

A JOINT PRESS RELEASE FROM



R.I. HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

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Images attached—additional and higher-res for all 11 upon request

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OCEAN STATE'S ELEVEN: PRESENTING THE 2015 RHODY AWARDS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

A volunteer champion of Beavertail Lighthouse, a mill rehabbed to serve as a hub for healthcare in South Providence, a former Rumford library to call home, and a fixer-upper hardware store in Wakefield are among the people, places, and projects that will be honored at the seventh annual Rhode Island Preservation Celebration. The event will take place at the Dunes Club in Narragansett from 4:00 to 6:30pm on Sunday, September 27.

The Rhody Awards, chosen by Preserve Rhode Island (PRI) and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) from nominations by the public, honor individuals, organizations, and projects for their contributions to the preservation of Rhode Island's historic places.

The 2015 awards include:

- **Antoinette F. Downing Volunteer Service Award** to Varoujan Karentz of Jamestown who gives his time to the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association as a grantwriter, project manager, interpreter, planner, and advocate.
- **Frederick C. Williamson Professional Leadership Award** to Sheila Deming Brush of North Kingstown recognizing her critical role in promoting historic preservation and smart growth in Rhode Island for nearly 30 years.
- **Community Award** to Providence City Archives for its renewed commitment to collecting, preserving, and making municipal records available to the public.
- **Homeowner Award** to Rita Danielle Steele, who led a team of friends and family to do-it-themselves and convert the Rumford Library (1905) into her dream home.

- **Project Award** to Providence Community Health Centers for the visionary rehabilitation of the Beaman & Smith Co. Mill (1898, 1917) to create a healthcare hub in South Providence.
- **Project Award** to American Realty Capital for the exterior restoration of the Audrain Building (1903), part of the exquisite Gilded Age streetscape along Newport’s Bellevue Avenue.
- **Project Award** to John Shea of Hammond Real Estate for rehabbing the endangered James L. Hazard House (ca. 1855/ca. 1875) in Newport.
- **Project Award** for the comprehensive exterior restoration of the iconic Old Slater Mill (1793) in Pawtucket.
- **Project Award** to Vince Geoffroy for the dynamic redevelopment of the Providence Gas Company (1924), Narragansett Hotel Garage (1923), and Teste Block (1860) as the Providence G apartment and restaurant complex.
- **Project Award** to Providence Revolving Fund for restoring the Reuben and Emily Sweet House (1877-78) for an extended family in Providence’s Elmwood neighborhood.
- **Project Award** to Arnold Lumber for rehabbing the handsome brick storefront of the Wakefield Branch Company Building (c. 1874) and showing off local pride and expertise on Main Street.

The Rhode Island Preservation Celebration and Rhody Awards event is open to the public. Tickets cost \$30 before September 23 or \$35 at the door. To buy a ticket or request more information, call (401)272-5101 or visit www.preserveri.org.

RHODY AWARDS DIGEST 2015

Antoinette F. Downing Volunteer Service Award Varoujan Karentz of Jamestown	Frederick C. Williamson Professional Leadership Award Sheila Deming Brush of North Kingstown
Community Award Providence City Archives	Homeowner Award Rita Danielle Steele for the Rumford Library, East Providence
Project Awards Audrain Building, Newport Beaman & Smith Company Mill, Providence James L. Hazard House, Newport Old Slater Mill, Pawtucket Providence G, Providence Reuben and Emily Sweet House, Providence Wakefield Branch Company Building, South Kingstown	

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