

NBA Finals Put OKC on Center Stage

Last month, Oklahoma City took center stage as the team representing the Western Conference in the 2012 NBA Finals. With the first two games of the series hosted in Oklahoma City, the atmosphere was electric as a steady flow of media and spectators descended on downtown whether to watch a game or simply experience the hubbub.

Even before the Oklahoma City Thunder secured the title of Western Conference Champions over the San Antonio Spurs, the Chamber and many of its partners geared up for what would turn out to be the city's shining moment.



On June 12 and 14, Oklahoma City played host to the first two games of the 2012 NBA Finals.

The Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) staff first began working with the NBA, the Thunder organization and other industry partners in early 2011 when it became likely the Thunder would advance to the Western Conference Finals during the 2010-2011 season.

“Making it to the Western Conference Finals last season prompted our staff and the city to begin preparing for the possibility to host the NBA Finals in the near future,” said Mike Carrier, Oklahoma City CVB president. “The plans made last season aided in the

Continued on page 5

Session Ends, Legislative Priorities Advance

During the 2012 Legislative Session, the Legislature favorably addressed most of the Chamber's legislative priorities. The following is a recap of the progression of those priority issues.

Economic Development Income Tax Reform

The Session began with Gov. Mary Fallin outlining a bold plan to significantly reduce and ultimately eliminate the state income tax. Believing elimination of the state personal income tax would result in shifting that tax burden to Oklahoma businesses or imperil funding for essential government programs, the Chamber and Tulsa Metro Chamber adopted a joint position which promoted responsible tax reform. At the end of the



The 2012 Legislative Session came to a close at the end of May with many of the Chamber's priority issues seeing positive progress.

session, the tax code remained intact, with no reductions in tax rates. The debate on this topic will continue next year as the governor has expressed a desire to move forward in reforming the state's income tax code.

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Leadership Notes

A thunderous showcase of our city

It goes without saying that the Oklahoma City Thunder has captivated our city for four seasons. We have watched them win and lose, and stood by and cheered them on through it all. And while they have held our attention for years, last month, we got to watch as they seemingly captivated the nation (well, except for the state of Florida) and the world as they worked to reach the pinnacle of their sport with a trip to the NBA Finals against the Miami Heat. In all of my years at this Chamber and the other years I spent in other cities, I can say that this level of success, excitement and unity was something I had yet to witness.

While we only had two games of the five game series televised from Oklahoma City, the results were undeniable. For two nights, millions of eyes (including those from more than 215 countries and territories across the world) were on our city – showcasing our community, revitalized downtown, impressive quality of life and strong business climate. The exposure we received during those hours on air was magnified by the hours in between when thousands of media personnel and other visitors explored our city and in the news stories that followed. And thanks to the efforts of many, our city truly shined.

Thank you to everyone who helped us promote a positive image of Greater Oklahoma City during this exciting time. And thank you to the entire Oklahoma City Thunder organization for creating a team that we are proud to stand behind. Oklahoma City, both our team and our city, is on the rise. I am certain that this is not the last time we will captivate audiences as we take the stage, and I look forward to our next opportunity to show off our phenomenal city to the world.

Sincerely,



Roy H. Williams
Chamber CEO & President



Roy H. Williams
President & CEO

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NBA Finals Put OKC on Center Stage

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OKCNewsroom.com was created to support media interest during the Thunder's run in the NBA Finals. With interest in Oklahoma City having increased in the wake of the Finals, the site will help ensure that media have access to key information about Oklahoma City and its story.

planning process for this season's NBA Finals run. While the amount of planning involved in such an event became apparent to everyone in Oklahoma City, we had been making preparations for approximately 18 months. We were ready and anxious to have the eyes of the world on Oklahoma City."

To help incoming media get acquainted with the city, the Chamber developed an online media room at www.okcnewsroom.com where media could find press kits, photos, packaged stories and video. To supplement the website, the Chamber also developed a media guide featuring attractions near the Chesapeake Energy Arena, important media information, unique Oklahoma City restaurants and media contacts.

"I think that everyone who lives in Oklahoma City has this intrinsic understanding that this, for us, is about more than just sports," said Cynthia Reid, vice president marketing & communications. "This is a validation for the decisions we've made as a community, the investments we've made, and we had a story we wanted to tell."

Game 1 of the Finals was broadcast from Oklahoma City on Tuesday, June 12. The game had a viewership of 16.2 million in the U.S. and was broadcast in 47 different languages to more than 200 countries and territories. Game 2 had an even more impressive U.S. audience of 16.67 million.

"The media attention Oklahoma City received during the Finals was more than we could ask for. And I'm proud to say our city and its citizens shined," said Roy H. Williams, Chamber president and CEO.

During Games 1 and 2, and the days surrounding them, Oklahoma City received national media attention. News stories – both print and video – told the story of Oklahoma City as a vibrant, growing metro area with a unique history, heritage and an overwhelming sense of unity that is difficult to replicate.

"We've been incredibly successful in our storytelling, but the Thunder's presence in the Finals magnified our reach more than we could have ever done on our own," said Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett. "Anyone watching TV or reading the news undoubtedly came across a story about Oklahoma City and the Thunder. Through these stories, we got to show people that we're more than just an incredible basketball experience – we're a community united by a dedication to character and growth."

"This was our chance to introduce Oklahoma City to the world," said Roy Williams, president and CEO of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. "Yes, we are about sports and NBA basketball, but we are about so much more than that. We have an incredible story. We are a city full of incredible people."

With the completion of the Finals, the Chamber has plans to continue using the online media room created for the event as a long-term source for media interested in Oklahoma City.

"We initially created this site for a specific reason – to support the media interest in Oklahoma City surrounding the Finals," said Reid. "We can use this springboard to take advantage of increased interest in our city and this site can help us ensure that media have access to information they need so the story of Oklahoma City can continue to be told."

For more information on OKCNewsroom.com or the Chamber's media efforts during the NBA Finals, contact Jill Harrison at jharrison@okcchamber.com or 297-8990.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Breaking Through: August 15



During the Breaking Through luncheon, attendees will learn about the bioscience research happening in Greater Oklahoma City and its impact on our health and economy.

Bioscience is one of Oklahoma City's fastest growing industries. At the Breaking Through luncheon, Wednesday, August 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Dr. Stephen Prescott, president of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, will moderate a panel discussion on the research happening here and its potential impact to our health and economy. This special event will be held at the Research Tower of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, 820 NE 15 Street, giving guests an opportunity to not only hear about current research but tour the facilities where scientists understand and develop more effective treatments for human disease.

Space is limited, so reserve your space today. Individual tickets for Chamber members are \$35 and non-members are \$40. Register securely online at www.okcchamber.com/bt. For more information, contact register@okcchamber.com.

State of the Schools: August 22

Education reform is a priority in Oklahoma and across the nation. Hear about critical reforms, both in the legislature and in the classroom, and achieved cost savings. Learn how our efforts to improve pre-K through 20 education compare to other states and communities. Guests will also learn about the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's education initiatives.

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber and American Fidelity Foundation invite attendees to bring school supplies to the event to benefit the Foundation for Oklahoma City Public Schools.

Individual tickets are \$50 for Chamber members with advance reservations and \$75 for non-members. Corporate tables seating 10 can be purchased for \$1,000. Special thanks to Signature Event Sponsor Cox Business and School Supply/Centerpiece Sponsor American Fidelity Assurance Company.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 10

Sunset Reception in partnership with the Black Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan OKC

Time: 4 - 6 p.m.

Location: Tinker Federal Credit Union, 1177 NE 23 Street

Cost: Admission is free. No need to RSVP.

July 10

Member Orientation

Time: 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Location: Chamber offices, 123 Park Ave.

Cost: This event is free to attend. Register by contacting Christine Soileau at 297-8961 or csويلةau@okcchamber.com.

July 24

Sunset Reception

Time: 4 - 6 p.m.

Location: Colcord Hotel, 15 N. Robinson Ave.

Cost: Admission is free. No need to RSVP.

July 26

MegaLunch

Time: 11 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Location: The Greens Country Club, 13100 Green Valley Drive

Cost: \$35 for members. Advanced reservations are required and must be made no later than Monday, July 23 at 5 p.m. To register email register@okcchamber.com.

August 15

Breaking Through Luncheon

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, 825 NE 13th St.

Cost: \$35 for members. Space is limited, so reserve your seat today.

August 21

Chairman's Breakfast with Senator Coburn

Time: 7:30 - 9 a.m.

Location: Cox Convention Center, 1 Myriad Gardens

Cost: \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members

August 22

State of the Schools

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 1700 NE 63 Street

Cost: \$50 for members; \$75 for non-members.

Register securely online for Chamber events at www.okcchamber.com/events or e-mail register@okcchamber.com with questions.



Chairman's Breakfast: August 21

Join Senator Tom Coburn and Chamber Chairman Carl Edwards at the Chairman's Breakfast Tuesday, August 21 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Cox Convention Center, 1 Myriad Gardens.

Sen. Coburn has served Oklahoma in the U.S. Senate since 2004. He currently serves on the Finance, Homeland Security, Governmental Affairs and Judiciary committees. His priorities in the Senate include reducing wasteful spending, balancing the budget, improving health care access and affordability, as well as others. Sen. Coburn will share insights into the work being done in Washington, including legislative issues affecting Oklahoma and the business community. Individual tickets are \$35 for Chamber members with advance reservations, and \$40 for non-members. Corporate tables seating eight are available for \$500.

Sunset Receptions: July 10 & 24

Each month, a local business hosts a Sunset Reception where members of the business community gather for casual after-hours networking and a bite to eat before heading home. This month, you have two opportunities to make new business contacts.

- Tuesday, July 10, Tinker Federal Credit Union, 1177 NE 23 Street, in partnership with the Black Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan OKC
- Tuesday, July 24, Colcord Hotel, 15 N. Robinson Avenue

Both events will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. There is no cost to attend and RSVP is not required.

MegaLunch: July 26

The July MegaLunch will be held Thursday, July 26, from 11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at The Greens Country Club, 13100 Green Valley Drive. This Chamber member-exclusive event is a fast-paced luncheon where attendees pitch their products or services to others as they rotate from one table to another through a computerized rotation system. Due to the unique format of this event, only one person per member company may attend. Advanced reservations are required and must be made no later than Monday, July 23, at 5 p.m. For more information or to make reservations, email register@okcchamber.com.



As one of the Chamber's most popular events, MegaLunch is a great opportunity to promote your products or services.

OKCChamber.com Website Seminar: August 21

The new features available on okcchamber.com have helped member companies increase their exposure to more than 5,000 local businesses. To help you become acquainted with these features, the Chamber is hosting a Website Seminar on Tuesday, August 21, from 4 to 5 p.m., at Oklahoma City University's Dulaney-Browne Library, 2501 N. Blackwelder. In just one hour you will learn new ways to promote your company in the "member newsroom," including: posting coupons and discounts, updating your membership profile, adding social media to your directory listing and registering for events online. There is no fee to attend this seminar, but RSVP is requested. Registrants will receive specific parking instructions. Register by emailing register@okcchamber.com.

Connect With Your Customers

The Chamber's online Membership Directory is accessed more than 500 times each month, making it the second most viewed page on OKCChamber.com. By adding your company's social media to your directory listing, you can increase the number of times you connect with potential and current customers.



Each company's main representative can add social media to their directory listing on OKCChamber.com by following these steps:

1. Go to www.okcchamber.com and log in using your user name and password.
2. Click on "Update Business Profile."
3. On this page, you can update your company's information, including the social media for your company's Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn accounts.
5. Once you have added your social media and made any other updates, click submit.

From the Members Only page, Main Representatives can also update the other representatives registered under your company. Not sure who your company's Main Representative is? Contact Leslie Wehrenberg at 297-8949 or lwehrenberg@okcchamber.com.

For more information and videos on how to use other new features, visit www.okcchamber.com/howto.

THE RIGHT FIT IS EVERYTHING. (SO'S THE RIGHT TEAM.)



from left –
Melissa Johnson,
 CPA, CVA, CFFA
Lou Ann Gibson,
 CPA/ABV, CVA, CFFA
Tony Otto,
 CPA/ABV, CVA
Bud Sartain,
 CPA/ABV

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Increase Your Reach With the Chamber

With more than 5,000 member companies, the Chamber is the largest business coalition in the state. Giving your company access to a wealth of decision makers across the 10-county Greater Oklahoma City region and the state makes marketing your business through Chamber events and publications a smart decision.

By taking advantage of any of the Chamber's dozens of sponsorship and advertising opportunities, your company can have immediate access to a unique, business-minded audience – increasing the reach of your products and services.

Event sponsorship opportunities include:

- Annual Meeting
- Quarterly Breaking Through luncheons
- Semi-annual Chairman's Events
- State of the City
- State of the Economy
- Legislative Breakfast
- SchmoosPalooza Tradeshows
- Monthly Sunset Receptions
- Golf-a-Palooza

Advertising opportunities in Chamber publications and on Chamber websites include:

- The POINT! newsletter
- Legislative Guide
- The Better Life relocation program
- OKCChamber.com
- ABetterLifeOKC.com

More than 150 volunteers for the annual Total Resource Development Campaign (TRDC) are ready to help you find the best marketing solutions for your company. Volunteers can answer questions and provide price points on opportunities for dozens of Chamber events and publications. Connect with a TRDC volunteer today by visiting www.okcchamber.com/TRDC.



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Session Ends (continued from page 1)

Business Incentives

Many proponents of the proposed tax reductions sought to pay, in part, for the measure by eliminating many of the state's key economic development and community development programs. Prior to the session, the Chamber prepared a list of economic development and tax credit programs that are essential to our state's ability to remain competitive with other states and lobbied throughout the session to protect those programs. When the session concluded, all key incentive programs identified by the Chamber remained intact. Additionally, the transferability of tax credits, an important component of many incentive programs, was also protected.

Business Tax Reform

In 2009, the Oklahoma Supreme Court released an opinion that held a company's intangible personal property was subject to the state's ad valorem tax. During the 2012 session, legislation was passed which will allow Oklahomans to decide whether to exempt intangible personal property (such as a company's copyrights, trademarks, patents, goodwill, advertising and customer lists) from the state's ad valorem tax. The Chamber worked with many groups in support of this legislation, which seeks to avoid perhaps the biggest tax increase in state history.

Liquor Laws

Legislation that will allow new bars and clubs to open in Bricktown was signed into law by Gov. Fallin. Growth in Bricktown has been impeded by a state law that prevented the ABLE Commission from granting mixed beverage licenses to new establishments within 300 feet of the University of Central Oklahoma's two Bricktown locations. Under the new law, a college or university located in a Business Improvement District (such as Bricktown) may waive the 300-foot prohibition by providing notice to the ABLE Commission and publishing its intent to waive the rule in a newspaper. The Chamber took the lead in passing this legislation.

An Initiative Petition filed by Oklahomans for Modern Laws which would allow Oklahoma voters to decide whether to allow wine to be sold in certain grocery stores is currently under review by the Oklahoma Supreme Court. A ruling on whether the

proposed state question is valid is expected in the near future. The Chamber's Board of Directors recently voted to endorse the state question if its legality is upheld.

American Indian Cultural Center & Museum

The Chamber supported legislation to allow for the issuance of \$40 million in state bonds to be matched by \$40 million in non-state funds to complete the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum (AICCM). Once completed, the AICCM is expected to be a tremendous cultural asset, world-class international tourist destination and top-flight educational facility that will generate \$3.8 billion in revenues over the next 20 years. However, on May 23, legislation to fund the completion of the AICCM failed in the Senate by one vote 24-22 (25 votes are needed to pass legislation in the Senate). Without state funding, the future of the AICCM remains uncertain.

State Employees Charitable Contributions

The Senate voted 43-0 to extend the state's payroll deduction program for charitable contributions until 2016 and the legislation was signed by the governor. Each year, state employees give approximately \$600,000 to charitable organizations through this important program. Without legislative action, the program was scheduled to sunset July 1, 2012. The Chamber strongly supported this legislation throughout the session and worked with relevant lawmakers to secure its passage.

Transportation

Governor's Bridge Improvement Plan

The Chamber is a strong supporter of Gov. Fallin's Bridge Improvement Plan which will result in the repair or replacement of all of Oklahoma's 700 structurally deficient bridges by 2019. Oklahoma currently ranks as one of the worst states in deficient bridges and the governor's plan will advance our state to rank at the top nationally. Gov. Fallin signed into law two key pieces of legislation that will provide the necessary funding to complete this major project.

Transportation Funding

With the opening of the new I-40 Crosstown mainline and solid progress on many other key transportation projects, Oklahoma has made significant strides toward

reaching critical infrastructure goals. A top legislative priority of the Chamber was the protection of funding levels for ODOT's eight-year work plan. Several Oklahoma City-area transportation projects included in the eight-year plan are: the teardown of the elevated portion of the former I-40 Crosstown; construction of a Downtown Boulevard; work on major interchanges located at I-44/I-235 and I-240 and I-35 (Crossroads); as well as widening S.H. 74 north of Lake Hefner Parkway. The 2013 budget agreement provides \$99 million to repay ODOT for a transfer of funds it made to the state during the current fiscal year, ensuring ODOT's eight-year plan will remain intact.

Health Care

Health Insurance Network

The current federal health care law requires states to either establish a health insurance exchange by 2013 or have one imposed by the federal government. As a result, the Chamber adopted a position in support of the creation of an Oklahoma-led and private sector-based health insurance exchange to avoid the imposition of burdensome federal mandates. Early this session, legislation on this issue advanced from the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. However, given the expected ruling this summer by the U.S. Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the federal health care law, legislative leadership chose not to move this legislation forward.

PRE-K - 12 Education

Incentives for Excellence in Teaching

The Chamber supports providing the \$5,000 per year bonus to teachers who have completed the National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) process and supports scholarships for teachers who want to begin the certification process. The incentive payments to teachers were suspended two years ago because of tight budgets, but teachers will receive bonus payments this year because of a supplemental appropriation passed early in the session. Legislation which would have funded bonus payments for 10 years and created a new revolving fund for future teacher training was defeated in the House after extensive debate.

Once the long term payments were defeated, the Chamber moved to support an extension of the moratorium on new teachers entering the program. At the conclusion of the session, Rep. Ann Coody and Rep.

Lee Denney made a commitment to co-chair an interim study to look closely at the issue and seek new, innovative ways to fund teacher development and preparation. The Chamber will take an active role in the interim study.

Maintain & Protect Graduation Requirements

A significant victory of the session was the defeat of multiple attempts to weaken or roll back the curriculum and graduation requirements passed in recent years. We were successful in protecting the Achieving Classroom Excellence (ACE) law that requires students to complete rigorous coursework and pass four of seven end-of-instruction exams. The law went into full effect this year and students that do not pass the required courses will not be allowed to graduate. However, legislation was passed to create a small loophole to allow students with special circumstances to apply to the State Board of Education for a special exemption.

Online Education / Virtual Schools

The Chamber has supported creation and utilization of virtual schools but only if they meet academic rigor and content requirements of other schools. SB 1816 will create a new Statewide Virtual Charter School Board that will oversee a new statewide virtual school that meets academic requirements. The law also allows districts to offer virtual classes but requires those districts to submit a report to the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board that provides detailed data on the performance of students attending online classes. The bill included a \$30 million SDE appropriation to fund the purchase of textbooks.

Higher Education

Endowed Chairs

The Endowed Chairs program was awarded \$150 million in funding. This program is a long-standing Chamber priority which provides state funding to match private contributions for teaching and research professorships. The funding will help fill a backlog of approximately \$240 million in unmatched contributions.

However, this result came at the expense of another Chamber priority — protecting the state's EDGE (Economic Development Generating Excellence) Fund. The Endowed Chairs Program will receive the bulk of EDGE funding with proceeds on investments going to the Governor's Quick Action Closing Fund. All existing EDGE grants are expected to be honored as the state begins the process of closing that fund.



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Mike Crandall
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Mike Crandall
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OKC Events Continue to Grow

While the world's eyes were on Oklahoma City during the Thunder's run to the 2012 NBA Finals, many other events and festivals around the city showcased the variety of activities available in our "Big League City." The Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau worked with a variety of partners to bring these events to the city and ensure their success.

"Whether it's a major sporting event like the Women's College World Series or an international film festival like deadCENTER, these events are premier opportunities for us to showcase Oklahoma City and increase the economic impact by visitors to our region," said Mike Carrier, president of the Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Oklahoma City once again welcomed athletes, coaches and fans to the 2012 Phillips 66 Big 12 Baseball Championship, May 23-27, at the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark.

"We work with partners such as the Oklahoma City All Sports Association to help secure our spot as the host city for these major events," said Carrier.

Total attendance for the five-day championship reached more than 56,000.

"The University of Oklahoma and the University of Missouri played for the championship before a crowd of 6,343," said Tim Brassfield, executive director of the Oklahoma City All Sports Association. "The championship game saw a 30 percent increase in attendance over the 2011 championship game."

Right on the heels of the Big 12 Baseball Championship, the NCAA Women's College World Series (WCWS) took over the ASA Hall of Fame Stadium complex May 31-June 6. Swarms of fans descended upon

Oklahoma City's Adventure District providing nine sellout sessions, 10 single session attendance records and an overall attendance record of 75,960 – an increase of 8,329 over the previous record set in 2011. The Saturday evening session set the record for the largest single session in WCWS history with 9,310. More than 1,000 total room nights were used over the seven-day tournament.

"This event continues to grow each year," said Sue Hollenbeck, assistant director of sports business development for the Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau. "The atmosphere in Oklahoma City is the driving force in keeping the Women's College World Series at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium. Fans come from across the country to support their team and simply for the love of the game."

As one of the 20 "Coolest" festivals in the world according to MovieMaker magazine, the 12th Annual deadCENTER Film Festival featured more than 100 juried documentary and feature films and brought nearly 12,000 attendees to venues throughout downtown Oklahoma City. The five-day festival kicked off June 6 with a free-to-the-public viewing of "Marley," a documentary about reggae legend Bob Marley, at the Chesapeake Finish Line Tower on the banks of the Oklahoma River.

"deadCENTER was thrilled to bring hundreds of films, filmmakers and stars to town while the Thunder was dominating the playoffs," said Lance McDaniel, executive director of deadCENTER Film Festival. "The world was watching and we showed them a vibrant, diverse, creative city on the rise."

For more information on events happening in Oklahoma City, go to www.visitokc.com/events.

And that's not all! Here are more events that brought visitors to Oklahoma City:

Red Earth Native American Cultural Festival

June 8-10, 2012

More than 1,200 Native American artists and dancers from throughout North America with nearly 28,000 people in attendance.

2012 Ozarka-Riverwind Casino OKC Drag Boat Nationals

June 8-10, 2012

Welcomed 7,500 attendees to the banks of the Oklahoma River and the Oklahoma City Boathouse District with

competitors reaching speeds up to 80 mph on personal watercrafts and capsule race boats that traveled more than 200 mph.

Prix de West Invitational Art Exhibition and Sale

June 8-10, 2012

Opening weekend of the exhibit included 114 artists featuring 351 Western paintings and sculptures with nearly 1,000 attendees at the sale. All works will remain on display through August 5.

FLASH BACK

FAST FORWARD



1961 as a branch campus of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. September of that year brought the start of classes for 92 students in the Oklahoma City University Loeffler Building. The following year, the school found a home in the unused Whittier Elementary School, where classes were held for eight years until the university moved to its current site at NW 10th Street and Portland Avenue. Less than 10 years after its founding, the university held its first commencement, graduating 60 students. In 1975, the North Central Association accredited OSU Technical Institute separately from OSU-Stillwater. By the time the university celebrated its 20th anniversary in 1982, enrollment had risen from those 92 initial students to more than 3,000.

FLASH BACK

For 50 years, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City (OSU-OKC) has been educating the region's students in a variety of fields. Originally named the Oklahoma State University Technical Institute, the school was founded in

Much like Oklahoma City, OSU-OKC has grown and developed over recent decades. In 2009, students of the university's first four-year program were awarded Bachelor of Technology degrees.

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FAST FORWARD

Today, OSU-OKC offers one Bachelor of Technology degree program, 33 associate in applied science degrees, eight associate in science degrees, seven certificate programs and a variety of non-credit education courses. Enrollment over the past three years has continued to increase with more than 7,700 students in the Fall 2011 class – up from just over 7,100 in the Fall 2009 class. The university's success and growth has led current leadership to look forward.

The university's facilities have grown alongside the increase in enrollment. In the last four years alone, the campus has seen the opening of three new buildings, including the Police Safety Training Center, the Agriculture Resource Center and the Engineering Technology Center.

And it is safe to say they do not have plans to slow down. "We know that we're the beneficiaries of someone's vision 50 years ago," said Natalie Shirley, OSU-OKC president. "Creating a vision for the future requires a plan."



In the past 50 years, OSU-OKC has grown from an initial enrollment of 92 students to more than 7,700.

Earlier this year, the university unveiled a development plan that includes a new wellness center, a health sciences center and improved parking. The long-term master plan is part of the university's 50th anniversary celebration with all new construction planned to be completed by 2030.

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Congratulations to the following Chamber members on their recent Grand Openings & Groundbreakings!

All Chamber members are welcome to attend Grand Openings.

To view more photos, see the schedule of upcoming Grand Openings or subscribe to the Grand Openings calendar, visit www.okcchamber.com/grandopenings.



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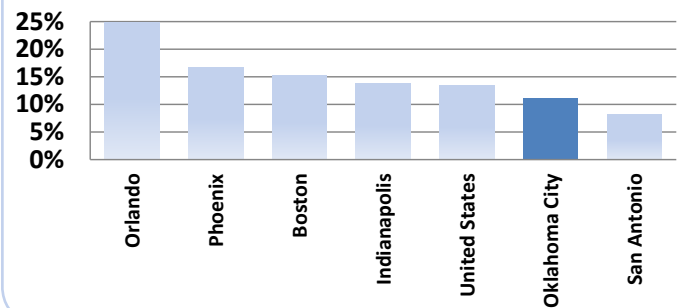
ECONOMIC INDICATORS

OKC's Real Estate Market Contributes to Economic Stability

- Real estate makes up 11% of OKC's Gross Metro Product (GMP) or \$6.5 billion.
- For Top 100 metros, Real Estate as a percent of GMP ranges between 4% (McAllen, TX) and 24% (Orlando, FL).
- This shows how much a local economy is influenced by its Real Estate sector.
- OKC was 1 of only 16 major metros to show positive year over year Real Estate Activity gains in each year from 2007 to 2010.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Gross Metro Product 2007-2010

2010 Real Estate as % of Gross Metro Product



Real Estate Activity* (Year over Year Growth) Select U.S. Metros

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Boston	5.8%	3.6%	0.3%	4.8%
Oklahoma City	7.3%	0.5%	1.2%	3.0%
Orlando	6.9%	4.2%	2.1%	2.5%
San Antonio	11.9%	6.9%	-1.3%	-0.2%
United States	6.6%	5.2%	-0.4%	-0.5%
Indianapolis	0.3%	7.1%	2.1%	-0.7%
Phoenix	4.3%	4.0%	-1.9%	-3.5%

*Real Estate Activity includes dollars generated by the sale, rental and leasing of real estate.

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