



LAUDERTRAC



PARKS AND PUBLIC PLACES UPDATE

Tracking Progress on Fort Lauderdale Commission Priorities for 2021

July 2021

FORT LAUDERDALE AQUATIC CENTER



The City of Fort Lauderdale continues its commitment to remaining a leader and pioneer in aquatic centers and swim training facilities by celebrating the completion of a permanent 27-meter precast concrete dive tower on July 1, 2021. The iconic platform is the first permanent high diving tower built not only in the US, but the western hemisphere as a whole, the second permanent dive tower in existence worldwide, and the only one to be constructed out of concrete.

Designed and built by Hensel Phelps Construction Company, the tower features nine flared platform levels resembling a ship's hull, for use in three different competitive sporting events: springboard, platform, and high diving. The 27M tower stands 101 feet above grade and requires a 162-step climb to the top.

The City held a dedication ceremony, which included the placement of the last crowning piece of the tower. The Mayor, Commissioners, and City staff hosted the event featuring several prominent divers, teams, and coaches as special guests including Fort Lauderdale Dive Team Olympians Head Coach Dave Burgering and Michelle Sandelin, World High Diving Champion Steven LoBue, the FINA High Diving Technical Committee Chairman, International Swimming Hall of Fame Chairman of the Board along with Olympians and national team members from the University of Miami representing the United States, Australia, Canada, Great Britain and Sweden.



The tower's distinctive and impressive design is already drawing interest, however, it's not the only improvement that the City has planned for the International Swimming Hall of Fame Aquatic Center. Additional enhancements include a new FINA compliant diving pool to complement the tower as well as a FINA compliant competitive swimming pool. The Fédération Internationale De Natation (FINA) is the international governing body of swimming recognized by the International Olympic Committee for administering international competitions in water sports. In light of the potential for high diving to become an Olympic event as early as 2024, the City's forward-thinking reinvestment has the capability to transform an initial renovation into an international attraction and prospective training facility for elite professional high divers.



The aquatic complex renovations will also feature a new two-story building that includes an open-air rooftop amenity deck, teaching pool, training pool, expanded pool deck, grandstand, bleachers, stadium lighting, complete replacement of the existing south bath house building as well as overall parking improvements. The comprehensive renovations are expected to recapture the City's reputation as the swimming and diving capital of the world while ensuring access to swimmers and residents at all levels of expertise from beginner to expert world champions.