boston  
Landmarks Commission*

**STAY IN TOUCH! @BOSTONLANDMARKS**  
**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER! VISIT: [BOSTON.GOV/LANDMARKS](https://boston.gov/landmarks)**



# Next Steps

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*Jason Ruggiero, Community Engagement Manager*

# Next Steps: Developing Recommendations

*How are we collaborating with Boston Landmarks Commission Staff (BLC)?*

The Charlestown community, BLC, and BPDA previously discussed and decided against additional local landmarks/districts, due to concerns about the burden this would place on residents.

**Based on tonight's conversation, does this renew your interest in a landmarking district?** What do you see as the benefits? What do you see as the limitations?

## **Other Future Collaboration:**

- PLAN: Charlestown will likely recommend that BLC and MHC complete another formal historic resource survey/inventory more sites in the neighborhood.
- Any zoning recommendations will be sent to BLC for their comment.

# Save the Date!

## **Next Workshop: Wednesday, March 2nd**

Preserving Charlestown's Sense of Place Part 2  
*(NDODs/NDRs, Zoning, and Design Guidelines)*

Visit <https://bit.ly/PLANCharlestownPreservingPlace2> to sign up.

All meeting content available:

[www.bostonplans.org/plancharlestown](http://www.bostonplans.org/plancharlestown)

# Keep the Conversation Going



## **Boston Planning and Development Agency**

Community Engagement Manager:  
Jason Ruggiero  
[jason.ruggiero@boston.gov](mailto:jason.ruggiero@boston.gov)



## **Boston Landmarks Commission**

Senior Preservation Planner:  
Nick Armata, AICP  
[nicholas.armata@boston.gov](mailto:nicholas.armata@boston.gov)

# Appendix

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Shutters

Street Lamps

Dimension:  
Building face  
to building  
face

Dimension:  
Building  
height  
relative to  
street width

Materials:  
Masonry  
base under  
wood

View  
Corridors

Oriels &  
Bays

Lintels

Pedestrian  
-oriented  
sidewalks

Slow  
streets:  
1 travel  
lane and 1  
parking  
lane







Dental  
cornice

Lintels &  
shutters

Trees on  
private  
property

No  
setbacks

Materials:  
Granite base  
under brick



Oriels & Bays

Trees in  
Public  
Right-of-Way

Iron  
fencing

Setback

# WHO WE ARE

## BLC IS PART OF THE CITY'S ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

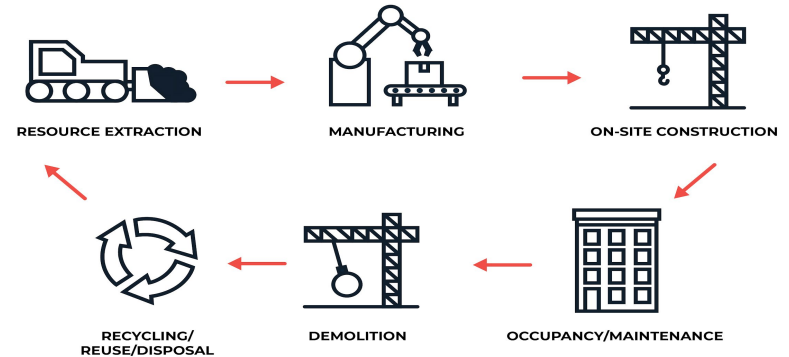
Building and construction industries accounts for 39% of global carbon emissions\*.

- Buildings and its materials store carbon in their walls.
  - Older building materials are often of higher quality and sourced locally.
- Older buildings have long since outlived out the carbon emissions generated to build them.



City of Boston  
Environment

## LIFE CYCLE OF BUILDING PRODUCTS



*\*According to the World Green Building Council Report; “Bringing Embodied Carbon Upfront 2019”*



# THE PROCESS: RESOURCES

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BLC Staff is here to help!

To assist you, we've compiled a list of courses to to further your research:

- [Boston.gov/landmarks](https://www.boston.gov/landmarks)
- [Boston Archeology Department](#)
- [Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System](#)
- [Advisory \(non-voting\) presentations for proposed projects](#)
- [Boston Public Library](#)
- [Boston City Archives](#)
- [Community Preservation Act](#)
- [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#)
- [Historic New England](#)
- [U.S. Census](#)
- [Massachusetts Historic Commission](#)
- [Local Historical Societies such as the South End, Dorchester and Allston/ Brighton groups.](#)
- [Library of Congress](#)
- [Boston Planning and Development Agency \(Historic Maps\)](#)





# THE PROCESS: VIOLATIONS

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Legislation gives the Commission authority to issue violations for unapproved work:

Legal Tools Available:

- *Holds placed on building permits and;*
- *Court orders*
- *Violations follow the building, not the owner*
- *Monetary Fines (as a last resort)*

Anyone Can Report Violations:

- *311 or an Email to Commission Staff*
- *All Reports are Confidential\**

*\*Written correspondence are subject to public records requests at the local, state and federal levels.*





# FAQ

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- **Does landmarking mean no modern buildings can be built in the district?**

No.. Though the LPC is concerned with the historic integrity of neighborhoods and buildings, modern buildings can be approved if they meet standards that are perceived as aesthetically compatible with the neighborhood.

- **Can property owners be forced to restore their buildings?**

No. There are no regulatory imperatives to initiate renovations or update property within the historic district. In other words, LPC won't force you to change or update your property to meet historic standards. Regulations only apply when there is planned construction or renovation. **Note:** The Building Department CAN enforce building safety violations. This process is separate from the BLC process.

- **Can I get any kind of financial assistance for renovating or updating my historic home or commercial building?**

Yes! Though the state and federal designation does not come with any regulation on property alterations, you can get significant tax credits and other types of financial assistance if you are restoring commercial properties. Community Preservation Act funds are also available.

- **My building is on the National Register of Historic Places. What does that do?**

When your building is listed on the National Register, it simply provides a “voice” for your building’s history. The register has no “teeth” and your building could still be demolished. Local landmark policies are key in actually protecting the structure.



# FAQ

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- ***I don't own to property/live in the neighborhood I want to landmark. Is this an issue?***  
While we always recommend that the property owner/neighborhood residents, it is not a requirement. Our staff will reach out to the owners/residents to engage them in the process.
- ***Will I need to seek approval for interior changes?***  
Only if the interior of your property has been landmarked. In most cases no.
- ***Will the review process lengthen my permitting process?***  
That's up to the applicant. Staff should be approached as soon as possible to discuss a path forward for your project. Most approvals take about a month or less.
- ***I own a historic property in the City of Boston - do I qualify for Community Preservation Act Funds? (CPA 2016)***  
If your property is listed on the State Register you are eligible to apply for CPA funds. Visit <https://www.boston.gov/community-preservation> for more info.

