GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY CHAMBER

VELOCITY

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BYRNES SELECTED TO LEAD OKC EFFORTS TO STAGE SOFTBALL AND CANOE SLALOM DURING LOS ANGELES OLYMPICS 2028

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BYRNES SELECTED TO LEAD OKC EFFORTS TO STAGE SOFTBALL AND CANOE SLALOM DURING LOS ANGELES OLYMPICS 2028



The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber announced leadership for executing OKC's efforts to stage two sports in the Los Angeles Olympics 2028. As OKC's selection to stage both canoe slalom and softball became official earlier this month, the planning efforts began to move full force ahead. The Chamber is the entity working directly with LA28 to coordinate this effort.

Michael Byrnes has been selected to lead the program. Byrnes served as president and general manager of the Oklahoma City Comets since 2010 and brings extensive experience in partnership development, sales and marketing strategy, event execution and more.

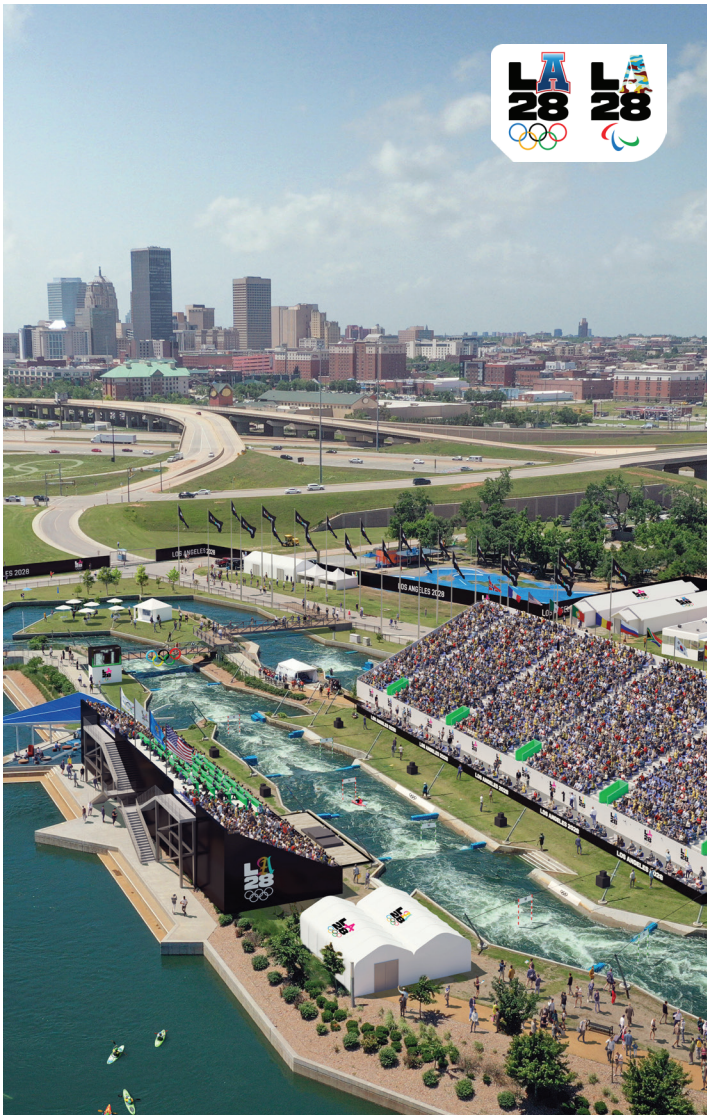
With Byrnes now on board, he is working closely with LA28 on developing a go-forward plan for OKC's execution. "This is an exciting opportunity to

showcase Oklahoma City, our world-class facilities and our community," said Byrnes. "We are embarking on something that has not been done before—the unique nature of the partnership to stage two sports at a site 1,300 miles away will require intense cooperation and planning. The approval by the Los Angeles and Oklahoma City governments signals the beginning of our effort."

The process ahead begins with LA28, our venues and other key partners to fully develop a scope of work, followed by engaging partners across the community to create our plan of execution.

"I have heard the excitement in the community, and willingness to help, and we are appreciative of that enthusiasm," said Byrnes. "Our goal is to develop a structure and process to make this an outstanding experience for the athletes, the fans and our residents. This will be a community-wide effort and one that I believe we will all look back on with a great sense of pride and accomplishment."

Teresa Rose of Communities Foundation of Oklahoma and Chair of the Chamber said, "As we have worked with LA28 and the City of Los Angeles getting to this stage, it was clear we needed a proven sports executive with strong ties in our community. Michael Byrnes checked every box. We are confident he will be able to develop and execute a plan for success."



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.

Lampstand Story Co. 614 W. Sheridan Ave. OKC, OK 73102

Harrison Energy Partners 416 Hudiburg Circle, Suite A OKC, OK 73108

BroadVue Apartment's 38500 N. Oklahoma Ave. OKC, OK 73114

Computer Dealers & Recyclers Global Inc. 401 N. Portland Ave. OKC, OK 73107

Bigger Better Movers of OKC 950 N. Council Road OKC, OK 73127

STATE OF THE CITY

with Mayor David Holt



GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY CHAMBER

Wednesday, July 16 | 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Oklahoma City Convention Center

Register online at www.OKCChamber.com/City

Join the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber as we welcome Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt to deliver his annual “State of the City” address. Be informed about Oklahoma City’s key projects and initiatives and be inspired about its future development and opportunity.



CHRISTY GILLENWATER
President & CEO

READ CHRISTY'S VELOCITYOKC ONLINE STORY OF THE MONTH



Michael Byrnes selected to lead OKC efforts to stage Softball and Canoe Slalom during LA Olympics 2028

VELOCITYOKC.COM/CHRISTYSPICK

LEADERSHIP NOTES

POLICIES IN D.C. SHAPE OKC'S FUTURE

Each spring, the Chamber leads a group of business and civic leaders to Washington, D.C., not just to meet with decision-makers, but to champion the priorities that help Oklahoma City and the region grow stronger. While our nation's capital can seem far removed from day-to-day business operations, the policies shaped there often directly impact our infrastructure, workforce, and economic development opportunities.

During our most recent visit, we heard from federal leaders about several topics important to our region. Whether it's maintaining stable funding for transportation projects, supporting aviation innovation at the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, backing Tinker Air Force Base, or ensuring investments in modern infrastructure, the connections we build in D.C. help secure vital resources for OKC's progress.

We were also encouraged by discussions about increasing transparency in federal funding and expanding access to community project dollars. These efforts help ensure public investments reflect the true needs of our neighborhoods and regional economy.

For the Greater OKC Chamber, advocating for our community in the nation's capital is a responsibility we take seriously—but we can't do it alone. Our visit reinforced that the voices of Oklahoma business leaders are not only welcome—they're needed. Your insights matter to policymakers. Decisions made in Washington affect everything from talent pipelines and innovation to how quickly goods move through our logistics network. By staying informed, engaged, and connected, we help shape a more competitive and connected future for OKC.

Thank you for being part of this important work. Together, we can keep our city on a path of strong, intentional growth.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDAR

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

MAY 14
Chamber Forum
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
The Petroleum Club
100 N Broadway Ave., 34th Flooe
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-8869
OKCChamber.com/MayForum

JUNE 10
InternOKC
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Skirvin Hilton Hotel
1 Park Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73102
ABetterLifeOKC.com/InternOKC

JUNE 18
Chamber Forum
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
The Petroleum Club
100 N Broadway Ave., 34th Floor
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-8869
OKCChamber.com/JuneForum

JULY 16
State of the City
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Oklahoma City Convention Center
100 Mick Cornett Dr.
Oklahoma City, OK 73109
OKCChamber.com/City

AUGUST 6
State of the Schools
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Musum
1700 NE 63rd St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
OKCChamber.com/Schools

SEPTEMBER 25
State of the Region
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Embassy Suites by Hilton Oklahoma City Downtown Medical Center
741 N. Phillips Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73104



Empowering tomorrow's workforce: InternOKC connects interns to opportunities

As more employers prioritize converting interns into full-time team members, preparing young talent for that transition has never been more important. InternOKC offers a one-day, high-impact experience that helps interns feel connected to their workplace and to the Oklahoma City community.

Hosted by the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, the 2025 InternOKC event will take place June 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel. Designed to equip interns with practical tools and soft skills critical for workplace success, the event helps bridge the often-overlooked gap between the classroom and the professional world.

InternOKC offers attendees the chance to grow their professional networks, gain insight from top local executives and learn about the unique opportunities that make OKC an ideal place to launch their careers.

With registration open through June 5, businesses throughout the metro are encouraged to invest in their interns' development by registering them for this transformative program. The registration fee is $200 per intern for Chamber members and $300 per intern for nonmembers.

To register interns or learn more, visit InternOKC.

For questions or more information, contact Lee Copeland, director of talent programs and partnerships, at lcopeland@okcchamber.com.

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, Loves Travel Stops & Country Stores.

WALTON NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL



The Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Advisory Council (CJAC) has named Melissa Walton its new executive director. Walton will lead efforts to reduce incarceration and improve public safety by streamlining the county's justice system.

"Melissa's extensive background and commitment to equitable justice make her an exceptional choice to lead CJAC into its next chapter," said Christy Gillenwater, president and CEO of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. "Her vision aligns with our mission to create a fair, efficient, and compassionate criminal justice system in Oklahoma County."



Formed in 2018 through an interlocal agreement among Oklahoma County, Oklahoma City, Edmond and Midwest City, CJAC includes law enforcement officials, nonprofit leaders, attorneys, judges and community representatives.

The Chamber played a key role in launching CJAC and continues to support its work, housing the council within its offices. In 2015, the Chamber invited the Vera Institute of Justice to audit the county's justice system and jail. The resulting recommendations led to the formation of CJAC as a mechanism for accountability and reform.



Walton brings more than 15 years of experience in criminal justice reform, public policy and community engagement. She previously worked as director of community engagement at ReMerge, a diversion program for mothers overcoming substance abuse, and most recently served as strategic director for the Oklahoma County Treatment Courts, supporting veterans and individuals with mental health or substance use challenges.

"I am honored to join CJAC and contribute to meaningful change in our justice system," said Walton. "I look forward to working collaboratively with stakeholders to build a system that reflects our community's values and ensures justice for all."

Walton succeeds Timothy Tardibono, who led CJAC from its founding and now serves as executive director of the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs.

As executive director, Walton will oversee CJAC's strategic work, including jail population reduction, data analysis and community coordination. She will also help guide planning for the new Oklahoma County Detention Center.

For more information, visit www.okcountycjac.com.

"I look forward to working collaboratively with stakeholders to build a system that reflects our community's values and ensures justice for all."

- Melissa Walton

WORKFORCE MOMENTUM IN OKLAHOMA: BIOTC AND OKC FAME DRIVE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACROSS INDUSTRIES



BioTC, the state's first biomanufacturing workforce training center, celebrated the completion of its first training cohort, held April 7-11. Led by the Oklahoma City Innovation District, the program prepares participants for entry-level roles in the biotechnology field.

The five-day training focused on core manufacturing practices and gave participants hands-on lab experience using industry-grade equipment. The cohort was designed to meet Wheeler Bio's immediate need for manufacturing associates working on a melanoma vaccine.

"A lot of people in Oklahoma don't realize that this exists here," said Koey Keylon, executive director of BioTC. "We're one of about six training centers that offer biotech, biomanufacturing and bioindustrial training at this scale and size, using industry-standard equipment."

Unlike traditional training centers tied to higher education institutions, BioTC operates as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit within the Innovation District—providing flexibility to collaborate across universities, government and private industry. As part of the Oklahoma Biotech Innovation Cluster (OBIC) initiative—led by the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber in partnership with the University of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma City Innovation District and Echo Investment Capital—the center received $7 million from a $35 million federal Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant to support curriculum and operations. An additional $8 million from the American Rescue Plan Act funded industry-standard equipment, setting the center apart with a level of capital investment rarely seen at launch.

BioTC's hands-on training model eliminates traditional barriers like costly, lecture-based instruction by focusing on practical skills and direct lab access. In partnership with companies like Wheeler Bio, the center customizes training to reduce onboarding time and accelerate hiring.

Designed for individuals with a minimum of a high school diploma or GED, the program prepares entry-level technicians for roles in production, analytics and quality control to help grow Oklahoma's biotech workforce. "This program is the future of medicine here in Oklahoma, and if you keep pushing forward, it's going to be an amazing career for you," said Priscilla Aguilar, a graduate of the first cohort.

Wheeler Bio partnered with BioTC to fill roles on its solution preparation team, adapting curriculum to focus on CDMO-specific skills, including lab math, batch records and pH and conductivity testing.

Applicants applied through BioTC and were jointly interviewed by both organizations. Four candidates were selected, and upon completing the one-week program, earned certification and began full-time roles at Wheeler Bio.

"If I can do it, you can do it, honestly. I went from being a barista to a full career change," said Jayson Short, another graduate of the program.

The partnership between BioTC and Wheeler Bio helped bridge a critical skills gap by preparing new hires for the specialized demands of a contract manufacturing environment. BioTC's intensive approach allowed participants to simulate real job responsibilities before starting at Wheeler. As a result, the company reduced its typical onboarding period to as little as 60 days, with new employees arriving already familiar with the equipment, processes and expectations.

"We're still in the early stages of building a biotech and biomanufacturing presence here in Oklahoma, but the industry itself has been around," Keylon said. "BioTC represents the real catalyst that will get us fully started in the field."

Applications for BioTC are open at www.biotcoklahoma.com.

OKC FAME

As part of its workforce development efforts, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber launched OKC FAME in fall 2024 to support the region's growing manufacturing sector. As Oklahoma's first chapter of the nationally recognized Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education, the program offers a two-year degree in engineering technology from Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City to provide students with classroom learning and paid, hands-on experience.

The program is now accepting applications for the final seven spots in its 2025 training cohort, offering students a powerful blend of classroom instruction and paid, hands-on experience with local manufacturers.

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- High school seniors or recent graduates interested in mechanical or engineering-related work
- Students considering careers in industrial trades or who may not plan to attend a four-year college
- Individuals who are motivated, open to feedback and eager to learn
- Students interested in a two-year program that combines paid work with cohort-based education
- Students who want to build technical and professional skills

The selection process will continue over the next three to four weeks. Interested students can apply for free online. For more information, visit the OKC FAME website, OSU-OKC's website or contact Lee Copeland, director of talent programs and partnerships at the Chamber, via phone at 405-297-8803 or via email at lcopeland@okcchamber.com.

NRHA DERBY RETURNS TO OKC, MARKS FIRST INTERNATIONAL EVENT IN NEW OG&E COLISEUM

This year's 6666 National Reining Horse Association Derby presented by Markel returns to Oklahoma City June 11–22 at the OKC Fairgrounds, marking a new chapter as the first international horse event to be held in the newly constructed OG&E Coliseum.

"Having this beautiful new stage to welcome people from around the world and show them what OKC has to offer makes this a special moment that we all get to celebrate and be part of together," said Sara Honegger, NRHA director of marketing. "It will continue to open doors for tourism and showcase what our city has to offer."

The NRHA Derby is one of the top five reining competitions in the world, drawing hundreds of riders and fans from across the globe. The event showcases 4- to 7-year-old horses and offers more than $1 million in added prize money. Last year's competition paid out $1.67 million, attracted 700 riders, more than 1,000 horses and logged over 4,300 entries.

Reining is a judged equestrian event that highlights a ranch horse's athleticism and training in a show arena. Riders perform one of 13 designated patterns featuring circles, lead changes, spins, rollbacks and the signature sliding stops. The NRHA Judging System, which emphasizes a blend of technical precision, style and difficulty, has become the standard across many equine disciplines.





The NRHA's international headquarters is located at the OKC Fairgrounds, reinforcing the city's role as a global hub for the sport. The organization has more than 15,000 members in nearly 40 countries across six continents.

"When we talk about the equestrian industry in Oklahoma or refer to it as the horse show capital of the world, it truly is a national and international affair," Honegger said.

Hosting the NRHA Derby is just one way the city is embracing that reputation. The derby alone brings nearly $9 million in economic impact to OKC, while the NRHA Futurity—held from Thanksgiving through the first weekend of December—contributes an additional $18.5 million.

While the Derby does not draw quite as many international competitors as the Futurity, it still attracts participants from around the world. For many, it's more than a competition—it's a celebration of Western heritage and the bond between horse and rider.

"OKC is not only an incredible city to live in, but it is a hub for the growth of the Western industry—we haven't always told that story to others, and we should be proud to share it," Honegger said.

One of the most anticipated events of the Derby is the Invitational Freestyle Reining presented by Visit OKC, held on June 19. Spectators can expect a vibrant display of style, especially during the Freestyle competition, where riders often don sparkling, detailed Western attire. Unlike traditional runs judged on specific patterns, Freestyle allows riders to choreograph their own routines to music, blending technical skill with creativity. This evening also features the Para Reining Championships sponsored by Hart Trailers and Dechra.

Honegger said reining is like figure skating on dirt. "The goal in reining is to make everything look effortless, with the horse appearing willingly guided. Even if you don't know what to look for, it's a beautiful way to honor Western culture and Oklahoma's history."

With a growing list of prestigious equestrian events at the fairgrounds, OKC continues to strengthen its status as a premier horse show destination. The debut of the OG&E Coliseum marks a new era, offering world-class facilities that enhance the competitor experience and attract tourism, economic growth and global attention. Below are several horse shows coming to OKC this summer:

- WCHA Championship Show: May 16–18, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Super Barn. Free admission. Showcases top conformation horses, and promotes structural correctness.
- Route 66 Morgan Classic: May 22–24, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday at the Performance Arena, Super Barn and Barn 7. Free admission. Features Morgans, Saddlebreds and Carriage horses.
- OQHA Redbud Spectacular: May 29–June 8 at the Jim Norick Arena, Performance Arena and Super Barn. Free admission. One of the largest AQHA shows, opening the 2025 show season.
- Appaloosa National & Youth World: June 26–July 3 at the Jim Norick Arena, Performance Arena and Barn Row. Free admission. Celebrates Appaloosa versatility and heritage.
- AQHYA Youth World Championship: Aug. 1–10 at the Jim Norick Arena. Free admission. World's largest youth single-breed championship with global competitors across multiple disciplines.

OKC: THE HORSE SHOW CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

Oklahoma City continues to hold its long-standing title as the Horse Show Capital of the World, hosting more national and world championship horse shows than any other city. With more than a dozen major equine events held annually, the city draws top riders and thousands of spectators from across the globe.

This vibrant equine calendar is an economic engine. In recent years, OKC horse shows have attracted an average of more than 800,000 visitors annually, generating an estimated $175 million in direct spending and contributing millions to local sales tax revenue.

The city's commitment to equine excellence is evident in ongoing investments in premier facilities at State Fair Park. With a solid foundation of barns and conference rooms, along with the addition of the OG&E Coliseum, the state-of-the-art complex has become a destination for equine organizations worldwide.

Thanks to forward-thinking policies, including the voter-approved hotel tax increase in 2004, OKC continues to improve and expand its equine infrastructure. These strategic investments ensure the city remains a global hub for championship horse shows well into the future.



OKC'S AVIATION POWERHOUSE: INSIDE THE MIKE MONRONEY AERONAUTICAL CENTER

Since 1957, the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center (MMAC) has quietly anchored Oklahoma City at the center of the nation's aviation system. Named after Sen. Mike Monroney, who helped pass the Federal Aviation Act, the center supports the safety of the National Airspace System (NAS)—a complex network that stretches from the skies to the ground—from traffic control to navigation and training.

As airspace grows more complex, the center's role continues to expand, becoming an economic engine, a workforce pipeline and a hub for innovation that serves the entire country.

MMAC trains air traffic controllers and technical operations personnel who manage the critical navigation systems that aircraft rely on through the Federal Aviation Administration Academy. It also supports the FAA's nationwide infrastructure. The Logistics Center maintains the FAA's airport equipment and systems used by Customs and Border Protection, while the Enterprise Services Center provides financial and IT services to more than 30 federal agencies. The Civil Aerospace Medical Institute conducts health research and trains flight crews.

Much of MMAC's advancement is powered by industry partners like SAIC, a contractor that brings military-grade innovation to FAA training. As Terry Biggio, senior director of customer solutions at SAIC noted, "When we talk about some of the challenges we face today, I really see those as opportunities—opportunities for this community and for people looking for meaningful, impactful careers. And for anyone interested in becoming an air traffic controller—the opportunity is out there."

SAIC has introduced cutting-edge tools like virtual reality (VR) towers, allowing students to train in immersive 3D environments. "This 3D environment helps take students to the next level in training, and it's not just about passing the Academy—we also want to improve their success rate once they're in the field," Biggio said.



They've also developed a VR infrastructure tool that helps visualize new towers or airport layouts with precision. For example, these simulations can help place towers at Tinker Air Force Base to avoid blocking radar or antennas—saving time and planning costs.

SAIC's artificial intelligence engine has absorbed over 14,000 FAA documents to help answer student questions in plain language, improving understanding and test performance. These initiatives help increase comprehension and boosts success rates, which currently hover around 50%.

MMAC's success depends on a stable and protected workforce pipeline. The FAA plans to train over 2,600 controllers this year to meet rising demand and backfill retirements. But a government shutdown can halt the entire process—sending instructors home and breaking momentum. Legislation introduced by Congressman Frank Lucas aims to insulate the Academy from shutdowns and preserve continuity.

The pipeline includes everything from recruitment and security clearance to Academy graduation and field certification. However, after graduation, the real challenge is whether field facilities have capacity for new trainees. Certification in the field can take up to three years, depending on assignment, making training efficiency and innovation vital.

"The pipeline isn't just about the academy, it's also about what the field can handle," Biggio said. "Additionally, we need to provide tools to those field facilities that can help speed up the certification process or make it more efficient."

With 85% of instructors traveling from out of state, retention is difficult. Attracting retired controllers to teach in Oklahoma is a priority, with flexible employment options and locality pay adjustments being explored to make teaching more appealing.

"It's a massive economic driver, and we don't want anything to interrupt that—both for the city's sake and, just as importantly, for the sake of educating the best air traffic controllers"

- Mona Taylor

Beyond its federal mission, MMAC contributes to the local economy. Trainees live, eat and shop in OKC, and their visiting families add to local business. Protecting this pipeline supports both national aviation needs and the local economy.

"It's a massive economic driver, and we don't want anything to interrupt that—both for the city's sake and, just as importantly, for the sake of educating the best air traffic controllers," said Mona Taylor, state director for the U.S. Senate.

MMAC has been a quiet force for over 75 years, and yet many Oklahomans don't even know it exists. The center has drawn attention from other states interested in hosting training facilities of their own, but replicating MMAC would cost millions and risk disrupting a system that already works.

MMAC is more than a federal facility; it is an irreplaceable center that not only meets FAA mandates but also elevates OKC as a national hub for aviation safety, innovation and workforce development. In a time when air travel safety is more complex than ever, protecting and investing in this Center is essential.



ROAD TO LA28: OKC'S OLYMPIC MOMENT

Wednesday, June 18 | 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Petroleum Club of Oklahoma City



CHAMBER PARTNERS WITH USROWING TO OFFER INTERNSHIPS DURING U23 CAMP

The Chamber is working with USRowing and the U23 National Team to connect Olympic hopefuls with short-term, part-time internships during their month-long U23 Selection Camp in Oklahoma City this summer.

The USRowing Under 23 National Team includes athletes selected to represent the United States at the World Rowing Under 23 Championships. Selection is based on the competitive, invitation-only U23 Selection Camp that evaluates rowers ages 18–22 on ergometer scores, race performance, technical skill, physical profile, coach recommendations and leadership ability for coxswains.

The 2025 U23 Selection Camp will take place in OKC beginning June 16. National team coaches will lead athletes through intensive physical and technical training. The camp serves as a direct path to international competition and the Olympic program.

Athletes will arrive in OKC on June 15 and depart July 17. Internships may begin no earlier than June 17 and must end by July 15. Athletes are available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., between morning and afternoon training sessions.

If you're interested in engaging a high-achieving, world-class athlete for a short-term, high-impact summer internship, please contact Lee Copeland, director of talent programs and partnerships, with details about your internship. Copeland will help coordinate with USRowing.

Understanding rowing vs. canoe slalom

While both Olympic sports require elite athleticism and a connection to the water, rowing and canoe slalom are fundamentally different disciplines. Rowing, as practiced by the U23 athletes in OKC, is a flat-water sport raced on calm, straight courses over a distance of 2,000 meters. It focuses on speed, rhythm and endurance, with athletes rowing in synchronized crews using oars attached to the boat.

Canoe slalom, on the other hand, is a whitewater sport that challenges athletes to maneuver through a series of downstream and upstream gates on a turbulent, artificial river course. It demands split-second decision-making, technical agility and precise boat control. The two sports represent very different facets of Olympic paddling competition.

Leading into LA28

OKC's role in preparing athletes for Olympic success continues to grow. RIVERSPORT will host canoe slalom events during the LA28 Olympic Games—one of only a few events held outside of California. This international spotlight further cements OKC as a center for water sports and athlete development.

As the city builds toward LA28, programs like the U23 rowing camp and its new internship initiative showcase how OKC is not only a world-class training hub, but also a place where high-performance sport and workforce development intersect in powerful new ways.





OKC FILM AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES OFFICE KEEPS THE CAMERA ROLLING

In the weeks since Oklahoma City's film community gathered for a February Chamber forum, the local film office hasn't slowed down. The Oklahoma City Film and Creative Industries Office has kept its momentum going, from the Oklahoma State Capitol to Austin, Texas, all while positioning OKC as a hub for both local talent and major productions.

In early April, the office was a sponsor of Oklahoma Film and Music Day at the Capitol, where creators and advocates met with lawmakers to discuss the economic and cultural power of storytelling in the state. Days later, the office helped host a filmmakers panel and mixer at OKCine Latino, supporting community connection and elevating underrepresented voices in film.

But the most high-profile moment came in March, when the office hosted a celebration at South by Southwest (SXSW) in Austin. The event coincided with the premiere of "The Rivals of Amziah King," the second feature from Oklahoma native Andrew Patterson starring Matthew McConaughey. While Patterson is staying out of the press, the OKC party helped boost visibility for the state's presence at one of the industry's most influential festivals.

These events signal a growing confidence in OKC's role as both a production destination and a supporter of creative careers—and bigger projects are already on deck.

Filming recently wrapped on "New Year's Rev," a feature tied to punk rock icons Green Day. The movie used multiple city locations, further showcasing OKC's production potential. Last week, the city approved a custom rebate for a new film based on the 1995 OKC bombing, a project that will keep production close to home.

> ***"...in the first two years, we have pre-qualified 10 film projects and 85% of the first tranche of rebate funding."***
>
> ***- Jill Simpson***

"The past few months have represented a flurry of activity for OKC Film," said Jill Simpson, executive director of the OKC Film and Creative Industries Office. "We have devoted a significant amount of time to film industry advocacy on both the state and local levels and supported a variety of film festivals and training programs. With a steady stream of inquiries from producers interested in filming here, in the first two years, we have pre-qualified 10 film projects and 85% of the first tranche of rebate funding."

From small mixers to international premieres, OKC's film office continues to show up and show off. The next few months could bring even more proof that OKC isn't just film friendly, it's film ready.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



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.

ADVISOR

CH3 Capital
Real Estate - Commercial
Ms. Megan Winters.....(913) 484-5739
4801 Main St., Suite 703
Kansas City, MO 64112-2929
www.ch3.com

ASSOCIATE

National Charter Bus Tulsa
Bus - Charter
Taxicabs / Shuttle Services
Mr. Perry Ardell.....(405) 246-9810
8649 S. Regency Drive
6595 Roswell Road, Suite G291
Atlanta, GA 30328-3152
nationalbuscharter.com/tulsa-charter-bus

Tulsa Charter Bus Company
Bus - Charter
Taxicabs / Shuttle Services
Mr. Perry Ardell.....(539) 233-5981
8649 S. Regency Drive
6595 Roswell Road, Suite G291
Attanta, GA 30328-3152
www.tulsacharterbusco.com

CORE

Innovation Hall
Nonprofit / Service Agencies
Mr. Mickey Loveless.....(760) 221-2660
316 NE 9th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-1850
www.okcinnovation.com/booking

Office Interiors
Office Furniture & Equipment
Mr. Tony Lee.....(405) 919-0430
204 N. Robinson Ave., Suite 1900
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-6890
www.officeinteriorsok.com

Resilient Roots - Myline
Health Services
Martial Arts Instruction
Ms. Ryann Niday.....(205) 789-7358
2731 NW 50th St.
13600 N. Blackwelder Ave., Apt. 344
Oklahoma City, OK 73134
www.resilientroots.com

Tinker on Forty8
Apartments
Ms. Brittney Cagle.....(405) 741-1400
5707 SE 48th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73135-4134
www.tinkeronforty8.com

VEG-Veterinary Emergency Group
Veterinarians - D.V.M.
Ms. Jennifer Garrett.....(405) 256-4391
13230 Pawnee Drive, Suite 100
Oklahoma City, OK 73114-1417
www.veterinaryemergencygroup.com

MEMBER UPGRADES

The following member companies increased their investment in the Chamber, demonstrating strong support of the Chamber's efforts to drive the region's economy. To increase your investment, contact the Membership Division of the Chamber at 405-297-8949 or membership@okcchamber.com.

PARTNER+

Prodigal
Sports Promoters & Managers
Mr. Bob Funk, Jr.....(405) 218-9300
1001 N. Broadway Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-5811
www.prodigal.com

EMERGING LEADER

Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City
Associations / Membership Organizations
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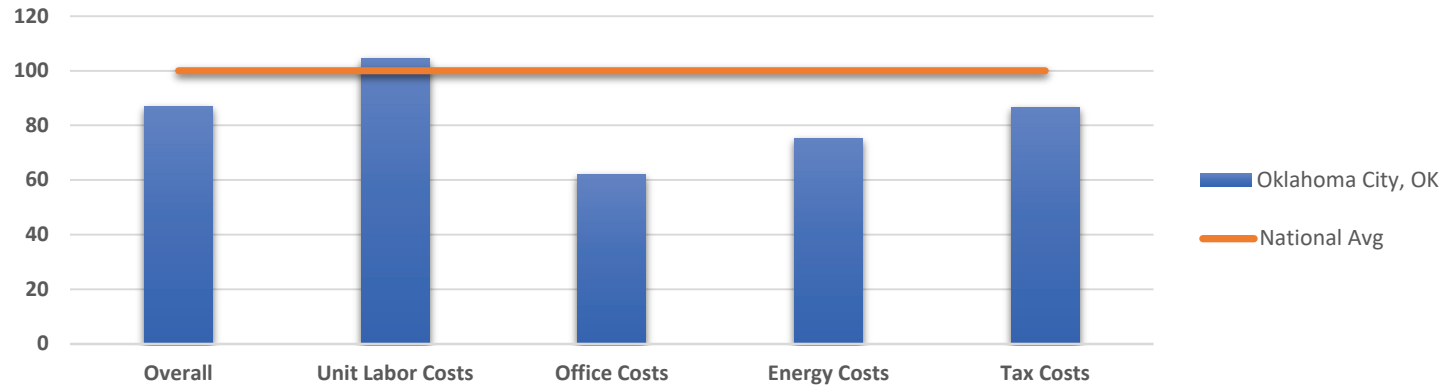
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Air Conditioning & Heating - Commercial
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Oklahoma City, OK 73108
www.harrisonenergy.com

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

DATA REFLECTS AFFORDABLE COST OF DOING BUSINESS IN OKC MSA

Moody's Cost of Doing Business Oklahoma City MSA Ranks 6th Lowest Cost Among Metros Over 1 Million Population

	Overall	labor	office	energy	tax
Index #	86.9	104.4	61.9	75.1	86.6
Rank	6th	34th	8th	4th	16th



Source: Moody's Analytics, Cost of Doing Business Index Report, 61 MSAs over 1 million population

- The Moody's Cost of Doing Business Index has a baseline of 100, equal to the national average. A higher or lower number represent higher or lower costs.
- The Oklahoma City MSA's overall score of 86.9 places it well below the national average in costs. This score ranks us 6th in affordability in MSA's with a population over 1 million.
- OKC shines in energy costs, with a score of 75.1 and a rank of 4th, underscoring the metro's advantage in affordable utilities.
- While labor costs are slightly above average (104.4), office space (61.9) and taxes (86.6) remain highly competitive.
- The data reinforces Oklahoma City's reputation as a low-cost, business-friendly metro poised for continued growth and investment.

For comprehensive Economic Indicator and Regional Data, please visit your Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Economic Development Division at www.greateroklahomacity.com/economicindicators or contact Eric Long, Research Economist, at 405-297-8976; elong@okcchamber.com

DID YOU KNOW?
Get regional demographic data, consumer expenditure information, labor force data for the Greater Oklahoma City Region and more at greateroklahomacity.com.



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VELOCITY

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internOKC
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber

Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
The Skirvin Hilton Oklahoma City

Register your company's summer interns for the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's **InternOKC** event. After this one-day experience, interns will leave equipped with specific strategies and tools to help jump start their growth from college student to young professional. The event also offers interns a chance to continue expanding their professional network of peers, and even to **earn a micro-badge credential** in professional development in partnership with the University of Central Oklahoma.

Register online at ABetterLifeOKC.com/InternOKC

