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## AVENUE OF STATES: SHOWCASES NEW ENGLAND

Travel through all six New England states in less than an hour with only one ticket—your ticket to The Big E!

Initially established by Eastern States Exposition founder, Joshua L. Brooks, to improve both agriculture and industry, the Avenue of States showcases both the traditional and cutting edge products and attractions that make each New England state unique. His quest began with the construction of the Massachusetts Building in 1919 and grew to completion in 1957 with the dedication of the Rhode Island Building. Because of Brooks' vision and determination, fairgoers have the opportunity to experience a truly one-of-a-kind attraction. Each building is owned and operated by its respective state.

**Massachusetts Building** – Built at a cost of \$50,000, the Massachusetts Building, dedicated in 1919 by then Lt Gov. Channing H. Cox, marked the official launching of the Avenue of States. If you love food, our state is for you. We have everything from shakes and soft serve, to tomato soup and clam chowder, to locally-made BBQ sauces and delicious mac & cheese. Or if you're looking for a special piece of hand-made jewelry, stop by Andrew Gordon's Jewelry. Hoping to find a gift? Buy local candles, postcards, photography, natural soaps and more. Support and celebrate our local crafters and farmers on Massachusetts Day, Sept. 19! Visit the Massachusetts Building Sept. 16 when special activities commemorate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Maine Building** – Just a short walk from the Massachusetts Building stands the Maine Building, built in 1925 at a cost of \$50,000. It features local food and products and a wealth of vacation information about this northeastern state. Soon after you step inside, you'll notice the beautiful architecture. Grab an Ultimate Maine Hotdog and all its fixings, award winning wines and beers, classic lobster rolls and delectable handcrafted pepper jellies. Then top it all off with some sweet whoopie pies or organic popsicles! New England's "Vacationland" is also a great place to shop for nature-themed art, ornaments, cookware and more! Stop by the Avenue to honor the Pine Tree State, Sept. 14!

**Vermont Building** – Built in 1929 at a cost of \$60,500, the Vermont Building is a Georgian structure that boasts marble corners, windowsills and columns. Cozy up to autumn with the perfect outfit from Johnson Woolen Mills and explore an expanse of items from flannel products to natural beauty products. While you're here, enjoy a pizza and some craft beer, apple baked goods and cider products! Your sweet tooth will love the many maple sugar products and our favorite seasonal traditions: apple pie, cider donuts, hot coffee and cider. Help celebrate the Green Mountain State, Sept. 21!

**New Hampshire Building** – Built in 1930, the \$75,000 building is constructed using New Hampshire granite for its columns and trim. While you marvel at the rustic interior, why not add some new décor to your home with handmade pieces from New Hampshire? At the Granite State building, you can find glass & silver Jewelry, hand-made signs, custom wood frames, herbal infused oils, seasoning and teas. Grab some maple syrup or famous

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New Hampshire chocolates to snack on while you shop! Come celebrate the state on New Hampshire Day, Sept. 20!

**Connecticut Building** – The building was constructed at a cost of \$85,000. Just as the cornerstone had been placed, the Hurricane of 1938 hit with devastating results to the grounds. Today, the Nutmeg State will help you reconnect with nature, offering a vast assortment of goods made from natural ingredients and materials. The building features Connecticut-made products like metal and glass sculptures from Bovano and old fashioned soda and commemorative mugs from Papa’s Connecticut Mountain Brew. Stop by the Connecticut Valley Railroad booth to view the Historic Train & Riverboat Attraction. Visit the building on Connecticut Day, Sept. 18!

**Rhode Island Building** – The \$150,000 Rhode Island Building was dedicated in 1957, marking the completion of the Avenue of States and the realization of Joshua Brooks’ dream. The building is a replica of the Old Statehouse that is now preserved as a shrine in Newport. In Rhode Island, you’ll see exhibits featuring Power and hand tools, novelty and craft items, and iconic collectible souvenirs of Rhode Island. You’ll also find information about the state’s beautiful coastline and attractions that may just entice you to pack your bags and head for the Ocean State. Sample assorted candies, specialty French fry items, and Del’s liquid & frozen lemonade. Grab some ice cream from Warwick Ice Cream or assorted candies, fudge, and nuts from Lady Ann Candies when you come celebrate Rhode Island Day, Sept. 17!

For a detailed list of all Avenue of States exhibitors, visit [TheBigE.com](http://TheBigE.com).

The Big E takes place Sept. 13 – 29 in West Springfield, Mass. and will be jam-packed with food, entertainment, and so much more! Visit [TheBigE.com](http://TheBigE.com) to sign up for emails and connect on social media to be the first to get exclusive information. Join us with #BigEMoments.

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