

HISTORIC NEW ENGLAND

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Stuart Weitzman's Personal Collection of Shoes "Comes Home" to Historic New England in Haverhill

HAVERHILL, MA (December 4, 2024) – He's designed luxury shoes for Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lopez, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Queen Elizabeth II, and Aretha Franklin. Now, his designs are coming home to Haverhill.

Stuart Weitzman—shoe designer, businessman, and philanthropist—has donated 127 pairs of shoes from his personal collection to Historic New England. This gift establishes one of the largest collections of Stuart Weitzman shoes in the world and showcases the artistry and craftsmanship that made Weitzman a household name.

Known for their quality and flattering silhouettes, Weitzman's designs have been a staple on Hollywood red carpets for nearly six decades. The collection includes shoes designed by Weitzman's father, Seymour, who founded Mr. Seymour Shoes in 1955 in Haverhill's Lang Building—now Historic New England's Center for Preservation and Collections. Weitzman joined his family's business in the 1960s, drawing inspiration from unique materials and creative design techniques that later became hallmarks of his work.

"This city has a deep history of craftsmanship and innovation, and it has always been close to my heart," said Weitzman. "Haverhill is where my journey as a shoemaker began more than six decades ago. My father's factory was where I learned the art and discipline of shoemaking—lessons that shaped my entire career. To see these designs now become part of Haverhill's legacy feels like bringing a piece of that history full circle—honoring the city's soul."

The collection also features six pairs of "art shoes" designed by fine artists for window displays in Weitzman's Madison Avenue flagship store. These unique pieces capture the history of design as well as the cultural significance of shopping, display, and advertising.

"It's incredibly meaningful that these designs are returning to the city where it all started," said Vin Cipolla, President and CEO of Historic New England. "This gift is much more than a collection of shoes—it honors Haverhill's role as a former hub of American shoe manufacturing and it speaks to the vision for our Haverhill Center project, where we celebrate New England's design contributions on a global scale."

Highlights from the collection will debut in *Shoe Stories*, an upcoming exhibition held at Historic New England's Center for Preservation and Collections, in the very building where Stuart Weitzman's journey began. The *Shoe Stories* exhibition and the Haverhill Center project will

engage the community and celebrate New England's unique place in design history. Weitzman's gift supports Historic New England's mission to preserve, educate, and inspire, with programs and exhibitions dedicated to honoring both Haverhill's role in American manufacturing and Stuart Weitzman's legacy as a designer and philanthropist.

About Historic New England

Historic New England is the oldest, largest, and most comprehensive independent preservation organization in the United States. We share the region's stories through our historic properties, collections, publications, archives, gardens, and programs, connecting people to their cultural and architectural heritage. Learn more at www.HistoricNewEngland.org.

About Haverhill Center

[Historic New England's Haverhill Center](#) is set to become a cornerstone of a vibrant arts and culture district with global reach in downtown Haverhill, Massachusetts. Spanning over 600,000 square feet of developable space, this cultural hub will support local and regional businesses, arts organizations, environmental initiatives, and social institutions, attracting visitors and generating significant revenue for the area.

New and continuing partnerships will drive the development of residential, innovation, hospitality, and dining facilities. Public art, improved lighting, clear signage, and green spaces will enhance the urban environment, creating a dynamic and welcoming streetscape. At the expanded Historic New England Center for Preservation and Collections in the historic Burgess and Lang buildings, new exhibition spaces will engage visitors and foster meaningful collaborations, anchoring the Haverhill Center and amplifying its cultural and economic impact.

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