

# Sibley Square Honored for Excellence in Historic Preservation

ALBANY, NY (05/07/2018) (readMedia)-- The Preservation League of New York State has selected Sibley Square in Rochester 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.

"In 2013, WinnCompanies began its largest preservation and reuse project to date, revitalizing 1.1 million square feet of space as a mixed-income, mixed-use development, incorporating commercial, residential, educational and recreational elements in a historic setting," said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League of New York State. "Sibley Square calls to mind the entrepreneurial spirit that fueled Rochester's success in the past, and is once again moving the Finger Lakes toward the future. The project demonstrates the power of partnership among government, educational institutions and the private-sector development community."

The project team included Meade Curtis, Vice President, WinnDevelopment; David Ginsberg, Senior Project Director, WinnDevelopment; David Thunell, Senior Vice President, WinnDevelopment; Maureen Cavanaugh, Director of Cultural Resources, VHB; Michael Binette, Principal, The Architectural Team; Michael Albert, Architect, The Architectural Team; John DiMarco II, DiMarco Constructors; Ron Mead, M/E Engineering Principal. Additional support was provided by Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor, New York State; Hon. Kathy Hochul, Lieutenant Governor, New York State; Hon. Charles Schumer, U. S. Senate; Hon. Cheryl Dinolfo, Monroe County Executive; Hon. Lovely Warren, Rochester Mayor; Hon. Joseph Morelle, New York State Assembly Majority Leader; Rep. Louise Slaughter, U.S. House of Representatives, NY-25; RuthAnne Visnaukas, Commissioner, NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal; Howard Zemsky, President & CEO Empire State Development and Commissioner of NYS Department of Economic Development; and Vincent Esposito, Finger Lakes Regional Director for Empire State Development.

Significant project assistance was provided by the city of Rochester; Rochester Economic Development Corp. – REDCO; County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency; PNC Bank; Urban Research Park CDE; Community Impact Capital; RBC Community Development;; US Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA); New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA); New York State Homes and Community Renewal Housing Trust Fund Program; the New York State Historic Preservation Office; the National Park Service; Rochester Gas & Electric and Empire State Development. The project utilized Federal New Market Tax Credits, Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and Federal and State Historic Tax Credits.

Opened in 1906, Sibley's was once the largest department store between New York City and Chicago. Generations of Rochester residents and visitors have fond memories of the store's holiday window displays which attracted crowds to this center city location. The store closed in 1989.

RuthAnne Visnaukas, Commissioner of New York State Homes and Community Renewal said, "Governor Cuomo understands that we can use preservation as a tool to reinvest in our cities, towns and neighborhoods. By repurposing historic buildings into affordable housing, we are creating opportunities for New Yorkers while maintaining the character and cultural identity of neighborhoods, and bringing new vitality to local economies. Congratulations to all the awardees."

"We greatly appreciate the Preservation League's recognition of the hard work and imagination that many public and private partners have committed to the revitalization of the Sibley Building as Sibley Square. We are proud of our role in re-inventing this historic icon as a modern hub for the complete range of housing and innovation, preserving a gracious building while re-energizing a bright and vital future for Rochester's downtown," said WinnCompanies CEO Gilbert Winn.

The awards will be presented at the Preservation League's Awards Ceremony in New York City at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9th at the historic New York Yacht Club, 37 West 44th Street.

The complete list of award winners is: Poughkeepsie Underwear Factory, Poughkeepsie; Richardson Olmsted Campus, Buffalo; Hotel Saranac, Saranac Lake; Sibley Square, Rochester; R.E. Dietz Lantern Factory, Syracuse; John Jermain Memorial Library, Sag Harbor; Tapestry on the Hudson, Troy. The New York Botanical Garden will be honored for Organizational Excellence.

"With our annual awards program, the Preservation League explores not just the present, but the future of historic preservation. Many of the 2018 award winners provide valuable examples for others by incorporating energy efficiency techniques, adaptive reuse strategies and use of Federal and State Historic 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 revitalization of Sibley Square, and to commend all members of the project team for their leadership and vision."

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Posted Monday May 07, 2018 at 10:59 am by [Preservation League of New York State](#)