



Edgemere Development Receives a 2022 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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Rochester, NY, 11/7/22 — Edgemere Development has been named one of this year's Excellence in Historic Preservation award winners. Since 1984, the League's annual Excellence Awards program has allowed us to shine a light on the people who are using historic preservation to make all our lives better — through exemplary restoration projects, indispensable publications, individual action, and organizational distinction.

Additional information about the 2022 Excellence Award winners, including interviews, videos, and more, can be found on our website: <https://www.preservenys.org/excellence-awards>

"Edgemere is honored to be recognized for its commitment to preserving important historic landmarks," said **Charlie Oster, Partner of Edgemere Development**. "Every building has a story as unique as the people who will eventually live there."

Edgemere Development, Inc. (Edgemere) is a real estate firm focused on affordable, mixed-income, and mixed-use housing development with offices in Rochester and Albany, working throughout New York State. Their clients include nonprofit and for-profit developers, public housing authorities, and health systems. Over the years, Edgemere has interwoven its mission with public service and public benefit — wanting to leave the neighborhoods and communities they work in better places for people to live.

Edgemere has a legacy of taking on challenging projects, including complex adaptive reuse of historic structures, and has received 15 awards for Historic Preservation since 2010. Since its founding in 2000, Edgemere has received over \$83 million in State and Federal Historic Tax Credits on 19 projects. Deteriorating structures are seen as creative challenges rather than project hindrances.

Edgemere incorporates sustainable building elements in all its projects. The historic St. Bernard's Park, Located on Lake Ave in the City of Rochester, NY, was constructed as a seminary in the mid-to-late-19th century. The building was converted into a mixed-use senior complex in the 1990s. Over the years, the iconic features of the building began to wear. In 2021, Edgemere oversaw the building's historic rehabilitation, including roof replacement, the addition of high efficiency plumbing and electric fixtures, HVAC optimization (including new A/C), and accessibility improvements. The historic red slate tile roof was replaced at a cost of over \$3 million, and all copper details were restored. Experts estimate that the new roof will last 75-200 years. Solar panels were installed on two sections of flat roof, with a projected annual utility savings of approximately \$9,500.

“Edgemere’s commitment to tackling challenging adaptive reuse projects has brought dozens of historic buildings back to active use,” said **Preservation League President Jay DiLorenzo**. “They also provide a model for how historic preservation and affordable housing can work together to strengthen communities – an example for developers across the state.”

Recipients of the Excellence Award represent the very best of what the League stands for and supports in historic preservation. They exemplify best practices in the field and demonstrate how preservation is integral to building stronger neighborhoods, boosting local economies, tackling the affordable housing crisis, mitigating climate change, opening our eyes to overlooked history, and saving the places that are special to all of us. Our shared cultural heritage grounds us and unites us. The Excellence Awards celebrate those who work so hard to protect that shared heritage.

2022 Awardees:

- **Gowanda Hollywood Theater** | Gowanda, Cattaraugus County
- **Opendore Restoration** | Sherwood, Cayuga County
- **Art’s Cafe** | Springville, Erie County
- **The Pavilion at Fort Ticonderoga** | Ticonderoga, Essex County
- **The Church of St. Luke & St. Matthew Exterior Restoration** | Brooklyn, Kings County
- **Edgemere Development** | Rochester, Monroe County
- **Rehabilitation of the Little Theatre** | Rochester, Monroe County
- **Steve Jordan** | Rochester, Monroe County
- **East Harlem South / El Barrio Reconnaissance-Level Historic Resource Survey** | Manhattan, New York County
- **Cochection Pump House** | Cochection, Sullivan County

The 2022 Excellence in Historic Preservation Awards are sponsored in part by Mr. Robert A.M. Stern, FAIA | Robert A.M. Stern Architects, LLP.

About the Preservation League of New York State

Since its founding in 1974, the Preservation League has built a reputation for action and effectiveness. Our goal has been to preserve our historic buildings, districts, and landscapes and to build a better New York, one community at a time. 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 across the state.

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