



United States  
Olympic  
& Paralympic  
Museum™

# WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ABOUT THE MUSEUM

## athlete quotes

"I think it is so awesome that there is one place to see so many sports in one place that is the best of the best. Not only that but summer and winter combined. The Olympics is something that really binds the world together and there is always something for everyone, and now it will be under one roof. I am a fan, too, so I am excited to see it as well.

- *Bonnie Blair (long track speedskating): U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Hall of Famer; five-time Olympic champion*

"To me, the stories about how athletes struggled to overcome obstacles to achieve their success is the most important legacy of the Olympics and Paralympics. This is the enduring treasure of the Olympic and Paralympic movement. I am excited to see how those powerful and inspiring stories come to light at the Museum."

- *Bart Conner (gymnastics): U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Hall of Famer; two-time Olympic champion*

"The Olympic and Paralympic alumni community is excited for our stories to have a physical home in Olympic City USA, as well as a place for alumni and their families to gather and celebrate. We hope that every U.S. Olympian and Paralympian finds their way home to the Museum."

- *Benita Fitzgerald Mosely (track and field): 1984 Olympic champion; Museum board member*

"The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic movements deserve a showcase to inspire and educate visitors and to commemorate the sports and the athletes who competed in the many summer and winter Games. Now, in one location, their stories will be told. We all have much to learn and it will be fun experience."

- *Peggy Fleming (figure skating): U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Hall of Famer; Olympic champion*

"Becoming an Olympian is an honor like no other. To represent your country on the world's biggest stage and celebrate a victory with them is beyond description. Moments like that are meant to stand the test of time. That is why a museum dedicated to those memories needs to be built and celebrated. I have always felt that if we don't celebrate our past, the present is worthless, and a future would be impossible."

- *Scott Hamilton (figure skating): U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Hall of Famer; Olympic champion*

"The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Museum will inspire a whole new generation of Olympians and Paralympians. If you want to understand the Olympic and Paralympic movements, you have to visit the Museum in Colorado Springs. After visiting, I felt like I had experienced the Olympic Games from the athletes' point of view. The Museum gave me the same chills as walking through the tunnel and into the Opening Ceremony."

- *John Naber (swimming): U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Hall of Famer; four-time Olympic champion*

"I am so excited to finally have the USOPM completed and here in Colorado Springs. We will be able to see the magnanimity of the Games and how the Games have progressed and transcended over time. To have this much history in one place, that is also accessible, will be huge to promoting Olympic and Paralympic sport."

- *Erin Popovich (swimming): U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Hall of Famer; 14-time Paralympic champion*



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"I'm extremely grateful to be a part of a delegation that proudly highlights all athletes on the same platform. This museum will undoubtedly inspire future Paralympians to be great and encourage the public to view Paralympic sport parallel to Olympic sport."

- *Matt Scott (wheelchair basketball): four-time Paralympian; two-time Paralympic medalist*

## leadership quotes

"The stories of our Olympians and Paralympians are the stories of this nation's history," said Museum CEO Christopher Liedel. "Every American can see themselves in the members of Team USA and will be inspired by their dedication, perseverance and respect for the Olympic and Paralympic values. The Museum has the unique privilege of telling these stories and we are ready and excited to share them with the world."

- *Christopher Liedel, U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum chief executive officer*

"Team USA and the Olympic and Paralympic Games have the incredible power to inspire and unite us, and I look forward to joining with fans from around the country and the world at the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum in celebration of great athletes and unforgettable moments. This permanent tribute honors the history and commitment of Team USA athletes, and the stories and experiences found in the museum will make us proud to call ourselves supporters of Team USA, while also serving as inspiration for the next generation of Olympic and Paralympic athletes and fans."

- *Sarah Hirshland, U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee executive director*

"After several years of dreaming, planning and watching the progress, we are so excited to open the doors to this fabulous celebration of the Olympic and Paralympic movements in America. The Museum will attract visitors from around the state, the nation and the world to see and hear the stories of our American athletes and their pursuit of Olympic and Paralympic glory. We know this unique, iconic structure will be a signature element of the region's identity and a centerpiece of its tourism reputation."

- *Dave Ogren, U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum chairman of the board of directors*

"The opening of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Museum is a significant milestone for the City of Colorado Springs – Olympic City USA. The Museum is the first of five City for Champions venues to open to the public, and we look forward to welcoming both residents and visitors to Colorado Springs to experience this world-class facility. Not only will the Museum anchor the city's southwest downtown redevelopment, it will also add significantly to our nearly half-billion dollar sports industry here in Colorado Springs for decades to come, and it will be a wonderful tribute to our long history and connection with the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic movements."

- *John Suthers, Colorado Springs mayor*