



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN TO PRESENT 2012 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD TO
ANNIE C. HARRIS**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, announces the selection of Annie C. Harris, to receive the Massachusetts Historical Commission's 2012 Individual Lifetime Achievement Award.

"The Massachusetts Historical Commission is proud to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of this year's awardees," said Secretary Galvin. "For nearly 40 years, Ms. Harris has demonstrated outstanding preservation leadership and innovation at the local, state, and national levels, and has made significant contributions to the preservation of the Commonwealth's historic resources."

Annie C. Harris received her Masters of Architecture from MIT and an MBA from Harvard. She began her career in Lowell, where, as part of the early Lowell Plan study team, she helped create the city's innovative, urban National Historical Park. Then, Ms. Harris worked for the Crowninshield Corporation, an early leader in adaptive reuse and historic preservation, and for the City of Boston, where she specialized in federal historic rehabilitation tax credit projects. She later switched to the nonprofit sector, becoming the third executive director of The Salem Partnership, a public-private alliance that facilitates collaboration between businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies to promote projects that restore and revitalize Salem's historic assets. The Salem Partnership, under Ms. Harris's direction, assisted in the expansion of the Maritime National Historic Site's boundaries, development of the National Park Service's Regional Visitor Center in Salem, restoration of the historic Derby and Central Wharves, and construction of the replica tall ship *Friendship*. Under the auspices of the Salem Partnership, Ms. Harris led the effort to create the Essex National Heritage Area—comprised of the 34 communities of Essex County—which was officially designated by the U.S. Congress in 1996. The Essex National Heritage Area formed its own management corporation in 1997, with Ms. Harris as the founding Executive Director of the Essex National Heritage Commission, where she remains today. The National Heritage Area and its affiliated commission oversee projects that preserve, promote, and protect the region's historic structures, scenic roadways, maritime resources, and archival materials. Ms. Harris also serves in a national leadership position as the Vice President of the Executive Committee of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas. In November 2010, she was appointed for a two-year term to the Planning Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board. Ms. Harris has been active for many years in civic and community organizations around Salem and the North Shore, and has been on many committees and boards. She served for twelve years on the Salem Historical Commission—for six as its chair—and has lived in the McIntire Historic District in Salem for more than 30 years.

This is the 34th year of MHC's Preservation Awards program. Projects are considered annually for awards in the categories of Rehabilitation and Restoration, Adaptive Reuse, Education and Outreach, Archaeology, Stewardship, and Landscape Preservation. Individuals are considered in the categories of Individual Lifetime Achievement and Local Preservationist. Secretary Galvin serves as the chair of the 17-member Massachusetts Historical Commission.

State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Secretary Galvin will present the awards at an afternoon ceremony on May 30, 2012, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester. Ms. Harris is one of 12 individuals, projects, and organizations to be honored.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission is the office of the State Historic Preservation Officer and the State Archaeologist. It was established in 1963 to identify, evaluate, and protect important historical and archaeological assets of the Commonwealth. Visit our website to learn more about the Commission's programs (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc).

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