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## **Suffolk, Construction, Bergmeyer Associates and Stegman and Associates complete Boston Hostel; designed for LEED Gold**

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Hostelling International USA (HI-USA) will officially open its new Boston hostel this June as the first LEED certified accommodations in the city, and the facility is aiming to be the first LEED Gold hostel in the country. The hostel will feature 480 beds with 100 private bathrooms adjacent to each room.

The adaptive re-use of the building will help to integrate new and efficient green technologies and extraordinary features including recycled building materials, green elevators, and ENERGY STAR appliances and equipment. The new building is also on track to become LEED Gold certified with the pending installation of proposed solar thermal panels once the required \$90,000 in funding is raised.

The lobby, with floor-to-ceiling windows and a coffee shop, will support Hostelling International's mission of promoting intercultural exchange between guests and the community by providing a place to congregate and connect. The building will also feature a community room which will be available for use by the public.

Suffolk Construction is the construction management firm overseeing the development. The project involves the renovation of a 55,500 s/f six-story building that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The hostel is being designed by Boston architectural firms Bergmeyer Associates and Stegman + Associates.

"Our new hostel will promote eco-tourism globally. Guests in our facility will use less building energy and have less of an impact on the environment, which was one of our main goals when drafting the plan for our new hostel," said Deborah Ruhe, executive director of Hostelling International New England.

"And whether they come as part of a personal journey, or part of a class trip, our guests will enjoy safe, affordable accommodations."

Hostelling International Boston will welcome more than 46,000 guests annually, 60% of which will be international visitors, and will target those between the ages of 18-30. The influx of hostellers is expected to generate more than \$16 million of direct spending by tourists at Boston restaurants, entertainment venues, and sightseeing spots across the city, greatly enhancing the local economy.

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