

A historical black and white photograph of a Boston street scene, likely from the late 19th or early 20th century. The image shows multi-story buildings with classical architectural details, a street with pedestrians, and a prominent stone archway in the foreground. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green color and a pattern of white and green geometric shapes, including triangles and polygons, creating a modern, abstract design.

June 4–5, 2016

COMMON BOSTON 2016

BSA FOUNDATION



common
boston

D PARTY BLOCK PARTY

Join Common Boston and the BSA Foundation on Friday, June 3rd to kickoff our open house festival weekend with a signature event, the dParty!

Before CB16 opens the doors to dozens of architectural gems around 15 neighborhoods, we'll gather together to celebrate all things design with a block party-themed bash. Hosted at the Innovation and Design Building (IDB) in the dynamic Seaport District, the dParty is a fun and lively event that will transform the seventh floor of the IDB into its own streetscape party complete with fantastic views, music, drinks, dancing, games, and even a parklet lounge... What's not to like??

We hope you can join us!

DPARTY: BLOCK PARTY

Friday, June 3, 2016 from 6pm-9pm

Innovation and Design Building
23 Drydock Avenue, 7th Floor Boston MA

REGISTER
HERE

Tickets: \$10 in advance, or \$15 at the door
www.commonboston.org/CB16

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday, June 3
dParty: Block Party
6pm–9pm
Innovation and
Design Building,
Get tickets at:
commonboston.org

Saturday, June 4
Festival Day 1

Sunday, June 5
Festival Day 2

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WELCOME

As a hub of innovation, the greater Boston region has continuously been at the forefront of scientific, educational, and cultural advancements. We're home to numerous "firsts," from historic examples such as a publicly funded library and the original YMCA, to more modern precedents like Boston's city-championed innovation center and Cambridge's student-run shelter for young adults experiencing homelessness. The region's architecture is similarly innovative, with new design methods, processes, and elements reflecting the creativity and aspirations of the institutions themselves.

Common Boston and the BSA Foundation honor our region's legacy of "firsts"—including those places mentioned above—with **#CB16**, an inaugural "open house" festival of architecture and design. We invite you to explore and engage with great buildings, spaces, and neighborhoods in Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, and Brookline over the course of a single weekend. In doing so, we hope you'll discover the stories of our many dynamic communities and learn why design matters in our everyday lives.

Welcome to **#CB16**, an open house festival of architecture and design. One weekend, your city unlocked.



Kevin Derrick
Festival Chair

NEED TO KNOW

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Common Boston sites listed in this program are open access, free of charge, and can be visited during the days and hours indicated in each listing. Browse the listings and choose your own adventure, but pay close attention to the days and times listed with each site! For specific questions, contact sites directly at the phone number provided. Visit commonboston.org for more information on each site.

GET THE APP

Download the Yonward app (free for iOS) for on-the-go listings of all Common Boston sites. Visit yonward.com to get the app.

#CB16

Follow Common Boston on social media for live updates and changes during Common Boston weekend, and share your favorite weekend discoveries by posting pictures with the hashtag #CB16!

- twitter.com/BSAAIA
- facebook.com/BSAAIA
- instagram.com/bsaaia

INTERACT

Many sites are offering tours and hands on activities specifically for Common Boston participants. Check out the listings for details.

ACCESS

Because many Common Boston sites are historic buildings, not all sites are fully accessible. Accessibility information is provided with each site listing.

CONTACT

General questions? Call the BSA Foundation at 617-391-4000, or find a Common Boston ambassador, stationed at each site in an blue T shirt.

COMMUNITY SPACE



Cambridge City Hall

795 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge
Sat 10am-3pm, Sun 10am-3pm

Cambridge City Hall, housing the city council, city manager, and other municipal offices, was given to the city in 1889 by Cambridge native Frederick Hastings Rindge, who wished the building to express “honesty and strength.” Learn how the Richardsonian Romanesque design fulfills Rindge’s criteria, from the substantial but simple exterior of contrasting stone to the interior’s massive oak stairway, restored historic paint colors, handsome council chamber, and well-appointed rooms. 🏠 Optional guided tours will be offered on the hour; last tour will begin at 2pm. Tours are first come, first served. ♿ Wheelchair entrance at rear of building.

Built in 1889, designed by Longfellow, Alden, and Harlow.

District Hall

75 Northern Ave, Boston
Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 10am-6pm 617-982-3213

District Hall’s architecture is inspired by the neighborhood’s industrial past. Its angular shell recalls the materials and forms of nearby waterfront warehouses. District Hall is also the first freestanding city-championed innovation center in the country, serving as an anchor for the emerging Innovation District. Its mission is to build, strengthen, and connect communities of innovators while expanding Greater Boston’s innovation economy. Inside, visitors will find a restaurant and café, workspace, classrooms, and assembly space. ♿ Wheelchair accessible.

Built in 2013, designed by Hacin+Associates.

Fenway Victory Gardens

1200 Boylston St, Boston
Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-6pm

Situated in the heart of Boston’s Fenway neighborhood, the Fenway Victory Gardens span seven acres tended by a community of almost 500 gardeners. During World War II, the government encouraged the establishment of “victory gardens” for citizens to grow vegetables and herbs. As the oldest and largest continuously operating victory garden in the United States, the site is home not just to vegetable gardens, but to floral gardens, a community herb garden, an accessible garden, an apiary, and a nursery.

♿ Several gardens will be open to visitors, including ones with wheelchair access.

Hibernian Hall

184 Dudley St, Boston
Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 10am-4pm

Built for the Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish Catholic benevolent society, Hibernian Hall originally featured one of five lavish ballrooms in Dudley Square. Today, Hibernian Hall continues its legacy of service to the Roxbury community by providing a flexible space for stage productions, artists’ showcases, film screenings, and cultural celebrations.

♿ Wheelchair accessible.

Built in 1913, designed by Edward Patrick Graham.

South Street Farm by Groundwork Somerville

138 South St, Somerville
Sat 10am-4pm

Somerville’s first urban farm grows healthy and affordable produce for low-income families in the community. In 2011, South Street Farm was designed and built by Groundwork Somerville’s youth jobs training and employment program, who, along with community volunteers, transformed two barren, paved parking lots into an abundant food forest. Features include a solar-powered rain-harvesting system, repurposed curbstones as growing fields, cider press, composting, honeybees, and pollinator hotels.

🏠 Planting, painting, cleaning, and greening activities will be offered as well as tours and stories. ♿ Wheelchair accessible.



The KITCHEN at The Boston Public Market

6 Congress Street, Boston

Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-6pm 978-578-5867

The KITCHEN is a state-of-the-art demonstration kitchen that serves as a teaching, learning, and gathering space at the Boston Public Market. Opened in 2015, the market is a year-round, indoor facility featuring fresh, locally-sourced food. The Trustees of Reservations, programming partners with the Boston Public Market, collaborate with culinary, health, and wellness partners develop daily programs designed to highlight experts, traditions, and local food production while inspiring healthy eating and creative cooking. Access: Use entrance at the corner of Congress & Sudbury. ♿ Wheelchair accessible.

Built in 2015, designed by Architerra.



Urbano Project

29 Germania Street, Jamaica Plain

Sat 11am-4pm 617-983-1007

The Urbano Project's contemporary art studio and exhibition space in Jamaica Plain's historic Brewery complex brings together artists, mentors, local youth, and community members to learn and experiment through placemaking.

♿ Wheelchair accessible.

Built in 1870.

Y2Y Harvard Square

1 Church Street, Cambridge

Sat 12pm-4pm 617-864-0795

Y2Y is the country's first student-run shelter for young adults experiencing homelessness. Development of the design incorporated workshops with youth; the resulting innovative shelter has no gender-identified dorms or bathrooms, and each individual bunk has its own light, phone charging station, and storage spot. The operation of the shelter, which serves young adults from all backgrounds, is made possible largely due to community support.

♿ Wheelchair accessible.

Built in 2015, designed by Studio G Architects.

YMCA of Greater Boston

316 Huntington Avenue, Boston

Sat 10am-6pm 617-536-7800

Founded in 1851 as America's first Y, the YMCA of Greater Boston has strengthened the Greater Boston community through a focus on youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. The flagship branch on Huntington Avenue is one of the largest urban Ys in the nation, staying true to its roots as a volunteer-led, human service organization strengthening children, families, and communities.

Built in 1911, designed by Shepley Rutan Coolidge.

EDUCATIONAL



Lunder Arts Center, Lesley University

1801 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge

Sat 12pm-6pm 617-349-8002

Opened in 2015, the Lunder Arts Center is the new home of the Lesley University College of Art and Design. During construction, the adjacent 170-year-old North Prospect Church was relocated 100 feet to the south of its former location to make way for the new building, which connects to the church by a three-story, glass-walled corridor. The new facility is home to galleries, classrooms, studios, digital and other laboratories. ♿ Wheelchair accessible.

Built in 2015, designed by Bruner/Cott.

Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Design and Media Center

621 Huntington Avenue, Boston

Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-6pm 617-879-7000

The Design and Media Center serves as the College's new formal entrance prominently positioned on Boston's Avenue of the Arts. The Center connects for the first time all of the College's adjacent buildings, providing full accessibility to campus. The Design and Media Center is a laboratory for interdisciplinary learning as well as a space for community collaboration. ♿ Wheelchair accessible.

Opened in 2016, designed by Ennead Architects.

Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Treehouse Residence Hall

578 Huntington Avenue, Boston

Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10pm-6pm 617-879-7000

The result of a unique design process that united the architects with the MassArt community, this residence hall has been called a new landmark in the Boston skyline. Inspired by Gustav Klimt's 1909 painting, *Tree of Life*, the building is clad in over 5,000 composite aluminum panels, and its landscape design was honored with multiple awards. 🧑🏫 First-come, first-served tours at 11am, 1pm, and 3pm on Saturday only. Meet in Treehouse lobby. Outside of listed tour times, only lobby and café will be accessible to the public. ♿ Wheelchair accessible.

Opened in 2012, designed by ADD Inc (now Stantec).

Boston Architectural College

320 Newbury Street, Boston

Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-6pm 617-585-0100

The Boston Architectural College's main Brutalist-style concrete building was chosen from close to 100 designs and models submitted to a competition in 1963. Today the school is an independent, professional college in Boston's Back Bay that provides excellence in design education by combining academic courses and innovative experiential learning. Don't miss the 2016 graduation show in the McCormick Gallery.

🧑🏫 Campus and exhibit tours will be offered; visit www.the-bac.edu. ♿ Wheelchair accessible.

Built in 1964, designed by Ashley, Myer & Associates.

Eliot School of Fine Arts

24 Eliot Street, Jamaica Plain

Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-6pm 617-524-3313

This classic two-story schoolhouse was built in 1831 as a grammar school. In 1874, the building transformed into a center for manual arts, with a wood shop filling the first floor and art classrooms on the second. Today the school inspires lifelong learning, craftsmanship, and creativity for people of all ages, offering classes in furniture, fashion, fiber arts, book arts, and other crafts.

Built in 1831.

HISTORIC



Ayer Mansion

395 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston
Sat 2:30pm-5:30pm 617-536-2586

Built between 1899 and 1902 for businessman and art collector Frederick Ayer, the Ayer Mansion is the only surviving residence created by American artist and designer Louis Comfort Tiffany. Named a National Historic Landmark in 2005, the Ayer Mansion boasts Tiffany-designed stone and glass mosaics, Favrite glass vases, custom furniture, elaborate stained-glass windows, and unexpected architectural flourishes that all work together to create a cohesive masterpiece.

Built in 1899, designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany with AJ Manning.



Capt. Lemuel Clap House, Dorchester Historical Society

199 Boston Street, Boston
Sat 11am-4pm 617-293-3052

This two-story, wood-frame, gambrel-roof building is illustrative of mid-18th century rural architecture, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building was moved to its present site to avoid demolition in 1957. The rooms of the house are filled with artifacts from the family, including wedding furniture belonging to the Captain and his second wife, Rebecca Dexter.

Built in 1700s, rebuilt in 1760.

James Blake House, Dorchester Historical Society

735 Columbia Road, Boston
Sat 11pm-4pm 617-293-3052

Built in 1661, the James Blake House is the oldest house in the City of Boston. The first occupants of the house were James and Elizabeth (Clap) Blake, who were very involved in the growing community of Dorchester. The home became the focal point of a successful 91-acre estate, including a 10-acre farm with orchards and gardens.

Built in 1661.

William Clapp House, Dorchester Historical Society

195 Boston Street, Boston
Sat 11pm-4pm 617-293-3052

The oldest son of Lemuel Clap, William Clapp designed his house as a large, hip-roofed, Federal style structure. The interior incorporated elements of this fashionable style, such as a double parlor, dentil and comb molding, and a fanlight and sidelights around the front door.

Built in 1806.



Dorchester Heights Monument

95 G St, Boston
Sat 10am-6pm

This 115-foot-tall monument commemorates the night in 1776 when colonial militia from Roxbury fortified the Heights of Dorchester, convincing the British to evacuate Boston two weeks later. On Saturday, the National Park Service will dedicate a mounted cannon onsite, along with a community open house featuring a variety of family activities. ♿ Wheelchair entrance ramp is long and wheelchair users may need assistance.

Built in 1902, designed by Peabody and Stearns.

Emerald Necklace Conservancy and the Shattuck Visitor Center

125 Fenway, Boston
Sat 11am-4pm Sun 11am-4pm 617-522-2700

The Shattuck Visitor Center was originally a pump house designed by H.H. Richardson in 1882, and was a key element of Frederick Law Olmsted's sanitary improvement of the Back Bay Fens. Deactivated in the 1970s, it sat idle for many years. Repurposed in 2010 by Ann Beha Architects, it now serves as a visitor center for the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, which works to improve and restore the Emerald Necklace parks. ♿ Wheelchair accessible. 🏠 A self-guided tour of the bridges and structures in the Fens will be available.

Built in 1882, designed by Henry Hobson Richardson.

Ether Dome and the Bulfinch Building, Massachusetts General Hospital

55 Fruit Street, Boston
Sat 11am-5pm 617-724-8009

The hospital's original Classical Revival building is a rare surviving example of an early 19th century public hospital building. At the top of the building is the Ether Dome—the hospital's original operating room, and the site of the first successful public demonstration of anesthesia in 1846. Visitors can explore a small collection of artifacts, including an oil painting of the famous first surgery, an Egyptian mummy, and early surgical tools. Access: Go through the hospital's main entrance. Proceed straight, then turn right after Coffee Central. Take the elevator or stone stairs to the fourth floor. 🏠 At 2:00, a tour will begin at the hospital's Russell Museum (at 2 North Grove Street, see page 15). Space is limited; sign up by emailing mghhistory@partners.org. ♿ Wheelchair accessible.

Built in 1821, designed by Charles Bulfinch.



Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

99 Warren Street, Brookline
Sat 10am-6pm Sun 10am-6pm 617-566-1689

Frederick Law Olmsted's estate served as both his family's home and the world's first professional practice of landscape architecture. Olmsted moved his family to Brookline in 1883 after supervising the design and construction of such landmarks as Central Park in New York and the US Capitol Grounds. The work of Olmsted's Brookline office continued for nearly a century, with Olmsted's associates designing thousands of landscape projects across the country. ♿ House exhibits accessible, design studios are not.

Various additions between 1810-1925.



Loring-Greenough House

12 South Street, Jamaica Plain
Sun 10am-6pm 617-524-3158

This Georgian Colonial home was the hub of a large farm, built in 1760 as a country residence for wealthy British naval officer Commodore Joshua Loring. The house was confiscated by colonial forces and served as a hospital for Continental Army soldiers following the Battle of Bunker Hill. Displayed throughout the house are American furniture and decorative arts from the 18th through the early 20th centuries.

Wheelchair access to public grounds and first floor of historic building. First-come, first-served tours will be offered on the hour and half hour between 12pm and 4pm on Sunday.

Built in 1760.

Nichols House Museum

55 Mount Vernon Street, Boston
Sat 11am-4pm 617-227-6993

The Nichols House Museum is an 1804 townhouse attributed to Charles Bulfinch, nestled on Boston's historic Beacon Hill. For 75 years it was the home of Rose Standish Nichols, landscape gardener, suffragist, and pacifist. The museum provides a unique glimpse into domestic life in the 19th and 20th centuries, and is furnished with ancestral portraits, Flemish tapestries, and works by Augustus Saint-Gaudens. House may only be accessed via free guided tours offered on the hour, starting at 11am, with the last tour at 4pm. Tours are Saturday only, and are first-come, first-served, space is limited.

Built in 1804, design attributed to Charles Bulfinch.



Otis House, Historic New England

141 Cambridge Street, Boston
Sat 11am-4:30pm Sun 11am-4:30pm 617-994-5920

Charles Bulfinch designed this historic home in 1796 for Harrison Gray Otis and his wife, Sally, who lived and entertained lavishly here. The house's design reflects the classical proportions and delicate detail of the Federal style. Join a guided tour and discover what life was like for Boston's elite after the American Revolution, as the city grew and Beacon Hill became Boston's most fashionable address. House may only be accessed via free 50 minute tours offered on the hour and half hour, tours are first-come, first-served. Last tour at 4:30pm.

Built in 1796, designed by Charles Bulfinch.

INNOVATION



GrandTen Distilling

383 Dorchester Avenue, Boston
Sat 12pm-5pm, Sun 1pm-5pm 617-269-0497

GrandTen Distilling is a small batch distillery housed in a famous South Boston iron foundry built by notable inventor and metallurgist Cyrus Alger. From this South Boston location, Alger furnished the US government with munitions and weaponry for many years. Today the distillery produces 10 commercial spirits and houses a **tasting room**. Access: Take the alley between 371 and 383. ♿ Wheelchair accessible.

Built in 1850s.

Restoration Resources

1946 Washington Street, Boston
Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-6pm 617-542-3033

Restoration Resources, Boston's only architectural salvage company, is regarded as New England's premier source for salvaged architectural antiques, unique artifacts, vintage furnishings, and unusual gifts. Explore this 7,000 sf retail showroom and warehouse. Visitors can peruse and even purchase everything from salvaged mantels and stained glass windows to antique door knobs and vintage furnishings.

♿ First floor is Wheelchair accessible.

Built in 1916.



The Innovation and Design Building

23 Drydock Avenue, Boston
Sat 10am-6pm, 617-449-5501

Renovated in 2016 by Elkus Manfredi, this eight-story complex originally served as a waterside storehouse for the South Boston Army Base. Today the 1.4 million sf facility is home to a dynamic mix of companies and industries that including architecture and creative service studios, specialized manufacturing facilities, research and development firms, and technology start-ups. With an ambitious, thoughtful revitalization nearly complete, the IDB anchors the eastern portion of Boston's Seaport.

♿ Wheelchair accessible. 🏢 Select tenants, including Baker Design Group, the Makers' Guild, and Tria Architecture will open their offices and offer tours.

Built in 1918, designed by U.S. Army Construction Division.

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LIBRARIES



Boston Public Library, Central

230 Dartmouth Street, Boston
Sun 1pm-5pm 617-536-5400

Completed in 1895 by famed architects McKim, Mead, and White, the Central Library's original building is known for its classical serenity and elegance. Featuring Bates Hall's majestic barrel-arched ceiling, John Singer Sargent murals, and a magnificent deep interior courtyard, the building is a constant source of aesthetic surprise and satisfaction. The Central Library's Philip Johnson building addition first opened in 1972; it is currently undergoing renovations by William Rawn Associates. **Access:** Please enter through the McKim Building on Dartmouth Street 🏠 Art & Architecture tours will be on a first-come, first-served basis at 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm; meet in the McKim vestibule at the Dartmouth Street entrance. ♿ Wheelchair accessible.

Built in 1895, designed by McKim, Mead, and White.



Boston Public Library, East Boston Branch

365 Bremen Street, East Boston
Sat 9am-5pm 617-569-0271

Designed in 2013 by William Rawn Associates, the East Boston Branch features an open floor plan with views of the Boston skyline, dedicated areas for children, teens, and adults, and a multipurpose community space. A reading porch running the length of the building provides visitors with outdoor space for reading and views of the park. The branch was designed for building and energy efficiency and achieved LEED Gold certification. ♿ Wheelchair accessible.

Built in 2013, designed by William Rawn Associates.



Boston Public Library, Honan-Allston Branch

300 North Harvard Street, Allston
Sat 9am-5pm 617-787-6313

Designed by Machado Silvetti in 2001, this spacious, sunny library features an open layout, a large function room for community events, an art gallery that showcases exhibits by local artists, and outdoor reading courtyards for children and adults, full of trees and seating. In 2006, sculptor Rich Duca contributed tree guards and bicycle racks to the property, adding beauty and function to the exterior. [Wheelchair accessible.](#)

Built in 2001, designed by Machado Silvetti.

Boston Public Library, Hyde Park Branch

35 Harvard Avenue, Hyde Park
Sat 9am-5pm 617-361-2524

Designed in the Classical Revival style in 1899, the Hyde Park Branch features a marble fireplace, high ceilings, and other turn-of-the-century details. A new addition and a renovation of the existing building, designed by Schwartz/Silver Architects, opened in 2000, doubling the library's size. The addition extends on either side of the original building in order to maintain symmetry, balance, and to retain focus on the historic structure. [Wheelchair accessible.](#)

Built in 1899. Addition in 2000 by Schwartz/Silver.

Boston Public Library, Mattapan Branch

1350 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan
Sat 9am-5pm 617-298-9218

Designed by William Rawn Associates in 2009, this stone and brick building features an abundance of glass that allows sun to brighten the interior. Explore a high-ceilinged reading room, a community room paneled with warm wood, colorful children and teen spaces, and an exterior courtyard for programming. The branch's open, easy-to-navigate layout makes it fully ADA accessible. [Wheelchair accessible.](#)

Built in 2009, designed by William Rawn Associates.

Boston Public Library, Parker Hill Branch

1497 Tremont Street, Roxbury
Sat 9am-2pm 617-427-3820

The Parker Hill Branch was designed in 1929 by famed architect Ralph Adams Cram. The open and airy two-story Gothic building features delicate detailing on the interior and carved seals representing the state of Massachusetts and the City of Boston on each side of the exterior. The tiny windowpanes allow for sunlight to illuminate the branch's heavy oak tables. [Wheelchair accessible.](#)

Built in 1931, designed by Ralph Adams Cram.

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



BSA Space

290 Congress St, Suite 200, Boston
Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm 617-391-4000

BSA Space is Boston's leading center for architecture and design, opened to the public in 2011. Boston-based firm Höweler + Yoon Architecture designed the space, using a concept that centers on a highly visible "cloud" ceiling and monumental staircase. BSA Space is home to the Boston Society of Architects/AIA and the BSA Foundation, and hosts exhibitions, walking tours, and other programs that encourage collaboration across the city and world. ♿ Handicap access by elevator in rear of building lobby.

Built in 2011, designed by Höweler + Yoon Architecture.

Fenway Studios

30 Ipswich St, Boston
Sat 12pm-3pm

Fenway Studios, a live-work studio space for Boston artists, is the oldest continuously-functioning building in the country dedicated solely to artists' space. Built in the Arts & Crafts style, the building was inspired by 19th-century ateliers in Paris, and was designed so that every one of the 46 studios would have 12-foot-high north-facing windows. The Studios pioneered a limited-equity form of ownership in order to maintain rents at an affordable level. Select studios will be open to the public.

Built in 1905, designed by Parker and Thomas.

Metropolitan Waterworks Museum

2450 Beacon St, Boston
Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-6pm 617-277-0065

Sitting on the original Chestnut Hill Reservoir & Pumping Station, the building consists of a great hall, housing three historic steam-powered pumping engines and a glass-enclosed viewing pavilion. The museum is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the historic facilities that first supplied the City of Boston with clean drinking water, presenting unique stories of this early system through exhibitions on engineering, architecture, social history, and public health. ♿ Wheelchair accessible

Built in 1886-87, designed by A.M. Vinal. Addition built in 1897-98, designed by E. H. Wheelwright.



Midway Artist Studios

15 Channel Center Street, Boston
Sat 12pm-6pm

Midway Artist Studios houses 89 live-work studios located in three adjoined former wool warehouses. The building operates as an artist-run rental under a nonprofit model, providing affordable housing in a rapidly developing neighborhood. Artists living in the building work in media that range from painting to photography, jewelry to sculpture, performing arts to film making, and more.

🏠 First-come first-served tours at 2pm and 4pm, on Saturday. ♿ Wheelchair accessible

Built in 1911. Renovated in 2005 by Spalding Touigas Architects, Inc.

SACRED SPACES



Christ Church Cambridge

Zero Garden St, Cambridge
Sat 12pm-4pm

Christ Church was designed in 1759 by Peter Harrison, the colonies' first well-known architect. The building has been altered since, but the integrity of Harrison's original design has remained intact, and the building received a Preservation Award in 2011 for its recent renovations. Christ Church is a welcoming place that supports the well-being and work of a large, active, outward-looking community.

♿ Wheelchair access through the adjoining Parish Hall doors, at the end of the driveway.

Built in 1759, designed by Peter Harrison.

Church of the Covenant

67 Newbury Street, Boston
Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 1pm-6pm 617-266-7480

The Church of the Covenant was completed in 1867 in the Gothic Revival style, and its 236 foot-tall spire quickly became a landmark in Boston (the tallest of its day). The sanctuary was redecorated in the 1890s by the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company, incorporating Tiffany windows, mosaics, decorative tracery, and carved woodwork. A National Historic Landmark, the church is recognized as the largest Tiffany-designed ecclesiastical interior in the country.

♿ Wheelchair accessible

Built in 1885-1867, designed by Richard M. Upjohn.

Old North Church

193 Salem St, Boston
Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-6pm 617-523-4848

Built in 1723, Old North Church is the oldest standing church building in Boston and is a National Historic Landmark. The Old North is still an active Episcopal congregation and one of the most visited historic sites in Boston. Step back in time and sit in the same box pews owned by colonial congregants, and find out how the signal lanterns from Paul Revere ignited the American Revolution. 🏠 First-come, first-served interactive tours at 6pm on Saturday and Sunday that examine the church's architecture and fine art objects. ♿ Main floor is Wheelchair accessible

Built in 1723, designed by William Price.

The Vilna Shul, Boston's Center for Jewish Culture, Inc.

18 Phillips St, Boston
Sun 10am-6pm 617-523-2324

Vilna Shul is the last remaining immigrant-era synagogue building in Boston. Built in 1919, the congregation employed the only Jewish architect in the city, Max Kalman, along with community members, to help with the construction. Congregants painted the walls and ceiling of their new synagogue with decorative murals, a long-standing tradition of Eastern European Jews. Today, the building serves as a cultural center, living museum, and meeting space. 🏠 First-come, first-served tours available at 11am, 1pm, 3pm and 5pm on Sunday.

Built in 1919, designed by Max Kalman.

THEATRE



The Strand Theatre

543 Columbia Road, Boston

Sat 10am-3pm, Sun 10am-3pm 617-635-1403

The Strand was built in 1918 as a movie and vaudeville house. After a mid-century decline, a massive restoration effort brought the Strand back as a cultural and entertainment center. In the mid-2000s, the Strand closed several times for repairs and renovations, and in July 2008, the Strand's stage floor and orchestra pit were replaced and repairs were made to the facade and marquee.

Built in 1918, designed by Funk and Wilcox.

Eliot Hall and the Footlight Club

7A Eliot Street, Jamaica Plain

Sat 10am-6pm 617-524-3200

The Greek Revival Eliot Hall has been an integral part of the life of Jamaica Plain since its original construction as a public meeting hall in 1831. In 1878, it became the home of America's oldest community theater, the Footlight Club. Today the Footlight Club continues to bring community members together to perform and enjoy theatre productions. 🏠 Tours will be ongoing on Saturday. Presentation scheduled for Saturday at 1pm, no registration necessary.

Built in 1831, architect unknown.

ABOUT



About Common Boston

Common Boston, a program of the BSA Foundation, was founded 10+ years ago by the Boston Society of Architects/AIA. Since 2005, Common Boston has hosted more than 250 events for thousands of attendees in 35 communities around the region. In doing so, Common Boston connects designers and the public for more vibrant, sustainable, and equitable communities. For more information, visit commonboston.org.

About the BSA Foundation



The goal of the BSA Foundation is to enhance public understanding of the built environment and the processes that shape it. With understanding, the Foundation believes communities will be better equipped to enrich and preserve our physical and natural surroundings.

The Foundation's vision is to build a better Boston by engaging communities, inspiring vision, and provoking positive change. The Boston Society of Architects/AIA established the Foundation in 1971 with a goal of engendering in current and future generations informed commitment to sensitive, well-designed, humanistic environments. A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Foundation is an independent corporation governed by a 15-member Board of Trustees that includes six architects as well as nine non-architect members.

For more information, visit architects.org/foundation.



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Bigger than a Breadbox opening reception, 2015, Photo by Mike Lawrie

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