

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR SHARON DURKAN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY AS NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH IN THE LANDMARKS COMMISSION'S 50TH YEAR

WHEREAS, Boston is one of America's most historic cities, with a built environment that holds the stories and bears the marks of many critical moments in our country's history, from revolution to abolition to diverse immigration stories; *and*

WHEREAS, In 1972, at the proposal of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the first National Preservation Week was established to promote historic preservation at the local, state, and national levels. It was expanded to the entire month of May in 2005 to create greater opportunities to celebrate historic places and promote heritage tourism; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston is home to a great number of historic places that should be recognized, protected, and celebrated not only for the economic benefits of tourism, but for their social, cultural, and educational value to Boston's communities; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Landmarks Commission was authorized and established by the State Legislature in 1975 to mitigate the impacts of urban renewal by protecting and enhancing Boston's historical and environmental character; *and*

WHEREAS, The Landmarks Commission is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, marking five decades of protecting Boston's historic properties, neighborhoods, and cultural landmarks. The Commission oversees over 9,000 properties and works with the City's ten historic district commissions to preserve Boston's historic resources by reviewing design changes, regulating demolition, and stewarding preservation planning including the creation of new landmarks and historic districts; *and*

WHEREAS, Last year, the Landmarks Commission landmarked seven new structures and reviewed over 933 design review applications, representing approximately \$723 million in investment; *and*

WHEREAS, Preservation is not only about protecting the past, it is essential shaping Boston's future by guiding thoughtful development and investment to sustain our neighborhoods in the present and into the future; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston should continue to elevate and support preservation efforts, raise awareness of the importance of preservation and the work of the Boston Landmarks Commission, and expand opportunities for residents to engage in protecting and celebrating the history in their neighborhoods; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council recognizes May as National Preservation Month and reaffirms its commitment to preserving the rich and diverse historic resources in all of Boston's communities.

Filed on: May 4, 2026