



Massachusetts  
**Housing  
Investment  
Corporation**

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## Massachusetts Housing Investment presents Excellence awards at its 28<sup>th</sup> annual meeting

June 4, 2019 – Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation (MHIC) today presented Excellence Awards to developers of four recently-developed Massachusetts properties. The awards were made at MHIC's Annual Meeting and Awards ceremony, held at the Omni Parker House and attended by nearly 300 people.

In presenting the awards, MHIC President Joe Flatley said, "We are more than delighted to have this opportunity to publicly recognize those who have gone beyond what was required to not only build badly-needed housing in Massachusetts, but in doing so to advance the revitalization of neighborhoods and to create jobs and new opportunities for community residents."

Excellence awards were presented to:

**Tom Kegelman**, Executive Director of [Home City Development](#). Based in Springfield, Home City is a nonprofit developer of multi-family and mixed-use properties in the Springfield region. The firm is dedicated to addressing the need for safe, high-quality affordable housing and improvement of neighborhoods in the Greater Springfield area. MHIC has financed several Home City developments including, most recently, E. Henry Twiggs Estates II, a 61-unit scattered site affordable housing development in Springfield's Upper Hill neighborhood for which MHIC provided a tax credit equity investment. Tom Kegelman and Home City Development received an Excellence in Affordable Housing Award for "his long-term commitment to improving the quality of homes and neighborhoods through the acquisition and renovation of numerous properties throughout Springfield and surrounding communities."

The **development team of the Blanchard School Apartments** in Uxbridge, Massachusetts. This project, developed by the Virginia Blanchard Memorial Housing Association (VBMH) and Jon Juhl of JNJuhl & Associates, involved the historic renovation of a vacant school into 25 affordable rental apartments for veterans and Uxbridge residents. It took the development team nearly a decade of planning to bring the project, for which MHIC provided federal historic and low-income housing tax credit financing, to fruition. Accepting the award today were: Jon

Juhl; several members of the VBMA board of directors, including Harry Romasco, Mike Potaski, David Moriarty and John Wise; Ed Nunes of [Nunes Trabucco](#), architects for the project, and Mike Sugrue of [Sugrue & Associates](#), general contractor. The Blanchard School development received an Excellence in Affordable Housing award for “perseverance and innovation in executing the community’s vision to preserve the rich history of the Virginia Blanchard School.”

**Kamran Zahedi** of [Urbanica, Inc.](#), a Boston-based developer which specializes in transforming underutilized buildings and sites into exceptional spaces for living, working and playing. Urbanica received an Excellence in Minority Inclusion award “for being a champion of equity and inclusion and for creating access and opportunity for minority-owned firms and workers of color during the construction of the Melnea Residences.” The Melnea Residences is a new, mixed-income apartment complex financed by MHIC through its [Healthy Neighborhoods Equity Fund](#). It was built on a vacant property in Roxbury, adjacent to the new Marriott Residence Inn, which also received MHIC financing. During construction of the Melnea Residences, Kamran Zahedi made extraordinary efforts to utilize workers of color and minority-owned businesses.

**Sarah Barnat**, president of [Barnat Development](#), for her development of Holmes Beverly, a mixed-income apartment complex in Beverly. Barnat Development specializes in urban, mixed-use and transit-oriented residential construction. Holmes Beverly, which Barnat recently completed, is a mixed-income, mixed-use apartment complex next to the Beverly MBTA Depot commuter rail station financed by MHIC through its Healthy Neighborhoods Equity Fund. Sarah Barnat received an Excellence in Community Development award “for her visionary plan and steadfast execution in reimagining a vacant parcel into a vibrant transit-oriented building with dynamic retail and homes accessible to households with a range of incomes.”

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