



**Office of  
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## MLK MEMORIAL SCULPTURE UNVEILED AT EMPIRE STATE PLAZA

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner RoAnn M. Destito today announced the rededication of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial at the Empire State Plaza. The rededication featured the unveiling of a new glass sculpture titled “Seeds of Enlightenment” that serves as the centerpiece of the memorial.

The original sculpture, which was designed by artist Eric Hilton and made of Steuben Glass, was commissioned by Corning Incorporated as a gift to the people of New York State. The sculpture was dedicated in 2000 but was badly damaged in July 2014. Offering both their underwriting and expertise in glass fabrication, Corning Incorporated (NYSE:GLW) and The Corning Museum of Glass decided to replace the memorial sculpture with a new one that bears the same title as the original.

“This important work of art honoring Dr. King has been sorely missed, and we have had many comments about its absence from members of the Legislature, the community, visitors, and employees here at the Plaza,” said Commissioner Destito. “We greatly appreciate the generosity Corning and The Corning Museum of Glass have demonstrated and are delighted to see the sculpture’s return to New York’s capital. From our efforts to increase opportunities for minority-owned companies to do business with the state to our hosting of the annual Dr. King Memorial Celebration, OGS is an agency that embraces diversity, and we are proud to be the custodians of this magnificent tribute to a great leader and his dream.”

“This sculpture was and is an embodiment of the remarkable legacy of Dr. King, and its return to the Empire State Plaza has been long-awaited,” said Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie. “New York State has always been a beacon of diversity and acceptance, so it’s fitting that this tribute to Dr. King is housed in our state’s

capital. This memorial sculpture is a testament to the work of Dr. King, and a reminder of the progress and social justice we continue to strive for.”

Senate Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, “I’m honored to join the Office of General Services, Corning Inc., and The Corning Museum of Glass for the re-dedication of this beautiful memorial honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This memorial will serve as a constant reminder to the countless New Yorkers who pass through this plaza each day of Dr. King’s commitment to justice and equality.”

“I’m privileged to work for an enlightened company like Corning, because our company values unequivocally embrace diversity. In turn, diversity has enabled some of Corning’s greatest successes — and it is helping to lay the ground work for Corning’s next 163 years of innovation. This of course, helps the state of New York by fueling the economy and perpetuating a cycle of enlightenment,” said G. Thomas Tranter Jr., president, Corning Enterprises, Corning Incorporated.

“The Corning Museum of Glass is proud to be carrying on the legacy of Steuben Glass and to be partnering on such an important project,” said Alan Eusden, chief operating officer of The Corning Museum of Glass. “The purity and clearness of the Steuben crystal is highly symbolic of the clarity of Dr. King’s vision for peace, justice and freedom for all humankind. Like many of the works in our collection, it serves to remind us of the past and inspire us for the future.” The sculpture serves as a tribute to Dr. King and consists of four abstract glass columns joined by an elongated triangular prism. Tiny droplets of glass “seeds” appear randomly on the prism and spill over onto the base.

During the sculpture’s absence, the Office of General Services took the opportunity to restore the memorial site. The sculpture is now on permanent display on the concourse of the Empire State Plaza next to Key Bank. In addition to the memorial, Dr. King’s legacy is commemorated each year by New York State in numerous ways, including the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Memorial Observance, a literacy drive, a food drive, statewide career fairs, and a children’s art and essay exhibit at the Plaza.

Corning is one of the world’s leading innovators in materials science. For more than 160 years, Corning has applied its expertise in specialty glass, ceramics, and optical physics to develop products that have created new industries and transformed people’s lives.

Founded in 1951 by Corning Glass Works (now Corning Incorporated) as a gift to the nation for the company's 100th anniversary, The Corning Museum of Glass, located in Corning, Steuben County, is a not-for-profit museum dedicated to telling the story of a single material: glass. Visitors see more than 3,500 years of history displayed in the Glass Collection Galleries, from the glass portrait of an ancient Egyptian pharaoh to contemporary sculpture made in glass.

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