

Affordable-housing tower breaks ground near Boston Common

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A 19-story tower that will house residents with a mix of incomes, including formerly homeless people, recently started construction in Boston's Chinatown.

The groundbreaking came nearly eight years after the project's developers, St. Francis House and Planning Office for Urban Affairs, filed their plans for 41 LaGrange St. with the city.

The building will feature 126 apartments, all income-restricted. Seventy of the units are reserved as permanent supportive housing for those who have experienced homelessness. The other units will be targeted toward households making less than between 50% and 80% of the area median income, which is \$130,600 for a two-person household in Boston.

The property is located a block from Boston Common, between two luxury residential buildings, The Parker and The Kensington, and across the street from two of the only remnants from [the neighborhood's Combat Zone days](#), the Glass Slipper and Centerfolds.

The development is to include 68 studios, 21 one-bedroom apartments and 37 two-bedroom apartments.

St. Francis House runs the state's largest day shelter for homeless people a block from the project site, on Boylston Street. POUA is an affordable housing developer affiliated with the Archdiocese of Boston. The two organizations previously collaborated on 48 Boylston St., the redevelopment of the former Boston Young Men's Christian Union building that similarly serves a mix of formerly homeless people and others.

The project's general contractor is Dimeo Construction Co. The building that had been on the site was demolished around 2017.



Financing for the development comes from the city of Boston, the Boston Housing Authority, state agencies including MassHousing, [Bank of America](#) and The Life Initiative, a fund created by Massachusetts life insurance companies such as John Hancock and MassMutual to finance affordable housing.

St. Francis House and POUA plan to hold a formal groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 24, with public officials including Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll.