



FROM: Preservation League of New York State
44 Central Avenue
Albany NY 12206-3002
www.preservenys.org

CONTACTS: Colleen M. Ryan, Director of Communications
Preservation League of New York State
518-462-5658, ext. 17; cryan@preservenys.org

Timothy Allanbrook, AIA, Wiss Janney Elstner, Inc.
212-760-2540; tallanbrook@wje.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Restoration of American Museum of Natural History in NYC to be honored

ALBANY, NY – April 16, 2010 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected the restoration of **The American Museum of Natural History, 77th Street Facades** in Manhattan 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 red and pink granite façades of the 77th Street wings of the museum were showing signs of age -- cracking, delamination, efflorescence, and soiling," said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. "Through masonry cleaning, repairs, and repointing, as well as careful restoration of the building's monumental wood windows, this project exemplifies the best in historic restoration. The Jury agreed that the AMNH deserves recognition for the stewardship and restoration of its landmark building."

Contributing to the success of this project were The City of New York; The American Museum of Natural History; Zubatkin Owner Representation LLC; Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.; Bovis Lend Lease LMB, Inc.; The RBA Group; and Fisher Marantz Stone - all of New York; Kohler Ronan LLC of Danbury, CT; Nicholson & Galloway of Glen Head, NY; and H&S Environmental of West Paterson, NJ.

The American Museum of Natural History is an internationally recognized institution devoted to natural science exhibits and one of New York City's major cultural structures. According to Ann Siegel, Vice President for Operations and Capital Programs, American Museum of Natural History "The AMNH project demonstrates the state of the art in historic preservation across many disciplines, including the analysis and selection of appropriate materials and details, the high quality of the contractors' craftsmanship, the collaborative nature

(more)

of the project team, the attention to neighborhood concerns, and most importantly – the tangible results.”

The award 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 12th** at the historic **New York Yacht Club, 37 West 44th Street**.

The complete list of award winners is: William S. Hackett Middle School, Albany; The Belmont Hotel, Allegany County; Walkway over the Hudson, Poughkeepsie; The Guaranty Building, Buffalo; The American Museum of Natural History, 77th Street Façades, New York; Empire State Building Lobby Restoration, New York; Oswego Public Library, Oswego; West Hall at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy. ***Looking for Work: Industrial Archeology in Columbia County, New York*** by Peter H. Stott (Syracuse University Press, 2007) will be honored as an outstanding publication. Senator David Valesky and Assemblymember Sam Hoyt, Legislative sponsors of the New York State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, will be honored for individual excellence.

“Excellence in Preservation Awards are our principal means of honoring the preservation community and educating the public about the important contribution that historic preservation projects make to our quality of life throughout New York State,” said DiLorenzo. “Each year, we are impressed by the number and variety of laudable projects, and this year was no exception. We are delighted to give the restoration of the 77th Street facades of the American Museum of Natural History the statewide recognition it deserves.”

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 of Miami, Florida.

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.

###