



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2018 PRESERVATION AWARD
TO THE BOSTON CHINATOWN ATLAS**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has announced that the Boston Chinatown Atlas has received a 2018 Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation Award.

“The Massachusetts Historical Commission is proud to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of this year’s awardees,” said Galvin. “The projects the Commission recognizes this year are particularly diverse and represent the many creative ways that significant historic resources are being preserved and promoted across the Commonwealth. The creation of the Boston Chinatown Atlas website is an important advocacy and storytelling tool that makes the history of Boston’s Chinatown and its changes over time accessible to a wide audience.”

The history of Chinatown in Boston begins in the 1870s, when Chinese men began arriving from America’s West Coast fleeing anti-Chinese sentiment. Despite the restrictions of the Chinese Exclusion Act, the Chinese community grew in the early decades of the 20th century. As a result, the community began to offer activities and services to the increasing number of families and become more integrated into the fabric of Boston.

For almost 150 years, Boston’s Chinatown has served as an economic, social, and cultural center for the Chinese-American community in Massachusetts. Divided into five eras from 1875 to the present, the engaging project website explores Chinatown’s history through time with personal stories, photos, architectural renderings, maps, and interactive features on the website, www.chinatownatlas.org.

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The Atlas is an especially important project at this moment in time when Boston as a whole, including Chinatown, is undergoing rapid physical and demographic change. Recording history through photographs and oral histories as well as demonstrating the changing streetscape through elevation renderings of the most prominent streets helps to explain how Chinatown has changed and evolved. In addition to the website, the Chinese Historical Society of New England has created large-scale panels, showcasing an abridged version of the Atlas, which are kept on display at the China Trade Center in downtown Boston and can also travel for events.

This is the 40th 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 Lifetime Achievement and Local Preservationist. Secretary Galvin serves as the chair of the 17-member Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Secretary Galvin is pictured presenting the award to the Boston Chinatown Atlas at an afternoon ceremony on May 16, 2018, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (left to right: Wing-Kai To, Sherry Dong, Tunney Lee, Secretary William F. Galvin, David Chang, Susan Chinsen, Stephanie Fan, Jessica Wong Camhi. Photo by Wyeth Lilley).



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State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133