



2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT



NEW YORK STATE
OLYMPIC REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

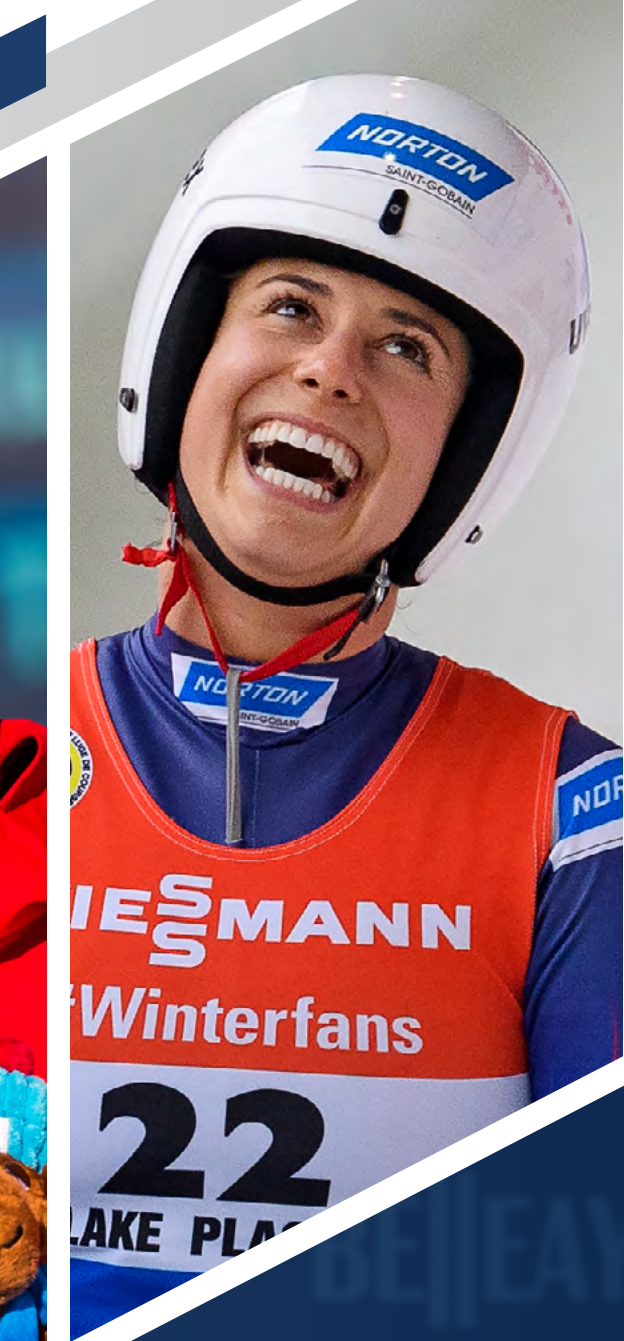
LAUNCHING
A NEW ERA OF
GREATNESS



NEW YORK STATE
**OLYMPIC REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS



A FAMILIAR FACE RETURNS

In June 2022 Joe Martens was confirmed as the new Olympic Authority Board Chair. Mr. Martens recently served as the Director of the New York Offshore Wind Alliance, a coalition of business, labor and environmental organizations committed to promoting the development of offshore wind energy off New York’s coast. Prior to that he was a Senior Fellow at the Open Space Institute, a regional land conservation organization that has protected thousands of acres of land from Maine to Georgia. As Commissioner of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation from 2011 to 2015, Mr. Martens led the agency in implementing its core statutory mission to protect public health and the environment. Prior to leading the DEC, he served as President of the Open Space Institute. His extensive experience also includes advising Governor Mario Cuomo as his Deputy Secretary for Energy and the Environment, chairing the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation, and serving as a Board Member of the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority. He was previously the Olympic Authority Board Chair from 2007 into 2011.

“It is great to be back as chair of the Olympic Authority at such an exciting moment in its storied history. New York State has wisely invested in all our venues and ORDA is perfectly positioned to host national and international winter sports competitions, as well as the general public, for years to come. And just as important, ORDA is a leader in the fight to save winter, investing in energy efficiency, solar power, and reducing, wherever possible, its use of fossil fuels. Thanks to strong support from the State of New York and a record number of visitors to our world-class facilities, ORDA’s future is very bright.” – Joe Martens

BOARD MEMBERS

BILL BEANEY
*Town of North Elba
Representative*

FRANK CARDINALE
Ulster County Representative

CLIFF DONALDSON
Assembly Representative

HOPE KNIGHT
*Empire State Development
(Designee- Steve Hunt)*

ERIK KULLESEID
*NYS Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic
Preservation
(Designee- Chris Pushkarsh)*

ANDREW LACK
*Town of North Elba
Representative*

BETTY LITTLE
*Warren County
Representative*

ART LUSSI
*Town of North Elba
Representative*

DIANE MUNRO
*Delaware County
Representative*

BASIL SEGGOS
*Department of
Environmental Conservation
(Designee- Joe Zalewski)*

ELINOR TATUM
Senate Representative

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

I am proud to work with the employees of the Olympic Authority, who once again have made a record-breaking year at our venues possible. Together, among countless other accomplishments, we planned and executed on projects, welcomed over one million guests, made and maintained quality snow and ice, and managed our financials successfully. Our Board of Directors and the hard-working employees across New York State advanced the Olympic Authority's ability to deliver tremendous results to the regions we serve. Our guests and athletes had exceptional experiences.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought us unique challenges, but throughout it and our massive improvement projects, we never missed an operating season. While labor and supply chain disruptions continue to bring real and significant complications to our work, we have also been able to harness opportunities like an increased demand for recreation and new technological advancements. We are embracing a strong return of events and conferences.

As the Olympic Authority moves forward, we will continue prioritizing our commitments to sustainability, creating positive economic impacts, and developing year-round activity throughout our venues. We will focus on maintenance of our modernized assets, which now have a substantially increased value to New York and beyond. We will also continue improving antiquated facilities and infrastructure.

The Olympic Authority is the caretaker of an important history, and as we create our next stories, we look forward to you being part of them.

Thank you to an incredible staff, who each day embrace sport and the privilege of working in places like no others in the world. We are excited about our future.

Mike Pratt
Olympic Authority President & CEO



BOARD COMMITTEES

Executive Committee:

- Joe Martens, Chair
- Cliff Donaldson
- Betty Little
- Art Lussi

Audit Committee:

- Cliff Donaldson, Chair
- Bill Beaney
- Frank Cardinale
- Joe Martens
- Elinor Tatum
- Joe Zalewski

Governance Committee:

- Chris Pushkarsh, Chair
- Steve Hunt
- Art Lussi
- Joe Martens
- Diane Munro



WHO WE ARE

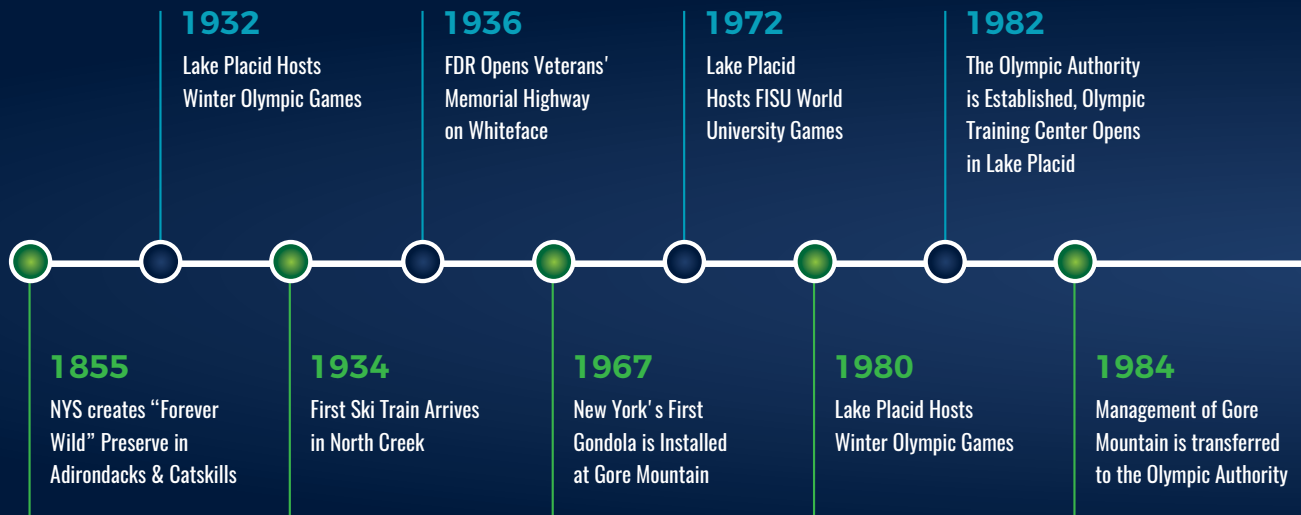
IN 1982, the Olympic Authority was established to effectively manage and maintain facilities used during the 1980 Winter Olympic Games. In fulfilling this responsibility, we protect the public's investment, preserve a historic two-time Olympic legacy, and provide a long-lasting and extraordinarily robust economic engine within remote regions of the state.

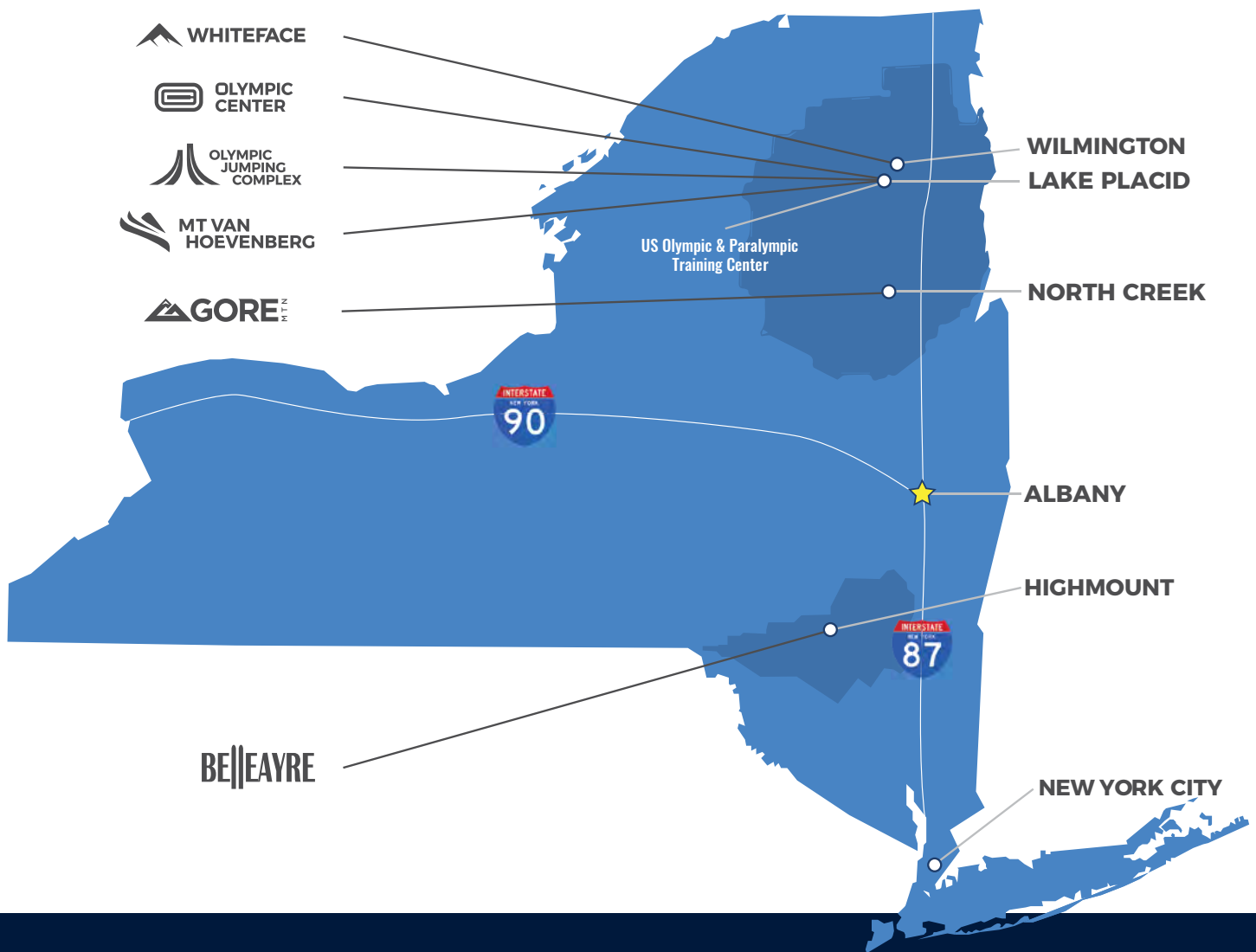
Today's Olympic Authority is providing an unprecedented economic return while achieving an elevated level of performance in the fulfillment of its purpose. With renewed venues, our teams advance training opportunities for athletes of all

levels, offer a uniquely expansive array of four-season recreation and tourism opportunities, and host a broad spectrum of events from those supporting local community development to major international competitions. This is all achieved while also demonstrating leadership in sustainability initiatives.

In this new era, the Olympic Authority innovatively bridges Olympic-caliber sport with outdoor adventures for everyone, thus ensuring investments in these venues offer unprecedented value far into the future.

A TIMELINE OF PROGRESS





1994

The Olympic Authority Begins Operating Lake Placid Olympic Museum

1999

Gore Mountain Replaces 1967 Gondola with Northwoods Gondola, Whiteface Installs Cloudsplitter Gondola

2016

Gore Mountain Develops Largest Solar Array Dedicated to a Ski Area in the U.S.

2020-2021

Venue Transformations Unveiled at Olympic Jumping Complex & Mt Van Hoevenberg

2023

FISU World University Games & FIS Ski Jumping World Cup

1996

Gore Mountain Taps Hudson River for Snowmaking

2012

Management of Belleayre Mountain is Transferred to the Olympic Authority

2017

Belleayre Installs Catskill Thunder Gondola

2022

Modernization of Olympic Center Completed



WHO WE ARE

THIS YEAR'S PROJECTS & VENUE OVERVIEWS

OLYMPIC CENTER



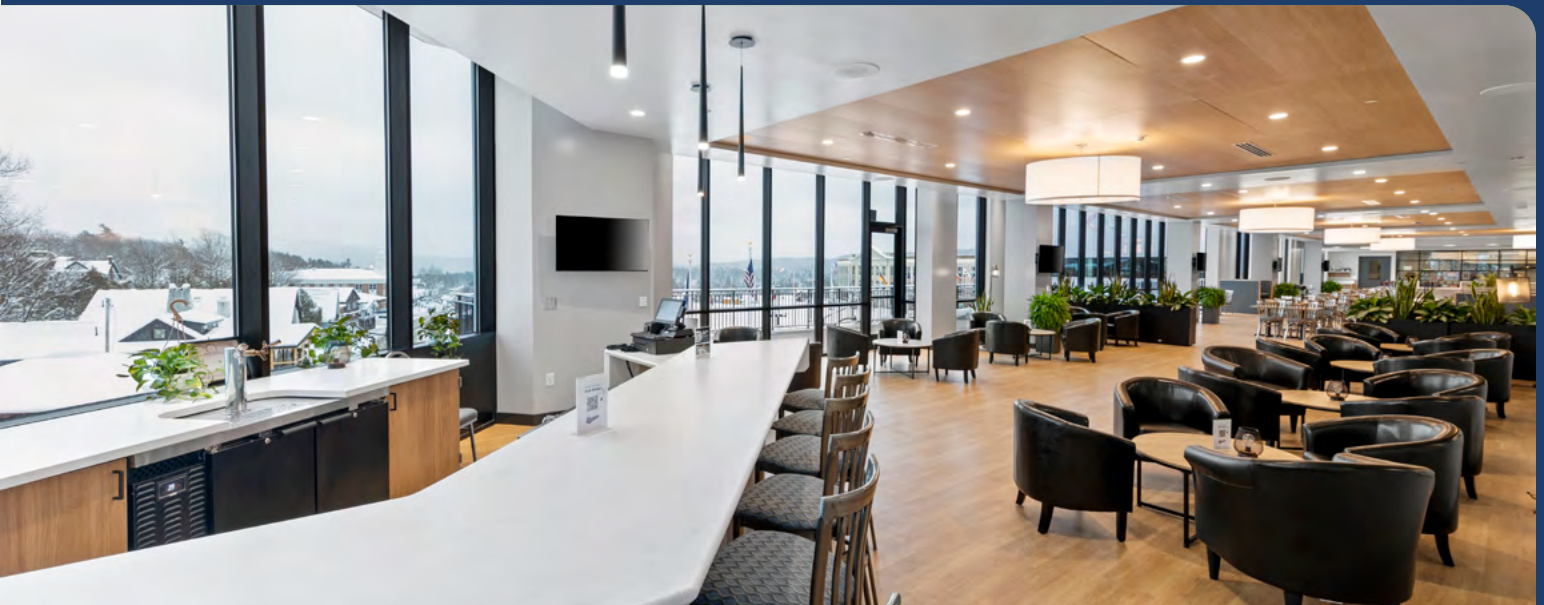
December 7, 2022, Olympic Authority and Lake Placid Olympic Museum officials celebrated the re-imagined Lake Placid Olympic Museum and the Grand Opening of the Olympic Center with tours and an official ribbon cutting ceremony.

Pictured in the ribbon cutting (from left) are Darcy Rowe Norfolk, Olympic Authority Director of Communications; Mike Pratt, Olympic Authority President and CEO; Todd Westhuis, Deputy Director of State Operations for the Office of Governor Kathy Hochul; Jonathan Becker, Lake Placid Olympic Museum Board Chair; and Joe Martens, Olympic Authority Board Chair.

Near the end of 2022, finishing touches were put on the newly revitalized Olympic Center, heralding the beginning of a new era with renewed venues. In reaching that milestone, the Olympic Authority and the community of Lake Placid came together on December 7 to celebrate. Olympians, VIPs, and members of the media were invited to commemorate not only the renewal of the Olympic Center but also the opening of the new Lake Placid Olympic Museum and the transformation of all Olympic Authority venues. The event was held in the Miracle Plaza, an expansive, contemporary space that includes the new museum and a new Miracle Moments retail store on the ground level, and Roamers Café on the mezzanine level.

Named for the independent New York Rangers' ice hockey farm team that called Lake Placid home from 1946 to 1952, Roamers offers an internationally inspired menu with panoramic views of the Olympic Village and the Adirondack High Peaks. The evening's festivities began with tours of the museum followed by remarks from officials, culminating in the lighting of the Olympic rings outside the Miracle Plaza entrance.

The event was also a chance to celebrate the earlier openings of the 1980 Herb Brooks Arena, the 1932 Jack Shea Arena, and the James C. Sheffield Speed Skating Oval. Upgrades of these facilities breathed new life into their use as modern sport and entertainment venues by



The Olympic Center revitalization is stunning.



New York State Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado tours the new Olympic Center with Olympic Authority President & CEO Mike Pratt September 27.

raising them once again to international standards while also elevating their efficiency, comfort, and aesthetic appeal.

The Olympic Center rejuvenation is monumental. The investment game changing. The difference revolutionary. Excitement is palpable among staff, athletes, visitors, and the community. This is part of an Olympic Region renaissance that will yield extraordinary results for decades to come.





WHO WE ARE

THIS YEAR'S PROJECTS & VENUE OVERVIEWS



HOME TO A UNIQUE COMBINATION OF SPORTS AND RECREATION, MT VAN HOEVENBERG PROVIDES A TREMENDOUS VARIETY OF ADRENALINE AND ADVENTURE, ALL STEEPED IN A REMARKABLE OLYMPIC HISTORY.

ITS 55KM OF CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS and new biathlon stadium feature the world's largest snowmaking system dedicated to a Nordic venue. New climbing walls were opened in 2022, offering a significant addition to the venue's multitude of activities. Paved roller ski trails, trail running, mountain biking, hiking, and North America's longest mountain ride, the Cliffside Coaster, are all available to our guests. Adjacent is the combined track for bobsled, luge, and skeleton. Together with

both an indoor sprint track and the only indoor bobsled and skeleton push track in the U.S., the venue is a year-round training center for athletes that also offers the rare opportunity for everyday visitors to experience the thrill of sliding sports. The Mountain Pass Lodge rests between the Nordic and sliding centers with amenities including the 81-18 Cafe, Henry's Tavern, souvenir and outdoor gear shops, and lounge and deck areas for relaxation and spectating events.



OLYMPIC JUMPING COMPLEX

Lake Placid held its first jumping competition in February 1921. That event was also the village's first ever major sport competition, drawing 3,000 spectators in all, nearly 1,000 more than the village population at the time. In hindsight, that event was a signal of all this venue would become in the ensuing 100+ years.

Today, the venue stands as the only ski jumping facility in North America homologated for year-round competitions. As such, it hosts the world's best athletes for training and national and international competitions.

Guests can see athletes in training and get close enough to the launch to hear and feel the whoosh as jumpers fly off the towers' ends. They can also take a zipline that emulates the athlete's perspective, and ride the Skyride Gondola, lifting family and friends to the tower base where a glass elevator ride delivers them to panoramic views of the High Peaks and the Olympic Village.





WHO WE ARE THIS YEAR'S PROJECTS & VENUE OVERVIEWS

BELLEAYRE

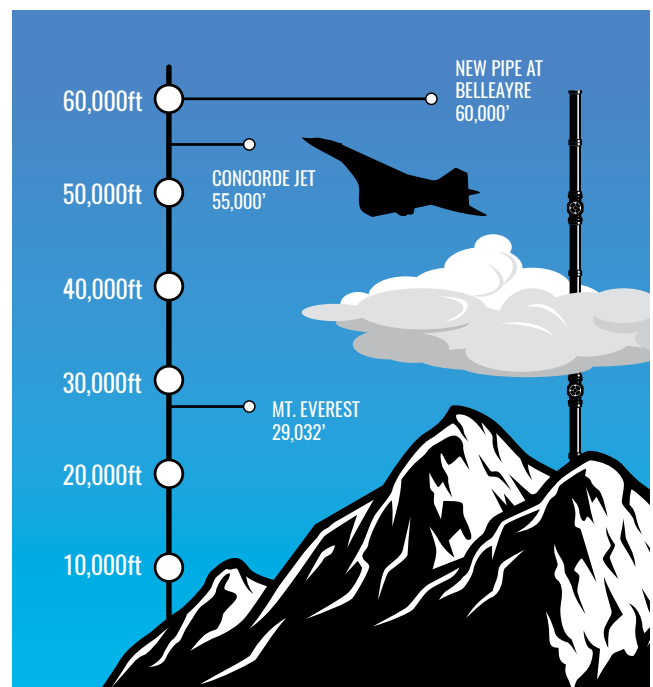
Beautifully situated in the Catskills, Belleayre is the southernmost Olympic Authority ski area and an ideal destination for families as well as seasoned skiers and riders.

Despite nature's erratic weather patterns during the 2022-23 ski season, the Belleayre team achieved record-breaking success. The popularity of the SKI3 season pass, new lifts, modern learning facilities and lodges, and snowmaking advancements all played roles in attracting more guests and increasing visitation by 29% and revenue by 48%.

In recent years, the Olympic Authority has made major upgrades to Belleayre's snowmaking infrastructure. Having also cultivated an award-winning snowmaking team, crews are now making more snow faster, using less energy than ever before. **This past summer, they installed 60,000 feet of new pipe and added stronger pumps and a new control system.** Those improvements were topped off with 300 energy-saving, high-yield snow guns, all combined to produce more snow using less energy.

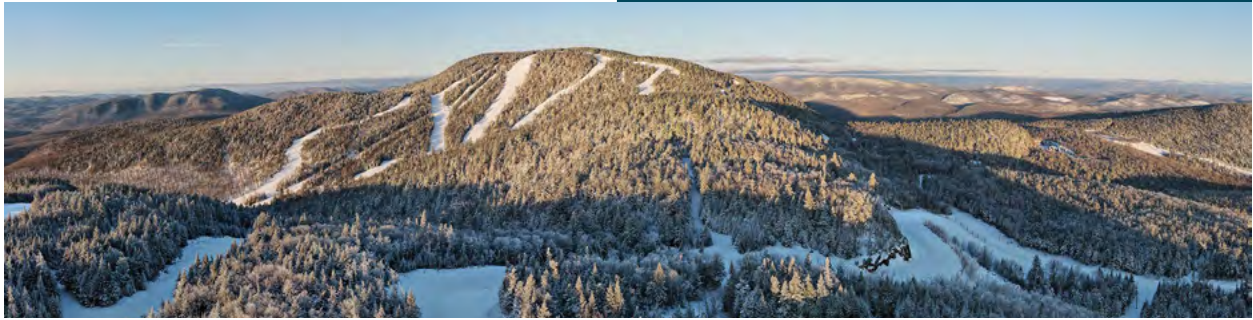
The totality of these improvements are more reliable skier and rider experiences, an essential factor in the shifting consumer preferences that have increased visits and boosted revenue.

**29% INCREASE IN VISITATION
WITH REVENUE UP 48%**





MOST TERRAIN IN NEW YORK STATE AND GROWING



Skiers and riders can always count on more at Gore. With the most terrain and the most extensive lift systems in New York State and trail networks springing from four separate peaks, Gore is distinctive for its expansiveness.

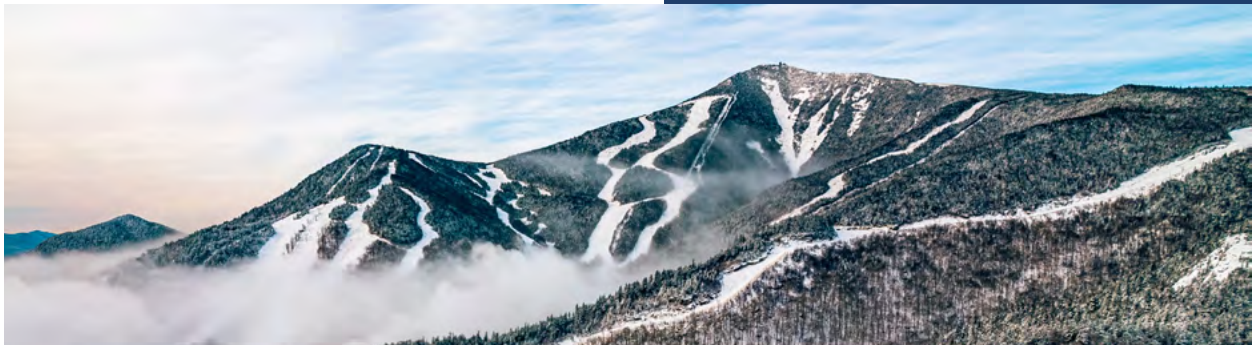
This year, that expansiveness grew with the addition of a new intermediate trail, Backwoods, providing a new connection to Little Gore Mountain and the

North Creek Ski Bowl that increases accessibility to blue square trails and features stunning views of the North Creek Village.

In addition, more than **230 new snow guns were installed** to boost the capacity and efficiency of snowmaking, enhance the reliability of conditions, and lengthen the season.



GREATEST VERTICAL EAST OF THE ROCKIES



Nature carved Whiteface into a formidable mountain with the greatest vertical east of the Rockies. In its modern state, Whiteface has expanded to a three-mountain premiere resort experience.

In summer, the Veterans' Memorial Highway – a magically and historically distinctive attraction – offers everyone a chance to reach the top of an Adirondack High Peak with a five-mile drive from the Toll House.

In the summer of 2022, Whiteface continued its snowmaking improvement projects with crews installing **35,000 feet of new pipe, 160 new high-efficiency snow guns, and over 250 new snowmaking hydrants.**

Two new trails were added, too. Ausable Run gives a boost to the guest experience of beginner skiers while Yellow Dot offers connections between popular trails high on the mountain.



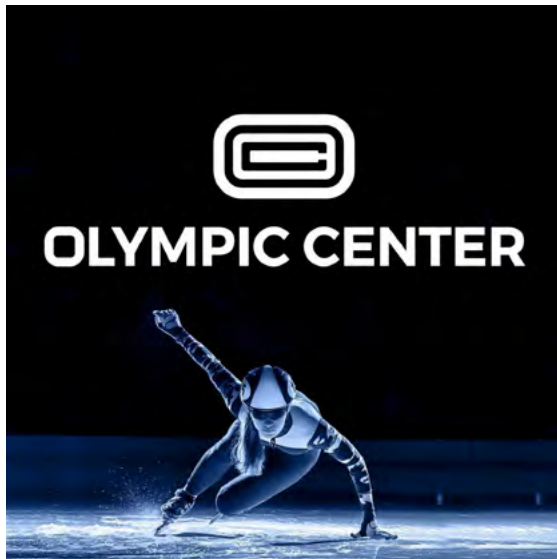
WHO WE ARE

THIS YEAR'S PROJECTS & VENUE OVERVIEWS



LAKE PLACID

LEGACY SITES



NEW BRAND IDENTITIES

In November 2022, the Olympic Authority unveiled new brand identities for its Lake Placid Legacy Sites. For the first time in history, new logos were adopted to offer each of these four venues illustrations that reflect their unique attributes. While each new logo is as distinctive as the venue it represents, their designs incorporate substantially unifying traits that visually connect with one another and with the Olympic Authority.

WHO WE ARE

THIS YEAR'S PROJECTS & VENUE OVERVIEWS



ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

The opening of the Olympic Authority's new headquarters could not have come at a better time. In September 2022, as the Olympic Center renewal neared completion and the Conference Center was poised to begin welcoming groups again, more than 60 staff members supporting vital organizational functions moved to the new Church Street building in Lake Placid. These departments include Human Resources, Operations, Events, Marketing, Finance, Legal, and Environment, Planning & Construction. The move allowed for spaces in the Olympic Center previously occupied by offices to be transformed into new revenue-generating guest areas.



OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC TRAINING CENTER

Opened in 1982, the Lake Placid Olympic and Paralympic Training Center (OPTC) is one of only two such facilities in the nation. The OPTC provides much needed housing and essential services for athletes in training, including sport science, nutrition, and sports psychology.

During 2022-2023, the Olympic Authority modernized the OPTC dorm facilities. Today, with numerous upgrades, including expanded



workspaces and newly renovated athlete accommodations, it's a vital local resource that adds tremendous value throughout the year for athletes, as well as for the regional economy.



SUSTAINABILITY

OLYMPIC CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

In Fall 2022, the Olympic Authority unveiled a remarkably transformed Olympic Center. The project celebrated the venue's exceptional history while positioning it for the future with exciting new guest spaces, a modernized experience for athletes and spectators, and year-round facilities that advance recreation and events on and off the ice.

This project put the Olympic Authority's commitment to sustainability on display.

REFRIGERATION PLANT UPGRADES

New cooling systems at the Olympic Center are making for more reliable operation of the three indoor rinks and the Oval, while using 20% less energy. Energy savings accumulate each month while reducing the demand from the local energy grid. The Oval has been completely replaced and is now properly insulated from the ground.

Prior to upgrades to the refrigeration plant, the primary refrigerant had a Global Warming Potential (GWP) rating of 1810. The new primary refrigerant is R-513A, which has a much lower GWP rating at 631.

WASTE HEAT & SALT REDUCTION

The waste heat from the refrigeration compressors is innovatively used to not only melt ice resurfacing scrapings in the 1980 Herb Brooks Arena but also melt snow on walkways outside the Olympic Center, thereby reducing the need for salt application. Over 190,000 tons of road salt are applied each year in the Adirondacks, posing a threat to aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems as well as to water quality for residents. The Olympic Authority actively supported adoption of the Randy Preston Road

**SALT REDUCTIONS IN EFFECT
TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT**



PLEASE PROCEED SLOWLY & SAFELY



Salt Reduction Act of 2020, and in cooperation with the NYS Department of Transportation and Adirondack municipalities, the Olympic Authority modified salt use practices to protect water resources and animal habitats across the region.

ELECTRIC ZAMBONIS

Two electric Zambonis are changing the game on ice maintenance equipment emissions. These ice-resurfacing machines are 100% electric and offer exceptional charging efficiency with zero tailpipe emissions. The Olympic Center hosts events year-round, and ice resurfacing is performed frequently. The lithium-ion batteries provide consistent output voltage over time with a lower maintenance cost and faster recharging time. The E-Zambonis save hundreds of gallons of gasoline every year and make maintaining indoor ice surfaces truly emission-free.





LIGHT-EMITTING DIODE (LED) LIGHTING UPGRADES

All lighting at the Olympic Center has been upgraded to LED lighting, saving more than 300,000 kilowatt hours of energy use annually. All locker rooms, hallways, and stairwells now have occupancy sensors, so the lights are only on when the rooms are in use.

PASSIVE SOLAR ENERGY

The Miracle Plaza's renovations included adding more energy-efficient windows to the southern side of the building allowing for much more natural sunlight throughout the day. The new construction of the Administrative building and Whiteface's Legacy Lodge also feature significant natural light upgrades.

CARBON-CAPTURED CONCRETE

All new concrete masonry units in the Olympic Center were made using CarbonCure technology. CarbonCure's advantage is that waste CO₂ produced during the concrete manufacturing process is captured and injected into the final product instead of being emitted into the atmosphere. During the curing process, the CO₂ then mineralizes and becomes embedded

in the concrete. This technology permanently eliminates up to one pound of CO₂ from the air per three standard blocks of concrete. The Olympic Authority was proactive in this action; Executive Order 22 passed in September 2022 now requires NYS entities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the decarbonization of building materials.

HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC)

All HVAC systems throughout the 1980 Herb Brooks Arena and the Miracle Plaza have been replaced with modern air handlers that meet or exceed current energy code requirements. The units supply significantly more fresh air while recovering heat from exhaust air.

OTHER BUILDING UPGRADES

The black rubber athletic flooring throughout the Olympic Center is manufactured with over 70% post-consumer recycled material. Miracle Plaza now meets modern insulation requirements, and the new white roofs on the USA Rink, 1932 Rink, and Miracle Plaza are all insulated and reflective. Throughout the entire Olympic Center, low-flow toilets and sinks have been installed to conserve water.



SNOWMAKING

Winter sports are vulnerable to climate change, and rising global temperatures are threatening the future of outdoor competition. According to scientific studies, Lake Placid is one of just four past hosts of the Winter Olympic Games that by mid-century will still maintain weather conditions reliable enough for holding outdoor winter competitions.

In the future, the viability of winter sports will depend less on natural snow and more on snowmaking.

After years of improvements to snowmaking systems that included major upgrades in the 2022-23 season, Olympic Authority ski venues are prepared like few others on the planet, and this year made that clear. While ski areas around the world suffered from unstable weather patterns and lack of natural snow, teams from Belleayre, Gore, Mt Van Hoevenberg, and Whiteface were ready for major competitions and maintained excellent conditions throughout the year.

High-efficiency pumps, motors, drives, and snow guns all work together to make more snow, faster, with less energy. There are also miles of new pipe, advanced control systems, and automated technology that tracks snowmaking productivity in real time. This season's notable snowmaking achievements are highlighted on these pages.

Olympic Authority ski venues had some of their **latest ever closure dates in the spring of 2022**. In fact, since Gore Mountain opened in 1964, its latest closing date ever was May 1, 2022.

With an advanced tracking system, Belleayre, Gore, Mt Van Hoevenberg, and Whiteface crews can now accurately assess weather, air and water flows, and snowmaking production.

Originally scheduled to be held in Vermont, the New England Nordic Ski Association moved its Eastern Cup Opener December 17 and 18 to Mt Van Hoevenberg, the **only Nordic ski center in the Northeastern U.S. with race-ready trails at the time**.

Belleayre Mountain, the southernmost of the Olympic Authority ski areas, opened earlier than usual on November 18. Then, despite periods of warmer weather and little snowfall, **snowmaking crews had the entire mountain (63 trails) open December 19**, two full days before the official beginning of winter.

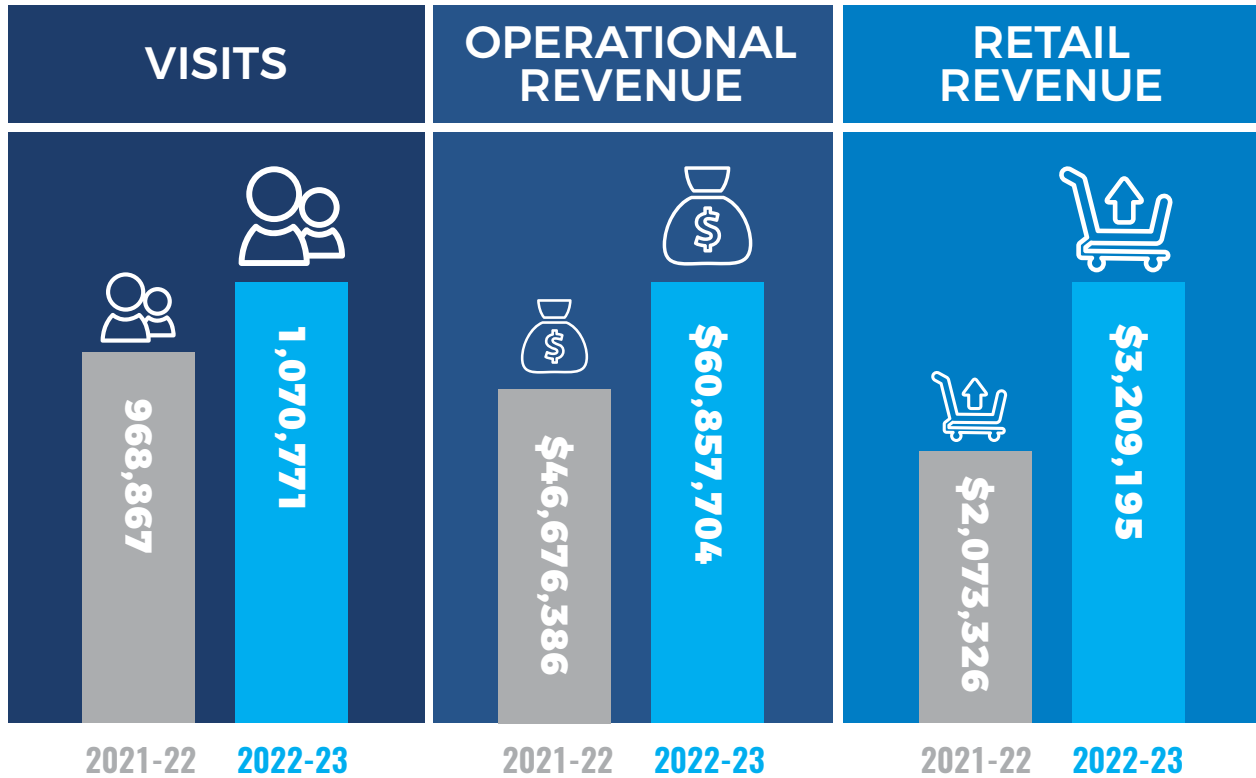
For the first time in its history, Whiteface crews had the **mountain open from summit to base on opening day.**

With warm temperatures and scant natural snowfall prior to the widely anticipated opening of the FISU World University Games, organizers were concerned. On visiting Olympic Authority venues, however, they discovered them **ready and prepared to host this largest international multi-sport competition since the 1980 Winter Olympic Games.**

Belleayre fans outvoted supporters of six other nominated ski areas across the U.S. to **win the Belleayre snowmaking crew, the 2023 I AM A SNOWMAKER contest.** In doing so, they paid a fitting tribute to a hardworking team who created excellent skiing and riding conditions throughout the season.



VISITATION & REVENUE



THE OLYMPIC AUTHORITY SET A RECORD FOR VISITS OF MORE THAN ONE MILLION TO ITS VENUES DURING THE 2022-23 YEAR.

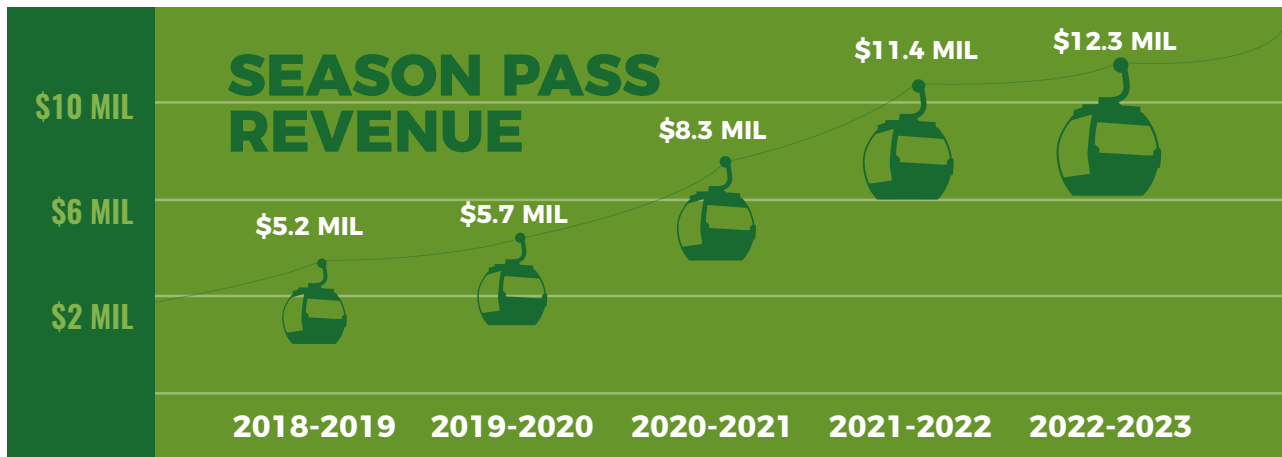
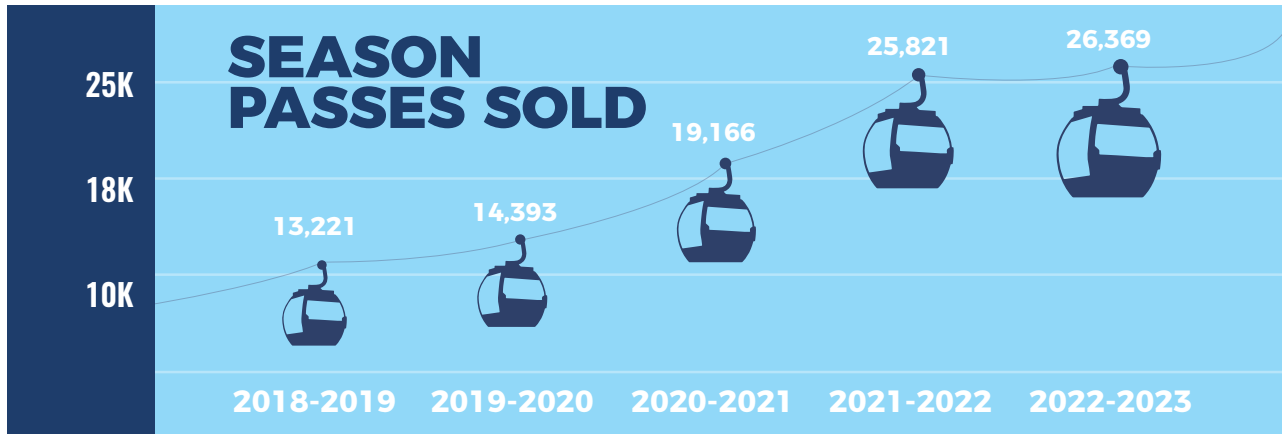
The greatest number of visits to Olympic Authority venues took place between December and March, with approximately 750,000 visits during that timeframe, making up 73% of the new record. January and February brought in the most overall visits, while favorable skiing conditions and major events at multiple venues boosted March numbers well above average, with more than 50,000 visits during the month.

Multiple venue renewal projects are providing a stronger guest experience while also making it possible to host year-round activities and major international winter sporting events, such as the FIS Ski Jumping World Cup event in February that drew the largest crowd at any single venue since the 1980 Winter Olympic Games.

The opening of the Lake Placid Olympic Museum on December 8, 2022 marked the completion of major venue modernizations as well as the official opening of Miracle Moments, an exciting, new Olympic Authority retail shop adjacent to the new Museum spaces.

Retail revenues alone were up more than \$1.1 million for the fiscal year, despite the new Olympic Center shop operating less than four months of the year.

Although the museum opened during the latter part of the fiscal year as well, ticket sales are demonstrating high demand for the new immersive and interactive experience.



SKI3

SEASON PASSES

CHANGING THE GAME

Major revitalization projects are complete. A new standard of snowmaking infrastructure is in place across all Olympic Authority ski areas. Venues are opening earlier and closing later with improved conditions throughout the season. The skier experience is being elevated year after year, and an innovative season pass product is enhancing value like never before.

Today, there are more reasons than ever for consumers to invest in the SKI3 season pass, including access to three mountains, worry-free insurance that protects pass purchases, passholder perks, summer activities, and a no-reservations policy that rewards customer loyalty.



REVENUES & EXPENSES

	Year Ended 03/31/2022	Year Ended 03/31/2023
Charges for Services	40,478,500.04	48,767,942.29
Rental & Financing Income	1,109,241.96	3,809,956.08
Other Operating Revenues	4,991,354.50	11,209,017.86
Investment Earnings	31.37	43,556.37
State Subsidies/Grants	14,940,000.00	14,940,000.00
Municipal Subsidies/Grants	750,000.00	500,000.00
Other Non-Operating Revenues	648,232.67	903,345.59
Total Revenues & Financing Sources	62,917,360.54	80,173,818.19
Salaries & Wages	22,508,651.30	30,047,532.83
Other Employee Benefits	13,171,286.07	14,578,306.82
Professional Services Contracts	209,635.68	131,807.73
Supplies & Materials	3,964,265.59	5,543,355.84
Other Operating Expenses	12,846,660.55	18,062,300.06
Interest & Other Financing Charges	117,507.49	(32,422.08)
Total Expenses	52,818,006.68	68,330,881.20
Total Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	10,099,353.86	11,842,936.99

These financials are also submitted to the Public Authorities Reporting Information System.

For further financial information, including the Budget & Financial Plan and Annual Independent Audit Report, please visit www.ORDA.org.



The Olympic Authority's event revenue has not only rebounded, it has surpassed pre-pandemic levels. Staff are actively planning and bidding for events over the next several years; Mt Van Hoevenberg will host the IBSF Bobsled & Skeleton World Championships in March 2025 and the International Biathlon Union (IBU) Cup in 2026.



The Olympic Authority has recently taken on management of all retail outlets, including inventory and ordering, staffing, and sales tracking.



Year-round sales generated by the Olympic Authority's three alpine mountains increased by 24% during 22-23.

An updated union contract approved in September 2022 significantly supported employee retention and recruitment, while employee-led focus groups and satisfaction surveys helped identify opportunities for the Olympic Authority to further develop its human resources efforts.



Another addition to the Olympic Authority's profit centers included its new oversight of rental operations. Revenue from equipment rentals surpassed \$3M during 22/23, while revenue shares of past concessioned operations averaged just \$95,000 of income per year.

Ice admission revenue has increased 238% over the last five years, due to the Olympic Center's renovation of three rinks and the venue's ability to offer public skating while simultaneously hosting major events.



A YEAR OF FIRSTS

Back on the world stage in 2022, with venues fully rejuvenated, the Olympic Authority enters a bold new era. With it comes great responsibilities and great possibilities, and the organization has seized on both with an energetic spirit and an unwavering dedication to our mission. This year produced many memorable firsts. Each is a new beginning that adds to Lake Placid's extraordinary legacy.

One late summer Saturday night at the Olympic Center at the 2022 U.S. International Figure Skating Classic, 17-year-old American Ilia Malinin launched himself off the ice and into the air inside the 1980 Herb Brooks Arena to become the **first figure skater in history to land a quad axel in competition.**



Just two weeks later, in honor of Dick Button and his lifetime of professional skating achievements, the Olympic Authority organized a unique event. The Dick Button Festival of Artistic Skating was held October 1 and 2 in the 1932 Jack Shea Arena where Button trained under coach and mentor Gustav Lussi in the 1940s and 50s. **This one-of-a-kind event attracted figure skaters and professional skating companies from around the world for a full schedule of presentations, clinics, workshops, and performances.**



Then on December 9 and 10, Mt Van Hoevenberg hosted the International Bobsled and Skeleton Federation's World Push Championships on the only refrigerated indoor push track in the country. This was **Lake Placid's first ever international push competition following the first ever USA Bobsled and Skeleton National Push Championships just two months prior.**



Also at the FISU Games, a University of Vermont junior, Bjorn Westervelt, captured a silver medal in the 10-kilometer sprint, becoming the **first American to medal in men's biathlon in FISU Games history.** A day later in the 12.5km pursuit, Westervelt won gold, capturing **the first international biathlon victory for the U.S. since Lowell Bailey's world championship title in 2017.**



FISU Winter World University Games, held over 11 days between January 12 and 22, brought athletes and coaches from across the globe to venues in the North Country for the second largest winter multi-sport competition in the world next to the Olympics.

At the FISU Games, the James C. Sheffield Speed Skating Oval was home to greatness once again as skaters from around the world rewrote the record books on the same track Eric Heiden won five Olympic gold medals. **A total of 10 new track records were set on the upgraded track that opened just a year earlier.**



Then came Lake Placid's first ever **World Synchronized Skating Championships.** At this last event of the winter season, over 500 figure skaters on 23 teams representing 19 countries came together in a dazzling demonstration of athleticism and art, intertwining them in ways that made them inseparable. Thousands of spectators witnessed with awe the combination of strength and grace, creativity and power, and above all, teamwork.





EVENTS 2022/23





- ▶ **US Speedskating Short Track Age Group National Championships**
- ▶ **Olympic Day Celebration**
- ▶ **Star Spangled Ski Jump**
- ▶ **Lake Placid Figure Skating Championships**
- ▶ **Lake Placid Ice Dancing Championships**
- ▶ **US International Figure Skating Classic**
- ▶ **World Synchronized Skating Championships**
- ▶ **Keys to the Castle / Climb to the Castle Rollerski Races**
- ▶ **Jumpapalooza and USA Nordic, US Ski Jumping, and US Nordic Combined National Championships**
- ▶ **Flaming Leaves Festival and FIS Continental Cup**
- ▶ **World Ice Skating Day**
- ▶ **USA Bobsled and Skeleton Push Championships**
- ▶ **Lake Placid Trail Challenge and Inaugural Spartan Race**
- ▶ **Dick Button Festival of Artistic Skating**
- ▶ **Women's Collegiate Hockey Association Ice Breaker Tournament**
- ▶ **IBSF World Push Championships**
- ▶ **IBSF Para Bobsled World Cup**
- ▶ **New England Nordic Ski Association Grand Prix Eastern Cup Opener**
- ▶ **IBSF Bobsled and Skeleton North American Cup 2022**
- ▶ **2023 Lake Placid FISU World University Games**
- ▶ **Holeshot Cross Tour**
- ▶ **Empire State Winter Games**
- ▶ **FIS Ski Jumping World Cup**
- ▶ **Lake Placid Loppet 2023**
- ▶ **NCAA Nordic and Alpine Skiing Championships**
- ▶ **ECAC Men's Ice Hockey Championships**
- ▶ **Norton USA Youth Luge Nationals**
- ▶ **OMEGA IBSF Youth Monobob & Skeleton Olympic Games Qualifier**
- ▶ **Norton USA Junior Luge National Championships**
- ▶ **USA Para Bobsled and Skeleton Nationals**
- ▶ **USABS Nationals Bobsled and Skeleton Team Trials**
- ▶ **IBSF Bobsled and Skeleton North American Cup 2023**

(partial list)



LAKE PLACID 2023 FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES



New York State Governor Kathy Hochul welcomed the world at the FISU Games' Opening Ceremonies on January 12 in the Olympic Center's 1980 Herb Brooks Arena.

The return of the FISU Games for the first time in a half century served as both a driver of and a symbol of Lake Placid's recent ascendancy back onto the world sport stage. The 11-day international festival and winter sport competition brought more than 1,400 athletes from 46 countries with 85 medal events in 12 different sports broadcast live around the world. Venues in communities across the North Country hosted events, including Lake Placid, Wilmington, North Creek, Saranac Lake, Potsdam, and Canton.

Preparing and maintaining the fields of play at our venues is a crucial Olympic Authority responsibility, and staff supported vital functions of the Games from venue operations to Information Technology and event services. Despite unseasonably warm temperatures before and during the Games, all Olympic Authority venues delivered optimal conditions for elite level international competition, a feat that distinguishes the Olympic Authority as a global leader in winter sport.

SPECTATE AND RECREATE

During the Games, venues continued to welcome recreational skiers and riders, providing rare and exciting opportunities to spectate and recreate.

BUILDING SPORT WITH TEAM USA

The Olympic Authority staff also maintained an engaging presence on Main Street in the Team USA tent, adding to the guest experience and providing an opportunity to discover firsthand winter sports in our region.

FIS SKI JUMPING WORLD CUP



World Cup competition is how greatness is measured. That test is designed for athletes, of course, yet it is also a test of the event's organizer.

The International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS) awarded this World Cup to the Olympic Authority less than six months in advance. It had been more than 20 years since one was held in the U.S. and more than 30 years since Lake Placid had last hosted it. This created a true test of the Olympic Authority's organizing prowess.

In January, ticket sales surged. Staff and volunteers had the field of play and other aspects of the venue extraordinarily well prepared, and throngs of spectators with sunny dispositions sent a clear message that the event was a resounding success. **More than 15,000 cheering fans attended over the two days of competition, making it the largest single event since the 1980 Olympic Games.** "We should definitely come back here," said Team Norway coach Alex Stöckl. "What the organizers delivered in the past few days is great. This is a wonderful place for ski jumping."

FIS Race Director Sandro Pertile shared similar excitement saying, "We are all really impressed with what has been achieved here over the past few days. Lake Placid will also be part of the ski jumping calendar in the future."





ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

This “Year of Firsts” (detailed on pages 24-25) was one during which significant athlete development milestones were achieved. And although such individual breakthroughs are most often what hit the headlines, many other turning points and events are happening regularly across Olympic Authority venues.

The following events provided big stages for youth and college level standouts:

US SPEEDSKATING SHORT TRACK AGE GROUP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

NCAA ALPINE AND NORDIC SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

WOMEN’S COLLEGIATE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ICE BREAKER TOURNAMENT

CAN/AM YOUTH HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS

EMPIRE STATE GAMES

YOUTH SKELETON AND LUGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BOBSLED YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFIER



OTHER ONGOING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

U16 BOBSLED AND SKELETON ATHLETES aiming for the 2024 Youth Olympic Games participated in a series of training and qualification races in Austria, Korea, and at Mt Van Hoevenberg.

Mt Van Hoevenberg cross country ski trails host schools from around the Olympic Region, and Olympic Authority staff assist in **DEVELOPING NORDIC PROGRAMS WITHIN THE REGION'S COMMUNITIES**.

THE OLYMPIC CENTER HOSTS THOUSANDS OF ICE HOCKEY PLAYERS, coaches, officials, and parents – as many as 50 teams in any given week – for camps and tournaments numerous times throughout the year.

The ski and snowboard season offers opportunities at all four ski venues. In addition to regular school programming, the **NEW YORK SKI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (NYSEF) OFFERS FREQUENT TRAINING**.

THE LAKE PLACID JUNIOR SLIDERS engaged their capacity of 30 local youth in bobsled and skeleton training. Coached by Olympian

and Olympic Authority employee John Napier and IBSF Youth Coach Bryan Berghorn, these youth learned the fundamentals, working their way through a progression from the Ice House to the Push Track to increasingly higher start points on the combined track.

Mt Van Hoevenberg provides a home training base for several international bobsled and skeleton teams. Additionally, with USA Luge headquartered directly adjacent to the Olympic Authority Administration Building and the US Olympic and Paralympic Training Center, **LUGE ATHLETES AT ALL LEVELS TRAIN IN LAKE PLACID** throughout much of the year.

A summer USA Slider Search encompassing youth ages 9 to 13, travels the country before **BRINGING PROMISING YOUNG ATHLETES TO LAKE PLACID AND PARK CITY FOR TRAINING**.

As the **NATION'S ONLY SKI JUMPING FACILITY HOMOLOGATED FOR SUMMER AND WINTER TRAINING**, the Olympic Jumping Complex and NYSEF partner to elevate athlete development opportunities throughout the year.

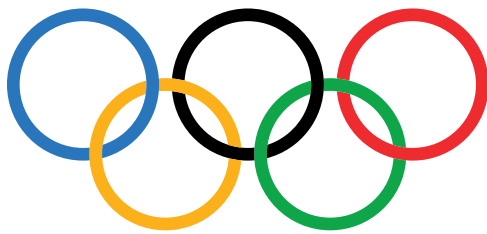
For more than 100 years, Lake Placid has been home to big dreams and athletic achievement. Today, the renewed Olympic Authority venues are giving new generations of athletes the opportunities and inspiration they need to develop, grow, and become the champions of the future.

[**CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO**](#)





OLYMPIC DAY



In 100 countries around the globe and in the Village of Lake Placid, people came together June 23 to commemorate Olympic and Paralympic Day.

Though the day marks the founding of the modern Olympic Games, the world also unites for something vital to our organization's mandate and to individuals everywhere – to celebrate being active and living well. The Olympic Authority, in partnership with the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Training Center in Lake Placid, marked the occasion by extolling the importance of sport with a series of activities while emphasizing the three pillars of Olympic Day.

Move. Learn. Discover.

Open to all, free-of-charge, and held in locations around the Lake Placid community, the Olympic Day activities were diverse in their appeal:

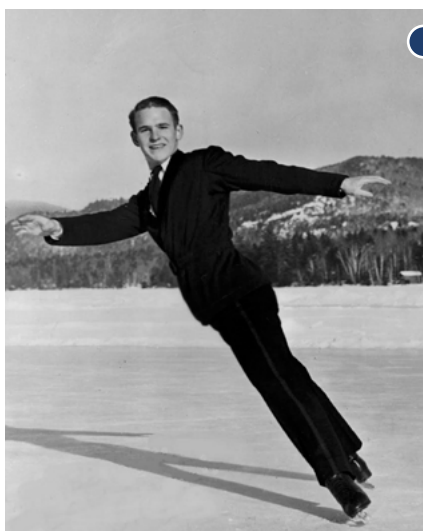
- **Lake Placid Figure Skating Championships**
- **“Big Dreams,” an inspiring presentation by Kathaleen Cutone, Team USA leader in Beijing**
- **Totally 80s: 80 Heirlooms from the 80 Olympic Games’ exhibit at the Olympic Center**
- **Olympians Meet and Greet at Mt Van Hoevenberg**
- **“Celebration of Movement” Olympic Day Run/Walk/Wheel at Mt Van Hoevenberg**
- **Free showing of the movie “Miracle” at the Palace Theater in downtown Lake Placid**

This community celebration was a more publicly visible element in the Olympic Authority's ongoing Athlete Development programming that includes events, training schedules, partnerships and collaborative efforts, and ongoing operational activities.

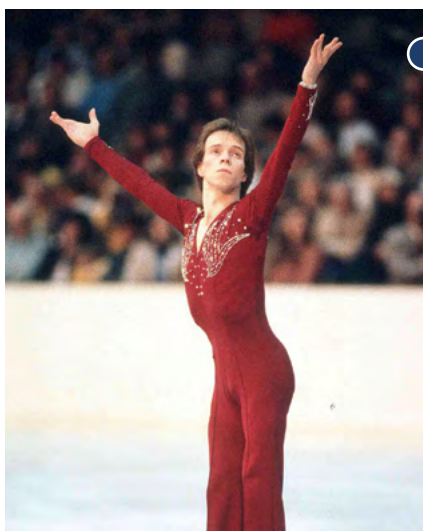


The Olympic Authority honors those who, through their passions for sport, have made a lasting impact on the lives of others and on our world.

CHARLES MINOT "MINNIE" DOLE – see page 38



DICK BUTTON – A two-time Olympic champion, a Lake Placid icon, and a figure skating hero whose more than 70-year career is without equal. He was a leader in the sport and achieved more in skating and for the skating world than any other person on Earth, from landing the first double and triple jumps in competition to inventing the flying camel spin to advocating for and founding artistic skating companies, such as Ice Dance International and Ice Theater New York. The Olympic Authority honored the skater, his art and athleticism, and his impact on the sport at the Dick Button Festival of Artistic Skating October 1-2.



SCOTT HAMILTON – The Olympic Gold Medal Figure Skater, author, and philanthropist overcame a childhood illness during his formative years and rose to prominence in the figure skating world after training and competing in Lake Placid, where he carried the flag in the opening ceremonies of the 1980 Olympic Games. Hamilton founded the Sk8 to Elim8 Cancer event dedicated to changing the future of cancer. The event's Frozen 5k fundraiser returned for its eighth time February 18 to the James C. Sheffield Speed Skating Oval.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH – Each week in March on social media, we highlighted a woman who made impacts in winter sport and with the Olympic Authority:

- Connie Ruth Bonsignore – educator, athlete, advocate, volunteer
- Dorothy Hoyt Nebel – groundbreaking ski athlete, coach
- Jeanne Ashworth – pioneering speedskater, Olympic medalist
- Lois Perret Schaefer – leader, Ski Patrol pioneer

Visit this [link](#) to discover more about these amazing women.



LAKE PLACID OLYMPIC MUSEUM

Imagination is where possibilities are born. Where dreams begin.

The collective imagination imbued into the new Lake Placid Olympic Museum – from its engaging new exhibits to its interactive displays to the design of its new brand identity – is now serving to enrich both the museum’s visitor experience and the impact of the region’s Olympic legacy.

The logo, a visual ode to the Lake Placid legacy, was unveiled in June. Then in December, media hailed the museum’s much anticipated opening, and the new spaces began welcoming people of all ages, providing opportunities to explore, learn, and experience for themselves the innovative new exhibits.

As home to among the largest collections of Winter Olympic artifacts and memorabilia on Earth, the new museum’s visitor experience is at once educational and inspirational. It’s a treasure trove for the imagination that expresses the glory of the Games while revealing a great many unique and triumphant moments in Lake Placid’s history.





THE RE-DESIGNED MUSEUM FEATURES:

An immersive experience that is as inspiring as it is informative

State-of-the-art interactive displays

Experiential learning exhibits and athlete stories

Never-before-seen film footage

Treasured artifacts that comprise the world's second-largest collection of Winter Olympic memorabilia





COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Community can mean many things, but fundamentally it's about people sharing experiences, feeling connected, and enjoying a sense of belonging.

Sport plays a major role in furthering a sense of community, and that's why the Olympic Authority intentionally fosters those experiences and connections through school programs, events and activities for all ages, and partnerships with other regional organizations. Community sport is also a vital lever for improving physical fitness and recreational education, one of the four components of the Olympic Authority's legislative mandate.

The people living in communities surrounding Olympic Authority venues -- from Lake Placid to North Creek to Highmount -- are able to participate in wide ranging sport and recreation opportunities, from introductory learning programs to training and competitions to open public recreation and events.

In Lake Placid, North Creek, Wilmington, and Highmount alike, sport programs are available for all ages and levels of athletic ability. Communities benefit from year-round access, local clubs, school programs, and adult sport leaders dedicated to giving back. Olympic Authority ski areas offer opportunities for students in a variety of programs:

- ▶ **The Lake Placid Ski Club has a century-long history of youth ski sport development that continues at Whiteface today**
- ▶ **New York Ski Education Foundation (NYSEF) programs at all ski venues**
- ▶ **Ski programs organized by municipalities across the North Country and Catskills**
- ▶ **After-school programs at all ski areas**
- ▶ **Intro to Snow programs at Belleayre, Gore and Whiteface, providing \$10 lift tickets, \$10 lessons, and \$10 rentals**

The Olympic Center hosts training and competitions for both Saranac Lake and Lake Placid hockey programs and hosts international CAN/AM hockey tournaments for thousands of youth and adults.

The Skating Club of Lake Placid and the Speedskating Club of Lake Placid both provide regular skating programming for all ages at the Olympic Center.

The Lake Placid High School cross country team trains and competes at Mt Van Hoevenberg regularly, and the venue is also host to Section VII Regionals. Staff at Mt Van Hoevenberg also work with communities from Keene to Tupper Lake to provide a variety of cross country skiing programs for students, parents and schools as well as the Junior Sliders program.



Photos (top to bottom): New York State High School Cross Country Regionals at Mt Van Hoevenberg; High school students playing broomball in the 1932 Jack Shea Arena; 70 total students from Indian Mountain School participated in programming at Mt Van Hoevenberg and the Olympic Jumping Complex.



SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR YEAR



(This page, clockwise from top left): President & CEO Mike Pratt and NYS Governor Kathy Hochul at Mt Van Hoevenberg in advance of a World University Games announcement; The 10th Mountain Division and National Ski Patrol together honor founder Charles Minot Dole as his gravesite is officially designated May 2 with a new state historical marker; Belleayre hosts a wedding ceremony on its picturesque summit; Visitor enjoys new amenities within the Olympic Center's Miracle Plaza.

SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR YEAR



(This page, clockwise from top left): Huge crowds gather at the Olympic Jumping Complex for the World Cup; A skier shreds the Slides at Whiteface Mountain during an excellent late season; Moon over Gore Mountain's Northwoods Gondola; Celebrity Kelsey Grammer delights skiers as he guest bartends at Belleayre Mountain.



NEW YORK STATE

**OLYMPIC REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT