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See why the Lakers are all smiles over their new cutting-edge training facility in El Segundo

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Artist rendition of the UCLA Health Training Center in El Segundo currently under construction, which will be the Lakers' new training facility.

The [\\$80 million Los Angeles Lakers complex](#) under construction and set to open next summer in El Segundo will be branded the UCLA Health Training Center, officials announced Wednesday.

• **VIDEO:** [Take a look around the Lakers' under-construction training center](#)

Nearly one year after crews broke ground on the state-of-the-art facility on 5 acres of the Elevation Campus on East Mariposa Avenue, officials gave hard-hat tours of the two-story, 122,000-square-foot future headquarters, where UCLA Health doctors will be the team's exclusive, in-game health providers.

For the past 16 years, the Lakers have leased practice space two blocks away at the Toyota Center. But the new complex will be three times as large, put all basketball and business operations under one roof and offer players cutting-edge training facilities and amenities.

STAYING HOME

Tim Harris, the Lakers' chief operating officer, called the deal with UCLA Health "not a sponsorship," but a "true partnership."

"What we learned early on, and something that really resonated with us, was that UCLA Health is an innovative, forward-thinking organization that was going to help us with injury prevention, not just care," Harris said told a crowd of reporters, UCLA Health executives, El Segundo leaders and Lakers officials.

• **PHOTOS:** [Join Laker players in getting a look around the training facility](#)

Sitting in the front row were owner Jeanie Buss, head coach Luke Walton and players D'Angelo Russell, Anthony Brown, Ivica Zubac, Brandon Ingram, Larry Nance Jr., Jordan Clarkson and Julius Randle.

From the beginning, Harris said, the Lakers wanted to keep their home base in El Segundo. He praised city leaders and staff for making the process of acquiring the land "super easy."

"We had been renters for 16 years, and we had been treated so well by the city that our driving goal in finding land was to find land in El Segundo," he said.

UCLA Health CEO John Mazziotta said the deal will enable both organizations "an unparalleled ability to share the message of health and fitness to a broad and diverse audience in Los Angeles."

'WORLD-CLASS' FACILITIES

The new center, which will also be the home to the D-Fenders development league team, will have an ice tub that can accommodate 15 players, cryogenic therapy chambers, an underwater treadmill, whirlpools and a nutrition-focused kitchen. A movie theater will allow coaches and players to scrutinize playbacks and an indoor/outdoor lounge dubbed the team's "home away from home" will even have a barber shop.

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A retractable divider will separate two full-size courts, including a "fan-centric" exhibition court with 750 seats. A Lakers team store is planned for the Elevation Campus.

Lakers announcer John Ireland said staying in El Segundo will give the Lakers efficiency and avoid headaches experienced by teams with disjointed operations.

"It's where our offices are now, it's where our practice facility is now, and most of all, it's right next to the airport," he said. "Ask any one of these players — it's a huge convenience to practice right up until the time they have to get on a plane and head out and stay in your routine."

MILESTONE FOR EL SEGUNDO

El Segundo was named the [most business-friendly city in Los Angeles County last year](#) and has been reinventing itself as an attractive home for Silicon Beach companies priced out of Santa Monica and Playa Vista.

The Lakers facility, El Segundo Mayor Suzanne Fuentes said, will be in the company of "researchers working on cutting-edge cancer technologies, ground-breaking innovations in digital technologies and the nation's leading defense and aerospace companies."

Last year, the Lakers pledged a lucrative \$250,000 donation to the construction of [a future aquatics center](#) shared by the city and the Wiseburn Unified School District.

"Our city has more than \$1 billion in active and planned developments, but having a world-class talent like the Lakers and UCLA Health call our city home is simply priceless," Fuentes said.

Councilman and entrepreneur Drew Boyles said he is looking forward to the training facility making El Segundo a gathering place for fans.

"This is just another example of how El Segundo is becoming a world-class multisports complex," he said.

Full article: <http://www.dailybreeze.com/sports/20160831/see-why-the-lakers-are-all-smiles-over-their-new-cutting-edge-training-facility-in-el-segundo>

