



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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**SECRETARY GALVIN PRESENTS 2018 PRESERVATION AWARD
TO MASS MOCA BUILDING 6: THE ROBERT W. WILSON BUILDING**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin, Chair of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has announced that MASS MoCA Building 6: The Robert W. Wilson Building in North Adams 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 Secretary Galvin. “The projects the Commission recognizes this year are particularly diverse and represent the many creative ways that significant historic resources are being preserved across the Commonwealth. The adaptive reuse of Building 6 of the former Arnold Print Works as a major exhibition and amenity space for MASS MoCA truly represents a success story.”

Sited between the north and south branches of the Hoosic River near the center of North Adams, the late 19th-century complex now housing MASS MoCA was originally the Arnold Print Works, a company that dyed and finished textiles. In 1942, the complex was sold to Sprague Electric Company and was used to manufacture electrical components. At the time Sprague Electric closed in 1986, it owned over half the real estate in downtown North Adams; its closure dealt a considerable blow to the community.

A year after Sprague’s closure, the business and political leaders of North Adams were seeking creative ways to re-use the vast Sprague complex. This is when the idea of establishing a contemporary arts center in North Adams began to take shape. The first portion of MASS MoCA opened in 1999. A second phase of work that opened more buildings in the complex was

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completed in 2008. The adaptive reuse of the Robert W. Wilson Building was the focus of the third phase of work and finished in 2017. The spaces retain their industrial character, preserving their historic integrity despite a dramatic change in use. The success of MASS MoCA has increased visitation to North Adams and surrounding Berkshire County communities. A 2017 study by Williams College credits MASS MoCA with generating a 20% increase in revenue for the entire county.

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 MASS MoCA Building 6: The Robert W. Wilson Building at an afternoon ceremony on May 16, 2018, at the Massachusetts Archives Building at 220 Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester (left to right: Joseph Thompson, MASS MoCA; Jimmy Su, ARUP Engineers; Jason Forney, Bruner/Cott Architects; Secretary William F. Galvin; State Senator Adam Hinds; North Adams Mayor Thomas Bernard; George Gard, Bruner/Cott Architects. Photo by Wyeth Lilley).



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