

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Partners Announce Groundbreaking of Kearns Athlete Training and Event Center

April 18, 2017 (Kearns, Utah) – Fifteen years after the Kearns community hosted the Speedskating events of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, a new \$12M multi-use facility will once again showcase the continued spirit of collaboration amongst governmental, non-profit and community partners. The soon to be constructed facility will reflect a shared vision of creating needed community meeting and gathering space, expanded health and public fitness areas, and a permanent home for US Speedskating.

Funding for the project was kickstarted by a \$3M contribution from the State of Utah, followed by \$5M from Salt Lake County, \$2M from Kearns Oquirrh Park Fitness Center (KOPFC), \$1M from the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation (UOLF), and \$1M from US Speedskating. The facility will be jointly owned and operated by the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation and Kearns Oquirrh Park Fitness Center.

A Groundbreaking event will be held on April 25, 2017 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The KATEC Groundbreaking Ceremony will begin with comments from community leaders involved with the project followed by a ceremonial shoveling of the first dirt representing the official start of construction. Following the ceremony, guests can learn more about the project inside the Utah Olympic Oval lobby where information, images, and timelines of the construction project will be on display.

As icons of sport, health, and fitness in the state and beyond, the proximity of the Utah Olympic Oval and KOPFC venues presented a unique opportunity to unite and inspire a healthy Kearns community while bridging the needs of the venues and their partners.

The Kearns Athlete Training and Event Center (KATEC) will physically connect the Utah Olympic Oval to the adjacent Kearns Oquirrh Park Fitness Center, adding 36,700 total sq. ft. Of that, 10,500 sq. ft. will be dedicated to meeting and conference facilities that will allow for group events and gatherings of up to 250 people, serving both residential and visitor needs on the dynamic recreational campus. 11,500 sq. ft. will be added for KOPFC, tripling the size of their current fitness area. 11,600 sq. ft. will provide a permanent home for the national governing body of sport, US Speedskating, which is presently located in the Utah Olympic Oval's administrative space, and will the National Speed Skating Hall of Fame.

"The concept for this project resulted from a realization that the individual needs of numerous organizations would be best served by pooling resources and combining our efforts under one roof," said Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation President/CEO, Colin Hilton. "In the spirit of an inclusive and broad-reaching Olympic legacy in Utah, this multi-use facility is providing state-of-the-art training facilities for both Olympic athletes and Kearns residents. Furthermore, the meeting and conference facilities will provide an exciting gathering space for used by visiting groups and local community needs."

Through this connection, KOPFC will address its need for greater capacity while providing public space for community uses. "Along with brand-new fitness areas to accommodate our growing member base, the KATEC building will also provide a multi-purpose room and plenty of green space to host community events, on top of being used for world-class events," said KOPFC Board Member Laurie Stringham.

"The Kearns Athlete Training and Event Center expansion will provide world class off-ice training facilities for US Speedskating (USS) athletes that will be the perfect complement to the outstanding on-ice facilities at the Utah Olympic Oval, said Ted Morris, US Speedskating Executive Director. "We're grateful to the many partners who have worked together to create the best speed skating training facility in the world, right here in Kearns, Utah."

"Kearns has become synonymous with sports training and competition, excitement and community gatherings for athletes of all abilities. Salt Lake County is happy to help build on that reputation and to support more opportunities for sports enthusiasts," said Mayor Ben McAdams

Construction of the new facility will begin in May with an estimated construction timeline of 12 to 14 months to complete. The Utah Olympic Oval and KOPFC will have webpages dedicated to the progression of construction for the public to follow, which will include monthly image updates, information on any construction impacts, and renderings of the completed project.

For more information about the Kearns Athlete Training and Event Center or Groundbreaking Ceremony, please visit utaholympiclegacy.org/katec.

About Utah Olympic Oval

Built in 2001 just in time for the Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games, the Utah Olympic Oval is located in the community of Kearns, just 16 miles west of Salt Lake City, Utah. The five-acre venue houses Utah's only 400-meter speed skating oval and two international-sized ice sheets as well as a state-of-the-art four-lane 442-meter running track. Today, the Utah Olympic Oval is a dynamic multi-use facility focused on developing and growing participation in ice sports in the state of Utah. As part of the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation's designation as an Official U.S. Olympic Training Site by the United States Olympic Committee, the venue is headquarters for U.S. Speedskating, ensuring a legacy of continued growth and international success for the sport. With six Olympic Records and twelve World Records, the venue stands uncontested as the Fastest Ice on Earth. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), on [Facebook](#). For more information about the venue, please visit UtahOlympicLegacy.org or call (801) 968-6825.

About Kearns Oquirrh Park Fitness Center (KOPFC)

A two-time Best of State winner serving the community for over 50 years, KOPFC is a leader in providing "recreation, fitness and park services" along with many well-established special events including the Fire Water & Ice Festival, Winter Indoor Tri Series and hosting numerous state and national aquatic events. Its expansive 55-acre property houses over 100,000 square feet of indoor facilities, an outdoor/indoor waterpark, and a beautiful trail-lined leisure park. At KOPFC you'll find something for everyone in your family. For more information about KOPFC and upcoming events, please visit kopfc.com or call (801) 966-5555.

About Salt Lake County

Salt Lake County provides the day-to-day support services of planning, development, engineering, animal services, park operations, public works operations, and public engagement to the Kearns MetroTownship. The county facilitates the Kearns Initiative, a collaborative, multi-stakeholder effort using a collective impact approach to strengthen the Kearns community through education, infrastructure, and health related projects. In addition, the county provides Zoo, Arts, and Park funding for Oquirrh Park, located next to the Utah Olympic Oval and Kearns Oquirrh Park Fitness Center. The county is also invested in economic and infrastructure projects improving safety and transportation along 5400 S. and improving the roadways in Camp Kearns.

About U.S. Speedskating

From Pond to Podium, we are US Speedskating. We grow and nurture a sport where all ages can experience the thrill of speed and the camaraderie of the skating community. US Speedskating is responsible for the development of speed skating from grassroots to the highest elite racing programs. US Speedskating is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee and the International Skating Union as the governing body for the sport of speed skating in the United States. The Organization has won 86 Olympic medals to-date, making it one of the most successful sports in U.S. Olympic history. US Speedskating is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), on [Facebook](#) and at www.usspeedskating.org.

About Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation

The Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation is a Utah non-profit 501(c)(3) organization responsible for managing and maintaining world-class Olympic legacy facilities and providing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to participate, educate, and excel in winter sports. Inspired by the success and momentum of the Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games, the Foundation has turned its focus toward embracing, engaging and involving Utah's youth in winter sport. From community-based recreational camps and progression-oriented development programs, to its official designation as an Official U.S. Olympic Training Site, the Foundation – including Utah Olympic Park, Utah Olympic Oval, and Soldier Hollow Nordic Center – represents the future of winter sports in North America. For more information, please visit UtahOlympicLegacy.com or call 435-658-4200.

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