



NOV. 2022 • OKCCHAMBER.COM

GREATER  
OKLAHOMA CITY  
CHAMBER

## OKC CHAMBER NAMES GILLENWATER AS ITS NEW PRESIDENT, CEO

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber recently announced that Christy Gillenwater has been named as the new president and CEO of the organization. She succeeds Roy Williams, who announced his retirement earlier this year.

Gillenwater comes to Oklahoma City from the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce in Tennessee where she serves as president and CEO. She is also the chair of the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, a national organization of more than 1,300 chambers of commerce.



Christy Gillenwater

“When we launched this search, we were looking for a proven executive with a strong economic development background,” said Sean Trauschke, chairman, president and CEO of OGE Energy, and Chamber chair. “Christy met every requirement. In addition to leading four

chambers of progressively larger size, she brings direct experience in both public policy and economic development. She has also been selected by her peers to lead their national organization – that says volumes about the respect they have for her work and her leadership.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## VOTERS URGED TO SAY ‘YES’ ON UPCOMING OKCPS BOND ELECTION NOV. 8

Oklahoma City voters who reside within the Oklahoma City Public Schools District will have an opportunity to make a positive impact on the future of Oklahoma City Public Schools students and the future of Oklahoma City when they go to the polls on Election Day, Nov. 8, to put their stamp of approval on a transformative bond issue for the school district.

If approved by voters, the \$955 million bond would pay for many items and resources desperately needed across the district. The infusion of cash would impact every student in the district in one way or another and

would provide things such as new or upgraded facilities, new technologies and buses, plus much more. It would also create additional opportunities for students to focus on becoming either workforce ready or college ready.

“This vote will determine how far and how quickly Oklahoma City can move forward over the next 10, 20 or 30 years,” said Roy Williams, president and CEO of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, which is running the campaign to pass the school bond. “Nothing is more important than making sure our most valuable asset – our children – have the skills and knowledge to succeed. The investment we make on our kids today will pay huge dividends for them and for us as a community for many, many years to come.”

Oklahoma City students should have the same opportunities that students receive in other districts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



# Nursing at OU Health means I pick a schedule that works for me.



Safia Franks, RN  
Cardiology

## We Make a Difference for Our Patients.

Nursing at OU Health means you have flexibility in your schedule through innovative programs – created by nurses and made for nurses. We are dedicated to creating and fostering a strong culture of collaboration and patients-first mentality in our hospitals and clinics. We know that when you put the patients first, everything else falls into place.

We've recently launched new nursing positions and programs with competitive pay rates, including:

- OU Health Weekend Position (*Work 2 shifts, get paid for 3*)
- OU Health Travel at Home Position
- OU Health Education Accelerator Program

**Apply today by visiting [OUHealth.com/Nursing](https://OUHealth.com/Nursing).** Job opportunities are available in all areas of adult and pediatric care, oncology and more, in hospital and clinical care settings, including OU Health University of Oklahoma Medical Center, Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health, OU Health Edmond Medical Center and OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center.

As an integrated academic health system, interested nurses can practice at OU Health and seek a faculty appointment at the OU Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing.



# LEADERSHIP NOTES

## VOTING 'YES' ON SCHOOL BOND ISSUE ON NOV. 8 IS AN INVESTMENT IN OKC'S FUTURE

The outcome of the November election will set the table for Oklahoma City's future. It is critical for members of the business community to share their voice to ensure our future prosperity. Last month's issue of VeloCity included a voter guide, giving insight on how incumbent legislators vote on issues important to business and to the growth of our community. You can find that information on our website as well.

There is another issue on the ballot that is of utmost importance to our community – the Oklahoma City Public Schools bond issue. This historic vote will invest more than \$950 million into our city's school infrastructure. This much-needed bond will help repair current facilities, build new ones, buy new buses, improve security and much more.

We need to invest in facilities for programs that increase workforce skills training and help our students be ready for the workforce. Our companies can't grow without it, and neither will our city. High-paying jobs aren't reserved for college graduates but can also be obtained with a certificate program or other skills training. Our kids deserve the opportunity for both.

The investments we made during MAPS for Kids were significant and helped the district turn back the clock on years of neglect. This investment moves the district forward, providing facilities in OKCPS that will provide the same educational opportunities and environment as children in suburban schools. For the growth of Oklahoma City, we need the district to be able to attract families to our schools, attract teachers to our classrooms and reach its full potential. That is dependent on having quality facilities.

I am so proud to live in a city that thinks ahead and invests in its future. Please join me at the polls on November 8 and vote yes on both the OKCPS bond issues, and vote for candidates focused on moving Oklahoma's economy and our city forward.



Roy H. Williams, CCE  
Chamber President & CEO



Roy H. Williams, CCE  
President & CEO



»» **READ ROY'S  
VELOCITYOKC ONLINE  
STORY OF THE MONTH**

"WHEELER BIO  
ANNOUNCES INITIAL  
CLOSING OF SERIES A  
ROUND SUPPORTING  
EXPANSION IN  
OKLAHOMA"

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

## 2022 OFFICERS

**SEAN TRAUSCHKE**  
OGE Energy Corp.  
Chair

**JOHN HART**  
Continental Resources  
Treasurer

**DAVID E. RAINBOLT**  
BancFirst Corporation  
Corporate Secretary

**CLAYTON I. BENNETT**  
Dorchester Capital  
Vice Chair, Strategic Planning

**STEVE HAHN**  
AT&T Oklahoma  
Vice Chair, Membership

**JUDY J. HATFIELD, CCIM**  
Equity Commercial Realty Advisors, LLC  
Vice Chair, Military and Aerospace

**RHONDA HOOPER**  
Jordan Advertising  
Vice Chair, Business and Economic Inclusion

**BRADLEY W. KRIEGER**  
Arvest Bank  
Vice Chair, Government Relations

**BILL LANCE**  
The Chickasaw Nation  
Vice Chair, Partnership Development

**TOM J. MCDANIEL**  
American Fidelity Foundation  
Vice Chair, MAPS 3 Development

**JENNY LOVE MEYER**  
Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores  
Vice Chair, Marketing and Communications

**RICK MUNCRIEF**  
Devon Energy Corporation  
Vice Chair, Forward Oklahoma City

**J. LARRY NICHOLS**  
Devon Energy Corporation  
Vice Chair, Strategic Planning

**TERESA ROSE, JD**  
Communities Foundation of Oklahoma  
Vice Chair, Education and MAPS 4 Development

**NATALIE SHIRLEY**  
National Cowboy & Western  
Heritage Museum  
Vice Chair, Convention and Visitor Development

**W. KENT SHORTRIDGE**  
Oklahoma Natural Gas Company  
Vice Chair, Economic Development

**ROY H. WILLIAMS, CCE**  
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber  
President & CEO



ISSUE #3573 - November 2022

Editorial staff

Harve Allen  
and Cynthia Reid

Designer  
Billy Callan  
405-297-8900  
thepoint@okcchamber.com

okcchamber.com  
twitter.com/okcchamber

facebook.com/okcchamber  
VeloCity (ISSN 1075-6264) is  
published monthly by the  
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber,  
123 Park Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to VeloCity,  
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber  
123 Park Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
or e-mail thepoint@okcchamber.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$15 per year included in  
Chamber membership; nonmembers,  
\$25 per year within the U.S..  
Periodicals Postage paid at Oklahoma City.  
Advertising rates upon request.  
Publisher reserves the right to refuse any  
advertising.

## CONTENTS

5

State of the Aerospace  
Industry on tap in  
December

10

Filmmaking in OKC – a Q&A with  
Jill Simpson of the new OKC film  
office

8

New CJAC Annual Report  
notes major progress  
made in criminal justice  
reforms

12

TEAMS Conference & Expo  
was an opportunity for CVB to  
showcase OKC

# UPCOMING EVENTS

# CHAMBER FORUM

## CALENDAR

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

### NOVEMBER 9

**State of the Economy**  
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
National Cowboy & Western  
Heritage Museum  
1700 NE 63rd St.  
[okcchamber.com/econ](http://okcchamber.com/econ)

### NOVEMBER 16

**Chamber Forum**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Vast  
333 W Sheridan Ave.  
[okcchamber.com/novemberforum](http://okcchamber.com/novemberforum)

### DECEMBER 2

**State of the Aerospace Industry**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
The Petroleum Club  
100 N. Broadway, Suite 3400  
[okcchamber.com/aero](http://okcchamber.com/aero)

### DECEMBER 8

**Annual Meeting**  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
National Cowboy & Western  
Heritage Museum  
1700 NE 63rd St.  
[okcchamber.com/annual](http://okcchamber.com/annual)

## *Future of OKC's bioscience sector topic of final Chamber Forum for 2022*

Individuals attending November's Chamber Forum will have an opportunity to hear about the future of Oklahoma City's bioscience sector, especially in light of the \$35 million Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant the U.S. Economic Development Administration recently awarded to OKC for its Oklahoma Biotech Innovation Cluster (OBIC) initiative.

A panel comprised of local bioscience researchers and business leaders will discuss the impact the EDA grant will have on OKC's bioscience ecosystem and, specifically, six core investment projects the grant will fund. Participating in the panel will be:

- Dr. Mary Beth Humphrey, Interim Vice President for Research and Professor of Medicine, Section of Rheumatology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.
- Christian Kanady, Founder & CEO, Echo Investment Capital, LLC
- Dr. Andrew Weyrich, President, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation

Jeff Seymour, the Chamber's executive vice president of economic development, will serve as moderator and also participate as a panelist.

The Chamber Forum will be held Nov. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Vast. The cost to attend is \$40 for Chamber members and \$50 for nonmembers. To register or learn more, visit [okcchamber.com/novemberforum](http://okcchamber.com/novemberforum).

The OBIC coalition is supported by more than 40 partners across academia, tribal nations, government, industry, community, investors and other key stakeholders involved in the continued development of the burgeoning biotechnology cluster in Oklahoma.

OKC was one of just 21 grant recipients selected from a pool of 60 finalists and 529 applications across the U.S.

The Chamber Forum series brings thought leaders together to discuss major initiatives, programs and current issues that impact Oklahoma City's business climate, economy and community.

Special thanks to our Series Presenting Sponsor Cox Business and Series Corporate Sponsor ADG|Blatt.

# STATE OF THE ECONOMY

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's annual State of the Economy event is less than a week away; however, it is not too late to purchase your tickets.

During this year's event, featured keynote speaker Anirban Basu, chairman and CEO of Sage Policy Group, an economic and policy consulting firm in Baltimore, will supply in-depth analysis of the major factors shaping economic outcomes, including elevated inflation, lingering pandemic, worker shortages, war in Europe, rising interest rates and stepped-up infrastructure spending. Basu will then turn toward a forecast for the year to come.

State of the Economy will be held at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and will also include a panel discussion from several regional economists on the issues that are particularly important to our state. Participating in the panel will be:

- Robert Dauffenbach, Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean for Economic Development and Impact, Director of Center for Economic and Management Research, University of Oklahoma
- Russell Evans, Ph.D., Partner and Chief Economist, Thorberg Collectorate
- Travis Roach, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, College of Business, University of Central Oklahoma
- Mark Snead, Ph.D., President and Economist, RegionTrack, Inc.

Tickets are \$60 for Chamber members and \$85 for nonmembers. To register or learn more, visit [okcchamber.com/econ](http://okcchamber.com/econ). Sponsor tables of eight with additional recognition are available for \$1,500. Please contact Suzette Ellison Jordan at [sellison@okcchamber.com](mailto:sellison@okcchamber.com) for table sponsor inquiries.

State of the Economy is an opportunity for Chamber and nonchamber members alike to stay informed on Oklahoma City's economy. Attendees hear directly from expert economists on trends in the local and national economy, as well as on issues impacting the global economy.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor Arvest Bank.

## *State of the Aerospace Industry event on tap in December*

The aerospace industry continues its remarkable ascent in the state and is now one of the state's top economic engines.

To deepen your understanding of the aerospace industry and its impact in the Oklahoma City region, you are encouraged to attend the Chamber's annual State of the Aerospace Industry event Dec. 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Petroleum Club of Oklahoma City, Inc., Suite 3400.

Featured speakers for this event include Lt. Gen. Stacey T. Hawkins, commander of the Air Force Sustainment Center at Tinker Air Force Base, who will provide an update on the work currently happening at the center, and Andre McMillian, vice president of sustainment operations and military engines for Pratt & Whitney.

Individual tickets for the State of the Aerospace Industry can be purchased for \$50 for Chamber members and \$75 for nonmembers. To register or learn more, visit [okcchamber.com/aero](http://okcchamber.com/aero). Sponsor tables of eight with additional recognition are available for \$750. Please contact Suzette Ellison Jordan at [sellison@okcchamber.com](mailto:sellison@okcchamber.com) for table sponsor inquiries.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor The Boeing Company and Host Sponsor Oklahoma City Community College.



around the metro, he said.

The Oklahoma City Public Schools District is the second largest school district in the state, trailing only Tulsa Public Schools; however, its enrollment has grown by approximately 2,000 students compared to the previous school year. District officials pointed out that the average age of Oklahoma City's schools is 72 years old; nine schools are more than 100 years old, all of which require constant upkeep and maintenance, something the bond issue will help provide. It will also allow the district to replace the oldest and hardest-to-maintain schools with structures and facilities that are more suited for 21st century learning, an advantage students in other surrounding districts currently get to experience daily.

Voting "YES" for the bond issue will also impact the entire district with various other upgrades, including new or expanded learning spaces that will help equip students with skills that will be honed at college or directly in the workforce. And not only will the bond pay for improvements like new buses, new laptops and computers, it will also pay for safety and security



equipment upgrades; new classroom furniture; new athletic, PE and fine arts equipment and uniforms; and new furniture and equipment in school media centers, among other items.

Officials noted that a Bond Oversight and Planning Committee made up of district administration and various community members and leaders will provide ongoing oversight of the district's use of bond funds and progress of projects.

In order for the bond to pass, it must be approved by at least 60% of voters.

To learn more about the bond election and the "Invest in Our Future" campaign, please visit [okcfuture.com](http://okcfuture.com).

## LIVE NATION'S NICOLAIDIS FEATURED SPEAKER FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Anthony Nicolaidis, Dallas market president for Live Nation Entertainment, will sit down with Chamber Chair Sean Trauschke for a fireside chat about OKC's rise as a music industry destination as part of the Chamber's Annual Meeting Dec. 8. They will also discuss what is next in the entertainment industry and how OKC can continue to leverage assets to increase the demand from big-name artists and productions.

The Annual Meeting will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Chamber members can purchase their tickets for \$75, nonmembers for \$100, by visiting [okcchamber.com/annual](http://okcchamber.com/annual).



*The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum will host the Chamber's Annual Meeting on Dec. 8.*

Sponsor tables of eight with additional recognition are available for \$1,500. If you are interested in purchasing a table sponsorship, please contact Suzette Ellison Jordan at [sellison@okcchamber.com](mailto:sellison@okcchamber.com).

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor Bank of Oklahoma.

“Part of my passion for the important work of chambers of commerce includes benchmarking leading communities, and Oklahoma City is definitely a city of innovators whose initiatives are both bold and smart,” Gillenwater said. “I look forward to meeting our members and the leadership of Oklahoma City as we begin our work together. My experience in Chattanooga reinforced how powerful collaborations between businesses, organizations and elected officials can create greater economic and talent development opportunities. Collectively, with volunteers, leadership, community residents and our team, we can continue moving Oklahoma City in a positive direction.”

Gillenwater’s experience prior to Chattanooga includes leading chambers of commerce in Indiana, including Southwest Indiana (Evansville), Bloomington, and Greenfield Area Chamber of Commerce. She worked in government relations for the Muncie-Delaware County (IN) Chamber of Commerce and later in economic development for the Muncie-

Delaware County Economic Development Alliance. She is a graduate of Indiana University and holds an MBA from Ball State University. She is a certified chamber executive and a graduate of the Institute for Organizational Management and the Harvard Business School’s Young American Leaders Program. Gillenwater is also a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100.

Williams will continue to serve in his role through the end of 2022, with Gillenwater joining the organization in early January.



A colorful advertisement for Feed the Children. It features four smiling children of diverse backgrounds: a young girl with pink earmuffs, a boy in a grey beanie, a girl with dark hair, and a boy in a red shirt. The background is a collage of red, blue, green, and orange geometric shapes. The text reads: "FEED THE CHILDREN® NO HUNGER HOLIDAYS BRING BIG SMILES TO LITTLE FACES feedthechildren.org".

## NEW CJAC ANNUAL REPORT NOTES MAJOR PROGRESS MADE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS

The Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Advisory Council (CJAC) recently released its annual report for fiscal year 2021-22 which indicated major progress was made countywide in the area of criminal justice reforms. Created in 2017 as a result of a recommendation from the Vera Institute of Justice's report to the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Criminal Justice Reform Task Force, CJAC works to ensure accountability and transparency in the county justice system.

CJAC Executive Director Timothy Tardibono has been in that role from the outset, keeping CJAC focused on ensuring those intended reform efforts are met. He describes Oklahoma County's criminal justice reforms in FY22 as "monumental," noting major accomplishments and successes on several fronts. Arguably, the biggest accomplishment was voter approval of a \$260 million bond issue that will be used to build a new Oklahoma County Detention Center, as well as the progress made in mental health and substance abuse reform efforts.

"The focus from the beginning was more mental health and substance abuse resources, and only jailing serious, violent criminals. Do we do that perfectly? No, but the mindset is moving in the right direction. So I think what this year's annual report shows is that we are turned in the right direction with a common purpose. The hard part is continuing to keep everyone going together in that direction," Tardibono said.

A major issue the detention center faced for many years was overcrowding. That, in and of itself, created other secondary problems that plagued the jail for decades, including health and safety concerns for detainees and staff. It also led to triple-celling, meaning three people were placed in a cell that held two people, but was originally built for just one person. This scenario forced the extra person to sleep on a mat on the floor or in a plastic "boat." But now, through a concerted effort of the Jail Trust to fix cells that were damaged so badly to be uninhabitable, the Trust has accomplished their FY22 goal of total elimination of triple-celling. In addition to the Trust's work to fix damaged cells, there

has been a concerted effort among various community program partners to make needed reforms resulting in a continued decline in its total population, dropping from 2,468 in 2015 to 1,653 at the end of FY22.

The report pointed out that the decline in the detainee population has resulted in fewer people from the detention center ending up in prison in the Department of Corrections. In fact, the report showed that the number of people from Oklahoma County who ended their court process with a prison sentence to DOC dropped by 949 people or 39% since fiscal year 2018. Tardibono credits the expansion of diversion programs in the county as the primary factor for those population declines.



*Voters approved a bond issue to replace the current OK County Detention Center, pictured above, with a new one.*

"Those numbers align with the reduction because more people are going to drug court, to ReMerge, to Community Sentencing, and other diversion programs, which means the vast majority of these people are not going to prison. They know these diversion programs are their final chance of staying out of prison. Fail the program, you go to prison," he said.

Several MAPS 4 projects designed to have a positive impact on the county's justice system progressed in FY22 by either going out to bid or just moving closer to launching, according to the report. Out of the two mental health crisis centers to be built as part of MAPS 4 at a



included:

- Gaining “green tag” status for the emergency fire system, meaning the fire system is in full compliance with National Fire Protection Association standards.
- Continued installation of new cell door locks, including remote opening capability
- Installation of a new full-body scanner to help reduce contraband coming into the jail.
- Creating a fast-track booking process for Oklahoma County residents
- Launching a new nine-member Citizens Advisory Board to provide more citizen oversight to the jail.

To view the entire FY 2021-2022 Annual Report, visit the CJAC website at [okcountycjac.com](http://okcountycjac.com).

cost of \$12 million, one went out for bids in FY22 and an operator of the facility should be selected this fall. In addition, the \$22 million Restoration Center project also went out for bids. The center will focus on the overlap of people with both mental health and substance abuse addiction needs, including emergency detox services.

“From the beginning, CJAC advocated for the mental health centers because we knew we needed more mental health resources. We are now getting to the point where there is enough sales tax in for those projects that they’ve done RFPs for the bidders, and some now have operators in place,” Tardibono said, adding that he expects by the end of 2024 and into early 2025, some of the projects will be opening.

Other detention center accomplishments and major improvements made in FY22, according to the report,





## FILMMAKING IN OKC – A Q&A WITH JILL SIMPSON OF THE NEW OKC FILM OFFICE

Earlier this fall, the OKC City Council approved a three-year contract with the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber to establish and operate the Oklahoma City Film & Creative Industries Office. The new office was created to support and promote Oklahoma City's burgeoning film industry. Jill Simpson began her new role as the film office's executive director this fall. VeloCity recently sat down with Simpson for a conversation about her career and how the new office will impact Oklahoma City.

**For those of our readers who may not know much about you, would you please tell us a little bit about yourself?**

My entire professional career has been working in film production, around film production and around film education. I studied film at OU and worked on a movie in Tulsa called "Rumble Fish" right afterwards that Francis Coppola directed, and I was an extras coordinator. And then after that, I moved to Los Angeles. I ended up staying 20 years in LA working in feature films and television.

**How was your experience in LA?**

I loved it. I found it to be really exciting to be there. As I started getting older, I started questioning whether that's where I wanted to be the rest of my life and, in the end, chose to move back to Oklahoma about 20 years into my stay in LA.

**Was there something in your early life that got you really interested in the film industry?**

I told my parents when I was nine years old, I was going to work in the film industry and was going to live in California. I studied film at OU under Ned Hockman. He came to class one night and said Francis Coppola is filming in Tulsa. I would go on the weekends and watch from the sidelines as he was filming the "The Outsiders." That summer, when he returned to film "Rumble Fish" in Tulsa, I once again went up there to observe. It was late, and he wasn't surrounded by people. I just walked up to him and told him I just graduated with a film degree and all I wanted to do was observe, and if I could be allowed to watch I'd be so grateful. That led to a job wrangling extras in the Greenwood District on the big film nights.

**How will your film industry background help you in your new role as executive director of the OKC Film & Creative Industries Office?**

I was the director of the Oklahoma State Film Commission for 10 years. I took that office from two or three people to probably seven people when I left. We were supporting both the film industry and the music industry, but in that job, I learned all about outreach and advocacy and community networking. The communities are key to what we're trying to do, and especially now that it's a city office and I'll be working closely with the city government, with industry stakeholders here in Oklahoma City and with community leaders.

**What do you hope to accomplish for the film office over the course of the coming year?**

One of the short-term goals is to connect the dots. When I was going out to meet with individuals who own companies, work in the industry or offer educational

programs, I was finding that a lot of those people weren't connected with each other. I see this office serving as a hub and a means of bringing these people together so they can coalesce into a meaningful group. In the long term, for any film environment to work around the country, there have to be three pieces of the equation. Workforce development is going to be a big part of what I have my eye on, working with area colleges and universities and CareerTech campuses, but also groups such as the Film Education Institute of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Film and Television Academy. As much work as we have going on here in Oklahoma, we really have to come up with a comprehensive and cohesive training program that is turning out qualified crews to work on not only homegrown projects but the bigger projects too. You also have to have the facilities, which we really have grown around here. Finally, it's important to have an incentive program.

## Would you please tell us about the OKC Film Incentive Program and what impact you expect it to have on OKC's film industry?

The program, which will launch this month, is funded to \$3 million. It offers a 5% base cash rebate to qualifying feature films with a minimum local spend of \$500,000, and episodic scripted and reality television projects with a minimum local spend of \$100,000. An additional 5% may be available to projects taking advantage of a variety of uplifts, including filming on an Oklahoma City sound stage, filming multiple features or episodes locally, hiring more than 50% local crews and vendors, and filming more than 75% of the project within the Oklahoma City city limits. The program is intended to not only help in the recruitment of projects to the Oklahoma City metro, but to provide support to our local filmmaking community.

## MIKE MONRONEY AERONAUTICAL CENTER BREAKS GROUND ON SOLAR ARRAY

The Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center (MMAC) broke ground on a Federal Aviation Administration solar array project that will turn 6.65 acres just south of the MMAC building into the FAA's largest solar panel farm to date, consisting of more than 3,800 panels that are expected to last between 25 to 30 years.

"Many people may not be aware that we have had a long, rich history of driving innovation and sustainability across the state and across the FAA," MMAC Director Michelle Coppedge told a gathering made up FAA, state and city official such as OKC Mayor David Holt and staffers of the state's congressional delegation, as well as local business and community leaders, including Greater Oklahoma City Chamber representatives.

"Our overall sustainability efforts include water conservation, recycling, harmonic filter projects, utilization of energy rebates for electric energy reductions, high-efficiency windows and lighting. And now, we are proud to add the establishment of a solar array system," Coppedge said, noting that for the past seven consecutive years, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has awarded the MMAC with its

Sustainability Achievement Award.

DOT's Chief Sustainability Officer, Phil McNamara, sent a recorded message for the occasion that Coppedge played for the crowd in which he commended the center for the significant work it has accomplished to date to make the MMAC campus more energy and water efficient. Those efforts fall in line with the presidential goal of reducing the federal government's greenhouse gas emissions by 65% and using 100% clean renewable energy in their buildings by 2030. He called upon the MMAC leadership to share their knowledge with their peers in the FAA.

"I challenge you to go to the other FAA sites and show them how this can be done. Work with them to make their buildings more efficient and teach them how to use more clean energy," McNamara said.



## TEAMS CONFERENCE & EXPO WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CVB TO SHOWCASE CITY

The Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) hosted the annual TEAMS Conference & Expo Oct. 24-27 at the Oklahoma City Convention Center, where more than 1,000 attendees made up of members from national governing bodies for U.S. Olympic and Paralympic (USOPC) sports, event managers, representatives from sports commissions, sports tourism officials and others met to collaborate and discuss best practices with the aim of improving their respective organizations and creating better opportunities for participation among athletes across the nation and growing the sports-event industry.

Some of the major topics explored during the four days included the 50th anniversary of Title IX, the state of youth sports, and a focus on the latest trends in sports-related travel.

CVB's Vice President of Sports Development Adam Wisniewski said he and other conference organizers were deliberate in their desire to focus on those topics, especially considering OKC's history for hosting the NCAA Women's College World Series, its involvement in youth sports and its relationship with the USOPC.

"All three of those touch points work really well with our destination and our story because it's more than just bringing these people in and letting them see our city. We used the education and programming sessions to tell our story to really reinforce to everyone that Oklahoma City knows what they are doing and they are capable of a lot more," Wisniewski said.

The TEAMS Conference & Expo convened in Oklahoma City at a time when sports events are leading the travel and tourism comeback, according to the

TEAMS website, something that should serve OKC well for many years.

"TEAMS was an opportunity to showcase our city to our entire industry and to set a standard and tell our story. It was incredibly important because it meant that Oklahoma City is not just about softball and rowing and marathon going forward. It could mean a lot of other things. I don't know if attendees came in with a preconception of what we are capable of, but they left seeing it with their own eyes and experiencing it firsthand," Wisniewski said.

Showing members of all of the national governing boards and the USOPC who were in attendance throughout the nearly weeklong conference what Oklahoma City has already achieved and what it can continue to do moving forward was a critical goal for the CVB and Oklahoma City leadership. One of the ways they did that was by being deeply involved in planning the general and educational sessions.

CVB President Zac Craig shared the stage with various speakers, including former Olympians and Paralympians, on Tuesday for the best practices general session where they discussed the impact Title IX has had on women's sports and the sports landscape across the U.S. since its passage in 1972. In addition, Wisniewski participated in a panel discussion on Thursday where he and fellow panelists representing USA Softball and the NCAA shared how they partnered over the years to grow the NCAA Women's College World Series into one of the most-watched softball

tournaments in the world.

Norman resident Bart Conner, a former U.S. Olympic gold medalist in men's gymnastics, surprised attendees by announcing that Oklahoma City would host the USA Gymnastics Developmental National Championships May 9-14. Approximately 5,000 guests, including 1,700 athletes participating in the championship, will be in OKC for five nights.



*Adam Wisniewski, right, shares insights about the Women's College World Series during the 2022 TEAMS Conference Oct 24-27 in Oklahoma City.*

## ROY WILLIAMS RECOGNIZED BY IEDC FOR LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENTS



The International Economic Development Council has awarded Chamber President & CEO Roy Williams with its Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Economic Development.

”Roy’s body of work demonstrates exemplary leadership within our profession and strong commitment to their community,” said IEDC President and CEO Nathan Ohle. “Individuals like Roy set an outstanding example that we can all aspire to emulate.”

Every year IEDC looks specifically for an individual who has demonstrated consistent, exemplary performance in the economic development profession, leading the execution of projects that have a significant impact on revitalizing communities, and playing a major role in shaping and improving the practice of economic development.

Roy has dedicated 50 years of his remarkable career to the field of economics with over 17 years of service at the Chamber. He has been a leader in the transformation

of Oklahoma City and leaves behind a legacy for job creation and retention and entrepreneurship.

Williams has led the Chamber since 2004 and quickly began making a positive impact on OKC. Through his efforts, Tinker Air Force Base continues to grow in both facilities and employment. He was also instrumental to Boeing’s expansion efforts, growing from 700 employees in the 1990s to more than 4,000 employees today. Many of the criminal justice reforms realized throughout the last two decades in OKC and Oklahoma County can be greatly attributed to Williams’ consensus-building skills, including the recent vote by OK County voters to replace the aging and deficient county detention center.

The IEDC presented Roy with its Lifetime Achievement Award during the 2022 IEDC Annual Conference recently held in Oklahoma City.

## 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).

**Boys and Girls Clubs of Oklahoma County**  
**Best Buy Teen Tech Center**  
3801 N. Prospect  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

**Kroger Delivery**  
8800 N. I-35 Service Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73131

**Quick Urgent Care, LLC**  
1421 NW 122nd St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73114



# 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

### Horizon Commercial Real Estate

*Real Estate - Commercial*  
Mr. David Portman .....(405) 850-1107  
301 Lilac Drive  
12017 Brookhollow Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120-5502  
www.horizoncreok.com

## ASSOCIATE

### Premium Aerospace Center Oklahoma LLC

*Aerospace Industries*  
Mr. Juan Manuel Campo .....(580) 562-1780  
233 Fire Lane  
Foss, OK 73647-9023

## CORE

### Moog, Inc.

*Aerospace Industries*  
Ms. Janelle Stafford .....(405) 659-5435  
2501 Liberty Parkway, Suite 500  
Midwest City, OK 73110-2858  
moog.com

## CORE

### Topographic

*Engineers - Environmental*  
Mr. Mike Storzyszyn .....(405) 843-4847  
13800 Wireless Way  
Oklahoma City, OK 73134-2501  
www.topographic.com

## ASSOCIATE

### JD Young Technologies

*Computer Network Services / Equipment*  
Mr. Jason Souter .....(405) 768-5599  
401 W. 33rd St., Suite 450  
Edmond, OK 73013-3802  
www.jdyoung.com

## CORE

### Mather Professional Services, LLC

*Management Services / Consultants*  
Mr. Robert Mather .....(806) 577-0406  
1405 NW 174th Court  
2011 W. Danforth Road., Suite 132  
Edmond, OK 73003-4685  
www.matherprofessionalservices.com

## CORE

### Oklahoma DPC Affiliates

*Medical Clinics*  
Jeff Davenport, M.D. ....(405) 243-4320  
3815 S. Boulevard  
Edmond, OK 73013-5479  
www.oklahomadpcaffiliates.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](mailto:membership@okcchamber.com).

## EXECUTIVE PARTNER+++

### Paycom

*Payroll Services*  
Mr. Chad Richison .....(405) 722-6900  
7501 W. Memorial Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73142  
www.paycom.com

## OKC METRO RANKED NO. 1 IN THE NATION FOR MOST AFFORDABLE RENT Large Metros with the Lowest Multi-Family Rent (2022)

METRO	OVERALL RANK	MARKET ASKING RENT	POPULATION	VACANCY RATE
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK	1	\$907	1,447,568	8.6%
TULSA, OK	2	\$918	1,024,322	6.5%
LOUISVILLE, KY	3	\$1,068	1,322,407	5.8%
CLEVELAND, OH	4	\$1,073	2,065,898	5.6%
MEMPHIS, TN	5	\$1,073	1,346,532	10.9%
TUCSON, AZ	6	\$1,088	1,057,090	7.1%
ST. LOUIS, MO	7	\$1,125	2,799,951	9.1%
CINCINNATI, OH	8	\$1,133	2,242,256	4.9%
BIRMINGHAM, AL	9	\$1,142	1,181,898	8.1%
BUFFALO, NY	10	\$1,144	1,152,519	3.5%

SOURCE: COSTAR, 2022.4. MULTI-FAMILY REPORT AND POPULATION ESTIMATES.

- The Oklahoma City metro ranked No. 1 nationally for the lowest rent for multi-family properties for all metros with a population of more than one million.
- In Q4 of 2022, the Oklahoma City metro had an average market asking rent of \$907, making it the most affordable large metro to rent in the U.S.
- The Oklahoma City metro had a -1.2% decline in market asking rent growth from Q3 2022 to Q4.
- Also, in Q4 of 2022, the Oklahoma City MSA had a total of 95,148 multi-family inventory units and enjoyed an 8.6% average vacancy rate.

For comprehensive Economic Indicators and regional data, please visit your Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Economic Development Division at [greateroklahomacity.com](http://greateroklahomacity.com) or contact Eric Long, Research Economist at 405-297-8976 or email him at [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).



# → VELOCITY ←

Periodicals  
**PAID**  
Oklahoma City, OK  
73102

## LOOK INSIDE!

- 4** November Chamber Forum to focus on region's bioscience
- 6** Annual Meeting to feature Live Nation's Anthony Nicolaidis
- 12** TEAMS Conference & Expo opportunity for CVB to showcase OKC
- 13** Chamber's Roy Williams recognized by IEDC with lifetime award

**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**

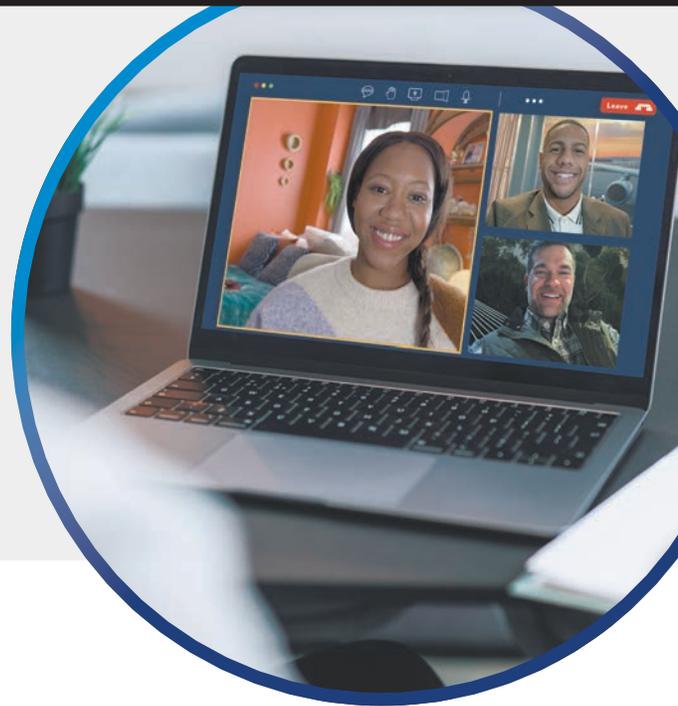


TWITTER.COM/OKCCCHAMBER



FACEBOOK.COM/OKCCCHAMBER

## Imagine collaboration tools that make working together work better



With collaboration tools from Cox Business, your team can connect and work together from virtually anywhere using Webex or Microsoft Teams, all with 24/7 end-user support.



Seamlessly schedule conference calls and video meetings



Easily share files during calls and meetings



Instantly chat with internal and external contacts

**COX**  
BUSINESS®

Call (405) 286-5000 or Visit [coxbusiness.com/collaboration](https://coxbusiness.com/collaboration)