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Centennial

In 2021, the Port Authority celebrated its Centennial with a year of events, programs and initiatives to celebrate the agency's transformational impact on the growth of the region over the past 100 years as well as its vision to provide world-class 21st century infrastructure.

The First 100 Years

The Port Authority's first 100 years are inextricable from the story of this great region. Created by an Act of Congress, the Agency came into being April 30, 1921, when the Compact was signed in the Great Hall of the New York State Chamber of Commerce Building on Liberty Street.

From its inception, the Port Authority's mission to oversee the creation of vital infrastructure to serve the New York-New Jersey metropolitan region was historic. The Port Authority has been making history ever since that date.

One hundred years ago, there was no aviation industry, no mass use of cars and trucks. PATH service, then under the auspices of the Hudson & Manhattan Railroad, was just beginning. The Holland Tunnel was still in planning stages. The great bridges were yet to be imagined, designed and built. Airports to connect this region to the globe were yet to be envisioned.

The infrastructure that allowed this region to become the global engine of commerce and trade that it is today would come – and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey would build it.

The women and men of the Port Authority pushed through the Great Depression, World War II, the Civil Rights movement, through economic booms and burst bubbles, through catastrophic storms, and the devastation of Sept. 11, 2001.

For its Centennial celebration, the Port Authority commemorated this important milestone through a series of activities and events. Below are a few of the highlights:



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View a series of one-minute videos highlighting key moments in the Port Authority's 100 history.

[View Videos](#)



A series of symposia on the Port Authority's influence on the region were be conducted by the Rudin Center for Transportation Policy and Management at NYU and the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University.

Rudin Center: April 28, 2021



Voorhees Center: June 16, 2021



Eno Center for Transportation: October 13, 2021





To recognize the 100 years of the Port Authority, the New York Historical Society developed a pop-up historical exhibit. This five-panel exhibit was moved across Port Authority facilities through 2021.

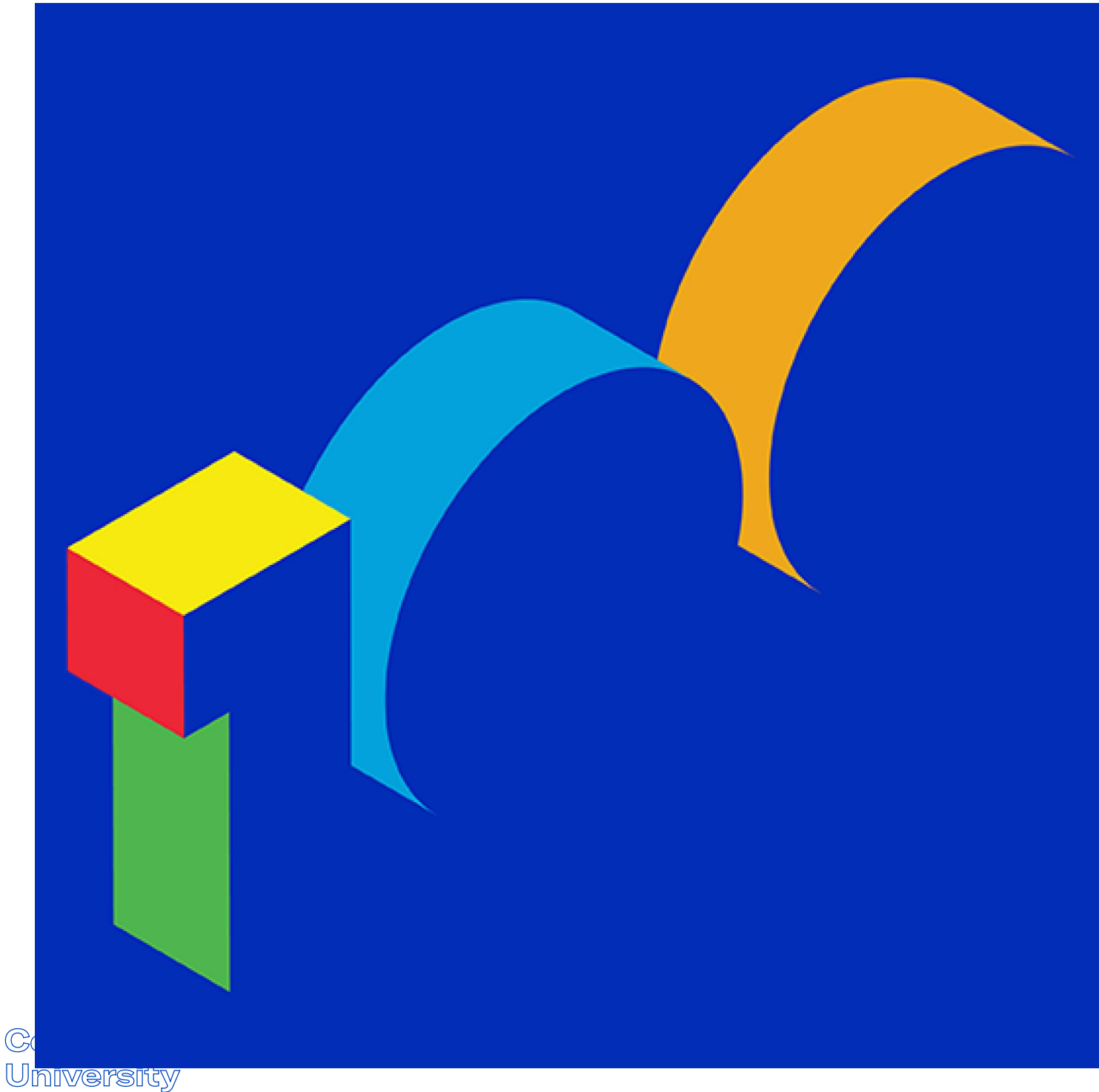
Click on the link below to view the digital version of the exhibit.

[View Exhibit](#)



In this webinar, Rick Cotton, the Port Authority's Executive Director, and Kevin J. O'Toole, the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, talk about what other states can learn from the Port Authority's unique interstate collaboration and governance structure.

[Watch Webinar](#)



The centennial video history project features virtual interviews with former and longstanding Port Authority employees. The interviews capture the breadth and diversity of the Port Authority from the agency's latest 50 years. The project is in collaboration with Montclair State University. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all interviews were conducted virtually.

Centennial Video History Project



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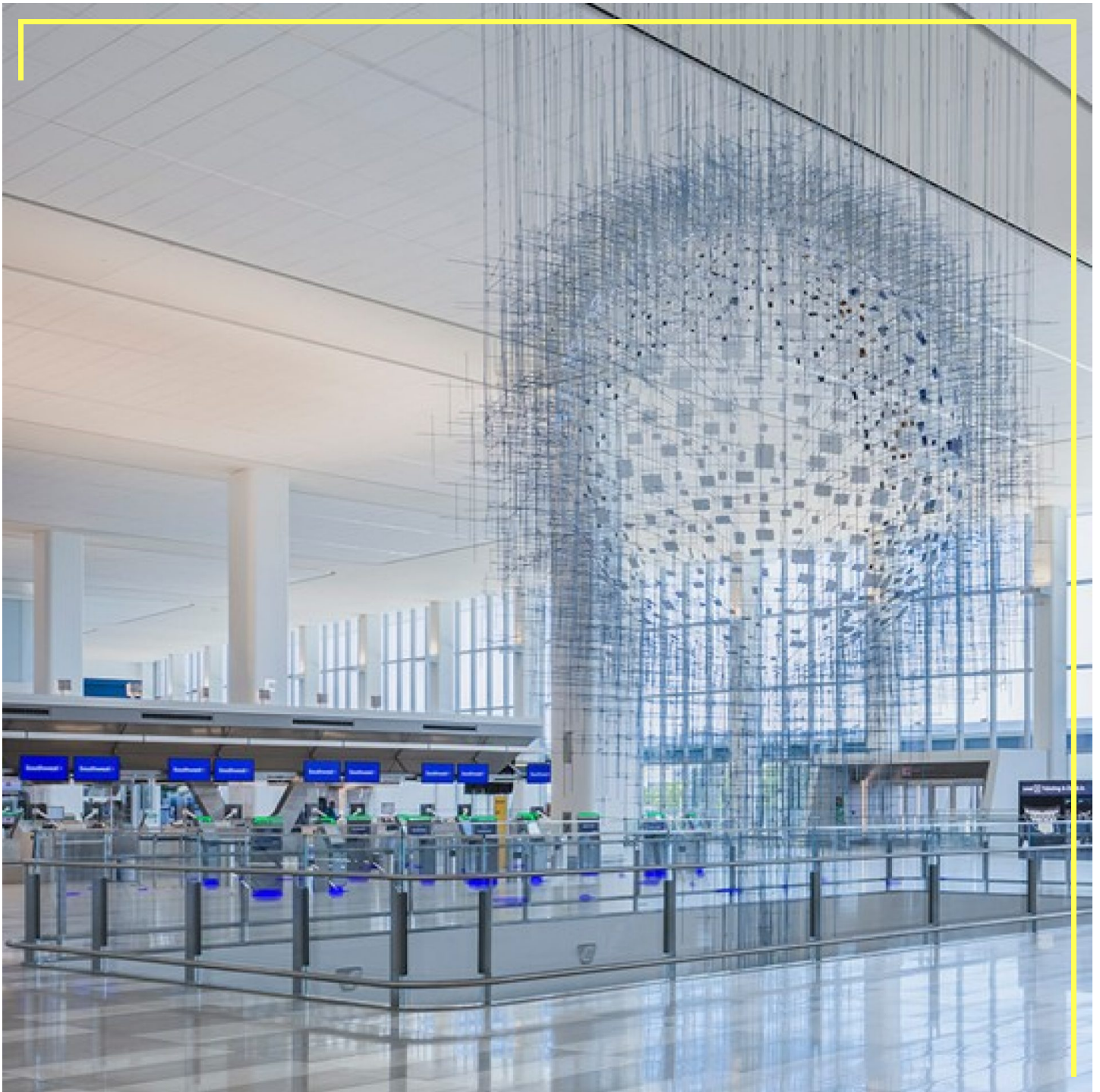
To recognize this significant milestone, a commemorative ceremony took place on April 30, 2021, featuring the dedication of a plaque on the World Trade Center campus. 55 mementos of the agency's 100 years of operation were placed inside a time capsule at a ceremony celebrating the centennial, not to be opened until April 30, 2121. Visit our *Now Arriving* blog to learn more.

Blog Post



Photos





The Port Authority has a remarkable history of building infrastructure that has driven the region's economic growth and vitality – from iconic bridges to world-class ports to global aviation hubs and to the World Trade Center and PATH. In the next 100 years, the Agency will continue to deliver 21st century, world-class infrastructure, which include efforts already well underway to totally transform the region's three major airports and the long-awaited replacement of the world's busiest bus terminal, amid other critical initiatives.

Midtown Bus Terminal Replacement



A Whole New LGA



[Restoring the George](#) >

[Newark Airport Redevelopment](#) >

[PATH Improvement Plan](#) >

[A Whole New JFK](#) >

Stories from our Blog Archives

Throughout the years, our blog has featured stories that highlight key milestones in our agency's history, our iconic facilities and the people who played a role in making the Port Authority what it is today. Below is a sampling of some of our favorite stories from our archives.

[+ Important Dates & Events](#)

[+ Notable Figures](#)

[+ Iconic Places](#)

[+ Miscellaneous \(Personalities, Quirks and Firsts\)](#)

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