

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

### ***Gibb Mansion Restoration Honored***



ALBANY, 5/16/2005 - The Preservation League of New York State has selected the Pratt Area Community Council (PACC) to receive its prestigious Excellence in Preservation Award for 2005 for their work to restore The Gibb Mansion in Brooklyn. The awards program recognizes individuals and organizations for demonstrating an outstanding commitment to the preservation of New York State's irreplaceable architectural heritage.

"Their acquisition of the severely deteriorated Gibb Mansion - not to tear down, but to renovate for important new uses - shows a remarkable sensitivity to the value of New York's historic built environment," said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. "We are delighted to recognize PACC for its ongoing efforts to restore and protect the historic elements of all its housing projects."

Contributing to the success of the project were the efforts of architect Beth Cooper Lawrence.

Though not protected by Landmark designation, the Pratt Area Community Council acquired the severely deteriorated Gibb Mansion in 1998. Located in Bedford-Stuyvesant, the once-dilapidated mansion has been transformed into service-enriched housing for low-income community residents living with HIV/AIDS.

"This is a great honor for all of us at the Pratt Area Community Council," said Deborah Howard, the group's executive director. "The award from the Preservation League for the Gibb Mansion gives us an opportunity to showcase our stated goals of fostering an equitable, diverse, engaged, and flourishing community in central Brooklyn - starting with the preservation and development safe and affordable housing, a basic human right."

The award was presented at the Preservation League's Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in New York City on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at The Museum of the City of New York, 1220 Fifth Avenue.

Other award-winning projects included: Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo; The Powers Library in Moravia, Cayuga County; Garden Street Rehabilitation in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County; St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Rochester; Old Main: The Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center in Utica; and The Philipse Manor Railroad Station in Sleepy Hollow, Westchester County. The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation in Western New York and the Sage Colleges of Albany and Rensselaer Counties will also be honored for Organizational 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 Pratt Area Community Council's work on the Gibb Mansion the statewide recognition it deserves."

*The Preservation League Statewide 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.*