FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Corning Enterprises to be honored

ALBANY, NY - 8/12/2014 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected Corning Enterprises to receive an award for Organizational Excellence in Historic Preservation.

The League’s statewide awards program honors notable achievements in retaining, promoting and reusing New York State’s irreplaceable architectural heritage.

“The scope of this group’s achievements is particularly poignant this year, as they were a key supporter of ongoing efforts to recover from devastating flooding resulting from Hurricane Agnes in 1972,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “Corning Enterprises led pioneering efforts to promote downtown living, especially in upper floors over commercial spaces. Now, four decades later, Market Street is an often-used example of how upper floors can provide desirable living spaces and contribute to thriving and lively downtowns.”

Contributing to the success of Corning Enterprises’ efforts were The City of Corning; Johnson-Schmidt & Associates Architects; Market Street Restoration Agency; the Gaffer District; Three Rivers Development; all of Corning; the Empire State Development Corporation; and a number of building owners. Project costs have been supported by Restore New York; the New York Main Street program; and New York State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

Corning Enterprises, the community development agency for Corning Incorporated, joined the effort to revitalize downtown Corning in the early 1980s. The development and rehabilitation of upper floors on Market Street as market rate apartments continues to be a top priority for Corning Enterprises. This initiative has had a marked impact on the quality of life, economy, and long-term preservation of Market Street’s historic built environment.

“Corning Enterprises’ commitment to continue upper story renovation project has had a profound impact on the vitality of downtown Corning through the creation of new businesses to support the residents, and has significantly affected the vibrancy of the Market Street to create a
new kind of downtown liveliness that hadn’t existed in many decades,” said G. Thomas Tranter, President, Corning Enterprises. “As a national model for downtowns created by Market Street’s revitalization early on, Market Street has once again become a model for revitalizing its commercial district.”

According to Elise Johnson-Schmidt, Architect, “Corning Enterprises efforts to champion the vitality of Market Street through rehabilitation has resulted in a downtown that is more vibrant and exciting than ever, and continues the legacy of Market Street as a national leader in the preservation and revitalization of Main Street America.”

The awards will be presented at the Preservation League’s Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in New York City at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16th at the historic New York Yacht Club, 37 West 44th Street.

The complete list of award winners is: the Albany County Courthouse, Albany County; Annex Mills at High Falls, Monroe County; The Eastman Theatre, Monroe County; Amsterdam Armory, Montgomery County; Hamilton Grange National Memorial, New York County; Niagara Mohawk Building, Onondaga County; TWA Flight Center, JFK International Airport, Queens County; Christ Church Bronxville, Westchester County. The organizers of the 2011 National Preservation Conference in Buffalo will receive a special citation. “Build a Better Burb,” a project of the Rauch Foundation in Nassau and Suffolk Counties will be honored as an outstanding publication. Corning Enterprises in Steuben County will be honored for organizational excellence.

“In New York State, the preservation and reuse of our historic buildings is fundamental to the economic revitalization of our cities, towns, and villages. The League’s annual Awards program allows us to share preservation success stories that may one day serve as inspiration to others,” said DiLorenzo. “Each year, we are impressed by the number and variety of laudable nominations, and this year was no exception. We are delighted to honor Corning Enterprises for their tradition of leadership in preservation.”

*The Preservation League’s Excellence in Historic Preservation awards program is funded by a generous grant from the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Foundation.*

*By leading a statewide preservation movement, sharing information and expertise and raising a unified voice, the Preservation League of New York State promotes historic preservation as a tool to revitalize our neighborhoods and communities, honor our heritage and enrich our lives.*

###