



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES
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New Visitor Center and Gift Shop Opens at Empire State Plaza

Taste NY and I LOVE NY items to be featured in gift shop

Office of General Services Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced that a new visitor center and gift shop has opened at the north end of the Empire State Plaza Concourse. The new center will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will provide local and statewide visitor information. The gift shop will feature State Capitol, Empire State Plaza and New York State themed merchandise as well as a Taste NY section that will offer state foods and products along with a space devoted to I LOVE NY merchandise.

“This is another addition to Governor Cuomo’s initiative to improve the visitor experience at the Capitol and Empire State Plaza. The Visitor Center location is now much more user friendly and accessible,” Commissioner Destito said “For years visitors have been asking for a gift shop where they could purchase a memento of the Capitol, the art collection, or the Plaza. We are very pleased they can finally bring a souvenir home.”

“This new store is yet another example of how Governor Cuomo’s Taste NY program is bringing some of the best foods and beverages to more New Yorkers every day. New York’s agricultural sector is second to none in so many ways and we know from our experiences with other Taste NY stores that people are going to find new favorites and begin new buying habits when they explore this store. Those purchases support their friends and neighbors and help New York’s economy to grow. It’s a winner for everyone,” said Richard A. Ball, New York State Commissioner of Agriculture.

Empire State Development, Division of Tourism Executive Director Gavin Landry said, “Having I LOVE NEW YORK merchandise proudly on display in the Empire State Plaza Concourse alongside New York State Taste NY products align with our goal to inspire travel and promote

our State's tourism assets. It also fulfills a need for a centralized location to purchase I LOVE NEW YORK merchandise in the Capital Region and it's our hope that other New York State retailers will soon offer I LOVE NEW YORK brand products across the State."

The location of the Visitor Center is very close to the Capitol and will provide a more visible location for tourists and other visitors. Visitor Center staff will provide brochures and information on New York State tourism locations statewide as well as a concentration of materials targeted specifically at the Capital Region. In addition information on tours of the Capitol, Empire State Plaza art collection and Executive Mansion will be available.

The gift shop will feature a variety of merchandise featuring the Capitol and Empire State Plaza on apparel and glassware as well as holiday ornaments, coloring books, cards, puzzles, coaster, toys, games and more. Between 85-90 percent of the merchandise in the store was either made in New York State or purchased from a New York State company. Other items were sourced through to ensure compliance with fair trade practices.

Moving forward, to complement the Taste NY items, the gift shop will be seeking consignments from New York State artisans for hand-made items including jewelry, ceramics, textiles and artwork. Artists can receive a consignment application by sending an email to jacqueline.davis@ogs.ny.gov.

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