

# VELOCITY

JULY 2025 • OKCCHAMBER.COM

## OKC SEIZES NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT AS THUNDER WIN NBA CHAMPIONSHIP

Oklahoma City's long-awaited NBA championship has not only rewritten basketball history—it has thrust the city into the international media spotlight like never before.

The Thunder beat the Indiana Pacers in a seven-game series, clinching their first NBA title with a 103-91 Game 7 win and delivering the franchise's first championship since its 2008 move to OKC. The victory came more than a decade after the team's last Finals appearance in 2013 and rewarded a fanbase that stood by through rebuilding years. It marked a turning point not just for the franchise, but for a city long building its momentum—now finally recognized on a national stage.

OKC drew widespread media attention during the NBA Finals, with coverage from local, national and international outlets. The Thunder earned praise for

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 10*



## GREATER OKC AEROSPACE INDUSTRY SUPPORTS \$8.8 BILLION IN OUTPUT AND MORE THAN 80,000 JOBS



The Greater Oklahoma City aerospace industry remains a cornerstone of the regional economy, generating \$8.8 billion in goods and services and supporting more than 80,200 jobs, according to the latest Greater Oklahoma City Region Aerospace and Aviation Industry Survey and Economic Impact Assessment released by the Greater OKC Chamber and RegionTrack, Inc.

The industry has entered a new era of expansion and diversification. Long anchored by defense aviation, Greater OKC's aerospace sector now encompasses a

broad mix of public and private activities—spanning maintenance, logistics, engineering, training and manufacturing. While Tinker Air Force Base (TAFB) and the FAA's Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center (MMAC) remain foundational to the region's aerospace footprint, the private sector has steadily expanded, particularly in maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), aerospace engineering and unmanned aerial systems.

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 13*



with Mayor David Holt

G R E A T E R  
O K L A H O M A C I T Y  
C H A M B E R



**Wednesday, July 16 | 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
**Oklahoma City Convention Center**  
Register online at [www.OKCChamber.com/City](http://www.OKCChamber.com/City)

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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.

# LEADERSHIP NOTES



**CHRISTY  
GILLENWATER**  
President & CEO

## A CHAMPIONSHIP MOMENT FOR OKC

What a time to be in Oklahoma City! What a privilege it is to live here.

As we celebrate the Thunder’s NBA Championship victory, the energy in our city is electric—and the world is taking notice. Oklahoma City is making headlines not just for basketball glory, but for the vision, perseverance, hope and community spirit that define who we are.

This win belongs to every fan who filled the Paycom Center with thunderous pride, every neighbor who cheered from a watch party and every dreamer who believed OKC could be more. It belongs to the voters who supported MAPS, the arena vote and other strategic investments that have advanced OKC’s progress. But it also belongs to the business leaders, visionaries, community members and public servants—past and present—who laid the foundation for moments like this.

The national media is now telling a story we’ve known all along: OKC is bold, resilient and on the rise. Recent features in The Economist, Forbes, Essence and USA Today have highlighted our city's transformation — from infrastructure and innovation to culture, sports and economic opportunity. This kind of recognition affirms what locals have long believed: OKC is a place of purpose, promise and hope.

We’ve always believed in this city’s potential, and today, that belief is being validated on a global stage. Our momentum is accelerating—not just in sports, but in economic development, cultural vibrancy and international reputation.

Let’s keep leaning in. Let’s keep lifting each other up. And let’s keep building a future where every young person who watched this championship run can see themselves thriving in OKC. This is more than a championship — it’s an inflection point. And we’re just getting started.

### »» READ CHRISTY’S VELOCITYOKC ONLINE STORY OF THE MONTH

**MAPS 4 milestones: New coliseum and veteran housing project reflect ongoing transformation**

[VELOCITYOKC.COM/CHRISTYSPICK](http://VELOCITYOKC.COM/CHRISTYSPICK)



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## CALENDAR

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

### JULY 16

#### State of the City

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

Oklahoma City Convention Center  
4th Floor Ballroom  
100 Mick Cornett Dr.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73109  
[OKCChamber.com/City](http://OKCChamber.com/City)

### AUGUST 6

#### State of the Schools

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

National Cowboy & Western  
Heritage Museum  
1700 NE 63rd St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111  
[OKCChamber.com/Schools](http://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

### OCTOBER 8

#### Chamber Forum

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

The Petroleum Club  
100 N Broadway Ave., 34th Floor  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-8869

### NOVEMBER 19

#### State of the Economy

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

National Cowboy & Western  
Heritage Museum  
1700 NE 63rd St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111  
[OKCChamber.com/Economy](http://OKCChamber.com/Economy)

### DECEMBER 17

#### Annual Meeting

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

National Cowboy & Western  
Heritage Museum  
1700 NE 63rd St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111



STATE OF THE  
SCHOOLS

## *Be part of the conversation shaping the future of OKC education at State of the Schools*

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's 2025 State of the Schools event returns Wednesday, Aug. 6, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. This annual gathering offers a powerful opportunity to hear directly from top education and workforce leaders, connect with other engaged community members and gain insight into the future of public education in our region.

Whether you work in education, business, government or the nonprofit sector, this event is designed to spark dialogue, share insight and help all of us better support student success and economic growth.

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Jim Hess of Oklahoma State University. Hess is known for his commitment to the student experience, as well as an innovative and bold approach to education leadership, Dr. Hess will discuss key areas such as education policy, workforce development and classroom innovation.

Throughout the program, speakers will explore how innovation, policy and workforce development are shaping the future of education in the OKC metro. Attendees will hear updates on key initiatives, explore ideas to support classroom success and examine how our community can serve as a model for other urban school districts.

Featured speakers include:

- **Nellie Tayloe Sanders**, Deputy Secretary of Workforce Development, State of Oklahoma
- **Dr. Jamie Polk**, Deputy Superintendent, Oklahoma City Public Schools
- **Dr. Josh Delich**, Superintendent, Edmond Public Schools
- **Dr. Robert Romines**, Superintendent, Moore Public Schools

Tickets are \$75 for Chamber members and \$100 for nonmembers. The deadline to register is Thursday, Aug. 1. To sign up, email [register@okcchamber.com](mailto:register@okcchamber.com).

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, as well as School Supply Sponsor American Fidelity and Platinum Sponsor Cox Communications for making this important event possible.

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR OKC: MAYOR HOLT TO SHARE VISION AT STATE OF THE CITY

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber will host its annual State of the City event Wednesday, July 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the OKC Convention Center's fourth floor ballroom. More than 1,400 business and civic leaders are expected to attend the event, which provides an in-depth look at the city's recent progress, ongoing challenges and plans for the future.

This year marks Mayor David Holt's seventh State of the City address. First elected in 2018 and re-elected in 2022, Holt has led OKC through key developments such as the MAPS 4 Implementation Plan—a \$1.1 billion package funding 16 community projects. Under his leadership, the city also committed funding for a new downtown arena, resulting in a 30-year commitment from the OKC Thunder. Holt also held a leadership role in securing OKC's role in staging softball and canoe slalom competitions as part of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.



The program will also feature updates from Teresa Rose, Chamber Chair, on major Chamber initiatives that support local business growth. These include the 2025 Legislative Priorities, the Forward OKC Seven economic development strategy, the FAME OKC workforce program and the expanding bioscience sector through Life Science Oklahoma. The event will also spotlight the city's growing tourism industry, now generating \$2.6 billion annually, and its role in hosting events for LA28.

The State of the City offers a chance for attendees to engage with fellow leaders in the business community, share ideas and learn more about the work shaping the city's future.

Details are available at [okcchamber.com/city](http://okcchamber.com/city).

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, the OKC Thunder.





## OKC PREPARES TO STAGE LA28 OLYMPIC EVENTS, SPOTLIGHTING SOFTBALL AND CANOE SLALOM

Oklahoma City leaders are preparing for one of the biggest moments in the city’s history—staging official events for the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics.

During the Greater OKC Chamber’s June Forum, Team OKC President Michael Byrnes outlined how the city is preparing to welcome Olympic athletes, officials and fans for softball and canoe slalom competitions. With approximately 1,100 days until the Games begin, planning is well underway.

“Right now, our focus has been on understanding key priorities from each of our stakeholders, because that will shape how everything moves forward,” Byrnes said of both the national and international governing bodies and agencies needed to stage the two events.

Softball will take place at Devon Park, the largest softball stadium in the world, and is renowned for hosting the Women’s College World Series. Canoe slalom events will be staged at RIVERSPORT, which will be reconfigured into a full spectator venue for the Games. Combined, the two venues will host 26 competition sessions over 16 days.



Byrnes said OKC expects to welcome about 200 athletes and technical officials. While the final housing plan is still being determined, he confirmed no new construction will be needed, thanks to the city’s existing infrastructure.

Planning efforts include partnerships with LA28’s 49 functional departments, which oversee everything from competition logistics and security to transportation and broadcast operations. Burns said two LA28 delegations have already toured local venues and expressed confidence in OKC’s readiness.

The scale of the Games is significant. LA28 aims to double the number of athletes and venues from the 1984 Olympics, the last time Los Angeles served as host, with chair Casey Wasserman comparing the event to “seven Super Bowls a day for 30 days.”

Burns said one of the city’s goals is to extend the Olympic experience beyond ticketed events. Community activations, watch parties and potentially the Olympic torch relay are among the efforts being considered.

“Twenty years from now, we want people to be able to say they were a part of the Olympic experience—that they were able to experience what it meant to have one of the world’s biggest events in OKC,” Burns said.



Leading up to 2028, OKC will also host several international competitions, including the WBSC U-18 World Cup in 2025 and the International Canoe Federation's World Championships in 2026. These events offer a chance to test operations, build momentum and strengthen relationships with international federations.

In addition to expanding the Team OKC staff, Burns said a local board of directors will guide efforts. He also expects to formalize a volunteer program that could require 1,000 to 1,200 volunteers per day during the Olympic events.

Burns emphasized that the planning process must consider both short-term execution and long-term impact.

"Legacy is a critical part of any Olympic host city," Burns said. "After the Games are over, we'll look at what they leave behind—whether that's physical infrastructure, programs or new opportunities that arise from hosting these two events."

Airport coordination, athlete transportation, youth outreach and hospitality sector involvement are all in the early planning stages. With OKC's central location, Byrnes said he expects the city to attract fans from across the region who may not be able to travel to California.

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***"I'm confident we'll produce world-class events—our organizations and venues have the experience to do that. My focus is on the legacy—what this really means for everyone in our community, and how we uncover as many opportunities as possible."***

***- Team OKC President Michael Byrnes***

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"I want to make sure this delivers for our community," Burns said. "I'm confident we'll produce world-class events—our organizations and venues have the experience to do that. My focus is on the legacy—what this really means for everyone in our community, and how we uncover as many opportunities as possible."



Michael Byrnes joins Adam Wisniewski at the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's June Forum to discuss the LA28 Olympic events coming to OKC, as well as what is ahead for Team OKC.

## LIFE SCIENCE OKLAHOMA HELPS MEMBERS BUILD VISIBILITY AND CONNECTIONS AT BIO INTERNATIONAL 2025



**LIFE  
SCIENCE**  
OKLAHOMA

Life Science Oklahoma (LSOK) used its presence at BIO International 2025 to deliver real value to its members, helping Oklahoma-based companies connect with industry leaders, gain media exposure, and position themselves for future growth. The organization showcased the state's growing momentum in biosciences while creating opportunities for networking and strategic visibility.

LSOK's activities included a panel breakfast, a booth on the exhibit floor, and focused messaging about Oklahoma's biotech and biomanufacturing strengths. For member companies, it was a chance to meet potential partners, raise their profile, and explore new opportunities in a competitive environment.

### A Strong Start: LSOK Panel Breakfast

LSOK hosted a Networking & Panel Breakfast during the convention, introducing the organization to a national audience and featuring a discussion about Oklahoma's role in the life sciences sector.

The panel was moderated by LSOK Board Chair and Moleculera Biosciences CEO Craig Shimasaki. Panelists included Dr. Tom Kupiec (ARL BioPharma), Jeff Seymour (Innovation District and BioTC), Dr. Jeff Volz (University of Oklahoma), Patrick Lucy (Wheeler Bio), and Sharina Perry (Utopia Plastix).

They discussed opportunities in biomanufacturing and the strengths of Oklahoma's research and startup communities. From workforce readiness to academic partnerships, the panelists highlighted the collaborative spirit that makes Oklahoma competitive.





Dr. Jeff Volz, Associate Dean for Partnerships at the University of Oklahoma’s Gallogly College of Engineering, noted the value of attending, saying, “BIO gave us a platform to highlight the research capabilities and collaborative infrastructure OU brings to the biosciences space. It was a chance to connect with partners who may never have considered Oklahoma before, and to show them that the innovation happening here is nationally relevant.” LSOK Executive Director Michelle Gregory put it simply: “We don’t want to be that flyover state anymore. We have a lot of good things to offer.”

### Connecting on the Convention Floor

LSOK also operated a standalone booth representing its member organizations and the state’s broader bioscience community.

The booth was sponsored by the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF), ARL BioPharma, ParaNano, Alzarrock Bio, and Moleculera BioSciences. Sponsors used the space to hold meetings and connect through BIO Partnering™, the convention’s official platform.

With more than 64,000 meetings scheduled across 72 countries, LSOK had many chances to highlight Oklahoma’s strengths in drug manufacturing, diagnostics, ag science, and clinical research. The team spoke with potential partners about relocation, workforce pipelines, and regional investment potential.

### A Year of Growth and Momentum

Since becoming executive director, Gregory has led LSOK’s efforts to grow connections and build awareness

across the state. At the launch of LSOK, she said, “I could not be more excited to be at ground level... there is so much excitement and momentum.”

At BIO, she emphasized how Oklahoma’s foundation in healthcare, research, and ag science is opening new doors. LSOK is working to position the state as a viable option for startups and growing biotech companies, while aligning resources to support entrepreneurs and industry growth.

### What BIO 2025 Achieved for Oklahoma

The convention helped:

- **Build visibility:** The panel and booth introduced Oklahoma’s life sciences sector to new audiences.
- **Make connections:** LSOK and sponsors met with potential collaborators, investors, and service providers.
- **Shift perceptions:** BIO helped counter outdated views of Oklahoma and highlight its innovation potential.

Gregory said the momentum at BIO confirmed Oklahoma is ready to play a bigger role in biotech. Events like this help attract talent and investment and show how far the state has come in a short time.

Oklahoma’s emergence on the national stage also drew media attention. A Boston Business Journal story noted that states like Oklahoma are “gunning for Massachusetts” as they step up their biotech ambitions. Meanwhile, a feature in Health Tech World highlighted Oklahoma’s shift “from oil to opportunity,” pointing to the state’s biomanufacturing growth and inclusive innovation as signs of a rising contender.

### Looking Ahead

LSOK’s presence at BIO may have been smaller than some state delegations, but its impact was clear. Through storytelling and collaboration, LSOK ensured Oklahoma had a place in the conversation.

Looking ahead, LSOK plans to expand its network, support local companies, and continue promoting Oklahoma as a place where bioscience businesses can thrive.

In just one year, LSOK has gone from launch to national presence, and it’s just getting started.

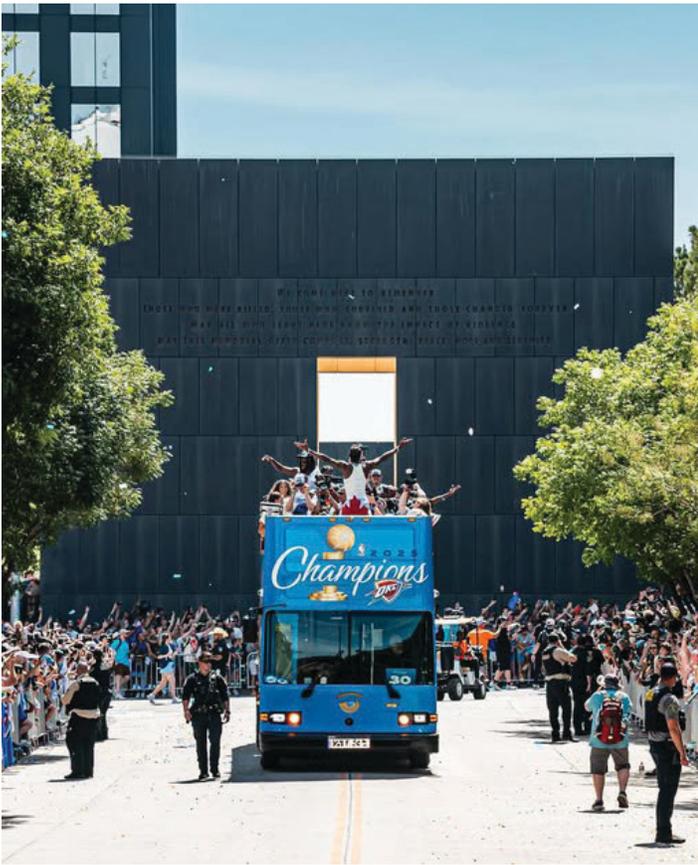


Photo Credit: Jimmy Do

## NBA CHAMPIONSHIP (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

their strong postseason performance, highlighted in stories from ESPN, AP News, Business Insider and The Washington Post. The team’s momentum reached as far as Italy, where a journalist reported on their performance in the Finals.

Major outlets praised not only the team’s performance but the community behind it. USA Today declared, “Oklahoma City Thunder are NBA champions. They just might be getting started,” while Forbes ran the headline, “The OKC Thunder have arrived as NBA Champions, and they’re here to stay.” Both pieces echoed what Oklahomans have long believed: the city’s story is one of resilience, momentum and significance—and now, the rest of the country is finally taking note.

After the Game 7 win, fans packed downtown streets for a championship parade, broadcast by ABC, ESPN and other major networks. Images of the celebration—including the symbolic moment the parade passed the gates of the OKC National Memorial—were seen across the country, serving as a powerful reminder of where the city has been and how far it’s come.

As the media coverage surged, the story moved beyond basketball. Headlines praised not just the Thunder’s run but the heart of the community and the energy of the fanbase. A city once associated with tragedy was now being celebrated for resilience, loyalty and growth.

Mayor David Holt said the festivities will “forever live in the annals of our city’s history.” He shared the championship win marked both the team’s historic achievement and a defining moment for the city, emphasizing the real story behind it all: OKC has arrived, and people are paying attention.

Photos from the parade landed on Yahoo Sports, CBS, ESPN and AP News. Social media flooded with clips of fans cheering in unison, players giving heartfelt speeches and chants echoing downtown.

Inside the arena and across the city, the title run was deeply personal.

“A lot of the world doesn’t see it, but everybody in this arena, in this city that has been with me for the last six years—they were chanting MVP when I was averaging 19 points on a 20-win team,” said Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, 2024-25 NBA MVP. “They understand. They know exactly what it takes and what it looks like, and without them, we are not this. We do everything together. We win because we have each other. We lose because of each other. Now, we won an NBA championship together.”

Forward Aaron Wiggins, who entered the league as the 55th pick during a rebuilding phase, said the city’s support never wavered. “My rookie season, we won 24 games,” he said. “But the best part about coming from that year is that the same people in this arena today celebrating this championship were the same people there when we were winning 24 games. They tried to call us the black hole of the NBA, but four years later... they have to mention you as NBA champions.”

Teammates echoed a message of family and resilience. Jaylin Williams described the roster as “a family first,” while veterans like Alex Caruso and Isaiah Hartenstein credited fans for energizing the team throughout the season.

For those in OKC, the impact is a reflection of the city’s growth, its sense of identity and the strength of a community that has backed its team from the beginning. The Thunder’s championship season is more than a title; it’s a signal to the rest of the country: OKC isn’t just growing—it’s being seen.

Thunder's Executive Vice President and General Manager Sam Presti echoed this message in his year-end news conference. "I don't agree with the fact that this is an underdog state in any way," Presti said. "The thing to note here, in my opinion, is that there's really nothing missing in Oklahoma. There's nothing missing here. We didn't need a trophy to validate anything whatsoever. If you look closely at all the things that make this place unique and special, the things that really matter, we're not short on any of those things. In fact, we're long on all of them."

For longtime residents and local businesses, the championship is a confirmation. OKC is no longer a city with potential—it's a city with presence. The Thunder's victory has given the world a reason to look, but OKC's story has always been worth seeing. And now, everyone is watching.



## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

Upcoming events include State of the Schools, State of the Economy, State of the Region and the Chamber's Annual Meeting. Each event attracts a wide audience of civic and business leaders and features in-depth discussions on topics shaping the city and region.

Sponsorships offer a variety of benefits, including brand exposure, networking access and marketing reach.

For more information, contact Suzette Ellison at [sellison@okcchamber.com](mailto:sellison@okcchamber.com).



The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber is now offering sponsorship opportunities for several of its key events this fall, providing businesses the chance to connect with top decision-makers and raise visibility in the region's business community.



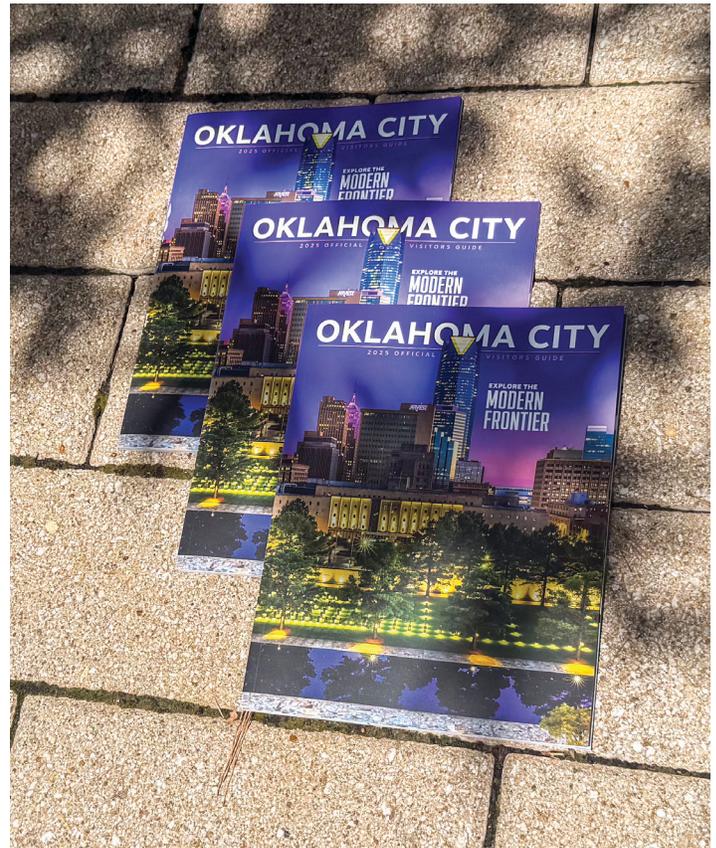
## AWARDS HIGHLIGHT VISIT OKC'S IMPACT ON TOURISM WITHIN THE CITY

Tourism is a key part of Oklahoma City's growth, and Visit OKC works to make sure visitors have clear, useful tools to plan their stay and feel welcome. Its efforts help draw more visitors, support local businesses and share what the city has to offer.

That work was recognized at the Oklahoma Tourism Industry Association's annual RedBud Awards, where Visit OKC received honors for Best Website and Best Publication.

The Visit OKC website and Visitor Guide are designed to create an inclusive and welcoming experience that ensures every visitor feels seen and valued. VisitOKC.com now serves as an accessible hub that reflects the city's diversity, while the editorial-style Visitor Guide shares real stories and local voices that help visitors get to know OKC beyond the basics. By going beyond traditional listings, Visit OKC helps shape a broader community narrative rooted in belonging.

Visit OKC was also named 405 Magazine's 2025 Best of the 405 Oklahoma Influencer winner. This honor highlights the work of the organization's social media team, led by Senior Digital Marketing Manager Maryam Kari and Digital Media Manager Kieran Mahoney. Their strategy and content help connect with the community and build Visit OKC's reach as a trusted brand across digital channels.



"This is a huge accomplishment for our team," Kari said. "The winner was decided by voters, 29,000 people across Oklahoma, so it means even more that our community showed up to vote for us."

These honors underscore Visit OKC's continued role in driving tourism and strengthening the city's reputation as a welcoming destination for visitors from near and far. The organization's work highlights how thoughtful marketing and community connection help keep OKC growing and thriving.



“Oklahoma City’s aerospace sector is not only strong today, but also strategically positioned for what’s next,” said Christy Gillenwater, president and CEO of the Chamber. “As private-sector investment accelerates alongside our legacy federal assets, our region is becoming one of the most competitive and future-ready aerospace hubs in the nation.”

***"As private-sector investment accelerates alongside our legacy federal assets, our region is becoming one of the most competitive and future-ready aerospace hubs in the nation."***

***- Christy Gillenwater***

Key findings from the report include:

- 338 aerospace establishments employing 45,539 workers

- \$8.8 billion in total output and \$4.0 billion in labor income
- \$87,000 average annual wage, well above the regional average
- 80,200 total jobs supported when including multiplier effects
- \$413 million in state and local tax revenue generated annually

TAFB employs nearly 27,000 workers, and the MMAC supports more than 5,100 federal employees and contractors, accounting for over 70% of the region’s aerospace employment and output.

Private-sector growth is accelerating, particularly in MRO, aerospace consulting, logistics and advanced systems. Since 2020, private aerospace firms have added more than 1,100 jobs and increased output by nearly 36%.

Wages in the industry continue to rise, with labor income growing by 48% since 2015. When paired with Oklahoma’s low cost of living, the region offers significant advantages in workforce attraction and retention.

The report is designed to support workforce development, infrastructure investment and strategic planning across the region. To view the full study or learn more, visit [www.greateroklahomacity.com/aerostudy](http://www.greateroklahomacity.com/aerostudy)

## 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](http://okcchamber.com/grandopenings).

**OKC Indian Clinic** 13801 Wireless Way, OKC OK 73114

**Paschal Air, Plumbing & Electric** 202 NE 31st St., Newcastle OK 73065

**NewView Oklahoma** 4301 N. Classen Blvd., OKC OK 73118

**SumnerOne** 1710 N. Broadway Ave., OKC OK 73103

**Native Wrecking Services, LLC** 1125 Exchange Ave., OKC OK 73108

# 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

### Galvanic Energy

*Lithium Exploration*  
Ms. Karlee Jones.....(405) 594-1582  
7701 S. Western Ave., Suite 201  
Oklahoma City, OK 73139-2410  
<https://www.galvanicenergy.com/>

### WSB

*Engineers - Civil*  
*Engineers - Civil*  
*Engineers - Environmental*  
*Engineers - Geotechnical*  
Mr. Pete Regan.....(405) 815-3600  
615 N. Hudson Ave., Suite 300  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-3091  
[www.wsbeng.com](http://www.wsbeng.com)

## EMERGING LEADER

### BC Law, PLLC

*Attorneys / Lawyers*  
Mr. Billy Coyle.....(405) 232-1988  
125 Park Ave., Suite N  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-9101  
[www.coylelaw.com](http://www.coylelaw.com)

## CORE

### Community Literacy Centers, Inc.

*Educational Services*  
*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
Ms. Sharron Jackson-Glover.....(405) 524-7323  
2701 S. Harvey  
4 NE 10th St., Suite 263  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-1402  
[www.communityliteracy.com](http://www.communityliteracy.com)

### Creative Education & Fine Arts Academy

*Educational Services*  
Ms. Ann Booze.....(405) 252-0260  
901 NW 6th St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106-7242  
[www.ce-faa.org/](http://www.ce-faa.org/)

### 405 Dental Aesthetics

*Dentist - Cosmetic*  
*Dentists*  
Dr. Kooper Ruminer.....(405) 468-9611  
14901 N. Rockwell Ave., Suite A  
Oklahoma City, OK 73142-8229  
<https://405dentalaesthetics.com>

### Entech Sales and Service

*Air Conditioning & Heating - Commercial*  
*Security Control Systems & Service*  
Mr. Ronnie Robison.....(405) 685-3833  
3808 E. I-240 Service Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73135-9106  
[www.entechsales.com](http://www.entechsales.com)

### The Foundry at Thrive-Nexus

*Business Incubator*  
Mr. Brendan Clark.....(918) 760-6895  
1613 N. Broadway Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103-4610

### Four Cardinals, Inc.

*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
*Social Service Organizations*  
Mr. Damion Noel.....(210) 887-3677  
P.O. Box 54636  
Oklahoma City, OK 73154-1636

### IFLY

*Sports Complexes & Entertainment Centers*  
Ms. Brittany Faulk.....(405) 300-4359  
13600 Pawnee Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73114-1414  
[www.iflyworld.com/oklahoma-city](http://www.iflyworld.com/oklahoma-city)

### Karsten Group

*Human Resource Services / Consulting*  
Ms. Kelsey Poe.....(405) 640-0937  
1900 N.W. Expressway, Suite K  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118-1850  
[www.karstenhrgroup.com](http://www.karstenhrgroup.com)

### Legit Kits, LLC

*Arts & Crafts Supplies - Retail*  
Mr. Michael O'Dell.....(405) 724-9898  
7701 Broadway Extension, Suite A1  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116-9063  
[www.legitkits.com](http://www.legitkits.com)

### Miller Architecture | Development

*Architects*  
Mr. Mike Mays.....(405) 476-3976  
11 NW 10th St., Suite 100  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103-4901  
<https://www.millerarch.com>

### National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice

*Educational Cooperative Organizations*  
*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
Mr. Reginald Hines.....(405) 208-9050  
518 N. Phillips Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-6235  
[www.nabcjokla.org](http://www.nabcjokla.org)

### Navigating Medicare

*Insurance Agents, Brokers and Service*  
Masumi Ward.....(405) 842-0494  
2232 W. Hefner Road, Suite A  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120-7624  
[www.navigatingmedicare.com](http://www.navigatingmedicare.com)

### O. D. Dempsey Jr. Memorial Foundation

*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
Ms. Tiece Dempsey.....(405) 202-5114  
4332 Foxglove Lane  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120-8170

### Oasis at Memorial

*Apartments*  
Mrs. Nicole Thurman.....(405) 534-4868  
13331 N. MacArthur Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73142-3033  
[www.npmainc.com](http://www.npmainc.com)

### OK Air Fest

*Amusement / Entertainment / Attractions*  
Ms. Carri Lawrence.....(405) 505-7992  
4522 NW 16th St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73127-2502  
[www.okairfest.com](http://www.okairfest.com)

### Oklahoma Cowboys Charitable Foundation

*Educational Services*  
Ms. Jakian Parks.....(405) 728-6128  
928 NE 81st St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73114-4006  
<https://oklahomacowboys.squarespace.com/>

### One Church, One Child / Forever Family Network

*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
*Social Service Organizations*  
Ms. Valarie E. Howard.....(405) 424-0225  
3129 N. Martin Luther King Ave.  
P.O. Box 36482  
Oklahoma City, OK 73136-2482  
[www.ococok.org](http://www.ococok.org)

### Pearls of SSO Foundations

*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
Ms. Jamila M. Woodard.....(405) 830-0349  
P.O. Box 13794  
Oklahoma City, OK 73113-1794  
[www.pearlsofssso.org](http://www.pearlsofssso.org)

### Springing Families Forward

*Mental Health Services*  
*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
Dr. Mariechia Palmer.....(405) 601-4565  
310 NE 28th St., Suite 206  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-2837  
[www.springingff.com](http://www.springingff.com)

### Tatco Construction

*Construction Companies*  
Mr. Robb Billy.....(405) 757-7714  
417 S. Coltrane Road  
Edmond, OK 73034-6733  
[www.tatco.construction](http://www.tatco.construction)

### TownePlace Suites by Marriott

*Hotels & Motels*  
Ms. Celena Henderson.....(405) 768-2090  
5300 Main St.  
5450 Main St.  
Del City, OK 73115-5514  
[www.barsanagroup.com](http://www.barsanagroup.com)

### With Love Project Foundation

*Arts Organizations & Information*  
Jabee Williams.....(405) 965-1125  
3507 Mockingbird Lane  
Oklahoma City, OK 73110-3817  
[withloveokc.org](http://withloveokc.org)

## 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](mailto:membership@okcchamber.com).

## SENIOR PARTNER++

### Walmart, Inc.

*Grocers - Retail*  
*Retail*  
Mr. Ivan Jaime  
16503 Nacogdoches Road  
c/o Region 6  
San Antonio, TX 78247  
[www.walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com)

## ASSOCIATE

### Melting Pot

*Restaurants*  
Ms. Becky Chapman.....(405) 235-1000  
4 E. Sheridan Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-2417  
[www.meltingpot.com/oklahoma-city-ok](http://www.meltingpot.com/oklahoma-city-ok)

### Staybridge Suites Bricktown / Downtown

*Apartments*  
*Hotels & Motels*  
Ms. Arti Patel.....(405) 602-8830  
120 S. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
[www.staybridge.com/okcdtwn](http://www.staybridge.com/okcdtwn)

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## OKLAHOMA CITY RANKS NO. 2 BEST RUN LARGE CITY

### The Best Run Large Cities in America

OVERALL RANK	CITY	TOTAL BUDGET PER CAPITA	FINANCIAL STABILITY	ECONOMY RANK
1	MESA, AZ	3	14	4
<b>2</b>	<b>OKLAHOMA CITY, OK</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>
3	JACKSONVILLE, FL	1	15	11
4	PHOENIX, AZ	9	9	2
5	ALBUQUERQUE, NM	4	23	5
6	AUSTIN, TX	15	8	14
7	LOUISVILLE, KY	6	10	27
8	CHARLOTTE, NC	13	3	3
9	EL PASO, TX	11	30	10
10	FT. WORTH, TX	10	27	7

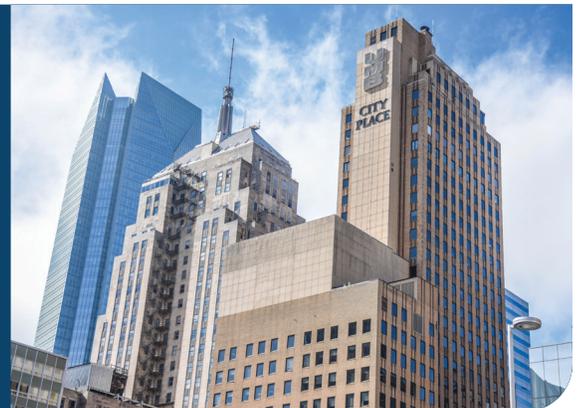
Source: WalletHub A rank of 1 is most favorable; OKC Resident Satisfaction Survey, 2024.

- OKC ranked the No. 2 Best Run City out of the 38 largest cities in America (population above 500,000). The WalletHub study focused on quality of service, budget, financial stability, education, health, safety, economy and infrastructure. Note: among all 148 cities compared, OKC is ranked 12th.
- OKC performed especially well in the total budget per capita (2nd), financial stability (2nd) and economy (6th) sub-categories.
- Similarly, the most recent OKC Resident Satisfaction Survey showed that two out of three residents rated OKC as being either an “excellent” or “good” place to live (80%), work (74%) and raise children (66%). Sixty-nine percent of residents indicated that the City was moving in the right direction.

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



# → V E L O C I T Y ←

Periodicals  
**PAID**  
Oklahoma City,  
OK  
73102

## LOOK INSIDE!

- 1** Greater OKC aerospace industry supports \$8.8 billion in output and more than 80,000 jobs
- 4** Be part of the conversation shaping the future of OKC education at State of the Schools
- 6** OKC prepares to stage LA28 Olympic events, spotlighting softball and canoe slalom
- 12** Awards highlight Visit OKC's impact on tourism within the city

**G R E A T E R**  
O K L A H O M A C I T Y  
**C H A M B E R**



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**G R E A T E R**  
O K L A H O M A C I T Y  
**C H A M B E R**

# STATE OF THE SCHOOLS

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum