



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES
RoAnn M. Destito, COMMISSIONER

Heather Groll - Public Affairs Office
(518) 474-5987
heather.groll@ogs.ny.gov
<http://www.ogs.ny.gov>

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OGS Completes First Phase of Improvements to the Empire State Plaza and Convention Center

Updated convention hall, meeting rooms and Empire State Plaza public spaces

Office of General Services Commissioner RoAnn M. Destito today announced completion of a number of projects in and around the Empire State Plaza. This marks the state's first significant capital investment in the plaza and Convention Center in decades and greatly improves the experience for those visiting and doing business in the Empire State Plaza complex. This effort also seeks to create a sense of place and pride for the thousands of public servants who work here. The ongoing initiative, dubbed "Plaza Proud," was launched by OGS in late 2012 and focused on upgrading, cleaning and refurbishing public spaces that had been neglected by decades of deferred maintenance. .

Nearly all of the work can be seen throughout the Empire State Plaza Convention Center and Concourse level with additional improvements and upgrades made in the parking garages and outdoor locations.

"When Governor Cuomo took office, he made immediate changes that opened up the Capitol, made it more accessible to the public, and made the Capitol a showcase worthy of the State of New York and its citizens," Commissioner Destito said. "The work done here with the Plaza Proud initiative is a natural extension of that vision and represents a first step as OGS embarks on a collaborative effort to create the newly approved Albany convention center. I am extremely proud of the work that the OGS team has accomplished on behalf of those we serve."

In 2012, following the accelerated completion of the New York State Capitol renovation, OGS began examining other areas within the Capitol and Empire State Plaza that needed to be repaired, refurbished, replaced or improved. This prompted the Plaza Proud campaign that has resulted in numerous projects that include:

- A modernized entrance to the Convention Center that includes upgraded safety features, a new doorway and refurbished stairs.
- New disability lifts in the convention hall.
- New paint and carpeting throughout the convention hall and meeting rooms.
- New stage floor in the convention hall.

- Upgraded light fixtures, paint, and carpet in the Convention Center dressing rooms.
- All new wayfinding and building identification signs throughout the concourse.
- Installation of repeaters to allow better cellular coverage in buildings and parking areas. The new system will be able to accommodate a variety of carriers later this year.
- Burnishing nearly 200,000 square feet of terrazzo floors on the Concourse.
- Installing of thousands of energy-efficient light bulbs throughout the Empire State Plaza, Capitol, and parking areas.
- Examining, cleaning, and restoring when necessary a number of the 92 paintings and sculptures in the Empire State Plaza art collection.
- Washing down Plaza parking areas and bus turnaround.
- Restoring metal components on exterior doors throughout the plaza complex.
- Inscribing building IDs, power washing, and painting the overhangs on agency buildings.
- Replacing 850 39-by-39-inch marble pavers around the reflecting pools.
- Replacing dead and damaged trees around the plaza.
- Upgraded chilling mats and sound system at the plaza ice rink.
- Pressure cleaning and caulking planters and benches on the east side of the plaza.
- Restoring outdoor memorials, including replacing pavers with stamped concrete at the Crime Victims Memorial, resetting bricks at the Fallen Firemen's Memorial, and masonry work at the World War II Memorial.
- Pouring more than 700 yards of concrete to replace deteriorating sidewalks along Madison Avenue and around West Capitol Park.
- Pressure washing, patching, and coating walls and installing energy efficient lights bulbs in the ESP arterial tunnel.

Additional planned improvements for Phase II of the plaza proud Initiative include:

- Upgraded audio system throughout the Convention Center.
- Continued restoration of outdoor memorials.
- Installing outdoor wayfinding signs on the plaza.
- Recoating the plaza reflecting pools.
- Ongoing replacement of damaged marble on plaza.
- Further removal and replacement of damaged sidewalks, including around East Capitol Park.
- Repointing brick roadways on the plaza.
- Caulking planters and benches on the west side of the plaza.
- Removal and replacement of damaged sections of concrete on the north and south ram horn plaza entrances.
- Replacing deteriorating sanitation and sewer lines beneath buildings and parking levels.
- Painting Empire State Plaza Arterial tunnel walls.
- Continued replacement of damaged and dead trees on properties adjacent to the Empire State Plaza.
- Continued conservation of the plaza art collection.

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