



October 2022



The Finger Lakes Visitors Connection is dedicated to maximizing brand awareness and driving demand for our destination. We are the ultimate resource and industry expert on tourism in Ontario County and we embrace the variety of tourism offerings while striving for a cohesive message that will inspire visitor demand for our uniquely Ontario County experiences.

Our primary branding message firmly positions Ontario County as a destination of choice in the Finger Lakes. We are the destination known for our lakes and grapes, wines and vines, wide open spaces, and fresh air, but we are even more than that and we are not shy about bragging about it!

Our growing tourism industry has new resort hotels, expanded and refined meeting facilities, historic preservation projects, enhanced public parks and spaces, and a robust craft beverage industry. We have rooftop bars, a state of the art welcome center, and an unparalleled variety of retail experiences. These incredible assets makes Ontario County the center of luxury in the Finger Lakes, not only because of our high level of tourism assets and services, but because of the luxury of choice we offer both visitors and residents that are fortunate enough to call Ontario County home. You can do everything or nothing (kick back lakeside with a good book, watch spectacular sunsets, sip a glass of Finger Lakes wine, or enjoy a soothing spa experience). That is the luxury of choice you will find in the Finger Lakes.



The Finger Lakes Visitors Connection's marketing and creative team needs you, our industry partners, to help us amplify our position in the Finger Lakes as the center for laidback luxury, getaways and retreats. Together we can highlight our upscale amenities and strengthen our message of choice for laidback Finger Lakes luxury and as the preferred destination for meetings and conferences that not only wants to meet but also retreat Finger Lakes style.

Our visitors value the story and the beauty of the Finger Lakes and it is imperative that our visuals reflect the voice, looks, personality and values that define our brand and invite and inspire a visit to Ontario County's Finger Lakes. Our intention is to portray a well-defined brand that will leave a lasting impression and draw people in so they will say, "I want to go there because it looks fun, relaxing, authentic, and I have the luxury of choosing to do as much or as little as I want."

Join us in building the brand awareness that makes Ontario County in the Finger Lakes a destination of choice - We are stronger together!

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# Brand Style and Personality

### FLX

To remain a valued partner in drawing people to the Finger Lakes Region and maximize our ROI by participating in cooperative programs which have common market strategies, aligned brand assets and brand promises.

### LUXURY

To distinguish our product within the FLX and promote our unique brand promise.

We understand our

We understand our diversity of visitor segments and greet them in what luxury looks like to them.

# Delivered with our $ST\underline{YLE}$

Crafting compelling experiences and highlighting the emotional benefits of traveling to laidback Ontario County, that appeal to our current and future loyalists.

# FLX

Luxury is a feeling, a choice.

laidback

# Brand Personality



Upscale

Laidback

**Imaginative** 

Friendly

Down-to-earth

**Authentic** 

Dependable

Nature loving & carefree

Active & all-in

We have unique and bresh experiences.

# BRAND PROMISE

We promise high quality places and spaces for you to enjoy an authentic Finger Lakes vacation. Here, luxury is a feeling, delivered in a genuine, laidback, lake country style. Experience our "stress reduction zone" where friendly locals can connect you to signature FLX products and passionate destination experts can curate a getaway that is uniquely yours. Whether you seek adventure in the great outdoors or a bit of pampering indoors, you will be rewarded with fun, relaxation and rejuvenation on your FLX getaway.

Brand promise is what we promise to deliver to travelers – every visit. It's what makes us distinctive in the Finger Lakes

# Our attributes

(What are our strengths?)

High quality places and spaces

Stress reduction "zones"

Our delivery

(How do we deliver our experiences?)

Authentic, genuine lake country style (Friendly, down-to-earth)

Laidback

Friendly locals, destination experts

The experience

(How do our experiences make the visitor feel?)

The luxury of choice

**Pampered** 

Rejuvenated

The end benefit

(What do the visitors go home with?)

Lasting memories

Enriched, inspired

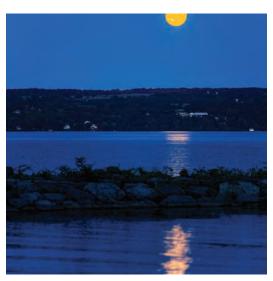
Recharged, refreshed

# BRAND TAGLINE



Laidback, Luxury









# TONE = FLX LIFESTYLE

Wide open spaces and unfettered time in the Finger Lakes are two of life's greatest luxuries. Water, wide open spaces and warmth foster a freedom of spirit. Even in the rain or the snow, there is a sense of contentment, easiness and a special appreciation for living in the moment.

Imagine if you can promise this feeling to your guests.

With space, you too get to feel a weight lift and relaxation begins. There is time to do nothing. After you've laidback for a day or two, you'll notice that you've grown a bit more observant, taking note of the details of wherever your gaze falls, allowing your imagination to create a new story. It's all because you've allowed yourself time and space away from the everyday. Dockside, deck-sitting or down-by-the-beach, you are away from the hustle and bustle that you feel back home and don't even realize how much it's all been weighing you down until you sink into the new space that you've allowed yourself.

The Finger Lakes promises the luxury of space and the gift of time. Our FLX lifestyle (and therefore our branding tone) is best described as "laidback luxury."

laidback LUXURY

### BRAND FONTS

LOVELYN

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

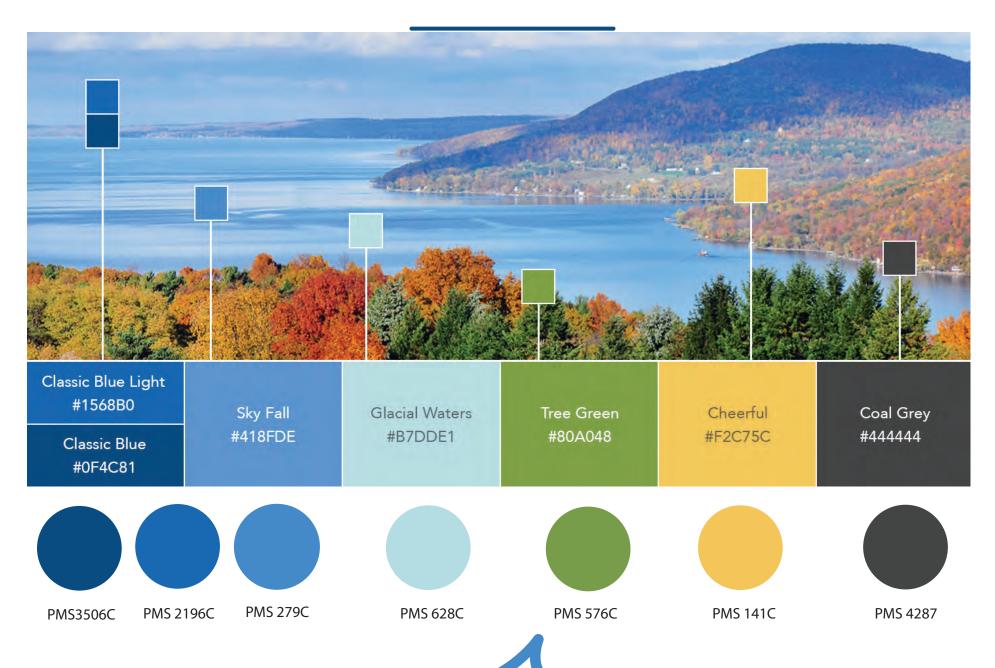
Saturday Script abode by hijklmnop grstuvwxyz ABCDEFGHITKIMNOP QRSTUUWXYZ

Avenir abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

(Nunito is an acceptable substitute to Avenir, with similar letter form shapes and geometric qualities. Nunito is also a Google font.)

Lusitana Regular abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

# Brand Colors



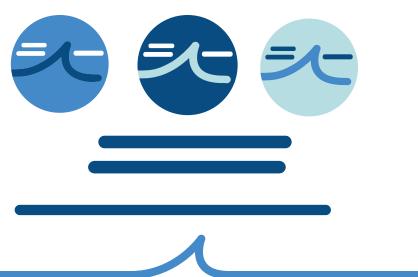
# TEXTURE AND ELEMENTS

Sometimes white or cream are just not enough so we have available accent textures for print and digital.

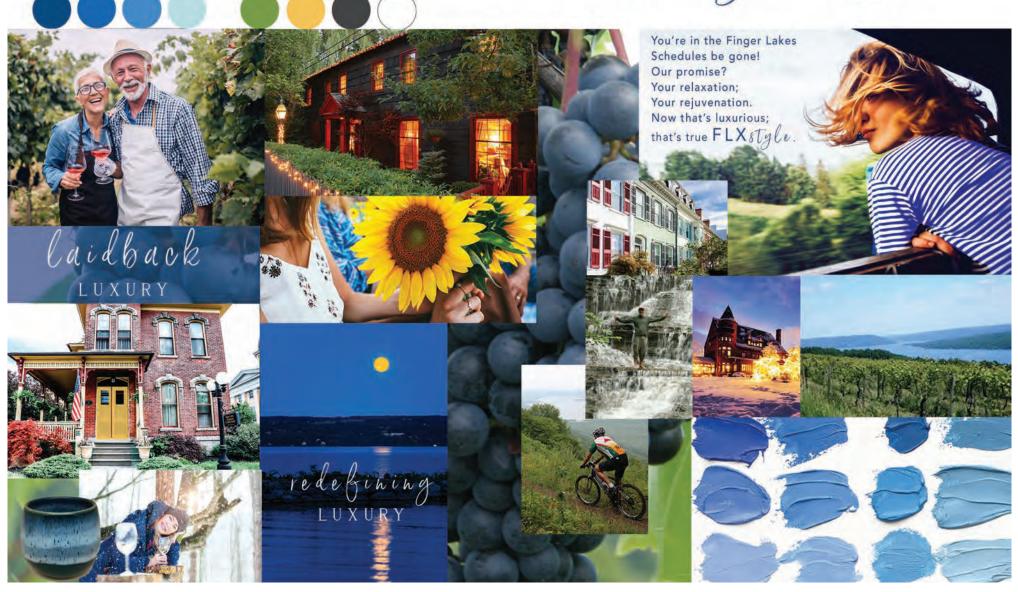
**Texture -** To reinforce the free-flowing lifestyle that the Finger Lakes has to offer, optional background color waves can be used on print and digital applications. Representing wind, waves and the wide-open spaces, these contemporary backgrounds complement our logos, photography and typography elements.



**Elements -** Additional visual elements can be utilized for design interest. All are reflective of the logo and bolster the brand design.



# VISITFINGERLAKES FLXstyle



# OUR AUDIENCES

# Picture our audiences and Then start writing

When writing, always consider the audience first. What motivates them? What are their values? Here we describe our two types of customer, plus describe our product focused in terms of the feelings evoked by the experience. The basics need to be covered first and then, when reread, ask is this from the viewpoint of your target audience?

Our two core leisure audiences are at right here. Notice what they are seeking on their vacation – then align your words to satisfy these needs.

### People who are seeking:

A vacation to get away
from it all... kids, jobs,
aging parents. More
inclined to participate in
relaxing activities: wine and
craft beverage tastings,
shopping, casual walks,
peaceful sleep, good food.
Use their vacation as a way
to detach from their life and
leave it behind for a while.

### People who are seeking:

A unique, memorable visitor experience, something that takes them away from their job and allows them time with their significant others. They are still tethered to their life. They live an active lifestyle, love the outdoors and are thrilled by the out-of-theordinary. Use social media to report back real time on their vacation experiences

# Writing to Our Audiences

In this section we provide before and after examples for style – showing the shift from identifying product attributes to storytelling by crafting compelling experiences and highlighting the emotional benefits of travel here.

# The Power of Words:

- Wording should be laidback/friendly not casual and informal.
- Wording should be authentic not scripted/generic/contrived.
- Wording should be engaging and tell the story not just a description.
- Use words to tease the readers to think about what's next in the story; to set out on a mental adventure of what can be ahead
- Wording should not be cliché. We stand alone. Should not include certain "tourism favorite words."

# Writing Should Convey:

- A 3rd person voice (he, she, it, they)
- Benefit over product.
- Use of imagery in photos and words
- Painting a picture with text imagine yourself there.
- The emotional feel (ethos) of Ontario County.
- Posed, not staged.
- Aspirational tone.
- Leave readers with an "emotional aftertaste."
- Genuine/purposeful not superfluous.

# Tips for Tone and Style

- Use language that is fun, positive and active.
- Avoid language which implies "work" for anyone.
- Ask how does the language engage the five senses? Use language that transports the reader into the moment you are describing.
- Write about what your experience delivers not what it is.
- What's unique about the experience ask what is it that makes it different, better or special?
- Create a wow: connect on the emotional level.
- What will make a visitor want to put it on Instagram?
- What is it that creates bragging rights for this experience?

# Writing Samples - Listings

# Keep in Mind:

- Take out any wording that sounds like work.
- Add in the things that you know your audience values (trees, meticulous care for something).
- Remove any "room names" that don't add to the story.
- Remove dates especially old dates unless they imply a legacy.
- Add in a luxury type modifier.

# Before: 1795 Acorn Inn

Hit the slopes at Bristol Mountain, and then stay in Canandaigua at an inn that has been a AAA Four-Diamond Award winner for 25 consecutive years! Rates start as low as \$195 and include breakfast. The Stay & Ski Bristol Mountain package provides you with a special price that includes a reduced rate lift ticket, lodging, and breakfast.

# After: 1795 Acorn Inn

It's a winter wonderland just outside the charming 1795 Acorn Inn – your home during your FLX stay and ski getaway. The skiing is exceptional at Bristol Mountain, but don't miss the unique slope-side waffle house or the chance to catch a local craft beverage and artisan bites by the fireplace in The Cannery apres ski eatery at the mountain. Back at the inn, it's laidback luxury from the exquisite homemade breakfast to browsing the special family art to the grand finale: a sink-into-the luxury après ski suite rated AAA 4 diamond for 25 years with good reason. This ski and stay package takes away the planning and just lets you dream of the fun you will have on your Finger Lakes getaway. See you here for the Finger Lakes – winter style.



# Even Better: 1795 Acorn Inh

Step outside of the charming 1795 Acorn Inn and find yourself in a winter wonderland located just minutes from the base of Bristol Mountain. Start your day with a delicious breakfast made by the innkeeper and hit the slopes for a day of skiing fun. Take a lunchbreak mid-mountain at the picturesque slope side waffle house Morning Star Café and end your day with a visit to The Cannery, your new après ski eatery with local brews, craft whiskey and artisan bites by their roaring fireplace.

# Before: Ravenwood Jolf Club

Personalized service and exceptional value in an elegant golf club setting, Ravenwood Golf Club's experienced staff will work diligently to provide you and your guests with a day to remember. The reception will be hosted in The Black Raven Banquet Room, renovated in 2009, overlooking the breathtaking landscape of the championship golf course. Sliding glass doors opening to the adjacent garden with a lighted waterfall, a perfect space to host your ceremony. The chef has prepared suggested menus for your wedding day, but they can be customized to fit your taste.

# After: Ravenwood Jolf Club

From the moment you arrive, you will amazed by the personalized service, exceptional value, and elegant golf club setting that Ravenwood Golf Club offers. Picture your reception overlooking the breathtaking landscape of a championship tree-lined and meticulously groomed golf course. Sliding glass doors open up to the adjacent garden with lighted waterfall, that is perfect space to host your ceremony. Serving as an awesome backdrop to your special day, the lavish and lush Ravenwood Golf Club provides limitless photo opportunities and an unforgettable experience.

Replace	Why	This is better
Will work diligently	(sounds like work)	promises you
The reception	(not personal)	Your reception
Will be hosted in	(describe what hosting looks like)	Picture overlooking
Black Raven Room	(no one cares about this name)	With sliding glass doors
Landscape	(make it visual)	tree lined and meticulously groomed
The chef has prepared	(sounds like work of course he has)	You'll be pampered according to your tastes (wait who's missing!) Your guests will be awed (and isn't that the desire of every bride)



# PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

### Our visual mandate (and pleasure).

Our mandate is to set the bar high. The quality of our images and artwork – whether photography or video is an imperative standard. Defining quality within our brand context is the challenge. Simply – can we meet these basic test points.

Images are	Images are Not	Example
Fun and natural	staged and cliché	Someone actually falling as they cross country ski and enjoy it; kids breaking out into a soccer game at a park
Captures the uniqueness of our scenery	"an anywhere" image	Broad seasonal landscapes with our fun features of snow, leaves, sunsets, vineyards or drives along country roads
Captures the uniqueness of our history	"an anywhere" image	It's important to keep it authentic: women's rights, entrepreneurs, historic preservation projects
Captures the uniqueness of our architecture	"an anywhere" image	The devil is in the details here. Know our history and then it's easier to spot: cobblestones, columns, row houses

Can our images invite inquisitiveness and a desire for that experience? We want people to look and think – what are they doing there? I want to do that too. If I can find that same experience I will be just as happy, fulfilled, smart, energetic – pick the benefit – that they are!

See our samples on the next pages that capture moments, angles, times of day, weather conditions, and real people that represent the laidback luxury and our FLX lakestyle. These are the images that will picture who we are and answer why others would like to come here!

FLVC has an expansive (thousands) collection of high quality photos and video b-roll, resulting from our ongoing priority to keep our visual assets current. When selecting images, team members and vendors should review the "Top 100" selections first. Vendors should access these photos as starting points for brand consistency. Easy vendor access is through our website at VisitFingerLakes.com/media. Internally, the Top 100 (which may actually be more than 100) are located on the P:// drive on the server, in a folder called: \_01\_Top 100 Photos. For efficiency and brand integrity, the Top 100 and Simpleview assets should receive an annual checkup to ascertain if there are new and better images and to "maintain weight" within the photo drives.

# For our Videographers, Photographers, and Graphic Designers

### Our partners in branding.

Finger Lakes Visitors Connection is always looking for photographers who naturally shoot within our brand – but mostly within our style. We prefer real people experiencing as opposed to paid models acting. It's not that we don't value paying people. Rather, we think that real people who are made "at ease" in a visitor experience are more authentic. This video and this imagery should capture the moments, the energy, the feelings. This is especially important with video which sequences the natural fun and authenticity of our products.

We know that using angles, movement, dramatic light and camera blur can bring life to the photos and again, more so, video. Can you draw the viewer into the experience by using these techniques? This is what we need to portray our brand. But again, all within the context of natural, laidback FLX casual style.

What we don't want? Cliché, overly "moody", touched up or stock photos.

### Here's a quick check list!

- Is it imaginative is it active and "all in" or carefree in nature?
- Photography should tease the story behind what is going on in the photo. What is their emotional impact?
- We like happy faces, but even better we want to capture natural human emotions smiling, curiosity.
- Look for unique, unexpected compositions that capture real life or tell a story.
- Ensure that the travelers are engaged in the moment.
- Take the picture from the traveler's point of view.
- Make sure that the people and the action look natural, not overly posed (i.e. empty wine glasses vs. unopened wine, wine glasses poured to perfection)
- Leave space for headlines, graphic designer to work.
- Try to capture unique aspects.
- Does the picture look like it's capturing authenticity?
- Imagine captioning this photo to communicate the experience.

Promotional images are available on our website at VisitFingerLakes.com/Media

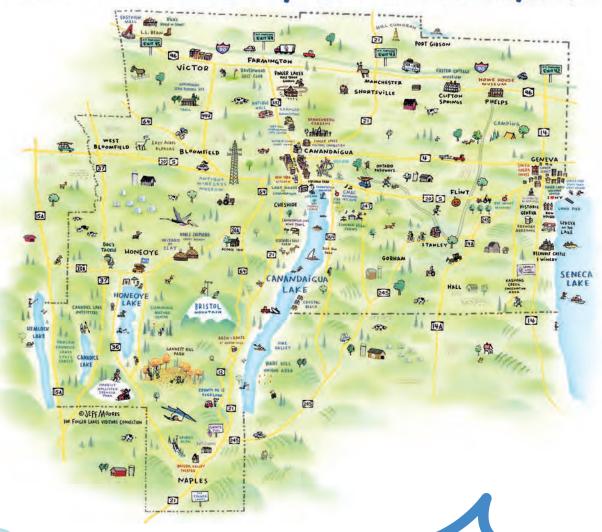






# Making our Visitor Service tools reflective of our Brand Personality!

# ONTARIO COUNTY, FINGER LAKES, NY



Our brand is fun, genuine, authentic.

While there are times we need

"verbatim art," there are also times that
our visitor service tools need to be a

little more than "just the facts!" The
incorporation of fun art such as this map
art by Jeff Moores or this cartoon art
by Andy Reddout are better reflections
of our character. These pieces are
conversation starters and truly aligned
with our brand character.



# PHOTO CAPTIONING

### **Photo Captioning.**

We agree, a picture is worth a thousand words. Uncaptioned photos allow people to read into the image their viewpoint on the events of the photo. Not every picture needs a caption.

### When to use Captions.

Sometimes, more info is needed to draw readers, provide context and help tell the story. When we want people to "go there", we need to tell them where "there" is.

### Three simple rules for captioning.

- 1. Use a caption if it adds context to the image. If it could be "anywhere" a locational context may be helpful. Remember, your viewer doesn't know what you know about this image.
- 2. Ensure that the caption adds new information to the story and not just duplicates what the reader sees. Ask yourself, what just happened in this photo to cause this snapshot in time.
- 3. Conversational language works best. Write it as if you are telling a family member or friend.



Future skiing pros have just completed the Black Diamond of Bristol Mountain, Canandaigua's 1200' vertical!

For example – at the image above we can see that they are kids, we can see that they are skiing, we can see that they are having fun together. What can we add? Bristol Mountain, Canandaigua at minimum or Bristol Mountain, Canandaigua, Finger Lakes, NY

To add a conversation - consider a bit more:

Future skiing pros have just completed the Black Diamond of Bristol Mountain, Canandaigua's 1200' vertical!



### Photo credits, photo copyrights and model releases

FLVC policy requires that all photos which are shared are credited to @VisitFingerLakes.com. FLVC does not guarantee a photo credit to any particular photographer; but does attempt to credit the photographers, artists, and contributors as a group in our printed publications and where appropriate and possible on our digital platforms. With the volume of images we use, our standard practice is to acquire unrestricted rights to images.

Models for photography and videoography, whether amateur or professional are required to provide a model release.

### We are resetting the bar for our image library

Our signature photography and videography is focused on creating and inspiring an impression with an emotional impact. This builds the equity of our brand.

- Experience Photography (left) helps to reinforce the emotional quality while giving an understanding of our unique area.
- Editorial Photography (above) helps define the moment at a deeper level so that the viewer can imagine themselves being here.





# Brand Logos

There are many facets of Finger Lakes Visitors Connection's business. Our most important one is to get visitors to come and enjoy Ontario County and the Finger Lakes. Visitors (consumers as we call them here) recognize and respond to certain aspects of an area that the "business side" of our operation doesn't need to highlight. Then, there's the specialty market where names take on nuances; and finally special programs.

**Consumer Facing Logo** ~ The words "VISIT" are predominantly displayed here because that's what this logo's intent is and therefore, its invitation: Come visit the Finger Lakes.

**Business & Industry Facing Logo** ~ Our official name is Ontario County Four Seasons Local Development Corporation. Luckily our d.b.a. is much simpler: A Finger Lakes Visitors Connection. For official business correspondence this is the correct logo to use.

**Specialty Market Logo** ~ Certain words need to be strong and prominent in specialty markets. They have their own lexicon and their own meaning. We will allow and want to use the specialty market logos when it can grab the attention through the logo. This is occasionally reinforced with the "visit" logo, but should be able to stand on its own as well.

**Special Program Logo** ~ Some programs don't talk to specialty markets nor business nor a direct communication to consumers. We'll call these "pop-up program logos or special program logos." It provides some creativity in the presentation and the words and the style, but notice the brand integrity of color, font and sizing. If you want a special program logo, reach out with the plan of why it makes sense and let's go for it!

# Consumer Facing Logo



What do we want the consumer to believe about our destination on first glimpse at this logo? Substantial market research was done to understand this close connection between our brand and our destination perception.

The logo is simple, clean and clear. Our lakes and our skies are the inspiration for the multiple shades of blue. Finger Lakes is represented in a modern font similar to many luxurious, upscale brands: simply and elegant. The wave is forward leaning creating some energy to explore. Visit is exactly the invitation we want everyone to receive. Here it's presented in a casual font, appropriately named, "Saturday font." It feels soft like a Saturday morning and the sweeping "s" invites our visitors to move along when they are ready. There is balance in our presentation of the

word Visit. The soft edged lines surrounding the word represent both our land and the idea that you have choices. The lines are not regimented and lined up as if you are to fall into any particular path when you come, but rather, that you can choose your path(s) when they start, when it's time to rest. In total, it's luxurious to be able to make your own choices and to just enjoy the wind, the warmth and the water of the Finger Lakes.

The fonts, colors and accents are sophisticated, upscale, classy and refined with a feeling of freedom and nature. It reflects feelings of motion, water, fresh air and relaxation as well as the excitement and friendliness that is overflowing in the Finger Lakes.

# Consumer Facing Logo Set



This is our signature logo to be used in marketing materials targeted to visitors. Clean, simple and symbolic of luxury.



This logo, with the Ontario County, NY added is to be used primarily when marketing within the region and there is a need to distinguish us geographically or politically from other areas of the Finger Lakes.



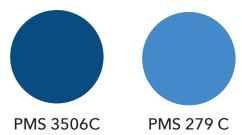
Use this logo for visitor marketing materials where we want to add the tagline and can visually support laidback luxury.



When the logo is used in collateral where the consumer is positioned to find out more, please include the website name.

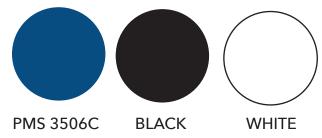
# Consumer Facing Color Options

#### 2 Color Logo Preferred





### 1 Color Logo Option





# BRAND SPECIFICS

Clear space There should be the width of the letter "i" in the logo of clear space around the logo to avoid confusion and allow for the logo to stand out from its surroundings.

Minimum size When using the logo 1 inch or smaller, use the 1 color version. If there is a limited space, we have available the Favicon. See page 50.

No stretching Please increase or decrease size proportionately.

Only use specified logo colors

Use white type over black or dark backgrounds.











# Business & Industry Facing Logo



Ontario County, NY

Finger Lakes Visitors Connection (our D.B.A. for Ontario County Four Seasons Local Development Corporation) is the official tourism promotion agency and management agency for Ontario County. Tourism here is considered big business with big benefits. Our brand promise for our "business side" portrays the same core values that we hold for our leisure market or meetings market.

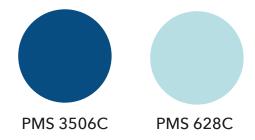
This logo is simple, yet creative. Clean and clear. It exudes stability, competence, and reliability as the colors and the fonts transfer across markets. The icon represents our care for the water and the land - our eco-conscience. The forward lean of the wave represents progress, trending, and our attention to detail. The curves echoed from the consumer logo relay our energy and our approachability.

Ultimately, all of these elements together represent both the people of our company and the status of our company in our business partner's mind.

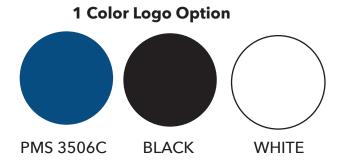


# Business & Industry Facing Logo Set

#### 2 Color Logo Preferred













# STATIONERY STYLE AND FORMAT

Avenir Roman 12 pt.

All type alignment flush left

.75 indent left

.75 indent right

Single spaced type

Spacing 0 pt. before

Spacing 6 pt. after

Paper Stock - Preferably 70# Solar White Classic Linen



Ontario County, NY

[Insert Date]

[Recipient]
[Title]
[Company]
[Address 1]
[Address 2]

[Address 3]

Dear [Recipient]:

Fusce neque mi, consectetuer gravida, convallis ac, varius a, pede. Fusce pellentesque pretium quam. Ut luctus, justo id volutpat iaculis, est diam pulvinar sem, quis bibendum turpis dui eget mauris. Sed in mauris. Ut massa. Pellentesque condimentum felis nec sapien. Integer posuere elit at turpis. Nulla facilisi. Sed sapien ipsum, commodo ut, facilisis vitae, ultrices non, metus. Aenean non nulla. Curabitur molestie volutpat magna. Vestibulum tempor faucibus nisi. Pellentesque vitae enim.

Aliquam rhoncus volutpat mauris. Sed auctor. Donec tincidunt velit et tellus. Donec sed augue eget lacus placerat adipiscing. Ut convallis suscipit nulla. Morbi posuere ullamcorper ligula. Duis sit amet odio nec lorem ornare gravida. Suspendisse ante nulla, gravida quis, eleifend sit amet, placerat eget, purus. Sed egestas magna ut erat. Vivamus euismod, odio id mattis porttitor, tellus nisl consectetuer turpis, ut auctor enim justo euismod nulla. Fusce eget diam vulputate massa tempor tempor.

In ante. Phasellus convallis, nisl in vestibulum facilisis, lacus pede bibendum urna, dapibus pellentesque eros magna sed nibh. Etiam tortor arcu, porta nec, laoreet quis, mollis in, libero. Aenean dapibus est a metus. In sit amet elit. Pellentesque luctus lacus scelerisque arcu. Cras mattis diam. Sed molestie, lectus id bibendum luctus, magna orci luctus quam, et auctor urna diam sit amet ligula. Sed purus dui, suscipit et, malesuada non, consectetuer in, augue. Proin et sapien. Maecenas aliquam, nibh id aliquet tincidunt, ante neque pulvinar mauris, sit amet fermentum nibh augue mollis risus.

In ante. Phasellus convallis, nisl in vestibulum facilisis, lacus pede bibendum urna, dapibus pellentesque eros magna sed nibh. Etiam tortor arcu, porta nec, laoreet quis, mollis in, libero. Aenean dapibus est a metus. In sit amet elit. Pellentesque luctus lacus scelerisque arcu.

Sincerely,

Name [Your Title]

19 Susan B. Anthony Lane

Canandaigua, NY 14424

(585) 394-3915

VisitFingerLakes.com



Ontario County, NY



VisitFingerLakes.com

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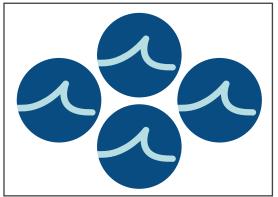
Canandaigua, NY 14424

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Back

#### Business & Industry Facing Digital

To create a softer appearance on the web, when creating a digital ad or website, use Hex #fffbf4 behind logos and type. Keep white background on print materials.

**Business News Header** 







CRM Generated Letterhead



Ontario County, NY

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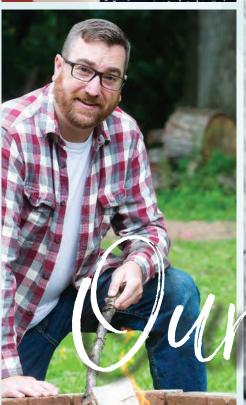
#### FINGER LAKES VISITORS CONNECTION

Companies, are more than logos and pictures and documents. The core of companies, especially in the hospitality business is people. Our industry has the unique advantage and challenge of being both high tech and high touch at the same time. People committing to working in our industry are special people - who need to display and live core values which are essential to our "hosting" operation, our community engagement, and to model our Finger Lakes lifestyle.

If you're an employee, a board member, a vendor or contractor with us - you are most successful if you adopt these as your core values when representing Finger Lakes Visitors Connection, Ontario County.











# Passionate for the FLX

We love living here. We know our roots and respect the connections between the past and our present. We are proud of our communities, we are eager to share our local brag book! We have "tips" on how you can enjoy the FLX.



We are energized by being around interesting and diverse people. We are mentally active, creative, and expressive. We inspire positivity; seek happiness and joy!





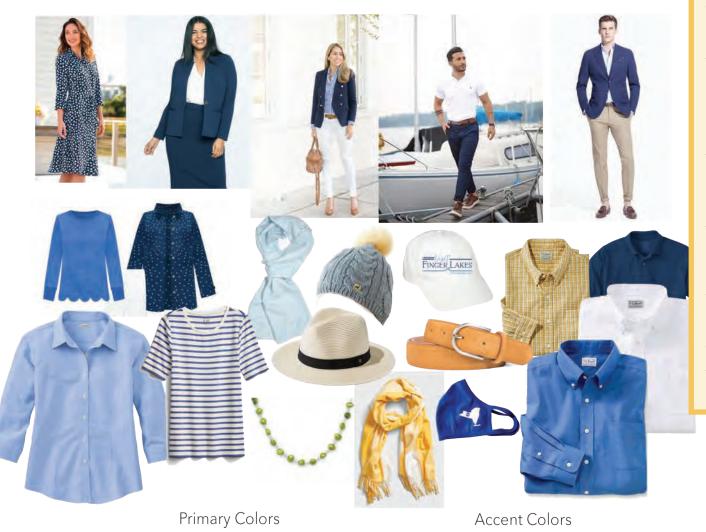
We are calm, easy going, and approachable. We are free of fussbut appreciate cere mony. We can hold a conversation well, tella story well. We can chat about what interests you.



We foster a fresh style, rooted in FLX traditions. We are of the new world - embrace new amenities - encourage innovation in our guest experiences.

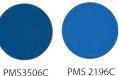
We listen; we are kind; we care about you. We che rish smiles and view them as a reward of happiness.

#### TEAM "BRAND STYLE"



To further express our brand, we have developed a style for our team. The look is classic, fun and professional. Using colors from our color palette and versatile styles, outfits can be put together easily. And to reflect each person's individuality, can be tailored to the fit and cut that makes them feel their best! Branded with either Finger Lakes Visitors Connection or VisitFingerLakes logo, we will be recognized as experts in our field. Our clothing and "style" truly represent "laidback luxury"

See page 57 for guidelines for logo embroidery.















#### FLVC Dress Code Philosophy

When our team is representing Finger Lakes Visitors Connection, at work, it can be difficult to separate our personal style and life and perceptions of laidback luxury from our work style - and our visitors' style. We've nailed it - so to speak - when we've dressed to represent the happy medium between working in a place that is friendly, fun, laidback from being on vacation in the same place. Obviously, there are times when you need to "dress the part to do the work." If you're hosting a fam tour and need to ski as a part of it, you're going to put on your best winter skiing outfit. Then, when the event shifts to apres ski - that's when you show our FLX style. Standout beside the firepit with a little luxury and a lot of style. Our clothing style for work - whether it be a day in the office when an unexpected visitor comes by or at a booth in a trade show or stepping onto a motorcoach to greet an inbound tour is our first opportunity to display a bit of the subtle luxury and laidback style of our destination.

We know that our style will evolve and change, and that's good and that's the challenge of representing a brand - keeping the whole team - when at business - representing our destination.

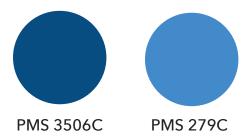
Details will be updated in the Finger Lakes Visitors Connection Employee Handbook, which we review each year.

## Specialty Market Logo



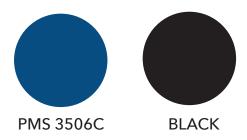
## Specialty Market Logo Set

#### 2 Color Logo Preferred





#### **1 Color Logo Option**







#### **Sub-brand accent color**



#### Specialty Market Facing Print & Digital





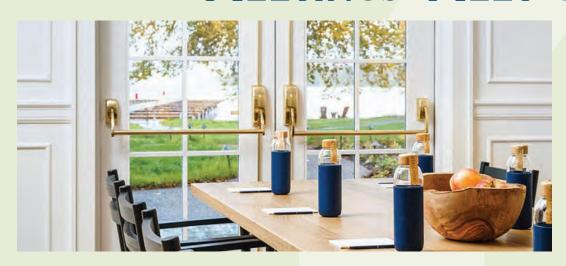






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#### MEETINGS: MEET & RETREAT



An interesting aspect of our meetings business here is that we have the best of both worlds, it's all about a professional meeting and getting your business done during the day (or most of it!) and then making sure your attendees take advantage of the opportunity to retreat to the fun side of the Finger Lakes. What's even better, is that because of our many unique venues, you can do both at the same time.

Here are some power words associated with the Meet and Retreat experience in Ontario County's Finger Lakes. Pick your words carefully to make sure they are on target to this market. For example this market doesn't have "visitors" it has "attendees."

When you're the writer or the graphic artist, you have to think in those two worlds of MEETING (business to accomplish) and RETREATING (fun to be had afterwards) in presenting your words and images.

Inspired location

State-of-the-art

Unique

Diversity (of spaces)

Flexible

Curated (to your needs...)

**Productive** 

Successful

Memorable

Efficient

Customized

Personalized

Enhanced (destination experiences)

Drive attendance to your meeting

Creativity Innovation Collaboration

Cultivate results

Your ideal meeting

Welcomes groups large and small

Craft your event

Reasons to meet

Create connections

Easy to reach (variations of this) yet far away

from the everyday

Expand your meeting

Transparency

Opportunities

Bring together

Hosting safely

Comprehensive

#### Special Program Logos

# Visit Confidently Ontario County, NY

Some programs don't talk to specialty markets nor business nor a direct communication to consumers. We'll call these "pop-up program logos or special program logos." It provides some creativity in the presentation and the words and the style, but notice the brand integrity of color, font and sizing. If you want a special program logo, reach out with the plan of why it makes sense and let's go for it!

#### Special Program Materials









Display "Our Community Promise" prominently next to your safety plan. This is designed to reassure the customers as they enter various businesses across the county that we are in this together and you are part of the reopening and you are making the promise to them that you're creating a safe environment and that you need their participation in these rules to keep it safe.

#Visit Confidently

#### Online Brand Personality.

Avatar - A company's online brand personality, which is a summary of what users are saying online about the organization and its brands.



# Places the Favicon needs to be updated:

Facebook

Instagram

**Twitter** 

YouTube

Microsoft (info@)

Vimeo

Mailchimp

**Google Accounts** 

**Pinterest** 

Zoom

# Social Media

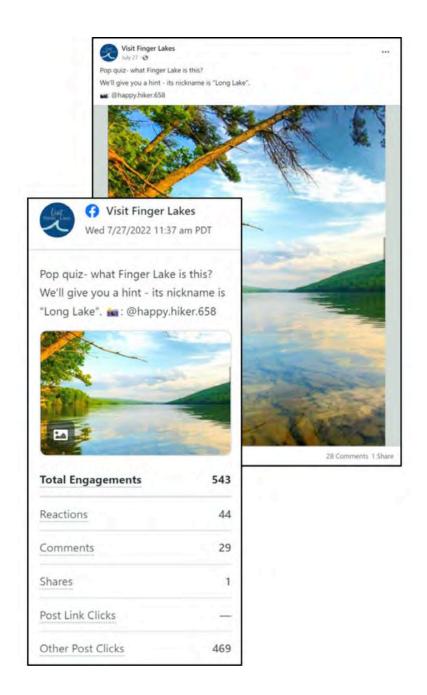
Focus on Lakes
Wellness
Beautiful scenery
Relaxation

## VisitFingerLakes on FACEBOOK



#### Facebook @VisitFLX

- No hashtags
- 51% of our Facebook audience is between the ages of 45 and 64; 21% is between 35 and 44; 20% is older than 65.
- 77% of our audience identifies as women
- Tone should be more reserved than on Instagram, but that does not mean boring! Keep it succinct, limit pop culture references, and limit emoji use.
- Always spell out Finger Lakes instead of FLX
- Great spot to post a media win article reshares do very well here
- Don't forget to post images as well the nostalgia factor is huge on Facebook. Use image shared to Instagram, and be sure to add the location as the "check in"
- Post at 1x day M-F -> if there is a huge article + great photo in one day, 2 posts is okay.
- Ideal time of day to post tends to be in the morning, but this varies by day of week and time of year. Scheduling software can use Al to find specific ideal posting times.

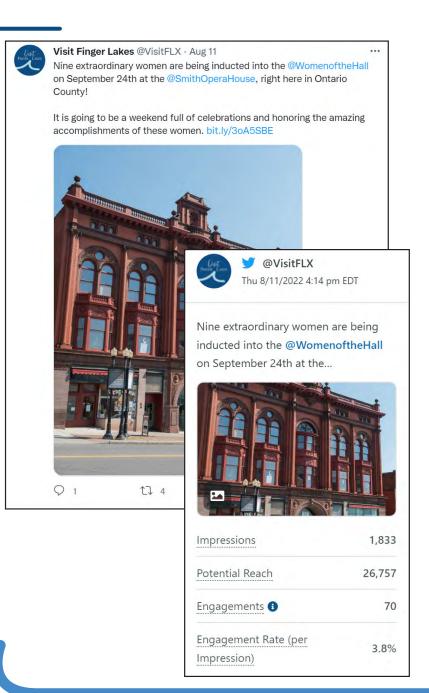


## VISITFINGERLAKES ON TWITTER



#### Twitter @VisitFLX

- Twitter is our least effective form of social for driving traffic to the website, but the easiest to maintain.
- Emojis work on here, and captions should be short + sweet (<280 characters).
- Our target audience on Twitter is millennials, mainly men between the ages of 22 and 40, in urban locations, making \$75K and college-educated.
- Retweet partners or other relevant articles, industry news, etc.
- Can use hashtags typically stick with #FLX.
- View this as an information source, but image sharing still works well can share the IG image of the day.
- Share at least one post or retweet per week (Monday to Friday).

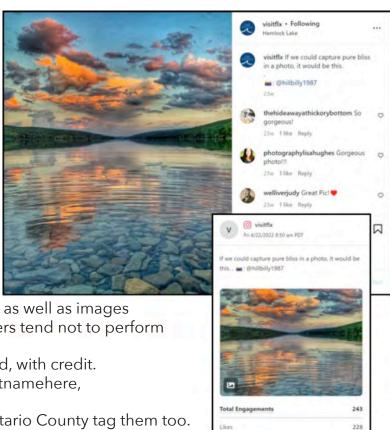


## VisitFingerLakes on INSTAGRAM



- Our posts reach an audience in which 70% is between the ages of 25 and 44; 69% of our audience on this channel are women.
- Captions can be a bit more "fun" pop culture references are excellent for engagement, but not every day.
- Puppies + outdoor scenic are image gold on IG.
- Typically, images with people do NOT perform well. This audience wants to see the scenery for themselves, not someone else experiencing it.
- The exception is showing a unique experience in action i.e., igloo brunches at Kettle Ridge Farm.
- Use 5 to 8 hashtags to ensure discoverability.
  - We typically use #FLX #FLXperience #RoamTheEmpire and other image or location-specific hashtags.
  - Look to the I Love NY account for inspiration.
- UGC content is an excellent option. Monitor the #flxperience and #flx hashtags, as well as images @VisitFLX is tagged in. Photos from travel partners and local hospitality providers tend not to perform well in the feed.
  - Be sure to DM the photographer and ask for permission to put in the feed, with credit.
  - When accepted, caption should look like: Caption, Camera emoji @insertnamehere, Hashtags -> #flxperience #flx #ispyny #seasonalilovenyhashtag.
  - Tag the photographer in the image as well, and if it is at a business in Ontario County tag them too. Don't forget the location!
- Try not to use the same photographer more than 2x/month but if the image is irresistible, go ahead!
- Keep in mind the diversity of location, too.
- I Love NY is great at posting about the "national" days i.e., #NationalPizzaDay if they post about a day and there's a relevant partner, include them!
- Instagram stories: a great spot to share deals, images, and promotions from partners/local businesses. When sharing, add in the location tag, too, for easier engagement.
- We use Later's linkin.bio feature to add image links ensuring it's easy for the audience to find resource links.
- Some research has shown that including the words "link in bio" in your caption can (in some cases) reduce your visibility because the algorithm does not want users leaving the platform. (This is also true for TikTok and YouTube.)
- Instagram refers to video content as Reels and favors vertical video. Reels should be posted with trending sounds attached.

  Be sure to click through on the trending sound to make sure the top and recent content on the sound is appropriate.

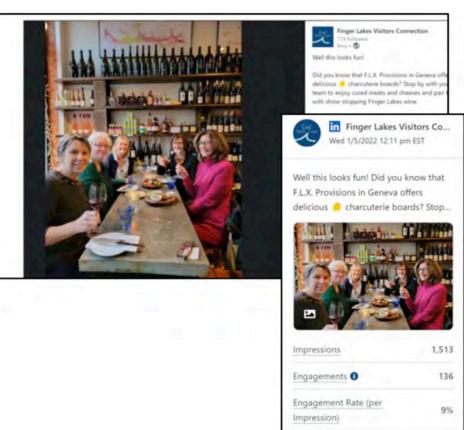


#### VisitFingerLakes on LinkedIn



LinkedIn is primarily a Business to Business tool. It is especially useful in establishing relationships for sales for meetings and conferences. It provides the opportunity to position our team as authorities in subject areas.

- Our posts on this channel reach users in a variety of roles within operations, business development, sales, and marketing departments.
- Use more formal language on this channel think "suitable for an office memo"!
- Use two to three hashtags, such as #FLX, #flxperience, and a specific to the image hashtag, e.g., #meetandretreat
- The call to action may direct the audience to contact our team, e.g., Email Tracey to learn more tracey@visitfingerlakes.com.



# VisitFingerLakes on TikTok & YouTube Channels



TikTok is a social media platform where users can watch, like, and create short video clips. As of January 2022, TikTok is the sixth most popular social media network. More and more, TikTok is stealing social media attention away from other platforms, especially in younger demographics. Nearly half of all TikTok users (47.4%) are under the age of 30, and 25% of users are under the age of 20. The app appears to be more popular with female users, as women and girls make up 49% of monthly active users.

FLVC has created an account on this platform but has not moved forward with regular posting.

Key steps to move forward include the regular and consistent creation of entertaining videos and guides, identification of trending sounds, keyword alignment and hashtag research.

# YouTube @Visit Finger Lakes

The best way to describe FLVC's YouTube presence is as "a work in progress." We are well aware that over 500 minutes of YouTube videos are uploaded every minute. While we have taken the initial steps of claiming our YouTube channel, we know that we need to look back - to purge those items which are detrimental to our current brand - and look forward and be aspirational in terms of what can be as we build our library of video content.

Key steps include keyword alignment, optimization of both videos and channel, interaction with our viewers to build audience, and extension of our brand and reach. Our reference document is this: https://blog.hootsuite.com/youtube marketing/. We will soon be assigning team leadership.

# ZOOM, WEBEX, TEAM MEETINGS, GOOGLE MEET AND VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS

Finger Lakes Visitors Connection team members and representatives have had to adjust, as society has, to a world of video communications for hybrid work, team planning, virtual workshops, board meetings and more. Some of these are generated by our team and some are generated through invites by others. Which ever way the invitation goes, FLVC has a standard of performance for these meetings. Many are the same expectations or meeting norms, as we call them for in-person meetings. Our brand standards reflect that you are engaged in the meeting and respectful to others in terms of attention. In other words basic behaviors are:

- Be on-time, if not early.
- Have your name/our company properly identified
- Check your background for distractions, "messes", etc. to ensure that your presenting the same crisp, careful stewardship of our assets, providing confidence of caring.
- Stay visible. There are instances where you may have to "shut off video", but keep those few and far between. If you're in the meeting, be "in the meeting" and as our core values say, genuine, friendly, engaged.
- Stay attentive. Be careful of multi-tasking, cell phone distractions, etc. They are tempting, but think about what it looks like on the other side of the screen.
- Be engaged and be engaging. It's easy to sink into the background of a zoom block, but surely you have something to contribute if you're on the meeting, you're an important part of that meeting.





## PROMOTIONAL ITEMS



#### PROMOTIONAL ITEMS









The Finger Lakes has a reputation for quality craftsmanship. FLVC takes pride in our local artists and retail communities and will make our selections of promotional items and gifts in this order.

- #1. Is it locally crafted, grown, manufactured? (Ontario County, then FLX, then NYS; then USA.)
- #2. Partner engagement in FLVC programs and marketing endeavors will create favor in vendor selection

#### **Quality Process:**

FLVC prefers embroidery on clothing. Quality silk screening is acceptable when lake names are involved.

#### Placement:

Logo placement - please make sure the placement does not compromise the integrity of the art. Select the logo which fits best for the size of the selected logo.

For placement other than breast pocket, cuff, or upper center of back seek approval.

#### Lakes and I Love NY:

If showing lakes, make sure all 11 lakes are showing, especially the five lakes of Ontario County.

Check if I Love NY is required or permitted. If used that all guidelines are followed and permissions granted.

It is recommended that all items bearing the logo receive a two person approval before final commitment.

See VisitFingerLakes.com/partners/brand resources and logos for updates.

Preferred Logos for Embroidery









We hope you find the Ontario County Tourism Brand Standards Manual helpful and easy to use. If you have any questions, please contact the Finger Lakes Visitors Connection marketing team.

Finger Lakes Visitors Connection
19 Susan B. Anthony Lane, Canandaigua, NY 14424
(585) 394-3915
Valerie@VisitFingerLakes.com

For partners who wish to use our logo as a part of their promotional materials, logo files are available for download.

Please visit:

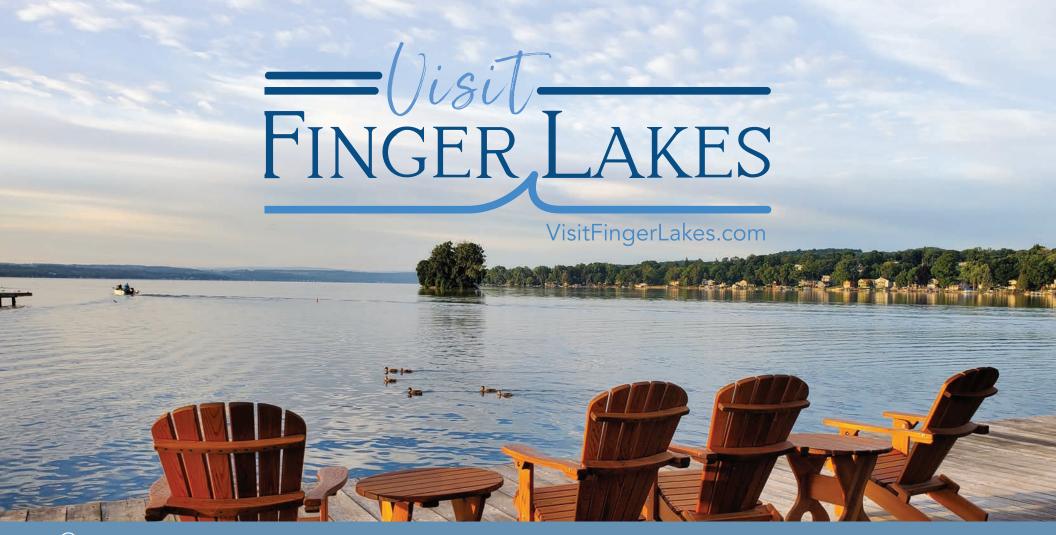
VisitFingerLakes.com/partners/brand resources and logos

Thank You

#### **UPDATES AND AMENDMENTS**

We will continue to engage and consult with you to ensure that we're providing the right kind of tools and resources to amplify the voice of the brand through all of our collective marketing efforts.

Over the coming months, we will provide updates and resource details, through our newsletters and corporate website. When we harness our branding efforts and align around what we stand for and who we are as a destination, we can strengthen the magnetic pull of our new brand.



## **Our Mission and Vision**

Finger Lakes Visitors Connection mission is to curate, distinguish, and develop Ontario County's destination brand to inspire travel that creates economic vitality for our stakeholders and communities, and provides quality of life benefits for our residents.

Finger Lakes Visitors Connection vision is that our destination and our organization are viewed as equity partners in our communities and our industries; and recognized for our contributions toward the awesome Finger Lakes lifestyle, our contributions and commitment to sustainability, and the advancement of the economic prosperity of Ontario County.