



**Preservation
League of NYS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Marriott Syracuse Downtown (formerly Hotel Syracuse) to be honored

ALBANY, NY- 5/4/17 - The Preservation League of New York State has selected the **Marriott Syracuse Downtown (formerly Hotel Syracuse)** to receive an award for 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 twelve-story, 1924 Hotel Syracuse closed in 2004, and fell into a vortex of disrepair, tax arrears, liens and foreclosure," said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. "Several developers tried to launch a restoration, but all efforts were doomed. In 2014, Ed Riley assembled a team of financial and professional partners, and the transformation began. From a forty-foot, c. 1948 mural in the lobby to cast stone elements at the roofline – even the hotel's renowned "coffin doors" – architectural and decorative elements were restored to meet National Park Service and State Historic Preservation Office criteria. The project has qualified for State and Federal rehabilitation tax credit programs and is contributing to the revitalization of downtown Syracuse."

The project team included Ed Riley, Managing Member, Hotel Syracuse Restoration LLC; Bruce King, AIA, NCARB, Partner, Holmes King Kallquist & Associates; Mario LaGuardia, AIA, Principal, MLG Architects; Gary Thurston, Chairman/CEO, The Hayner Hoyt Corporation; Sam Cosamano, PE, LEED AP, President, IPD Engineering; Joanne Gagliano RLA, President, EDR Companies; Edward & Aminy Audi, Stickley Audi & Co.; Greg Harden, Harden Furniture; Judith Testani, Founder, Testani Design Troupe, Inc.; Ray Tiedemann, John Tiedemann, Inc.; Gregg Tripoli Executive Director, Onondaga Historical Association; Allen Naples, Regional President, M&T Bank; Matthew Prickett,

(more)

Senior Asset Manager, US Bancorp Community Development; Paul McNeil, General Manager, Marriott Syracuse Downtown; and Ryan Stockman, Grand Light.

The Hotel Syracuse was the region’s premier hotel for many decades, and was the signature venue for celebrations and social events. Its closure was a setback to the revitalization of downtown. The restoration included all historic spaces on the ground floor, lobby, mezzanine, hotel floors and tenth floor ballroom. On the ground level, new restaurants, a coffee shop and a barbershop have reactivated the storefronts, and the new restaurants will feature outside dining, enlivening the sidewalks. The Marriott Syracuse Downtown will serve as the host for the 2017 World Canal Conference, a five-day world-class conference marking the bicentennial of the Erie Canal, and has resumed its role as a destination for Central New York.

The awards will be presented at the Preservation League’s Awards Ceremony in New York City at 6:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 10th** at the historic **New York Yacht Club, 37 West 44th Street**.

The complete list of award winners is: Phoenix Brewery Apartments, Buffalo; Beekman Hotel and Residences/Temple Court, New York City; A. Philip Randolph Houses, Phase One, New York City; South Street Seaport Museum: the 1885 sailing ship *Wavertree*, New York City; Rouge Tomate Chelsea, New York City; Marriott Syracuse Downtown (formerly Hotel Syracuse); Pickens Hall & Opera House, Heuvelton; Argos Inn, Ithaca. Ruth Pierpont, the former Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation and the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, will be honored for decades of service to the cause of historic preservation in New York State.

“With our annual awards program, the Preservation League explores not just the present, but the future of historic preservation. Many of the 2017 award winners provide valuable examples for others by incorporating energy efficiency techniques, adaptive reuse strategies and use of Federal and State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits,” 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 celebrate the rebirth of the historic Hotel Syracuse as the Marriott Syracuse Downtown, and to commend all members of the project team for their leadership and vision.”

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The Preservation League of New York State invests in people and projects that champion the essential role of preservation in community revitalization, sustainable economic growth, and the protection of our historic buildings and landscapes. We lead advocacy, economic development, and education programs all across the state.