



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, & Cultural Development

Massachusetts General Court

State House, Room 195, Boston 02133-1054

(617) 722-2015

John D. Keenan
House Chair

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Contact: Lynne Montague
(617) 722-2015

RESIDENTS ASKED TO NOMINATE THEIR FAVORITE MASSACHUSETTS PLACES

Representative Keenan says new program gives district a chance to spotlight its special places

(SALEM) – Representative John Keenan invites residents of Salem to nominate their favorite places in Massachusetts.

1,000 Great Places in Massachusetts is a new cultural tourism program that celebrates what is unique about our state, its communities, and its people, and also to stimulate cultural tourism. The program seeks to increase visitation to the state's wide range of exceptional historic sites, cultural venues, and natural landscapes.

Nominations will be considered for a final list of **1,000 Great Places in Massachusetts** to be announced in May.

"Salem has so many special historic sites, cultural landmarks, and natural landscapes," said Rep. Keenan, House Chairman of the Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development. "I encourage my constituents to tell their stories about what makes our favorite places great."

The Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT) has established a website to accept nominations from the public: www.Massvacation.com/1000greatplaces

All Great Places that are nominated must be open and available to the public. Only one nomination per person will be accepted. The nomination period will close April 1, 2010. The Commission will meet later that month to draw up a final list of 1,000 Great Places in Massachusetts, which will be announced in May.

The 1,000 Great Places Commission was created by the Legislature in 2009. It is chaired by Eric Turkington of Falmouth, a former state representative and first House Chair of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development. Other members are listed below, along with their affiliation:

Massachusetts Senate:

Sen. Sonia Chang-Díaz, Boston
Sen. Benjamin Downing, Pittsfield
Sen. Robert Hedlund, Weymouth

Massachusetts House of Representatives:

Rep. Susan Gifford, Wareham
Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, Pittsfield
Rep. Rosemary Sandlin, Agawam

Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism/Regional Tourism Councils:

Larry Meehan, Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau
Arthur Motta, Southeastern Mass. Convention & Visitors Bureau
Peter Tomyl, Mohawk Trail Association

Massachusetts Cultural Council:

Sheila Balboni, Lawrence
Ricardo Barreto, Boston

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