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19 Carter Receives Community Arts Award

BOSTON, MA — November 6, 2025 — 19 Carter (Berlin, MA) was honored with the **“Good Neighbor Award”** at the **38th Annual Champions of Arts Awards**, held at the Boston Renaissance Charter Public School and hosted by the nonprofit organization **Arts Learning**.

This award recognizes organizations that go above and beyond to provide logistical, technical, moral, or financial support for arts education to thrive in their communities. 19 Carter was one of fourteen award recipients celebrated that evening.

Dr. Tom Reynolds, Interim Executive Director of Arts Learning, praised 19 Carter for its innovative approach to community engagement through the arts:

“What the folks at 19 Carter have created is a new way of the arts connecting people within a thriving community space. They have taken our focus on the value of education in the arts to the next level by creating a space for everyone to participate — from concerts to art displays to open mics and jazz jams, open art studios, and book groups. I see it as the way of the future.”

Introducing **19 Carter’s Executive Director, Evy Dueck**, to the stage was **Tom Desmond**, who is leading efforts to transform the **Hudson National Guard Armory** into a performing arts and cultural center (ArmoryOnTheAssabet.org).

“I was amazed at what she had accomplished, transforming an old church into a vibrant community center that emphasizes community, culture, and fellowship,” said Desmond. “Evvy has embarked on what some might call a crusade — sharing her experience with like-minded citizens focused on preserving history, engaging communities, and bringing art and culture together to strengthen our connections with one another.”

Accepting the award on behalf of 19 Carter, Dueck noted that the mission of “creating conditions for connecting” is the basis for this unique gathering space and has resulted in thousands of people connecting with each other through conversation, culture and the arts. She added, “All of our programs are led by local community members eager to share their knowledge and creativity with others. We are honored to receive this award acknowledging this unique approach and hope our success can inspire others to do the same.”

About 19 Carter - A Unique Gathering Place

Founded in 2008, 19 Carter began with a vision to **restore and reuse the historic 1887 Gothic Victorian “Old Methodist Church”** in Berlin, Massachusetts, for the benefit of the greater community. After ten years of renovation, community engagement, and fundraising, the doors fully

opened to the public in 2018, quickly filling a need in the community — providing a welcoming, creative space for people to gather, connect, and participate in the arts.

In 2024, this unique gathering place devoted to *creating conditions for connecting* welcomed **14,000 visitors from 79 towns across Massachusetts and beyond**. In addition to regular daytime hours, **214 evening and weekend events** were hosted.

Daytime activities include community coffee hours, tea time, afternoon games, local art exhibits and sales, old time music sessions, book clubs, wellness programs, meditation, fiber arts gatherings, and open art studios.

Evening and weekend programs feature live music concerts, weekly Irish Sessions, monthly Open Mics for music and comedy, Jazz Jams, movie nights, Armchair Traveler talks, History Matters presentations, Braver Angels workshops, and local information sessions.

This thriving community hub has become an **antidote to loneliness and isolation**, offering countless opportunities for connection, creativity, and collaboration. As communities continue to navigate the challenges of post-pandemic social life, 19 Carter stands as a model for rebuilding human connection through shared experiences in the arts.

Since opening, 19 Carter has inspired community leaders in other towns to explore the reuse of historic buildings for arts and cultural gathering spaces. The organization regularly hosts workshops to share their journey and expertise in restoring historic spaces to foster community connection.

The mission of 19 Carter is to **create conditions for connecting** for people from all walks of life and all zip codes:

- A place to connect through shared interests, events, and conversation.
- A place to experience live music and art, meet the creators, and be inspired to create together.
- A place where generations can comfortably interact — all within a beautiful, historic, and thriving community space.

For more information, please visit **19Carter.org**, follow on **Facebook and Instagram @19CarterCommunity**, or email info@19carter.org.