

April 22, 2024

Dear Gym Partners

We are writing with an update on recent Board discussions and decisions related to the National Training Center project.

First and foremost, we appreciate your input, questions, and ideas about this project and the broader relationship between USA Climbing and the gym community. We look forward to continued engagement with you and other stakeholders as we navigate the important decisions facing the organization. We hope that our recent actions, including dialogue opportunities facilitated by the Gym Partner Task Force, commitment to filling one or more Board seats with gym owner/operator(s), inclusion of gym partners on the upcoming Strategic Planning Task Force, and establishment of the joint CWA/USAC committee, underscore our commitment to addressing your concerns expressed over recent months.

Secondly, we've gained valuable insights from the feedback gathered from you and other stakeholders during this process. The Gym Partner Task Force summarized its engagements with you for the USAC Board, and we've analyzed responses from 1670 individuals to the broader stakeholder survey. While opinions on the National Training Center vary, we heard some of the following feedback:

- There is excitement about creating a facility that can help advance the sport of competition climbing provided that it is financially sustainable and does not compromise the organization's ability to deliver on its other responsibilities.
- Some respondents were encouraged by the \$15 million grant already secured from the State of Utah to help fund the facility's construction, but some were wary of what conditions might come with those funds.
- People want the facility to enhance the existing local climbing community, not threaten it. Some expressed concern about USA Climbing's ability to take on the NTC project without the expertise of experienced gym operators to inform and guide the project's design, construction, and ultimate operation.
- Stakeholders want continued opportunities to engage in discussions and provide meaningful input into the direction of the facility.
- Stakeholders want clear and frequent communication from USAC about the timeline for decisions and actions related to the project.

Please visit our [National Training Center page](#) for project resources and findings.

As you may be aware, discussions with Salt Lake City regarding the inclusion of the National Training Center as part of a redevelopment project were underway before



our self-imposed pause in January. While the City has shown understanding for this pause to engage with stakeholders and is not mandating a formal decision at this time, they have recently expressed a need for clarity regarding USA Climbing's intentions concerning the identified site, preferably in May.

In response, the USA Climbing Board decided to move the project out of its current pause and has requested staff to undertake the following actions:

- Issue a Request for Interest (RFI) to solicit proposals from experienced gym operators interested in partnering with USA Climbing on the National Training Center project. The Board indicated four primary goals (pillars) for the project – athlete performance, hosting of world-class events, accessibility for people of all physical abilities, and community access. The RFI is being released in conjunction with this letter.
- Convene an Evaluation Committee comprising Board members, staff, and individuals outside the organization – including a gym owner with expertise in developing similar facilities (and not submitting a proposal) – to review submissions and make recommendations to the Board.
- Provide recommendations to the USAC Board ahead of its May 21 meeting to determine any subsequent steps for the NTC project, particularly concerning the Salt Lake City redevelopment site.
- Maintain transparency and opportunities for stakeholder feedback throughout the NTC project's progression. A dedicated project page has been established on the USA Climbing website to serve as a central hub for project updates and information.

Through these decisions, we aim to build on the momentum generated from the robust and informative stakeholder engagement thus far and translate that into meaningful actions to sustainably advance our collective aspirations for the National Training Center project. Most importantly, we look forward to exploring what might be possible together before taking further action.

Thank you for your ongoing interest and engagement in this project. We look forward to the continued dialogue.

Sincerely,



Marc Norman
President and CEO, USA Climbing
& the USA Climbing Board of Directors