

Michael Kowalski, Tiffany & Co.

Pillar Gala Remarks - October 21, 2008

Thank you. It is my pleasure to accept this award from the Preservation League of New York State . . . and to be among friends and colleagues on a night that honors achievement in what we all care about — safeguarding New York State’s irreplaceable heritage.

Before I begin I’d like to recognize co-chairs Debbie Montgomery, Zibby Tozer, Arete Warren and Kirk Henckels for making this wonderful evening possible.

This award tells me that we as a company, along with The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, have made a difference . . . and that our mission is the right one. Under the direction of our foundation president, Fernanda Kellogg . . . and on behalf of our customers and the greater community, we have made an unequivocal commitment to support nonprofit organizations working on environmental issues, cultural preservation and the arts.

The most relevant example for us tonight concerns our efforts in Lower Manhattan occasioned by the opening of our Wall Street store in 2007, which marked our return to the neighborhood where Tiffany was founded.

Our location at 37 Wall Street was constructed in 1906 and is a significant example of early skyscrapers in Manhattan. We restored the Beaux Arts-style architecture . . . and now, a year later, we are well-positioned at the center of downtown New York again . . . and its monuments to the city's great history

At the time we opened our Wall Street store, we announced Foundation grants to three organizations: The Battery Conservancy . . . National Parks of New York Harbor Conservancy . . . and Friends of the High Line.

Each group proposed a truly visionary project. In concept, these projects seem ambitious indeed. In truth, they are a renaissance in the making — certain to revitalize the waterfront and parks in Lower Manhattan, thanks to the dedicated public servants involved.

We are honored to join them in keeping our natural and cultural heritage alive . . . and we thank you for celebrating our common goals.