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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

### ***Walkway Over the Hudson to be honored***

ALBANY, NY – April 27, 2010 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected the **Walkway Over the Hudson** 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.

“On October 3, 2009, the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge was transformed into the Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “As one of the signature projects of New York's Quadricentennial celebration, it welcomed 44,000 visitors the weekend it opened, and demonstrated that rehabilitation was less costly than demolition, while creating a resource and economic development engine for the surrounding community.”

Contributing to the success of this project were the Dyson Foundation of Millbrook; Bergmann Associates of Albany; Ft. Miller Co. of Schuylerville; Harrison & Burrowes Bridge Constructors of Glenmont; ERSI of Schenectady; Scenic Hudson; The Jane W. Nuhn Charitable Trust; Lucy R. Waletsky; U. S. Senator Charles E. Schumer; Congressman Maurice Hinchey; Governors Eliot Spitzer and David Paterson, State Senator Stephen Saland; and many state, county and local entities.

Linking Poughkeepsie with the Town of Lloyd in Ulster County, the bridge was taken offline in 1974 and its future was in jeopardy. According to Amy Husten, the Outgoing Executive Director of Walkway over the Hudson, “The Walkway Over the Hudson project represents adaptive re-use on a grand scale with the best of outcomes. This grand symbol of the American Industrial Age is enjoying new life as a sustainable public attraction – one that is

*(more)*

already proving to be a significant recreational, tourism and economic development asset for both the region and the State of New York.”

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 12<sup>th</sup>** at the historic **New York Yacht Club, 37 West 44<sup>th</sup> 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 Walkway Over the Hudson 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.*

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