New York Arena Partners has named Tom Pistore President of Commercial Operations and Hank Abate President of Arena Operations. The veteran sports industry executives will lead the UBS Arena executive team, with this state-of-the-art facility on track to open for the 2021-22 National Hockey League season.

Also joining UBS Arena’s executive team are Charles Groneman as Chief Financial Officer, Zachary Klein as General Counsel and Lea del Rosario as Senior Vice President, Human Resources.

“During these unprecedented times, we’re fortunate to be building UBS Arena, which we are confident will play a key part in New York State’s economic recovery,” Tim Leiweke, CEO of Oak View Group, said in a statement. “This is going to be a world class venue with a top executive team – Tom and Hank are highly respected throughout the industry and the perfect choices to lead us.”

Pistore’s past experience includes more than 20 years at Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Partnership (MLSE) where he was responsible for working across four different leagues in one of the largest sports and entertainment revenue portfolios in North America. Tom led all premium, membership and retail game admission revenues across all product segments. His areas of expertise include customer acquisition, retention programming, premium VIP programming, partnership development and marketing promotion. Prior to UBS Arena, he advised on all business aspects of the New York Islanders Hockey Club as a senior consultant.

“I’d like to thank ownership for the privilege of joining this once in a lifetime project,” said Pistore. “UBS Arena is going to be an iconic venue that will transform the way fans view sports and live entertainment.”

In over 40 years of experience, Abate has covered all aspects of arena, theater and stadium management operations. He also will remain President of OVG Facilities. Prior to his role with OVG, Hank was Executive Vice President of Venue Management for The Madison Square Garden Company. He is also a former Senior Vice President of Global Spectrum and spent 20 years working for SMG Facility Management where his positions included Senior Vice President of Arenas and Stadiums, having management oversight of more than 120 facilities.

“I’ve operated venues across the country and UBS Arena will be second to none,” said Abate. “This Arena has been thoughtfully designed for the fans, artists and athletes that will call it home.”
With UBS Arena now approaching its opening date, it is actively growing its business operations team and is hiring across a variety of platforms. The hiring of this executive team is a monumental first step.

Charles Groneman
Charlie Groneman, Chief Financial Officer, is directly responsible for managing all finance and accounting functions for both UBS Arena and the New York Islanders. Prior to joining these two organizations, Charlie was CFO of Tao Group Hospitality, a leading restaurant, nightlife and hospitality company, where he was responsible for all accounting and finance functions. Prior to that, he served in senior roles at The Madison Square Garden Company over the course of a 25-year tenure there, spending the majority of this time as SVP, Finance and Controller of Facilities and Entertainment.

Zachary Klein
Zach Klein was promoted to General Counsel for the New York Islanders earlier this year. He oversees all legal matters for both UBS Arena and the New York Islanders. Zach joined the Islanders in September 2016 and has advised on all aspects of developing the arena. Prior to this, Zach was an attorney in private practice, representing public entities in the construction, financing and improvement of all types of public facilities.

Lea del Rosario
Lea del Rosario is Senior Vice President, Human Resources, for UBS Arena and the New York Islanders, whom she joined in November 2019. She is responsible for talent and culture at both organizations as well as for establishing HR infrastructure for the arena. Before joining these organizations, Lea was most recently an Executive HR Consultant for Essence Ventures, a private venture capital firm specializing in content, community and commerce businesses, and Vice President, People & Culture at Sundial Brands, a personal care manufacturer.

About the UBS Arena Project
UBS Arena is New York’s next premier entertainment and sports venue and future home of the New York Islanders. Located at Belmont Park in Elmont, New York, the state of the art facility will open for the 2021-22 National Hockey League season and host more than 150 major events annually. The significant redevelopment project is expected to create 10,000 construction jobs and 3,000 permanent jobs, generating approximately $25 billion in economic activity over the term of the lease.

Developed in partnership with Oak View Group, the New York Islanders, and Sterling Project Development, UBS Arena is poised to be one of the area’s – and the nation’s – most prestigious and appealing venues for musical acts, events and performers of all genres, and will create the best and most unique entertainment experience for artists and audiences alike. The 19,000-seat venue is being constructed with a fan-first approach that leverages sophisticated engineering acoustics to amplify the audio experience, high-resolution LED displays and will include the largest scoreboard in New York.

UBS Arena will offer the highest-end amenities and customer service, through VIP suites and clubs that merge boutique hospitality with live entertainment. Clubs and suites will have a timeless design inspired by classic, well-known New York establishments and will offer premier views of the bowl. Complementing UBS Arena, Belmont Park’s campus will comprise 315,000 square feet of luxury retail and will include a 4-star boutique hotel with approximately 200 rooms.

UBS Arena is being built to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED v4) standards for Building Design and Construction. In an effort to build a greener future, UBS Arena is working with world-class sustainability experts to minimize the environmental impact of the venue and become a zero waste facility, utilizing renewable energy sources and reducing water and electricity consumption.

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