

THE EXCELSIOR SOCIETY OF THE PRESERVATION LEAGUE OF NYS PRESENTS



The 2023 Excellence in Historic Preservation Awards

December 4, 2023

6:00 - 8:00 PM

The Century Association

7 West 43d Street, New York, NY 10036



#excellencePLNYS

The Preservation League of New York State's

Excelsior Society



CONGRATULATES OUR 2023
EXCELLENCE IN HISTORIC
PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS!



To learn more about the Excelsior Society, visit us online:
preservenys.org/excelsior-society

The League's annual Excellence Awards shine a light on the people who are using historic preservation to make all of our lives better — through exemplary restoration projects, indispensable publications, individual action, and organizational distinction.

Congratulations to the 2023 Award winners

- **Revitalization of Olean's First National Bank & the former Siegel's Shoes building, Cattaraugus Co.**
- **Nash Lofts, Buffalo, Erie Co.**
- **Claudette Brady, Brooklyn**
- **Bridge to Crafts Careers, NYC**
- **Pier 57, Manhattan**
- **Bent's Opera House, Medina, Orleans Co.**
- **Julie Nucci, Owego, Tioga Co.**
- **Kingston City Land Bank, Ulster Co.**

Recipients of the Excellence Award represent the very best of what the League stands for and supports in preservation. They exemplify best practices in the field and demonstrate how preservation is integral to building stronger neighborhoods, boosting local economies, tackling the affordable housing crisis, mitigating climate change, opening our eyes to overlooked history, and saving the places that are special to all of us.

Many thanks to the Awards Jury for their dedicated service and discerning judgment in selecting this year's winners:

Committee Chair Caroline Pasion, Jay DiLorenzo, Richard Maitino, Frank E. Sanchis III, David Stutzman, Arete S. Warren, and Stephen Wilder.

Revitalization of Olean's First National Bank & the former Siegel's Shoes building

Olean, Cattaraugus County



Vertical Access is thankful to have been part of Olean's First National Bank and Siegel Shoes Revitalization.

We congratulate all of the Preservation League of New York State honorees.

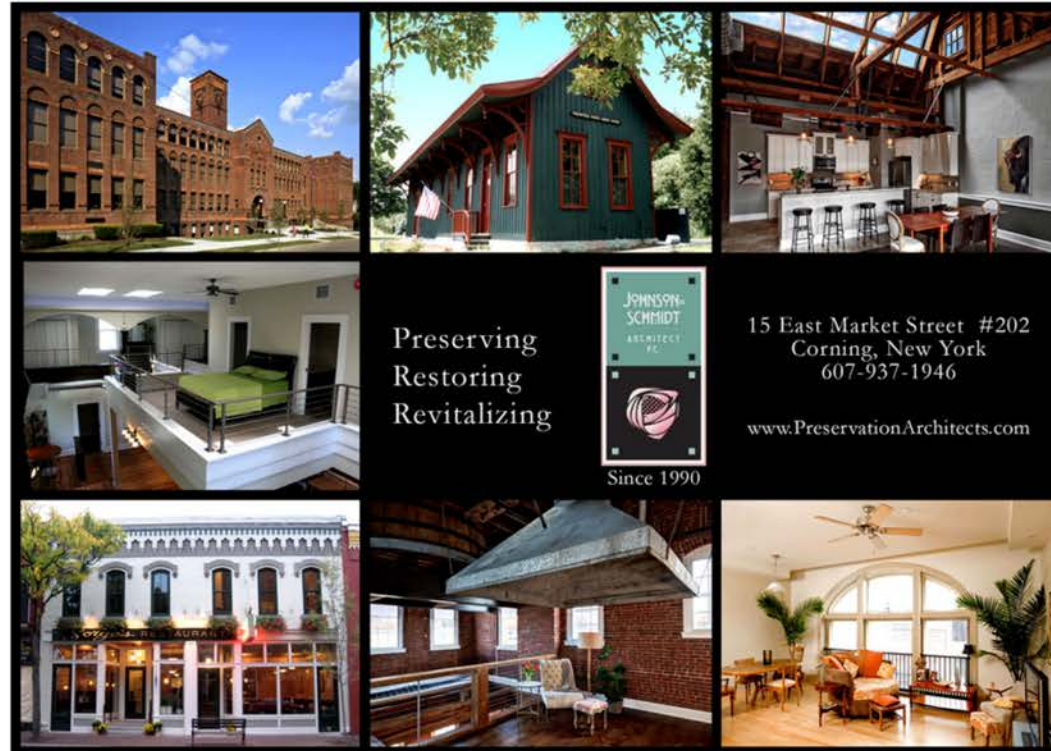


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The First National Bank of Olean and the adjacent former Siegel's Shoes building have been revitalized to provide much-needed high-quality housing, office, and commercial space in downtown Olean. Vacant for more than two decades, the city's Urban Renewal Agency worked hard to find a path forward, which included historic district designation to allow for the use of Historic Tax Credits. The rehabilitation of these historic spaces was led by preservation architect Elise Johnson-Schmidt and developer Savarino Companies.

The project team included: Keri Kerper and the Olean Urban Renewal Agency; Elise Johnson-Schmidt & Charles Devine of Johnson-Schmidt, Architect; Samueal Savarino & Luke Cusack of Savarino Companies; Don Warda and David Schrantz of RE Kelley; Hans M Harasimchuk and Steve Dobronos of Architectural Fiberglass, Inc; Evan Kopelson and Patrick Capruso of Vertical Access; Roy Pedersen of E & M Engineers and Surveyors, PC; Dale Cich of Syracuse Engineers, PC; Molly Cagwin, Photography; George Barry of Foss and Company.



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Nash Lofts

Buffalo, Erie County

The Nash Lofts building sits at a prominent place in the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor. Constructed as four separate buildings that are now connected, this adaptive reuse project tackled challenging logistical issues and found creative solutions. In addition to creating high quality apartments, the Nash Lofts house commercial space on the first floor and will provide free office space to the local NAACP branch in perpetuity, just steps from where the organization first began. The support received from the State of New York, Empire State Development was key to saving, restoring, and adapting this property. The project was funded in part thanks to State and Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

The project team included: Michigan Broadway, LLC, Project Developer (Steven J. Carmina, Architect, Steven A. Carmina, CPA, Drs. Frank Mascaro and Joseph Serghany and Roger Trettel, Environmental consultant); Carmina Wood Design, Architect, Interior Design and Historic Tax Credit Professionals; Matthew Famiglietti, Robert Fritche, Project Construction Executives; John Paler, Project Superintendent; Empire Building Diagnostics; Abraxas; Gypsum Systems; Brawdy, Foundations and Flatwork; DV Brown, Plumbing; MJ Mechanical; Davis Ulmer, Fire Protection; Gordon & Zoerb; Murray Roofing; Acme Kitchens.



Claudette Brady

Brooklyn, Kings County



Claudette Brady has been a staunch advocate for her Brooklyn community for decades. Spearheading the campaign for historic district designation of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Claudette rallied her neighbors and made historic preservation meaningful for the people of the

neighborhood. In the years since that successful campaign, Claudette has continued advocating for historic preservation, uplifting the history of traditionally underrepresented people, and centering them in the conversation about what we preserve and for whom.



Preserving Our History & Architecture

in Harlem, for contextual zoning in Harlem, and educates the public about Harlem's architecture, history, and culture.

Learn more at saveharlemnow.org

Save Harlem Now! advocates for designation of individual landmarks and historic districts

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Congratulates

Save Harlem Now!
Executive Director

Claudette Brady

and all the other winners of the

Excellence in Historic Preservation Awards

**We wholeheartedly support the
Preservation League of New York State in its mission
to build a better New York, one community at a time.**

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CONGRATULATES OUR FELLOW RECIPIENTS OF THE
2023 EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO
HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN OUR STATE



Special thanks to our partners in Bridge to Crafts Careers, World Monuments Fund and The Woodlawn Cemetery. We're proud to help train and inspire the next generation of preservationists.



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Bridge to Crafts Careers

NYC

Initially launched as a partnership between World Monuments Fund, the Woodlawn Conservancy, and the International Masonry Institute, the Bridge to Crafts Careers program (B2CC) was established in 2015 to offer New York City area youth aged 18-27 hands-on technical training with the opportunity for placement in a stable career. The program began at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx in 2015 and expanded to Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery in 2018, then to Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky, in 2022. To date, 479 B2CC interns have completed over 140,000 training hours, enabling them to secure positions in trades unions, architectural arts studios, and construction-related fields. B2CC provides a valuable service by contributing to the quality of skilled historic trades workers and setting the standard for cultural heritage stewardship. This program ensures that the unique identities and range of typologies, materials, and histories of tens of thousands of cultural resources are cared for by a new generation of emerging tradespeople.



Pier 57

Manhattan, New York County

Beginning with the listing of the pier on the State and National Register of Historic Place in 2004, through the completion of construction in 2022, the rebirth and reimagining of Pier 57 is the result of a partnership between the Hudson River Park Trust, RXR, Young Woo & Associates, and the pier's tenants, Google, City Winery, Jamestown, and the James Beard Foundation. Together, this group along with their consultants, blended long-term stewardship, sensitive restoration treatments, and design excellence to arrive at an adaptive reuse project that integrates the pier into Hudson River Park and includes a new public rooftop park, commercial office space, a performance venue, a food market, and environmental tech classrooms and community spaces.

Project Team: Hudson River Park Trust; RXR; Young Woo & Associates; Handel Architects; !melk; Higgins Quasebarth & Partners, LLC; Silman; Cosentini; McLaren Engineering Group; Hunter Roberts; Google; City Winery; Jamestown; Tribeca Film Festival; Diller Scofidio Renfro; Chris Warnick; S9 Architecture

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THANK YOU TO THE

**ORGANIZATION FOR RECOGNIZING THE
REHABILITATION OF PIER 57 AND
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL HONOREES**

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Bent's Opera House

Medina, Orleans County

Built over 150 years ago, Bent's Opera House once hosted speakers like Frederick Douglass and entertainers like Buffalo Bill Cody. After the theater closed, the building served the community in a variety of ways until the 1990s. Bent's was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1995, but by 2010 it was abandoned and in imminent danger of collapsing. Local developers Talis Equity had a vision to give Bent's new life. They collaborated with LeChase Construction Services and Kideney Architects to rehabilitate the historic building into a modern destination. Today, the facility includes an upscale, farm-to-table restaurant and bar, a boutique hotel with 10 uniquely themed rooms, and a beautifully restored theater for private and public gatherings.

The rehabilitation of Bent's Opera House was funded in part through New York State and Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.



Julie Nucci

Owego, Tioga County



After her historic Owego home flooded in 2011, Julie Nucci embarked on a years-long project to elevate her house. It is the first National Register-listed home in NYS elevated for flood mitigation and is included in the Secretary's Guidelines on Flood Adaptation for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

Since then, she has worked tirelessly to advocate for people and communities impacted by climate change by promoting resiliency and disaster preparedness. She recently formed J. Nucci Consulting, LLC and is working with the National Hazard Mitigation Association and FEMA on engagement and resilience strategies for under-served communities.

A graphic for J. Nucci Consulting, LLC. The background is a map showing a flood zone labeled 'Zone AE' and 'Village of'. The text 'J. NUCCI' is in large, bold, red letters, and 'CONSULTING, LLC' is in smaller, bold, red letters below it. At the bottom, it says 'Climate Resilience & Science Communication Services' and 'jnuciconsulting.com' in bold, black text.

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Kingston City Land Bank

Kingston, Ulster County

In 2018, the Kingston City Land Bank was formed to return long-vacant tax-foreclosed properties to the tax rolls. In a city with a relatively low foreclosure rate, high property values, and a pressing need for affordable housing, rehabbing single-family homes into affordable first-time homeownership opportunities quickly became a top priority. KCLB created a new model for how affordable housing can be produced. Their mission is to foster an equitable community where vacant or distressed properties are transformed into community assets that improve the quality of life for Kingston residents, stabilize and enhance neighborhoods, and create new pathways for social and economic development.

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Congratulations to all the 2023 Excellence in Preservation Award Winners



Woodlawn Cemetery and Conservancy's Bridge to Crafts Careers Program actively works to preserve our 400-acre National Historic Landmark Cemetery and Arboretum. Through hands-on experience restoring mausoleums and historic landscapes, we are training a new generation of stewards in Masonry, Bronze Care, and Landscape Restoration. Our Interns have gained employment through Local 1 Bricklayers Union, in NYC Parks, and with private employers. We thank all who are committed to the success of B2CC!

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Celebrate 50 years of the Preservation League!

The Preservation League of NYS is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2024.

Join us as we mark the occasion all year long.

preservenys.org/50

SAVE THE DATE!



LANDMARK SOCIETY
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Rochester City Council



Preservation League *of* NYS

Helping New Yorkers Protect Their Cultural
Heritage Since 1974

The Preservation League of New York State empowers all
New Yorkers to use historic preservation to enrich their
communities, protect their heritage, and build a
sustainable future.

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