DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE





Robert Doucette, left, and George Curry were instrumental in beginning the transformation of Armory Square, a former warehouse district, into a trendy retail, office and residntial

Group salutes the pioneers of Armory Square revival

The Downtown Com-mittee of Syracuse last week honored individuals for their commitment to growth, diversity and the continued revitalization of

the city's downtown area.

The committee, a notfor-profit downtown management organization rep-resenting property owners and tenants within the central business district, handed out its Down-town Awards of Excellence during its annual meeting, attended by 350 people, at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown. The Urban Innovation

Award went to Robert Dou-cette and George Curry, who were the major drivers of the development of a seedy warehouse dis-trict on the west side of

Armory Square.

Doucette and Curry restored the Labor Temple Building in 1984. With eight apartments, it was the first residential space in the square. the first residential space in the square, which now boasts a high concentration of bars, restaurants, small shops, apartments and offices.

The Heart of Down-

town Award was given to Dennis Connors, who will retire as curator of history for the Onondaga Historical Association at the end of the year. Connors is Syracuse's fore-most historian and was at the forefront of the effort to save historic Hanover Square from

demolition in the 1960s.

Metro Fitness owner
Randy Sabourin and his team received the Perfect Partner Award for "their creative pro-gramming to instill healthy habits and wellness initianabits and wellness initia-tives throughout the down-town community." Those initiatives include the free "Wellness Wednesdays" fit-ness classes offered by Metro Fitness during the summer in Clinton Square.

The committee's News-maker Award went to the following group of entrepre-neurs who helped to make South Warren Street a desti-nation with retail shops and

- Cinco;
 Cheryl Hassett, of Soup R Salads
- Gini Cerio, of Markowitz Florist.



Dennis Connors, who is retiring at the end of the year a curator of history for the Onondaga Historical Association received the Heart of Downtown Award. Ellen M. Blalock