

AIA NEW YORK STATE, AN ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, ANNOUNCES THEIR 2024 EXCELSIOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York, March 19, 2024—Celebrating its 10th year, the AIANYS Excelsior Awards program highlights the best in publicly funded buildings, outdoor areas, and public art across New York State, and the architects and design professionals who support and advocate for them.

Nine projects were recognized for an award in the categories of Historic Preservation, Landscape Architecture, New Construction, and Renovation/Addition.

The interdisciplinary jury evaluated the projects based on a set of three criteria:

1. **Firmness:** demonstrating design based on sound architectural and engineering principles and responsible use of public funds to achieve the maximum public benefit.
2. **Commodity:** demonstrating design that is functional and impactful, providing socio-economic benefits to the surrounding community and advancing the owner's mission.
3. **Delight:** demonstrating design that achieves beauty and harmony through respect for the surrounding context, understanding and consideration of human scale, and satisfaction of user needs, both explicit and implicit.

This year's award recipients include:

- A restored historic SUNY building in Albany, preserving its architectural legacy while ensuring its continued relevance and functionality for future generations.
- A transformed industrial waterfront into a vibrant park in Queens, revitalizing the area as a thriving urban oasis and community hub.
- A Pre-K center promoting STEAM education in Corona, providing a cutting-edge learning environment for young children to explore science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.

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- A redeveloped Rochester neighborhood with expanded museum, fostering cultural enrichment and economic revitalization through thoughtful urban planning and community engagement.
- A library and affordable housing project in Sunset Park, addressing multiple community needs by combining educational resources with accessible residential options.
- A sustainable housing development in the Bronx, setting a new standard for environmentally conscious urban living while enhancing the neighborhood's aesthetic appeal and livability.
- A recovery residence for women and children in Rochester, offering a safe and supportive environment for families to heal and thrive on their journey to recovery.
- A rapidly designed 3K center in Corona, meeting the urgent demand for high-quality early childhood education in a diverse and rapidly growing neighborhood.
- A renovated building for college advancement and business school, modernizing campus facilities to better serve students, alumni, and the broader academic community while reducing environmental impact.

Jury Chair Paul McDonnell, AIA, said, "Our deliberations showcased the remarkable dedication and ingenuity of architects across diverse communities throughout New York State, emphasizing the vital role of design in enriching societal well-being. Each project, whether grand or modest in scale, stood out for its profound impact and unwavering commitment to serving its community. In recognizing nine exceptional projects and teams, our aim was to honor the profound dedication and civic spirit exhibited by these architects and design professionals."

The recipients will be honored, and the award levels will be revealed at an in-person celebration following the [\(Re\)Connecting Communities Conference](#) at the Albany Capital Center in Albany, New York on May 9, 2023.

Recipient projects include:

Exterior Preservation of the H. Carl McCall SUNY Administration Building-Towers, Albany, NY

Submitting Firm: architecture+

Hunter's Point South Waterfront Park, Queens, New York

Submitting Firm: WEISS/MANFREDI and SWA/Balsley with ARUP

Mosaic Pre-K Center at New York Hall of Science, Queens, New York

Submitting Firm: MDSzerbaty Associates Architecture (MDSA)

Neighborhood of Play, Rochester, New York

Submitting Firm: CJS Architects, LLC

Brooklyn Public Library, Sunset Park Branch, Brooklyn, New York

Submitting Firm: Mitchell Giurgola

2050 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York

Submitting Firm: Magnusson Architecture and Planning PC

Unique People Services/Robert Sanborn Development

Barrington House, Rochester, New York

Submitting Firm: PLAN Architectural Studio

Corona 3K Center, Corona, New York

Submitting Firm: Circular

The Rehabilitation of Alumni Hall, Oneonta, New York

Submitting Firm: Thaler Reilly Wilson Architecture & Preservation

About AIANYS:

The American Institute of Architects New York State, composed of 13 statewide chapters representing over 9,500 architecture professionals, is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating excellence in architecture, advocating for the profession, and fostering a community of architects committed to advancing the built environment.

Note to Editors:

High-resolution images of the award recipients are available upon request. Additional information about AIANYS and its mission can be found on the official website.