MANIFESTO OF THE ATHLETE’S EXPERIENCE AT THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC VILLAGE
A VILLAGE
BY ATHLETES,
FOR ATHLETES

For the first time, Olympic and Paralympic athletes from the 5 continents have been consulted through methods centered on their personal history and experience in the Village. The values presented in this document emerged from their precious testimonies and unique anecdotes, collected during individual interviews, using collaborative methods. This manifesto, thought and managed by the Athletes’ Commission of Paris 2024, is a vision “by athletes, for athletes” of the experience at the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Village.
ATHLETES WHO SHARED THEIR EXPERIENCE

40% of medallists

35 years old average age

24 countries represented

53 athletes interviewed

28% of participants in the Paralympic Games

72% of participants in the Olympic Games

10 paralympic disciplines covered

23 olympic disciplines covered

13 editions of the Games from 1988 to 2016

198 total participants
THE VILLAGE
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?
Athletes need to feel at home, just like in Vancouver when flowers and messages from the families who would own the houses after the Games were waiting for us in our rooms.

The host country must show that it thought of everything in the Village, that it welcomes the athletes appropriately and elegantly, that it is safe...

Volunteers also need to be trained regarding the specific needs of paralympic athletes.

Not all nations can afford to buy a large flag to decorate their residence, or to bring personal effects to feel at home.
The Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Village is welcoming. Athletes feel like they are being welcomed by hosts who care about their well-being, without trying to subjugate or impress them. The elegance of this hospitality is present at every level: comfortable infrastructures and services, efforts to support performance, conviviality and connections outside the Village.

A WELCOMING AND ELEGANT VILLAGE

- Be attentive to the athletes, to make them feel unique and valued
- Adapt spontaneously to the athletes’ specificities (sport’s disciplines, mobility, culture...)
- Ensure no athlete feels sidelined, even on remote sites
- Ensure the athletes’ security
The first things I locate when I arrive: where I sleep, where I train, where I eat. We need a logistically simple and intuitive life.

As athletes, we are lazy! We're worried the slightest effort will wear us out, we need to rest as much as possible.

The site was hilly to get to the restaurant, I'm in a wheelchair and I thought: I can't wait for the competition to start, because I'm wasting my strength right now!

The bed was hard. It was difficult to get some much needed rest.
At the Paris 2024 Village, comfort is key to the athletes’ performance: it involves optimization of the environment and services. The Village thus facilitates rest, recovery, spontaneous wishes and needs. It limits physical exertion and worries, particularly in the apartment – restaurant – training/competition sites triangle. It makes exploring the Village easier.

**A VILLAGE FOR PERFORMANCE**

- Ensure optimal rest and recovery conditions
- Enable absolute concentration
- Minimize wasted energy and time (logistics, wait, mobility)
- Guarantee service access (24/7, consistant service level)
- Allow athletes to keep their reassuring habits (food, pace of life)
FRIENDLINESS

Honestly, the activities in the central square were not enough to help us socialize. We wanted to share experience, to have fun together!

We never had the opportunity to watch the competition on TV, while drinking a smoothie and laughing with athletes from the other delegations. It’s a shame.

If there are no appealing spaces inside the Village, it will make me want to go out, because I know I will be attracted to activities outside, I’ll waste energy, this is bad for my performance.

The attention to volunteers is just as important as the attention to athletes. Volunteers live with us, they are part of the Village’s soul!
The Paris 2024 Village promotes the feeling of belonging to the Olympic and Paralympic, international and unique communities. It encourages interactions between athletes inside the Village. The activities and spaces are friendly, spontaneous, but never compromise performance. Paradoxically, they allow athletes to become more than actors of the Games, by also being spectators.

**A UNITING VILLAGE**

- Encourage spontaneous exchanges inside and between delegations
- Offer federative and fun activities
- Communicate inside the Village on the Games events and news
- Facilitate access and viewing of the competition and ceremonies
- Promote cohesion between star athletes and less famous athletes
Once the competition is over, we switch from monestary life to Ibiza in 24 hours.

It was great to take part in the local life, to mix with fans, with the host country.

It was important for me to see my family, because in the end, they’re the ones you want to share this with, the ones you live the rest of your life with.

The Village needs to have two functions: to enable athletes to live there and to feel good there, but also to connect them to local celebration places.
The Paris 2024 Village frees athletes from choosing between discovering local life (outside the Village) and saving their strength for the competition (inside the Village).

Key moments of celebration happen outside the Village, in the heart of the city and after the competition. The Village services allow access to this local celebration, while guaranteeing the calm and serenity needed by athletes who are still competing.

Finally, Village services facilitate interactions between the athletes and their relatives, onsite or remotely.
In the end, most of the places I have memories of are informal spaces. Benches on the lawn at the foot of the building for instance, or the medical area.

As a way to remember the Games, back in 2004, we were given disposable cameras, it was awesome! I just had the film developed, it was a great moment.

One of us has a guitar, he plays tunes, and this way we can wait for next day's series, without stress.
The Paris 2024 Village encourages athletes to create spontaneous memories. They live a singular experience of the Games in spaces they make their own, they can create memorable moments using any means at their disposal, at any time.

A VILLAGEManaged byTHE ATHLETES

Give athletes the means to live their passions and their talents in the Village
Provide informal spaces to relax
Provide all types of recreational equipment
Favor a feeling of freedom
Sochi 2014 was such an intense experience. I saw athletes from geopolitically opposing countries, sitting together discussing and debating respectfully. It was incredible to see.

Participating in a competition that maximizes eco-responsability makes me proud.

The Village is also a way for the public to think ‘Alright, they’re not just guys with oversized egos, they are also athletes who are generous, who care about others and about the environment...’

In the Games, between us athletes, we talk about sharing, about solidarity. We live it, we know it, but we should be able to embody it.
A VILLAGE IN SYNC WITH OUR SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

The Paris 2024 Village guarantees comfort and performance while taking up the challenges of our society. Through their everyday attitude, athletes inspire the public to be more responsible and united.

The athletes are proud to carry strong messages and to help ways of life evolve, and their pride is as valued as the stakes are high.

- Promote responsible and united behaviors in the Village
- Highlight these behaviors and help athletes to spread them
- Think of services adapted to cultural diversity and situational constraints (anthropometry, disability, digital gap...)

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INSIDE THE MINDS OF OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC ATHLETES

Behind the data presented

1. HOSPITALITY
A welcoming and elegant Village
What should the Village look like?

2. COMFORT
A comfortable Village
Comfortable and welcoming to perform, what does it involve?

3. FRIENDLINESS
A community Village
How important is the community aspect to you?

“I’d like more convivial moments, drinking smoothies, watching TV and laughing with the other delegations.”

4. LIFE OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE
A Village linked to local life
Where do we celebrate the end of the competition?

Outside the Village
Inside the Village

5. TO REMEMBER
The athletes manage the Village
A village that the athletes can make their own:

“I still have the duvet I kept from the Games at home!”

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Improving the athletes’ experience in terms of services, at the venues and regarding any other new concept put forward by Paris 2024 is at the heart of our mission. This manifesto is the first tangible and collective achievement that expresses the primary needs and expectations of the athletes for the Village. The next step is to find solutions and services in response to those needs...

Martin Fourcade
President of the Athletes’ Commission of Paris 2024