



Preservation Buffalo Niagara Receives a 2021 Excellence in Historic Preservation Award

This award from the Preservation League of NYS recognizes the best in the field of historic preservation

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Buffalo, NY, 11/16/21 — Preservation Buffalo Niagara has been named one of this year's Excellence in Historic Preservation award winners. Since 1984, the Preservation League's statewide awards program has highlighted projects, organizations, publications, and individuals that exemplify best practices in historic preservation and recognize the people who are using historic preservation to build stronger neighborhoods, create local jobs, provide affordable housing, open our eyes to overlooked history, and save the places that are special to all of us.

Additional information about the 2021 Excellence Award winners, including interviews, videos, and more, can be found on our website: <https://www.preservenys.org/excellence-awards>

"PBN serves a diverse and resilient constituency, and we are proud to assist and empower communities in using preservation as a tool to enhance quality of life and tell their full and rich histories," said **Jessie Fisher, Executive Director of Preservation Buffalo Niagara**. "Preservation has been a key tool in Buffalo and Western New York in retaining high quality jobs and building places that attract pride and investment. We are grateful to the Preservation League for all of the support they have given Western New York over the years, and accept this recognition on behalf of all of our members and the neighborhoods that we work with."

The Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier and the Preservation Coalition of Erie County merged in 2009 to become Preservation Buffalo Niagara (PBN), building on their 30-year history to ensure that the Buffalo region would have a strong, effective, and professional preservation organization. A change in leadership in 2015 set the organization on a renewed trajectory, expanding the staff, quadrupling the annual organizational budget, nearly doubling membership, and adding in a wide range of programming designed to make preservation relevant to a much wider cross-section of people.

While Buffalo is known for its treasure trove of high style architect-designed buildings, the region has another side: long affected by redlining, urban renewal, government-sanctioned erasure, disinvestment, and often singled out as one of the most impoverished and segregated cities in the country, preservation was seen as largely ineffective or irrelevant to many community members. Five years ago, PBN began an intentional journey to change the dominant narrative about who preservation serves and what landscapes are worthy of protection. From their revolving loan fund for low-income residents of local historic districts to their tours and workshops, PBN is working to create a fully inclusive preservation movement, addressing systemic racism and white supremacy in preservation and uplifting narratives around women, immigrants, and LGBTQ+ communities.

PBN's diligence, perseverance, and dedication to creating an anti-racist preservation movement is what makes them an exceptional and unparalleled model for preservation in the future.

"Preservation Buffalo Niagara is a tremendous resource for Western New York," said **Preservation League President Jay DiLorenzo**. "Their work in recent years to tell a fuller story of Buffalo, NY, and make preservation relevant to more of their community is admirable and something to be emulated. The League is grateful to count them among our colleagues and we are thrilled to honor them with an Excellence Award this year."

Our shared cultural history grounds us and helps us better understand who we are as New Yorkers and as Americans. The 10 projects honored this year are strikingly different, but they all remind us that preservation is about people as much as it is about our built environment. The Excellence in Historic Preservation Awards program is integral and essential to the work of the League. This year's award recipients represent the very best of what the League stands for and supports in historic preservation.

2021 Awardees:

- **Clinton Avenue Historic Apartments** | Albany, Albany County
- **Proctors Collaborative: Capital Repertory Theatre + Universal Preservation Hall** | Albany, Albany County + Saratoga Springs, Saratoga County
- **SUNY Broome Culinary & Event Center** | Binghamton, Broome County
- **Arbor Gerard Block and the Carroll Street Warehouse Rehabilitation Project** | Elmira, Chemung County
- **Steven Engelhart** | Keeseville, Clinton County
- **Preservation Buffalo Niagara** | Buffalo, Erie County
- **Whitcomb's Garage Adaptive Reuse Project** | Whallonsburg, Essex County
- **Green-Wood's Historic Chapel** | Brooklyn, Kings County
- **Central Presbyterian Church Exterior Restoration** | Manhattan, New York County
- **@syracusehistory (Instagram by David Haas)** | Syracuse, Onondaga County

The 2021 Excellence in Historic Preservation Awards are sponsored by the Arthur F. & Alice E. Adams Charitable Foundation.

About the Preservation League of New York State

The Preservation League of NYS was founded in 1974 and serves as the only statewide nonprofit focused on historic preservation in New York. The League 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 across the state.

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