

ladies event at the U.S. Championships.

1983 | Bobby Beauchamp won a bronze medal at Skate America.

1986 | Debi Thomas won gold medals at the U.S. and World Championships.

1988 | Debi Thomas won an Olympic medal in ladies figure skating and the World Professional title.

1991 | Tai Babilonia was the first biracial skater to be inducted into the



Debi Thomas

U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame.

1993 | Tiffani Tucker and Franklyn Singley won the bronze medal in junior ice dance at the U.S. Championships.

1994 | Rory Flack won the Masters Cup at the U.S. Open Professional Championships, defeating the reigning world champion in the process.

1996 | The Friends of Minority Figure Skaters was founded in Cleveland by Jacqueline Flournoy and Jacquelynn Goode. The organization's mission was to "educate the general community about the sport and the needs of young minority athletes in figure skating, increase awareness of other athletes to the sport of figure skating and conduct aggressive fundraising events." By 1998, the organization had budgeted \$70,000 to place 75 minority students in learn-to-skate programs, expose 2,000 minority students to skating and present

four full scholarships to competitive skaters.

1996 | H. Kermit Jackson, the first person of color to serve as managing editor of a figure skating publication, accepted the EDI Award for best skating publication for *American Skating World*.

1997 | Figure Skating In Harlem was founded in New York. In its first season, 40 skaters from the ages of 8 to 13 enrolled. They skated two to three times a week and took an off-ice theory class that addressed everything from jump physics to nutrition.

1997 | Andrea Gardiner won the U.S. junior ladies title.

1997 | Mabel Fairbanks was inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame.

1998 | Derrick Delmore won a gold medal at the World Junior Championships.

1998 | Mabel Fairbanks attended the Friends of Minority Figure Skaters' second annual ice show in Cleveland. Among the performers was Surya Bonaly, the first person of color to win a gold medal at the European Championships.

1998 | Brian Boitano partnered with the San Francisco Unified School District to found Youth Skate, a nonprofit organization formed to introduce inner-city youth to ice skating. AOL presented the first "Skate Against Hate" show to raise funds for the program.

1999 | Figure Skating In Harlem presented "Soul On Ice" in memory of Gwendolyn Simmons, a mother of two young skaters who was a dedicated worker in getting the program off the ground.

2000 | Andrea Gardiner was the first person of color to represent the United States at the Four Continents Championships.

2001 | Junior Olympic competitor Lanique Ruffin of Stockton, California, was named San Joaquin County's Outstanding Teenager.

2002 | Rory Flack's company The Color of Ice Productions staged "Ebony on Ice" at the Legacy Theater in Chicago.

2002 | Larry Holliday won his first of eight gold medals at the U.S. Adult Championships.

2002 | Derrick Delmore and Aaron Parchem competed in the men's and pairs events at the Four Continents Championships.

2005 | Nathan Miller and his partner Claire Davis won the gold medal in the novice pairs event at the U.S. Championships.

2006 | Aaron Parchem became the first African-American man to represent the United States in Olympic figure skating.

2007 | Jaclyn Ward Helms was the first Black judge to serve at the U.S. Championships.

2008 | Megan Evans and Nathan Truesdell won the silver medal in the novice ice dance event at the U.S. Championships.

2009 | Mabel Fairbanks was posthumously the first person of color to be inducted to the PSA Coaches Hall of Fame.

2010 | A video of 9-year-old Starr Andrews skating to Willow Smith's hit "Whip My Hair" went viral. As of 2021, the video had more than 240,000 views.

2014 | Kassy Kova and Justin Ross passed the U.S. Figure Skating senior free dance test. Kova and Ross were pewter medalists in novice dance at the 2010 Pacific Coast Championships.

2017 | D.C. coach Joel Savary founded the Diversify Ice Fellowship and Foundation to support minority figure skaters through sponsorship, mentorship and networking. Three years later, his book *Why Black and Brown Kids Don't Ice Skate* was published.

2020 | The U.S. Figure Skating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Working Group was formed.

2021 | Kadari Taylor-Watson was hired by U.S. Figure Skating as its first DEI director.

2021 | Mariah Braxton, Scheherezade Redmond and Noelle Ghoram became the first trio of Black judges to serve on a single panel at the 2022 U.S. Championship Series event in Allen, Texas.



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