

Freedom Skate Park: Ghana's *Very First* Skate Park — A Collaboration between Surf Ghana, Virgil Abloh, Daily Paper, Limbo Accra, and More

[Surf Ghana](#), a collective dedicated to galvanize the burgeoning skateboard scene in Ghana, is pleased to announce the construction of Freedom Skate Park, the country's *very first* fully functional skate park in the heart of Accra. One of *only 10 skate parks in all of Africa*, Freedom Skate Park plans to begin construction in the first quarter of 2021 and open later that year — and, with help from Virgil Abloh, [Daily Paper](#) and [Limbo Accra](#), usher in a new day in African sport and creative life.

A Skate Park About More than Just Skateboarding

As more than just a simple skate ramp, Freedom Skate Park will include coaching programs, a Wi-Fi cafe, the country's very first skate shop, and a co-working space to help young Ghanaians access job opportunities and creative possibilities in an environment that promotes inclusivity. It is Accra's first recreational centre, nestled in the heart of one of Accra's trendiest neighborhoods to be a wonderful chance to develop sustainable tourism through skateboarding.

The initiative has been nurtured by Surf Ghana since its inception and will set hard-earned achievements permanently in stone. Because of the sport's relatively recent popularity in the country, Ghana has not had the infrastructure necessary for a functioning skate community to fully thrive — now it will.

A Sustainable, Innovative, Afro-Utopian Vision

Design studio Limbo Accra is on hand for creative direction as the architectural lead, with a mission to “deliver afro-utopian spatial justice for all,” an urban ecosystem in harmony with its local population. Limbo Accra's core goals of sustainable, redistributive and community-led development are all met with Freedom Skate Park; challenging Ghana's urban development sector to embrace models that create meaningful opportunities for the youth through novel architectural designs.

Job creation will be paramount, as the overseeing of the site will be entrusted to local professionals. The Skate Park, made also in partnership with Wonders Around the World (WAW) and Space Accra, will be furnished with basic social and skate amenities to ensure the complex excels in high performance on a global stage. The construction will be executed by highly skilled local artisans, incorporating locally sourced and recycled materials.

A Collaboration Between Global Diasporic Visionaries

Surf Ghana is proud to announce its partnership with the Amsterdam based clothing brand Daily Paper, who has designed a capsule collection with 100% of the proceeds going to the construction of the skatepark. In addition to this main collection, Daily Paper and Virgil Abloh have collaborated on an exclusive Daily Paper x Off-White™ t-shirt to commemorate this momentous occasion and fundraise for the construction of the park. The capsule collections will make its debut at Daily Paper's pop-up store in Accra, Ghana on December 21 with a global release to follow on [dailypaperclothing.com](#) on January 15, 2021.

The collaboration will kick off at Daily Paper's pop-up store in Accra, Ghana on the 21st of December where Daily Paper will go into conversation with Surf Ghana's founder [Sandy Alibo](#), co-director [Joshua Odamtten](#) and Limbo Accra's founder [Dominique Petit Frère](#). Co-hosted by Stories of Young- founder Ashlee Janelle, they will discuss the collaboration with Daily Paper, the initiatives of Surf Ghana, and the unveiling of the skate park as a defining moment. Another highlight is the premiering of a limited edition Daily Paper and Off-White™ designed Tony's Chocolonely chocolate bar that will be gifted in

the pop-up for the first visitors.

With this initiative, we hope to evolve the skate culture in Ghana to the next level and give locals a platform to grow their talents within a space that will hopefully become their biggest training ground to date. More than board sports, the park will be a creative hub for young Ghanaians to come together, exchange ideas, inspire each other and build their futures through recreational activities. They now have a place where they can be themselves, freely develop their skills together with likeminded people and reach their true potential. Hence the name Freedom Skatepark.’ - Jefferson Osei, Co-Founder of Daily Paper

Virgil Abloh’s design firm Alaska Alaska created the Freedom Skatepark logo and will contribute to the design of some spatial elements of the skate park.

The original action sports brand Vans is also honored to contribute to the future skateboarding program of the skatepark seeking to grow participation of skateboarding in Africa. The icon of creative expression will support the initiative to inspire the culture and values of skateboarding onto the global stage.

A New Sport Ecosystem

Since 2016, Surf Ghana’s core mission has been to offer easy access to board sports for youth across Ghana. Presently, the ever-growing community of active skateboarders has created an ecosystem that supports well-being, creativity, and entrepreneurship that is all 100% Made in Ghana. This is a project for us — by us. The collective aims to use the inclusiveness of board sports as a bridge to urban sports life for Ghana’s most marginalized local population.

Surf Ghana also wishes to encourage the space as a training ground for Ghana’s possible inclusion in the skateboarding category of the 2024 Olympic Games. The construction of Freedom Skate Park will solidify the growth of board sports in Ghana, and help the youth participate in creative activities that build confidence, self-esteem, and provide a valuable platform for self-expression.

About Surf Ghana

Surf Ghana collective is a social platform founded in 2016 by Sandy Alibo and registered as a non-profit and non-governmental organization. The collective aims to use the practice of board sports as a driver for education, social inclusion, and empowerment for the youth, curating events, and sports experiences provided by specialized instructors. With a total of 25 active members, the collective contributes to action sports as instructors, documentary filmmakers, photographers, carpenters, 3D designers, writers, and artists. The collective plans to train members to lead a consistent and safe skateboarding program in the future skate park.

@surfghana

Partners and Ambassadors:

About Daily Paper

Established in 2012 by Jefferson Osei, Abderrahmane Trabsini and Hussein Suleiman, Daily Paper is an Amsterdam-based clothing brand with a fondness for fusing African heritage aesthetics with contemporary designs. With an ability to unite global communities across borders, Daily Paper is more than a clothing brand. Through creativity, fashion and education, the brand aims to inspire young adults and set an example of giving back. Daily Paper has attracted a tribe of multidisciplinary creatives and cultivated a community of individuals who celebrate their own roots and champion inclusivity. The diverse and deep-rooted diaspora culture is the bedrock of the brand, echoing in every collection - and always portrayed through the lens of the youth.

About Off-White c/o Virgil Abloh™

Established in 2013, Off-White™ is defining the grey area between black and white as a color. Under the brand name, seasonal collections of men's and women's clothing, objects, furniture, and publications are articulating a current cultural vision. Collections embedded in a recurrent back story with an emphasis on creating garments that have an identity by design. With a design studio based in Milan, Italy the label harnesses the history and craftsmanship within the country yet offers a global perspective in terms of design and trends. With a clear vision of splicing the reality of how clothes are worn and the artistic expression of high-fashion, creative director and designer Virgil Abloh explores concepts in the realm of youth culture in the contemporary context.

About Virgil Abloh

Born in Rockford, Illinois, Virgil Abloh is an artist, architect, engineer, creative director, artistic director, industrial designer, fashion designer, musician & Dj, and philanthropist. After earning a degree in civil engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he completed a master's degree in architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), Chicago. At IIT, while studying a design curriculum devised by Mies van der Rohe, Abloh began to craft the principles of his art practice. The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago presented a major traveling survey of Abloh's work in summer 2019—one of the highest attended exhibitions in the museum's history. Currently, Abloh is the Chief Creative Director and founder of Off-White™ and Men's Artistic Director at Louis Vuitton.

About Alaska Alaska

A Black owned and lead research based design and creative service rooted in contemporary landscapes, essentially questioning design while designing "design".

Alaska's design approach, in the quest to produce output that is aware of its context from a holistic aerial perspective. Their research commences with a careful consideration and analysis of connected audiences, contexts, and collaborators; and proceeds to dive deeper into subject matter and production processes.

About Limbo Accra

Limbo Accra is a fresh-thinking, architecture infused spatial design studio operating from Ghana and beyond. Inspired by the future of West African cities, our work is dedicated to developing a unique architectural expression for the city of Accra through urban research and experimental design. Freedom Skate Park design team consists of founders Dominique Petit-Frere, Emil Grip together with architects Saloni Parekh, Malthe Mørck Clausen, Jonas Ras Pazdzior.

@limboaccra

About WAW

Wonders Around the World is an international and independent NGO built to help make skateboarding accessible worldwide. WAW has had the fortune of delivering 10 international projects throughout the developing world.

@wonderaroundtheworldorg

About Space Accra

SPACE Turnkey Solutions provides customer-oriented design and build management services in Ghana. With a mission to create exceptional spaces that transform lifestyles SPACE focuses on creative design and build solutions that address Ghanaian needs, providing expertise and reliability in every phase of a design and build project.

@spaceaccra

About VANS

Vans®, a VF Corporation brand, is the original action sports footwear, apparel and accessories brand. *Vans*® authentic collections are sold in 84 countries through a network of subsidiaries, distributors and international offices. *Vans*® has over 2,000 retail locations globally including owned, concession and partnership doors. The *Vans*® brand promotes creative self-expression in youth culture across action sports, art, music and street culture and delivers progressive platforms such as the *Vans Park Series*, *Vans Triple Crown of Surfing*®, *Vans Pool Party*, *Vans Custom Culture*, and *Vans'* cultural hub and international music venue, *House of Vans*.

@vans

About Tony's Chocolonely

Tony's Chocolonely exists to make chocolate 100% slave free. Not just its own chocolate, but all chocolate worldwide. The Fairtrade-certified B Corp is an impact company making chocolate. Tony's Chocolonely was founded in 2005. Since then Tony's Chocolonely has dedicated its efforts to raise awareness about the inequality in the chocolate industry. They lead by example by building direct long term relationships with cocoa farmers in Ghana and Ivory Coast, paying them a higher price and working together to solve the underlying causes of modern slavery and child labour. Tony's Chocolonely has grown to become one of the largest chocolate brands in the Netherlands and is now almost worldwide available.

@tonyschocolonely

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