

THE POINT

GREATER
OKLAHOMA CITY
CHAMBER



November 2020

www.okcchamber.com

Small Business Continuity Program provides lifeline for businesses during COVID-19 pandemic

The third and latest funding rollout by the Oklahoma City Council is designed for minority-owned businesses to share in a pool of \$2.75 million for pandemic relief funds through the CARES Act.

The minority-owned relief program is part of Oklahoma City's historic Small Business Continuity Program (SBCP) as business owners and non-profits continue to take advantage of available COVID-19 disaster relief funds.

The SBCP's framework was developed in a partnership between the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, the Alliance for Economic Development of Oklahoma City, and the City.

Continued on page 10



Tin Lizzie's created a full-service economic platform through SBCP.

Chamber partners to provide roadmap for OKC entrepreneurship growth

To amplify our homegrown ingenuity, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber and the University of Oklahoma's Ronnie K. Irani Center for the Creation of Economic Wealth (I-CCEW) partnered to prepare an assessment that will guide city leaders in fostering a growing entrepreneurial economy.

The inaugural 2020 Oklahoma City Startup Census study provides initial benchmarks in OKC's overall performance and illustrates factors that influence the area's ability to meet its desired goal as a top entrepreneurial destination. The Startup Census includes responses from 126 regional startups. The survey

will be repeated annually so city leadership can track improvement and spot gaps in resources.

"The census helped us gain a better understanding of what type of businesses have launched, who is founding them and how they're funded," said Jeff Seymour, executive vice president for economic development at the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. "The Chamber continues to focus on innovation and entrepreneurship as a major need for the region to build the economy of the future. This partnership with the Irani Center is just one piece of a larger puzzle."

Continued on page 12

Aerospace continues to flourish in OKC

Turn to page 8 for more.



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Leadership Notes

Staying smart, vigilant is important as we navigate through these challenging times

As we come nearer to the end of what's undoubtedly been a challenging year for all, we've begun seeing signs of what's become known as "pandemic fatigue," where people may be letting their guard down on certain safety measures and curtailment of potentially unsafe activities and situations due to simply being "over it."

While certainly understandable, we need to remind ourselves to be smart and stay vigilant in our coronavirus prevention efforts. Recent trends with regard to case numbers and hospitalizations are troubling.

Our personal health and safety and that of our family, friends, colleagues and business associates are at stake, as well as the health of our economy, as each new case brings potential economic ramifications along with the more obvious health concerns.

It's important to stay the course and continue to wear masks when in public settings indoors and outdoors where social distancing is difficult. Make certain to wash your hands frequently, and navigate your daily lives carefully in a way that decreases the chance of spread.

There appears to be legitimate hope for the approval of at least one vaccine before the end of the year, and there may even be multiple vaccination options shortly. Help is on the way, but until then, let's continue what we do best as Oklahomans, and take care of each other.

Roy H. Williams, CCE
Chamber President & CEO



Roy H. Williams, CCE
President & CEO

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 "New pedestrian bridge coming our way"
VELOCITYOKC.COM/ROYSPICK

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THE POINT!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDAR

(Events are subject to change. Consult okcchamber.com/events for the most recent updates.)

Nov. 6

Enlighten

Noon to 1 p.m.
okcchamber.com/enlighten

Nov. 10

Rise & Shine

9 to 10:30 a.m.
okcchamber.com/riseshine

Nov. 10

Member Orientation

3:30 to 5 p.m.
okcchamber.com/orientation

Nov. 12

Elevate

11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
okcelebrate.com

Nov. 16

Creating a Culture of Inclusion

3:30 to 5 p.m.
okcchamber.com/diversity

Nov. 19

State of the Economy

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
okcchamber.com/econ

Dec. 2

Chamber Forum

11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
okcchamber.com/decemberforum

Dec. 4

Enlighten

Noon to 1 p.m.
okcchamber.com/enlighten

Dec. 10

State of the Aerospace Industry

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
okcchamber.com/soa

Dec. 15

Annual Meeting

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
okcchamber.com/annual

Marci Rossell, local panelists to lead discussion at State of the Economy

World-renowned economist and financial expert Marci Rossell will speak candidly on the nexus of economics, politics, culture, and the media during a special virtual 2020 State of the Economy Nov. 19. Rossell, an economic forecaster and former chief economist for CNBC and co-host of Squawk Box, will discuss the impact of seismic surprises such as environmental disasters, swings in the regulatory regime and epidemics such as the coronavirus on the economy.



Marci Rossell will keynote the State of Economy event.

Attendees will also hear directly from expert economists on trends in the local and national economy. They include:

- Russell Evans, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics, and Executive Director of the Steven C. Agee Economic Research & Policy Institute at Oklahoma City University's Meinders School of Business
- Robert Dauffenbach, Senior Associate Dean for Economic Development and Impact and Director of Center for Economic and Management Research at the University of Oklahoma
- Mark Snead, Economist and President of Region Track

The Zoom event link will be emailed with each registration on Tuesday, Nov. 17. Individual tickets are \$25 for Chamber members and \$40 for nonmembers. Sponsor ticket packages are available and range from \$500 to \$1,500. Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor Arvest Bank, Host Sponsor SERVPRO of Central Oklahoma City and Platform Signature Sponsors American Fidelity Assurance Company and Hobby Lobby. For more information visit okcchamber.com/econ.

Priest to deliver positive message at Rise & Shine

Jim Priest whose humor, warmth and insights have made him an innovator in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors, will speak at the Chamber's Rise & Shine on Nov. 10.



Jim Priest will lead Rise & Shine event.

Priest spent 34 years as a trial lawyer and has focused his skills and passions into a wide-reaching impact in the non-profit community. Priest will make the case why being positive might be more than just sappy sentiment, but a power for doing good in the world.

The 100% virtual event is \$10 and open to members only. Guests will receive a Zoom link prior to the start. For more information, visit okcchamber.com/riseshine.

November Inclusion series to examine role on how implicit biases affect the workplace

The second in a six-event series designed to create discussion on how to best create a culture of inclusion is set for Monday, Nov. 16.



Respected diversity and inclusion officer Silvia Siqueira will lead discussion.

At the November session attendees will learn to reflect on how unconscious bias is rooted in our personal stories and how businesses can strategize to minimize the effects of those biases from attracting potential employees to the hiring process itself.

The Creating a Culture of Inclusion series is presented by the Urban League of Oklahoma City, Inc. and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. and is a part of a partnership aimed at creating a stronger dialogue and engagement of the Oklahoma City business community around issues of social justice and anti-racism.

The discussion will be led by Silvia Siqueira, diversity and inclusion officer at Hilti North America. Silvia is a strategic and global leader with more than 20 years of experience working with new environments, inclusion challenges and different cultures. A 2019 Diversity Business Leader Award recipient from the Dallas Business Journal, she is responsible for developing and leading the North American organization's overall diversity and inclusion strategy in alignment with Hilti's global goals.

She has proven her ability to develop innovative strategies and approaches to promote meaningful change within process and culture.

She provides oversight and consultation on the diversity and inclusion needs of key functions and supports leaders to ensure all programs and policies are executed throughout the business and included in the key functional processes. She is also responsible for developing strategies to create an environment that fosters inclusion to enable diversity to positively impact innovation and increase business performance.

The event will include more information about the benefits of diverse workplaces and how we can

all contribute to making our community and society more inclusive.

The session will be from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and will be held virtually on Zoom. Ticket prices are \$25 for each session. Participants are encouraged to visit www.okcchamber.com/diversity.

For tickets, call 405-297-8921 or email register@okcchamber.com. Special thanks to the following Presenting Sponsors: AT&T Oklahoma, American Fidelity Assurance Company, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, The Boeing Company, The Chickasaw Nation and Devon Energy Corp.

Enlighten guest speaker will discuss motivation



Erin Engelke will provide how-to tips on staying motivated at work.

Motivational speaker Erin Engelke will discuss ways to manage your motivation mojo at OKC Chamber's Enlighten Series Friday, Nov. 6 at Noon. She will provide tangible tips to beating the fatigue that comes with uncertainty and stress, both at home and at work.

The current CEO for Calm Waters, Engelke served in fundraising and public relations roles for Sunbeam Family Services, Feed the Children, World Neighbors, and MidFirst Bank. She has traveled extensively around the world, including Guatemala, Albania, and Peru and has a heart for seeing children and families thrive.

Enlighten virtual events are free and available to both chamber members and nonmembers. The event link will be emailed to the email address associated with each registration on Wednesday, Nov. 4. For more information visit okcchamber.com/enlighten.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor MassMutual Oklahoma.

ELEVATE

ELEVATE POSTPONED TO NOV. 12

Elevate, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's professional development conference, is postponed to Thursday, Nov. 12, due to the impact of October's severe winter weather. Attendees will still be able to experience a full day of development and networking opportunities with two dynamic keynote speakers, 24 breakout sessions, and a digital happy hour that day.

"Just as an ice storm can make the road to an event impassable, so has this storm made access to a virtual event difficult for our region," said Cynthia

Reid, Chamber senior vice president of marketing communications. "We made the difficult decision to move Elevate to Nov. 12 to allow time to restore everyone's electricity and internet access and maximize participation in this dynamic event."

Previously registered attendees will be automatically registered for the new date, and online ticket sales have been extended to Nov. 10. Purchase your ticket at OKCElevate.com.

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MAPS 3 Senior Health and Wellness Centers, Scissortail Park lower half starting construction

Oklahoma City's effort to support seniors determined to live longer and healthier lives will take on added momentum with the start of the final two health and wellness centers. The two unnamed centers are part of four senior health and wellness projects across the city. The \$55.5 million multi-facility project was part of MAPS 3, which used a temporary 1-cent sales tax to pay for projects that improve our quality of life.

The location for the third wellness center will be at NE 36th Street and Lincoln, with Langston University running operations. The fourth is at Western Avenue and SW 134th street, with the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City handling operations.

MAPS Program Manager David Todd said that bids for Center III will be in December with construction planned to begin in January. Center IV will take bids in January and construction planned for February.

Oklahoma City's first center, the Healthy Living Center at 11501 N. Rockwell, was completed in 2017. The second, NorthCare Pete White Health Center at 4021 S. Walker Ave., opened in 2018. Both centers are already planning on the expansion of their existing facilities because of the high demand and usage.

A \$4.5 million expansion and renovation project includes 1,500 square feet of new locker and shower space with more women's seating, private changing rooms, showers and a new gymnasium for the Healthy Living Center. The NorthCare center will also expand its locker room space.



The Healthy Living Center's popularity has resulted in a \$4.5 million expansion project.



Scissortail Park's lower half will expand the award-winning park by 28 acres. Construction is set to begin in December.

A bid for the third center, the Willa D. Johnson Recreation Center in northeast Oklahoma City was recently accepted at \$11.6 million, \$1.2 million under budget.

"The response of the community has been overwhelming and beyond our initial projections," Todd said. "We will use what we learned from our first two facilities in our future projects. We absolutely believe our two remaining centers will have the same response or even greater."

Scissortail Park

Oklahoma's award-winning Scissortail Park will grow by over 42% when construction begins on the lower half of the park. Once finished, the 70-acre park will connect by the Skydance Bridge and eventually reach the shores of the Oklahoma River.

The winning bid of \$22.3 million awarded to Wynn Construction Co. to complete the 28-acre lower park was \$1.4 million under budget. That leaves room for enhancements proposed by architects.

The two ends of the park will complement each other using design and lighting elements common to both. The lower park will have full-size courts for futsal, basketball and soccer. The area will have a large hill with a paved walking path and large meadow area.

The lower park will be the last project to open of the MAPS 3 initiatives.



Aerospace engineer tax credit continues to drive workforce growth in important industry

Promoting both the momentum and the growth of the aerospace industry has been a top priority of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber for many years.

The growing sector, which now employs more than 120,000 people and generates a \$44 billion economic impact across the state, has developed beyond repair, maintenance and overhaul to include advanced engineering, weapons systems and unmanned aircraft.

The pandemic has undoubtedly created significant headwinds for firms of all sizes, but a simple fact remains—attracting and keeping top-flight talent is always a priority for innovative firms.

One stabilizing force is the continued use of aerospace companies taking advantage of the state’s ambitious Aerospace Engineer Workforce Tax Credit, a priority economic development program for the Chamber’s Economic Development and Government Relations divisions.

Aerospace companies hiring engineers in a variety of fields will receive a tax credit equal to 5% of the compensation paid to an engineer until January 1, 2026, or 10% if the engineer graduated from an Oklahoma college or university (up to \$12,500 per employee per year), plus another credit of up to 50% of the tuition reimbursed to an employee until Jan. 1, 2026. Additionally, the engineer hired receives a tax credit of \$5,000 per year until Jan. 1, 2026.

The engineers don’t have to be aerospace-specific engineers, but an aerospace company must employ them. Aside from the direct tax credit to both parties,

the incentive has become a valuable recruitment tool for firms with an operation in the state.

Boeing OKC

“The engineering tax credits were a significant contributing factor in decisions to expand the Boeing presence in Oklahoma,” said Steve Hendrickson, director of government operations for Boeing. “The credit is unique in the nation and places Oklahoma at a competitive advantage.”

Approved in 2009 and later extended in 2018 to run until at least 2026, the credit has generated an estimated economic impact of \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion for the state with well over 2,000 tax returns claiming the credit according to officials at the Greater Oklahoma City Partnership. The Partnership works closely with business and community leaders to grow existing industries, recruit new companies and develop an active entrepreneurial environment, resulting in quality job creation and a diverse economy for the 10-county region.



Boeing’s KC-46As demonstrate the in-flight refueling process.

The tax credit has been so popular, a related program, the Software/Cybersecurity Workforce Tax was created by the state legislature following successful lobbying efforts by the Chamber. This new incentive program was pursued on the basis of conversations with the U.S. Air Force and other employees of the critical need to address a key workforce shortage at Tinker AFB and to allow for job expansions within our market.

It provides a tax credit of up to \$2,200 annually for cybersecurity or software engineers who received a degree from an accredited institution; or \$1,800 annually for qualifying employees with appropriate CareerTech certification.

The popularity of software/cybersecurity tax credit is a sign that the industry is continuing its growth throughout the state and in major hubs like Greater Oklahoma City.

The region itself boasts 36,600 aviation and aerospace workers. It has also added diversity to its large MRO presence by attracting operations for Boeing’s weapons systems, Kratos Defense & Security Solutions’ unmanned advanced aircraft and, in June, the headquarters of U.S.-Spanish aerospace startup Skydweller Aero, which produces renewably powered aircraft for defense and commercial industries.

“The Oklahoma Aerospace Engineering Tax Credit is a clear statement by public policymakers that aerospace engineers are valued and encouraged to pursue professional development in Oklahoma,” Hendrickson says.

Kratos Defense

Kratos Defense, a manufacturer of military tactical and training drones, recently announced it will double the size of its footprint in Oklahoma City. The San Diego-based defense contractor’s 150,000-square-foot Oklahoma City plant is located at Will Rogers Business Park.

Steve Fendley, president of Kratos’ unmanned systems division, said his company will use the expansion for manufacturing and integration of the XQ-58 Valkyrie tactical aircraft and two other classified projects. Kratos hired 50 employees this year and plans to add another 50 to 100 next year.

“Kratos has been producing the MQM-178 Firejet at the Oklahoma City facility for some time,” Fendley said.



Kratos MQM-178 Firejet launches into flight.

“We are continuing to grow our team as we establish and ramp up the production of the Valkyrie XQ-58A at our OKC facility.”

The Valkyrie is an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that operates much like a fighter aircraft. Kratos designs it to fly in tandem with a crewed fighter jet as a “loyal wingman.” Kratos pitched the aircraft for the U.S. Air Force’s \$400 million Skyborg program, and is competing against legacy contractors General Atomics, Boeing and Northrop Grumman to fill the first orders.

“The OKC plant has exceeded expectations in the time it has taken to establish and ramp production,” Fendley said. “It thrills us with how rapidly we’ve been able to configure, outfit, and optimize the facility for our growing number of production lines.”

Kratos first opened its Oklahoma City facility in 2018, using the open space at Will Rogers Business Park to manufacture its “target” drones, which are advanced UAVs programmed to mimic hostile aircraft and missiles. The company added Valkyrie production last year after announcing all of its tactical drones would be built in Oklahoma.

“We expect the Kratos OKC plant production will continue increasing for the foreseeable future with additional quantities and vehicle types and are proud to produce these complete aircraft systems, not just components or subsystems, in Oklahoma.

“It’s really what has allowed us to move so rapidly and so effectively into that area and be competitive against tier-one (prime contractors) I believe it’s a whole philosophy difference,” said Fendley.

Small Business Continuity Program -- (Cont'd from page 1)

The second rollout of funding began Aug. 4, and 347 of the 586 applications have been approved so far, according to Joanna McSpadden, City of Oklahoma City economic development program manager.

“We’ve heard from several businesses how this funding has helped them stay afloat and weather the storm,” McSpadden said. “I believe those that were funded had positive feedback. A lot of the businesses we’ve helped have been small, only four or five employees. Others have been minority-owned and women-owned businesses that are left out of funding equations.”

Funding for the second round of the Small Business Continuity program was possible through \$12 million approved through CARES Act allocation. In the first round of funding 324, businesses shared in \$6 million funded through the city’s economic development bond funding mechanism.

McSpadden said her team has had to be creative in their awards and because each applicant is so different.

“Oftentimes, we have to help construct financial records because of size -- some businesses never had the need. It is not a cookie-cutter method awarding the funds,” McSpadden said. “It requires us to be more creative for the method of review to ensure that those who would qualify have the necessary paperwork required.”



Julie Miller

Tin Lizzie's/Owner
Year Opened: 2017
Number of Employees 5

“I really can’t express enough how much we appreciate the City for its support as well as our

customers who have stuck with us when there are so many larger resources. It was a financial lifeline for us during a very difficult time, an invaluable resource to position us for growth past this pandemic and tremendous emotional support by knowing that our city was fighting for us and alongside us.

We were awarded both a cash grant to assist with payroll and a technology assistance grant to help us develop our e-commerce website.

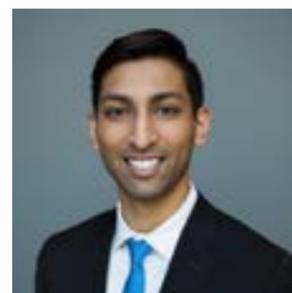
The technology assistance program opened up an entirely new avenue of business for us by allowing us to reach and serve our customers that either don’t live in Oklahoma or that live here but prefer an online shopping experience.

We have gone from a landing page with a handful of items to a full-service e-commerce platform with almost 3,000 products that are available for shipping, curbside pickup or local delivery.

From our local regulars to our nationwide customers that had shopped in-store with us while traveling through Oklahoma City, we continue to see exponential growth month over month in e-commerce sales since our first order this spring.

We were able to maintain somewhat normal hours throughout the most difficult period and retain our incredibly valuable members of our team so that as we emerged to this new normal we still have our most talented individuals ready to meet our customers’ needs, which is especially important with the Christmas season.

We are so grateful to the City for their support of small businesses. It was a financial lifeline for us during a very difficult time, an invaluable resource to position us for growth past this pandemic and tremendous emotional support by knowing that our city was fighting for us and alongside us.”



Anish Patel

Anish Hotels Group/Vice President of Finance
Year Opened: 2020
Number of Employees: 20-25

“We appreciate the OKC Small Business Continuity program. Cathy O’Connor with The Alliance and Joanna McSpadden with the City of OKC and their team were great to work with and made this a straightforward process in difficult times.

We are thankful for their help and believe OKC will be better on the other side of this pandemic because of it. With COVID-19, there were some federal programs to assist small businesses, but those were back in March or April and were only designed to last for a few months.

We are in October and COVID-19 is still here. The hotel industry has been one of the most affected by the pandemic as business travel and travel have disappeared.

While additional stimulus talks have gone back and forth in D.C. for several months of uncertainty, the city of OKC could help small businesses and make sure we get through this pandemic together.



Alyx Picard Davis

deadCenter Film / Executive Director
Year Opened: 2001
Number of Employees 3

“Our funding was very recent. We were notified on Oct. 5 and received funding on Oct.

19. As a nonprofit organization, revenue and support have been down this year even as we successfully adapt our programs for virtual presentation. The Oklahoma City Small Business Continuity grant ensures that our lean staff can continue the mission of promoting, celebrating, and encouraging creativity through



independent film with the energy, excitement, and innovation that deadCenter Film has built over 20 years in the deadCenter of the country.

We were able to maintain our internationally known annual film festival the second weekend in June this year. This event was successfully pivoted to a virtual festival, and plans are moving forward for a responsible, safe hybrid version in 2021. We are incredibly grateful to the City of Oklahoma City for recognizing the impact deadCenter has on our city and state. Thanks to the City’s financial support we will continue to inspire a new generation of creative storytellers.”

Oklahoma City business owners and 501(c)(3) nonprofits with 100 or fewer full-time equivalent employees should visit okcSmallBizHelp.com for more information.

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Partnership gives entrepreneurial roadmap (cont'd from page 1)

The startups surveyed accounted for more than \$41 million in revenues in 2019 and employ more than 540 people in the metro.

The results also showed a diverse range of startup types in Oklahoma City. While 31% of startups are classified as software & technology companies, 25% are in the healthcare field. Nearly 28% are classified as “other,” which includes aerospace, agriculture, arts, entertainment, automotive, human resources and more.

The survey revealed two major gaps for the community to focus on helping continue Oklahoma City’s momentum as an entrepreneurial hub: access and the need for an inclusive environment for founders from many diverse backgrounds.

“Oklahoma City has an array of partners working within the startup ecosystem to create new programming and opportunities. The Startup Census acts as an important catalyst — now that we have data about existing gaps, we can make informed decisions about resource allocation,” said Abbey Marino, Tulsa I-CCEW Director.

“Diversifying the entrepreneurial landscape and creating access to capital will further economic

development within the city, and knowing there’s an ongoing data collection process can help OKC direct progress strategically and track yearly impact. The Startup Census will remain an important tool and can serve as an example of human-centered strategic growth for cities across the state and region,” Marino said.

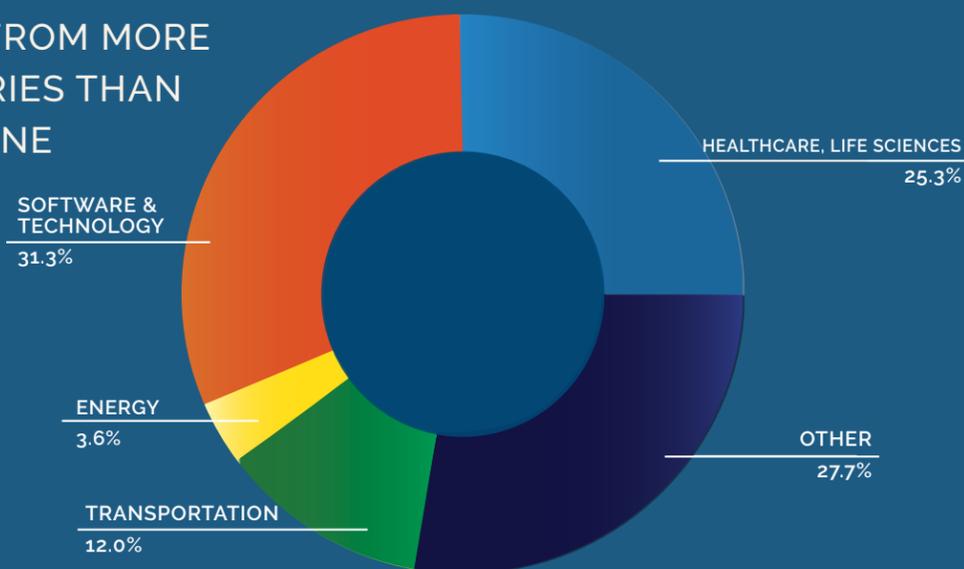
The survey was spurred in response to Inc. Magazine ranking Oklahoma City 37th for the best cities to begin start-up ventures.

While the magazine used public data sources to document \$6 million in venture capital raised, the more recent survey revealed the venture capital invested locally was more than \$14 million.

“Our report showed there is much more happening in our market than people thought or had been reported,” said Evan Fay, economic development project manager of the OKC Chamber.

“We’ve been under-reporting ourselves. This will give the city some hard evidence why it is important to create a better culture of entrepreneurship. These businesses are economic drivers with high wages. They are taking up a lot of office, warehouse and manufacturing space so they are producing for the economy.”

THE STARTUPS IN OKLAHOMA ARE FROM MORE DIVERSE INDUSTRIES THAN ONE MIGHT IMAGINE



*Other includes Aerospace, Agriculture, Arts & Entertainment, Automotive, HR, Finance, Insurance, and Telecommunications.

OKC lands 2026 NCAA Men’s Basketball Tourney

The partnership between the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Big XII, the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, along with the leadership from local sports venues and organizations submitted a winning bid proposal for the 2026 NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball First and Second Rounds.

The collective effort will bring in an economic impact of \$8.2 million and showcase Oklahoma City to national audiences, according to estimates by city officials.

“Oklahoma City has hosted some of the most legendary men’s basketball games and players in NCAA Tournament history, and we are thrilled to build upon that legacy again in 2026,” said Mayor David Holt. “Congratulations to all the partners who collaborated on this successful effort.”

Oklahoma City was among eight cities awarded hosting rights for the tournament. The NCAA selected Chesapeake Energy Arena as the host venue. The “Peake” hosted four other times — 2003, 2005, 2010 and 2016. Oklahoma City has hosted six previous tournaments, counting the Myriad hosting in 1994 and 1998.

“Bringing these NCAA events to Oklahoma City is a huge win for our community,” said Sue Hollenbeck, director of sports business at the OKC Convention and Visitors Bureau. “The economic impact and national media coverage are significant for showing off OKC, and providing a unique fan experience that features all there is to do in OKC.”

This NCAA event is in addition to OKC continuing to host the Big 12 Softball and Baseball tournaments in May 2021 and the Women’s College World Series through 2035, celebrating the 30th Anniversary in June.

“Chesapeake Energy Arena is thrilled to welcome back the NCAA men’s tournament to this great basketball market. It is a welcomed addition to the continued momentum taking place in Oklahoma City,” said Chris Semrau, General Manager of ASM Global OKC.

The six-year time frame will actually play into Oklahoma City’s advantage, according to Hollenbeck.



Oklahoma City last hosted an NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Tournament in 2016 (above). Through efforts by the Oklahoma City Convention and Visitors Bureau and community leaders, the tournament returns again in 2026.

“When you think about something that far away, hopefully, Covid will be over, and we’ll see venues back to 100% capacity,” Hollenbeck said. “If we were assigned an event earlier, we could very likely see some type of socially-distant restrictions with limited capacity. It allows us to see how things move forward. Our event is later which will give us a chance to make modifications as the time draws nearer.”



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Businesses who join the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber are part of the largest coalition of businesses in the state and make the Chamber's work in the community possible. Each member level is identified on the listing below.

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PPOk-MaxCare

Pharmacies
Mr. John Crumly (877) 557-5707
3000 E. Memorial Road
Edmond, OK 73013-7000
www.ppok.com

PARTNER+

Stability Cannabis

Medical Cannabis
Mr. David Lewis 212-2270
4529 Enterprise Place
Oklahoma City, OK 73128-1420
www.stabilitycannabis.com

EMERGING LEADER

Allen Samuels Volkswagen

Automobile Dealers
Mr. Cody Grove 529-5600
5 E. Memorial Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73114-2206
www.allensamuelsvw.com

EMERGING LEADER

Dale Rogers Training Center, Inc.

Employment Services / Employee Leasing
Mr. James Helm 946-4489
2501 N. Utah Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73107-1226
www.drctc.org

EMERGING LEADER

HTea0

Restaurants
Mr. Layne Jones
10805 N. May Ave.
P.O. Box 21080
Oklahoma City, OK 73156-1080
www.htea0.com

EMERGING LEADER

Plains Commercial Real Estate, LLC

Real Estate - Commercial
Mr. Ryan Storer 445-5799
10 NE 10th St., Suite 209
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-1411
www.plainscre.com

ASSOCIATE

The UPS Store

Printers
Ms. Cindy L. Simpson 418-2225
3000 W. Memorial Road, Suite 123
Oklahoma City, OK 73120-6108
www.theupsstore.com/4785

CORE

Burnett Construction

Contractors - General
Mr. Brian M. Parsons 607-8111
7510 N. Broadway Extension, Suite 203
Oklahoma City, OK 73116-9031
www.burnettbuilds.com

CORE

Chicago Title Oklahoma

Title Insurance
Ms. Gaye Liddle 607-8420
1605 Professional Circle
Yukon, OK 73099
www.chicagotitleoklahoma.com

CORE

Executive Hub at Gaillardia Parkway

Real Estate - Leasing
Ms. Carmen Gomez 492-7900
4801 Gaillardia Parkway, Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73142
okcexecutivehub.com

CORE

Garrett Ostil

Cellular Telephones - Equipment,
Supplies & Service
Mr. Garrett Ostil 985-9757
111 Dean A. McGee Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73013

CORE

McGuire Law Firm

Attorneys / Lawyers
Mr. Kent McGuire 513-5658
200 E. 10th St. Plaza
Edmond, OK 73034-4761
www.kentmcguirelaw.com

CORE

MJohnson Realty LLC

Real Estate
Mr. Matthew Johnson 830-0822
3017 NW 157th St.
Edmond, OK 73013-8981

CORE

OneDOC Managed Print Services LLC

Printers
Mr. Kevin Morris 633-3050
6505 NW 114th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73162-2928
www.mpsok.com

CORE

RK-1 Productions, LLC

Audio-Visual Production Services
Mr. Randy Kemp 849-5050
215 S. Walker Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73109
www.rkoneproductions.com

CORE

Stoker Capital LLC

Financial Services
Mr. Ryan Owens 249-3744
3711 N Military Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118-5435
www.stokercap.com

CORE

United Suburban Schools Association

Educational Services
Dr. David Pennington 261-2474
312 NE 28th St.
P.O. Box 54553
Oklahoma City, OK 73154-1553
www.ussaok.org

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

State of Oklahoma ranks high for doing business

Top 20 States for doing business

Overall Rank	State	Overall Rank	State
1	Georgia	11	Mississippi
2	Tennessee	12	Louisiana
3	South Carolina	13	Utah
4	Texas	14	Arizona
5	North Carolina	15	Kentucky
6	Alabama	16	Michigan
7	Indiana	17	Missouri
8	Virginia	18	Oklahoma
9	Ohio	19	New York
10	Florida	20	Illinois

Source: Area Development 2020

- The State of Oklahoma ranked as the 18th best state in which to do business.
- Area Development Magazine determined the ranking by the result of a recent survey they sent to leading consultants to give their top state picks in 13 categories that impact company location and facility plans.
- Categories included items such as cost of doing business, competitive labor force, speed of permitting, corporate tax structure and energy costs.

For comprehensive Economic Indicators and Regional Data, www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators or contact Eric Long, Research Economist – 405-297-8976; or email at elng@okcchamber.com

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GRAND OPENINGS

Congratulations to Chamber members on their recent Grand Openings! To see the schedule of upcoming Grand Openings or subscribe to the Grand Openings calendar, visit okcchamber.com/grandopenings.

Classen Inn

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Oklahoma City, OK
73106

classeninn.com

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