



**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **PLAN TO TRANSFORM SOUTH BOSTON LIBRARY SITE WINS 2018 AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION PRIZE**

BOSTON (May 1, 2018) – A plan to create a mix of 48 housing units and community spaces for low-income seniors and municipal workers and formerly homeless seniors at the site of a library in South Boston received the first-place prize at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Affordable Housing Development Competition.

The first-place winning team was announced during a special awards ceremony organized by Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston at the Boston Society of Architects/AIA on April 24. The competition drew six entries from groups of graduate students interested in architecture, real estate, planning, finance, and policy who teamed up with local affordable housing organizations.

The winning proposal, Library Village, was presented by a student team from Harvard University and MIT, in collaboration with South Boston Neighborhood Development Corporation, Davis Square Architects, and a finance mentor from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development.

Library Village aims to transform the existing South Boston branch of the Boston Public Library into 48 apartments above a new state-of-the-art library facility with a wellness center. Of the 48 units, 37 would be reserved for low-income seniors, eight for formerly homeless seniors, and three for municipal workers. The development features include a public courtyard, a shared community café, and energy efficient and sustainable design elements.

The winning team and developer shared the \$10,000 first-place prize.

“This important competition helps foster solutions and partnerships to address affordable housing needs in Greater Boston. Over the last 18 years, nearly 900 students have participated, offering some remarkable proposals for communities throughout the region,” said Susan Elliott, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston’s chief business officer and emcee of the awards ceremony. “This year’s competition participants strove to find solutions to stabilize neighborhoods and create mixed-income and mixed-used development while also providing a sense of community. I applaud all of the participants for presenting such impressive proposals.”

Chrystal Kornegay, executive director of MassHousing, offered the keynote address.

“It’s refreshing to see the energy and ideas that the student teams shared. I hope they seriously consider a career in affordable housing, as they will find this work truly rewarding,” said Kornegay.

The competition was sponsored by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, Boston Society of Architects/AIA, Kevin P. Martin & Associates, P.C., Kuehn Charitable Foundation, ICON Architecture Inc., and Citizens' Housing and Planning Association. The competition was judged by Kenan Bigby, Trinity Financial; David Eisen, Abacus Architects + Planners; Soni Gupta, Home Funders; Aeron Hodges, Stantec Architecture; Carrie Niemy, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.; and David Rockwell, Massachusetts Housing Partnership.

Awards were also presented to:

- Second place: Riverbend Row, a proposal to redevelop two abandoned historic schools in Athol into medium-scale affordable housing options. The development was proposed by students from Harvard University and Tufts University, who worked with NewVue Communities, ICON Architecture, Inc., and a finance mentor from Middlesex Savings Bank.
- Third place: Honan House, a plan for 131-unit complex for low- to moderate-income seniors in Brighton that includes a wealth of dynamic services to promote intergenerational connections. The development proposal was driven by students at Harvard University and MIT, in partnership with Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly, ICON Architecture, Inc., and a finance mentor from Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation.

#### **About Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston:**

[Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston](#) is a cooperatively-owned wholesale bank for housing finance in the six New England states. Its mission is to provide highly reliable wholesale funding and liquidity to its member financial institutions in New England. The Bank also develops and delivers competitively priced financial products, services, and expertise that support housing finance, community development, and economic growth, including programs targeted to lower-income households.

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