

# WELCOME TO OKLAHOMA CITY

AUGUST 2023 • OKCCHAMBER.COM

GREATER  
OKLAHOMA CITY  
CHAMBER

## MAYOR HOLT OUTLINES PLANS TO BUILD NEW ARENA DURING ANNUAL ADDRESS

Oklahoma City residents will vote on the construction of a new arena that Mayor David Holt says is vital to the city's continued success.

Holt made his pitch in front of a capacity crowd at State of the City. The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber hosted the event July 20 at the Oklahoma City Convention Center. Holt's nearly hourlong address noted that, despite the successes of the MAPS programs, Oklahoma City's renaissance is far from over.

"A lot of people told me when I first decided to [run for mayor] that complacency would be our greatest



enemy, and I took that to heart. So, we haven't rested on our laurels these last five years. In fact, I think we have worked twice as hard, and as a result, [Oklahoma City is] absolutely rolling right now," Holt said.

Holt detailed some of the biggest wins in recent history: The \$800 million Better Streets, Safer City initiative and RAPID, the city's first bus rapid transit

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 12*

## NEW SAM'S CLUB DISTRIBUTION CENTER COMING TO OKLAHOMA CITY

Sam's Club, a division of Walmart Inc., is opening a multi-purpose distribution center in Oklahoma City.

The 300,000-square-foot facility will be located at OKC Logistics Park, an industrial space in southwest Oklahoma City encompassing 1.6 million square feet. Sam's Club plans to make a \$40 million capital investment to open the facility.

"We are excited Sam's Club has chosen to expand its supply chain capabilities in Oklahoma City," said Greater Oklahoma City Chamber President & CEO Christy Gillenwater. "This substantial capital investment further

proves that Oklahoma City is a prime destination for world-class companies looking to expand. Our business-friendly climate, middle-of-the-country location and access to major interstates and rail lines makes Oklahoma City the perfect place for a distribution center."

The announcement comes after months of work by state and local officials, including the Chamber's economic development team. They performed a wage analysis for multiple positions at the distribution center and facilitated discussions on training support and incentives.

Gov. Kevin Stitt said Sam's Club has been an important economic driver for the state since it first opened in 1983.

"I am thrilled that partnership will continue as the company brings 130 long-term jobs to Oklahoma with this new distribution center," said Stitt.

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 13*



## A New Noninvasive Treatment for Essential Tremor

OU Health is the first and only health system in Oklahoma to offer an incisionless treatment for patients with medical refractory essential tremor that can result in improvement in hand, head and body shaking as well as increased mobility through a same-day treatment. Called “Focused Ultrasound,” the new technology is for essential tremor patients who have not responded to medication, or who cannot take it.

Focused ultrasound for essential tremor is an FDA-approved, non-invasive procedure that’s transforming patient care. The procedure uses ultrasound waves to target the specific areas of the brain responsible for tremors. Guided by MRI, the soundwaves pass safely through the skull and soft tissues to focus heat on only the targeted area, providing relief from symptoms. With no surgical cuts or permanent implants necessary, there is minimal to no risk of infection, and the treatment is often performed on an outpatient basis. Many patients can expect to resume normal activities within days.

**OU Health is proud to be the first in Oklahoma to offer this revolutionary treatment.**

To make an appointment or for more information, visit us at [OUHealth.com/EssentialTremor](https://OUHealth.com/EssentialTremor)

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# LEADERSHIP NOTES



**CHRISTY GILLENWATER**  
President & CEO

## BIG THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN OUR BIG-LEAGUE CITY!

During the Chamber’s State of the City event last month, Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt made a major announcement: By the end of the summer, city officials will have a finalized agreement with the Thunder for a new arena. The next step is a vote by Oklahoma City residents which will happen later this year.

The current arena, which opened 21 years ago, eventually helped OKC become a “big-league” city. Not just home to an NBA team, but home to major industries, high paying jobs, world class amenities and opportunity galore. And that momentum has carried us forward ever since.

It is no coincidence that OKC has become the nation’s 20th largest city and sixth-fastest growing Top-20 city since the Thunder’s arrival. Development has skyrocketed as more and more businesses see the value in aligning themselves with Oklahoma City, home of the Thunder.

What the Thunder does for Oklahoma City’s economy cannot be overstated. The Thunder’s annual direct economic impact in OKC is \$600 million and 3,000 jobs. Fans attending Thunder games at Paycom Center spend about \$56 million a year for things like hotel stays, transportation to and from games, food and beverage, and retail purchases.

Our city has made great strides since 2008. Going backwards cannot be an option. A new arena will help solidify the Thunder’s future in OKC as well as our own economic success. I look forward to working with you to make it a reality.

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

**OMRF scientist receives \$2 million grant to study DNA ‘Velcro’**

**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.)

### AUGUST 9

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

### AUGUST 16

**Chamber Forum**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
The Petroleum Club  
100 N Broadway, 34th Floor  
[okcchamber.com/augustforum](http://okcchamber.com/augustforum)

### SEPTEMBER 12

**Inclusion at Work**  
3:30 to 5 p.m.  
Zoom

### SEPTEMBER 20

**Chamber Forum**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
The Petroleum Club  
100 N Broadway, 34th Floor  
[okcchamber.com/septemberforum](http://okcchamber.com/septemberforum)

### SEPTEMBER 26

**Chamber Connection**  
3 to 4:30 p.m.  
Credit Union House of Oklahoma  
631 E. Hill St.

### SEPTEMBER 28

**State of the Region**  
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
National Cowboy & Western  
Heritage Museum  
1700 NE 63rd St.



**CHAMBER  
FORUM**

## *OKC's minority business development program focus of August Forum*

Minority-owned businesses in Oklahoma City have access to a new free assistance program to help them compete for corporate and government contracts. The Supplier Diversity Program recently launched by The Alliance for Economic Development of Oklahoma City is the focus of the Chamber's August Forum.

The program enables minority entrepreneurs and businesses to work with The Urban League of Greater OKC, the Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and REI Oklahoma to facilitate business certifications, receive mentorship, get accounting assistance and more.

Attendees will learn how the initiative will fill gaps for minority businesses and benefit the community.

The Chamber Forum will be held at 11:30 a.m. Aug. 16 at the Petroleum Club of Oklahoma City, which is located on the 34th floor of the BancFirst Tower, 100 N. Broadway Ave. Participating in a panel discussion will be:

- Melanie Anthony, senior director of marketing and development, REI Oklahoma
- David Castillo, president and CEO, Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Joseph Laws, program manager, The Alliance for Economic Development of Oklahoma City
- Jabar Shumate, vice president of community convening and social justice, Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City

The cost to attend the June Chamber Forum is \$45 for Chamber members and \$55 for nonmembers. To register, visit [okcchamber.com/augustforum](http://okcchamber.com/augustforum).

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor Cox Communications and Corporate Sponsor ADG | Blatt.

## STATE OF THE SCHOOLS KEYNOTE TO ADDRESS WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's 2023 State of the Schools event will feature a keynote by Dr. Bryan Johnson, executive vice chancellor and chief strategy officer at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. The event will be held Wednesday, August 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

Johnson has extensive experience in workforce development, business strategy, change management and collaborative leadership. In his keynote, he will detail



*How business and education can partner to develop our future workforce highlights the Chamber's State of the Schools event Aug. 9.*

## COLLABORATION AND REGION'S FUTURE THE FOCUS OF CHAMBER'S STATE OF THE REGION EVENT

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber will host a new event, State of the Region, on Thursday, Sept. 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. The event will highlight the progress and development happening across central Oklahoma.

Mayor David Holt will moderate a panel discussion with area mayors on projects connecting cities both within and outside the Greater Oklahoma City area, drawing attention to important issues and encouraging community collaboration.

how business and education can form a true partnership to develop the necessary workforce for the region.

The event will also feature a panel discussion on how higher education is changing and working together to provide more opportunities for upskilling and credentialing. Speaking on the panel will be:

- Gayla Lutts, Ed.D., CEO and superintendent, Canadian Valley Technology Center
- Dr. Pam Stinson, Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City
- Dr. Jeanie Webb, president, Rose State College

Individual tickets are \$60 for Chamber members and \$85 for nonmembers. To register or learn more, visit [okcchamber.com/schools](http://okcchamber.com/schools). Sponsor tables of eight with additional recognition are available for \$1,600. Contact Suzette Ellison Jordan at [sellison@okcchamber.com](mailto:sellison@okcchamber.com) for table sponsor inquiries.

The Chamber and American Fidelity Assurance Company invite attendees to bring school supplies to the event, which will benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Oklahoma County. Supplies can also be dropped off at the Chamber office prior to the event.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Host Sponsor Cox Communications, and School Supply/Centerpiece Sponsor American Fidelity Assurance Company.

A second panel focuses on the importance of working together on our region's infrastructure as we plan for future growth. It includes Chris Browning, utilities director for the City of Oklahoma City and general manager of Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust, and Jason Ferbrache, assistant city manager and director of EMBARK.

Individual tickets are \$60 for Chamber members and \$75 for nonmembers. To register or learn more, visit [okcchamber.com/region](http://okcchamber.com/region). Sponsor tables of eight with additional recognition are available for \$1,600. Contact Suzette Ellison Jordan at [sellison@okcchamber.com](mailto:sellison@okcchamber.com) for table sponsor inquiries.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor Simmons Bank.

# CITY'S BUS RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM GAINING SPEED; DECEMBER LAUNCH EXPECTED



Most of the boarding platforms for the city's new bus rapid transit system have been built. Photo Credit: EMBARK

Oklahoma City is one step closer to having its first bus rapid transit (BRT) service.

Passenger platforms are being built; most of the 40-foot, natural gas-powered buses have been delivered; and bus drivers are being trained to operate those buses. The city is also in the process of hiring about 40 positions specifically for the new bus service, aptly named RAPID.

The BRT route will make traveling more convenient for residents living and working along the 9.5-mile route, which sports a \$29 million price tag. It will be paid for through a U.S. Department of Transportation grant and matching dollars from the city.

When completed later this fall, the RAPID Northwest route will connect downtown OKC and the Lake Hefner area, providing residents access to various employers, commercial establishments and medical facilities located along Northwest Expressway and Classen. A local design firm indicated that the entire route comes within one-half mile of 40,000 residents and 91,000 jobs, including those located at SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital and Integris Baptist Medical Center.

City officials say there will most likely be an adjustment period for drivers, cyclists, pedestrians and other users as they start sharing the roadway with RAPID buses, especially during peak driving times. The BRT system is still designed to get riders to their destinations quicker despite traffic congestion and will operate much like a rail system with fewer stops along a dedicated route.

So far, six of the nine new BRT buses purchased have already been delivered. Officials expect the remaining three will be delivered in early fall. The buses feature upgraded seating, Wi-Fi and other amenities.

Twenty-eight of the 32 boarding platforms for RAPID have now been built, according to EMBARK's most recent update; the remaining platforms are under construction. The platforms feature level boarding, which should better accommodate passengers with

## RAPID NW Construction Timeline





Six new BRT buses have been purchased and delivered. Three more will be delivered in early fall. Each bus features upgraded seating, Wi-Fi and other amenities. Photo Credit: EMBARK

walkers and strollers. The stops will feature other amenities, including covered and lighted shelters with benches, handrails and bike racks. Eighteen bus shelters have already been installed.

Riders will also be greeted with real-time arrival displays and ticket kiosks, where they will purchase their fares prior to boarding. They also have the option of purchasing rides straight from their smart phones.

Construction is currently underway on a park-and-ride surface parking lot at Northwest Expressway and Meridian Avenue that will boast 50 parking places.

The city is already looking to expand RAPID service sometime soon, with planned routes on the south side and in northeast OKC. The \$61 million expansion project is part of the MAPS 4 capital improvement program Oklahoma City voters passed in December 2019.

Several public meetings and open houses have already been held in 2023 to solicit feedback from residents living or working in those areas of town. Officials hope to have the two routes determined by the end of the year.

For a detailed look at the RAPID Northwest route and its planned stops, visit [EmbarkOK.com/BRT](http://EmbarkOK.com/BRT).

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## CHAMBER'S ATTENDANCE AT AVIATION EVENTS HELPS PROPEL OKC'S ECONOMY

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's economic development team is flying high after attending some of the world's largest aviation events. Each appearance is vital to ensuring the industry continues to thrive in the Oklahoma City region.

The most recent event, EAA AirVenture Oshkosh in Oshkosh, Wisc., is billed as the "World's Greatest Aviation Celebration." The weeklong event includes nearly half a million aviation enthusiasts from around the world along with 10,000 aircraft and 900 exhibitors.

The Oklahoma contingent included aviation-related organizations from around the state, both public and private. Some were there to promote and sell their products, others to promote Oklahoma's aviation industry in general. Put Jeff Seymour in that latter group.

As executive vice president of economic development for the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, Seymour and his team help grow existing OKC companies, recruit new

ones and develop an active entrepreneurial environment. Attending AirVenture also gave Seymour an opportunity to speak with various aviation leaders, including officials with the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission.

"The Chamber has such a good partnership with the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission. They've been great partners in developing out the airports in particular. I felt like it was important for us to go to Oshkosh with them and support them as they continue to think about not just promoting the biggest aerospace assets in Oklahoma and Oklahoma City, but also the aerospace economy as a whole and general aviation," Seymour said.

Earlier this summer, Seymour and other Chamber staff joined the Oklahoma Department of Commerce at the Paris Air Show. The trip was full of meetings with companies who already have a presence in Oklahoma, and those who could have one in the future.

"We get to sit down with senior leadership from companies like Pratt & Whitney, Raytheon and Boeing and others and really talk to them about their growth plans, and how we can be supportive and help them with workforce and facilities, etc.," Seymour said.

Chamber staff also attended MRO Americas, the world's largest aviation MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) event in Chicago in April.

"It's a good place for us to go and engage different military and nonmilitary leaders," Seymour said.

Later this month, the economic development team will attend Tinker and the Primes in Midwest City. The three-day conference focuses on the needs of prime contractors, Tinker Air Force Base and the U.S. Department of Defense.

The aviation industry is responsible for nearly 44,000 jobs in Greater Oklahoma City.



## TALENTLINK HELPS COMPANIES RECRUIT NEW TALENT



*With a speed-networking approach, TalentLink participants sat at assigned tables before rotating to a new table to meet other people.*

Finding enough qualified workers with the necessary skills to fill various jobs has been a challenge for companies throughout the U.S., including companies right here in Oklahoma City.

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber created TalentLink to help meet that need. It's a talent and partnership networking event where educational and nonprofit workforce organizations can connect with talent acquisition teams to broaden their talent search.

The second TalentLink event took place July 27 inside the Aubrey K. McClendon Whitewater Center. The inaugural event was held last fall; another is planned for later this year. TalentLink's goal is to foster workforce development partnerships.

"We found that getting them in the same space enables people to leave with two or more connections to help them regardless of what their need is," said Lee Copeland, director of talent and growth at the Chamber and organizer of the event.

With a speed-networking approach, the TalentLink participants sit at assigned tables. Each person has just a few minutes to introduce themselves and what their organization needs – or how their company can help with talent acquisition. When the timer goes off, everyone rotates to a new table to meet more people.

Chris Goines was one of those people. As operations manager for Waste Management, he hasn't had many

opportunities to network. By attending the event, Goines hoped to make connections and forge some new relationships that could eventually help his company expand its workforce.

"To identify talent to grow and drive results for our company, you can only do that through making connections and networking with people who can find that talent from the beginning," Goines said.

"We are very thorough in our training. So, it's nice to be able to find someone we can develop and mold into the talent we need."

Darla Shaw, human resources manager for ASM Global at both Paycom Center and Prairie Surf Studios, attended the very first TalentLink event last fall. She liked the first program so much, she decided to attend the second one as well.

"I think this event is great. We have attended it now both times and made lots of different connections and discovered organizations I didn't know we even had in Oklahoma City," Shaw said.

TalentLink also included participants from aviation services provider AAR, King Transportation, Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, the University of Oklahoma, Workforce Ready Oklahoma and more.

"We've had a little bit of a different mix of employers and partners each time, but each mix of providers and employers has been beneficial," Copeland said.

If you'd like to participate in the next TalentLink, please contact Lee Copeland at [lcopeland@okcchamber.com](mailto:lcopeland@okcchamber.com).



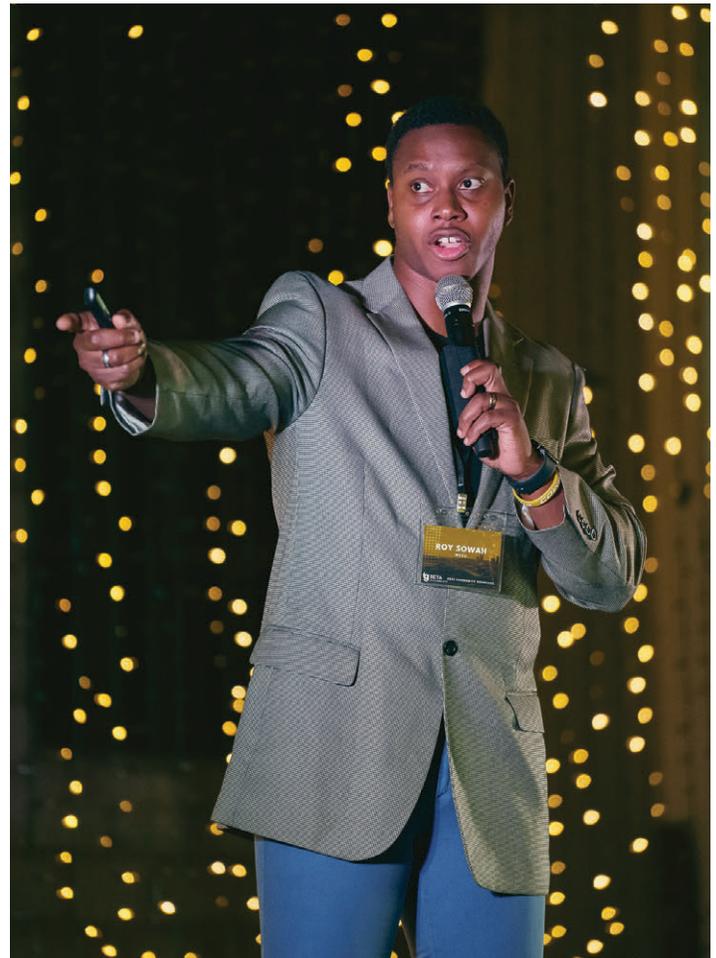
## OKLAHOMA-BASED STARTUPS FIND FUNDING AT GBETA & GENER8TOR SHOWCASE

Nine Oklahoma startups recently secured funding at the inaugural Oklahoma City cohort hosted by gener8tor, a nationally ranked venture capital firm. The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber sponsors the company and its local gBETA program, a free seven-week accelerator.

The gBETA & gener8tor OKC Showcase saw 163 attendees and 26 company founders come together to network, learn about skill acceleration and more. The firm's mission is to bring opportunities to everyone regardless of race, place or gender.

Anita Ly, managing director for gener8tor OKC, said the organization received many positive responses from event attendees.

“From the diversity of the attendees and the programming, we felt like we exceeded our expectations and solidified the gener8tor brand in Oklahoma,” Ly said.



Roy Sowah from startup Weku makes a presentation during the gBETA & gener8tor Showcase. Photo Credit: Rad Love Media



The following Oklahoma companies secured some form of follow-on funding:

- BaB: Provides convenience in the online shopping experience through a universal shopping cart that allows users to add different items from different stores all in one place.
- Gleu: Provides fashion retailers and brands with a business-to-business streamlined experience for managing wholesale workflow.
- LevEd: Gamifies digital portfolio creation using a learn-to-earn platform which rewards member experiences and site engagement.
- ApexLoads: Connects cargo owners with transporters to streamline the freight-truck matching process and facilitate faster payments through an online marketplace.
- Paldara: Develops platform hydrogel coatings for medical devices using bacteriophage to prevent up to 99% of associated bacterial infections.

- Helion Illumination: Enables first responders to better use drone assets by providing versatile lighting systems to assist in search and rescue, firefighting and law enforcement.
- Weku: Revolutionizes residential electricity in the United States by offering homeowners unlimited access to clean energy for a flat rate of \$50 per month.
- Sci-Lume Labs: Pioneers new biobased and biodegradable materials to replace petroleum-derived plastics.
- Nodecraft: Expands, re-engages and monetizes online multiplayer gaming communities.



Gener8tor’s accelerator program is for companies looking to achieve rapid growth. More information can be found here. The application deadline for the next cohort is Sept. 18.

A separate 12-week accelerator program for Oklahoma-based companies that have a venture-backable, high-growth and scalable business model is also in the works. The application deadline is Oct. 15.

***“From the diversity of the attendees and the programming, we felt like we exceeded our expectations and solidified the gener8tor brand in Oklahoma.” - Anita Ly***

## **CHAMBER PROGRAM HELPS COMPANY LEADERS ‘CONNECT’ WITH OKC**

OKConnect, an exclusive, high-level orientation program created by the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber and Leadership OKC, will return to Oklahoma City on Aug. 30 and will continue through the end of November.

OKConnect is designed for community newcomers, or business leaders with a new or expanded role with a focus on community awareness and involvement.

The program helps company leaders discover how to get involved in the community. Participants gain behind-the-scenes insight into Oklahoma City – from its earliest beginnings to its current growth and success.

Chaired by Meg Salyer, owner of Broadway Realty and former Ward 6 Council member, OKConnect includes four sessions from noon to 5 p.m.

In the Aug. 30 session, participants will learn about the founding of OKC, as well as the state and region’s political history. They will also receive an overview of OKC demographics and which factors have shaped our city.

On Sept. 27, participants will hear how innovation, as well as public and private partnerships and investments, are making a difference in OKC’s educational outcomes. They will also hear about the city’s plan to sustain economic growth during the Oct. 25 session.

During the program’s fourth and final session on Nov. 30, participants will learn about all the exciting places to visit and things to do in Oklahoma City and the importance of getting connected.

OKConnect is \$500 for Chamber members and \$600 for nonmembers. Attendance is limited to 60 participants. To apply for the 2023 class, visit [okcchamber.com/okconnect](http://okcchamber.com/okconnect).

For more details or if you have questions, please contact Marcus Elwell at [melwell@okcchamber.com](mailto:melwell@okcchamber.com).

system opening along Northwest Expressway and Classen Boulevard this fall. Other priorities include the Key to Home initiative which connects the chronically homeless to mental health and substance abuse services as well as affordable housing.

Our city's economy continues to soar with low unemployment, retail development growth, business expansions and relocations and a large uptick in tourism. Much of that success can be linked to the quality-of-life improvements OKC has made over the last three decades with help from the MAPS initiatives.

"Investing in quality of life is not superficial or trivial. It is existential. And for a century, the building at the center of this community's strategic investments in quality of life has been our arena," Holt said.

***"Investing in quality of life is not superficial or trivial. It is existential."*** - David Holt

Holt then took the audience on a journey back in time, highlighting all the investments Oklahoma City voters made about every three decades for a new facility to host major events. Municipal Auditorium (now called Civic Center Music Hall) opened in 1937, the Myriad in 1972 and finally the Ford Center (now Paycom Center) in 2002.

Then in 2005, the NBA came calling. Oklahoma City answered by hosting the Hurricane Katrina-displaced New Orleans Hornets. That two-year audition helped us land our very own NBA team, the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Since the Thunder's arrival, Oklahoma City has grown from the 31st largest city in the U.S. to the 20th. Economic development projects exploded throughout the metro including several downtown hotels. The annual economic impact of NBA basketball is more than \$600 million.

"For a century, our city's arena has been the defining infrastructure piece for our city's quality of life. That journey from Municipal Auditorium to the Myriad to what we now know as Paycom Center has never been static. Never once have we said, 'we're done,'" Holt said. "It has always been a story of vision and aspiration and



About 1,400 people packed the OKC Convention Center last month to hear Mayor David Holt give his annual address.

reinvestment and an implicit understanding that we can never sit still."

According to Holt, Paycom Center is right at the average age of all NBA arenas. Without action soon, he said, Paycom will be one of the oldest arenas in the NBA – it is already the smallest. Several large cities across the country are building expensive new arenas, hoping to attract a professional sports team like we did.

"We always have to remember three things: one, there are a dozen North American cities that used to have an NBA team; two, there are 18 metros bigger than ours that would like to have a team; and three, remember how we got this team," Holt said.

Holt said a proposal to build a new arena should be finalized by summer's end with a vote presented to Oklahoma City voters before the end of the year. He believes it can be built without raising taxes. Thunder ownership will also contribute to construction costs.

"We didn't come this far...to stop now," Holt said. "We have the same obligation and opportunity as our ancestors to leave this city better than we found it. This is our generation's chance to leave a legacy on Oklahoma City's renaissance story."

Thanks to Presenting Sponsor Oklahoma City Thunder and Host Sponsor Express Employment Professionals for supporting State of the City.





## SAM'S CLUB (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

An official with Sam's Club said the new facility will improve services for its members, mainly in terms of speed and availability of products.

"We're excited to enhance our supply chain capabilities in the State of Oklahoma," said Joseph Godsey, chief supply chain officer of Sam's Club. "We are on a journey to transform the entire Sam's Club supply chain through strategic expansion and cutting-edge automation."

Local officials applauded the investment. Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt said the new facility joins a growing distribution corridor in southwest Oklahoma City.

"We are excited to extend our long-term partnership with Walmart and Sam's Club to include this new distribution center," Mayor Holt said. "Oklahoma City's population continues to grow and as both our city and the company expand, we look forward to working together."

Logistics is one of the biggest industries in the Greater Oklahoma City region. Major trade hubs and more than 411 million residents are within 1,800 miles of Oklahoma City. The region has more than 36,000 jobs in logistics and distribution.

The Sam's Club distribution center is expected to open early next year.

# 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).

**Quad Construction**  
 (formerly Smith & Pickel Construction)  
 3223 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73105



# 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.

## PARTNER+

### Walmart Neighborhood Market

*Grocers - Retail*  
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### Waylon Stricklin Realtor-KW Elite, NW OKC

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Mr. Waylon Strickland.....(405) 919-8828  
11617 N. Meridian Ave., # D  
Oklahoma City, OK 73162-3941  
OkcMetroHomes.com

## MEMBER UPGRADES

## PARTNER+

### OKC Outlets 1, LLC

*Shopping Centers*  
Ms. Jeannette Smith.....(405) 787-3700  
7624 W. Reno Ave., Suite 380  
Oklahoma City, OK 73127  
www.okcoutlets.com

## ADVISOR

### Eye to Eye Marriage

*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
Mr. Lucresha A. Redus.....(405) 627-2475  
P.O. Box 36651  
Oklahoma City, OK 73136-2651  
eyetoeyecommunity.com

### Metropolitan School of Dance, Inc.

*Arts Organizations & Information*  
*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
Ms. Frances Pitts.....(405) 236-5026  
600 N. High Ave., Suite 240  
P.O. Box 14744  
Oklahoma City, OK 73113-0744  
www.msdiokc.org

### Prime Time Education Inc.

*Educational Services*  
Mr. Rufus D. Howard.....(405) 418-6818  
1204 NE 30th  
P.O. Box 23691  
Oklahoma City, OK 73123-2691  
www.primetimeeducationinc.org

### Urban Bridge

*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
Mr. Marcus Jackson.....(405) 604-7204  
1915 N. MLK Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111-1405  
urbanbridge.org

### The InTune Mother Society

*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
Ms. RaShaunda Lugrand.....(405) 795-3733  
7901 NE 10th St., Suite B-103  
P.O. Box 55803  
Del City, OK 73155-0803  
www.timcenter.org

### Northeast OKC Neighborhood Coalition (NEOKCNC)

*Consultants*  
Ms. Denyveta Davis.....(405) 609-4987  
1732 NE 23 St., Suite C  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111-3339  
<http://neokcnc.org>

### Selfless Hands Foundation

*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
Mrs. Raven Crisp Smith.....(405) 652-9181  
P.O. Box 602  
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-0602  
www.selflesshandsfoundation.org

## ASSOCIATE

### Love Grow Live Center

*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
Mr. Brandon L. Sims, Sr.....(405) 315-9790  
4125 NE 16th St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73117-6807  
lovegrowlive.org

### MS International

*Flooring Equipment & Supplies*  
Mr. Chance Hill.....(572) 910-6400  
5325 SW 36th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73179-7802  
msisurfaces.com

### Topgolf OKC

*Amusement / Entertainment / Attractions*  
Mrs. Michele P. Leeper.....(405) 546-3175  
13313 Pawnee Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73114-1413  
<https://topgolf.com/us/oklahoma-city/>

## CORE

### BioLife Plasma Services

*Biotech*  
Mr. Michael Compton.....(405) 254-1912  
4275 NW 63rd St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116-1538  
www.biolifeplasma.com

### Chinowth & Cohen

*Real Estate*  
Ms. Becky Zarecki.....(405) 330-0031  
2619 Kelley Point Parkway  
Edmond, OK 73013-2994  
ccoklahoma.com

### Ryan Johnston Realty

*Real Estate - Commercial*  
*Real Estate Developers*  
Mr. Ryan Johnston.....(405) 816-4635  
P.O. Box 82337  
Oklahoma City, OK 73148-0337  
ryanjohnston.com

### Walmart Neighborhood Market #5286

*Grocers - Retail*  
Ms. Christy Pyle.....(405) 840-8435  
9320 N. Pennsylvania Place  
The Village, OK 73120-1519  
www.walmart.com

### Capital Insights LLC

*Government Relations*  
*Public Relations*  
Ms. Rebecca Cooper.....(202) 345-4864  
2925 Chestnut Ridge Court  
4400 E. West Highway, Suite 303  
Bethesda, MD 20814-4503

### Dayclub Modern Workspaces

*Office & Desk Space Rental*  
Ms. Bekah Hammontree.....(405) 259-4339  
629 W. Main St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-2221  
www.joindayclub.com

### Walmart Neighborhood Market #2875

*Grocers - Retail*  
Mr. Russell Deane.....(405) 495-1001  
6437 N. MacArthur Blvd.  
Warr Acres, OK 73132-6503  
www.walmart.com

### Walmart Neighborhood Market #5863

*Grocers - Retail*  
Ms. Kaitlyn Atkeson.....(405) 455-4070  
7520 E. Reno Ave.  
Midwest City, OK 73110-4312  
www.walmart.com

### CARDS Recycling

*Waste Management & Disposal*  
Ms. Jennifer Spencer.....(877) 592-2737  
2400 SW 15th St.  
P.O. Box 775  
Tontitown, AR 72770-0775  
cardsrecycling.com

### Fins Company

*Consultants*  
Mr. Fred Steffy.....(949) 612-5579  
1050 E. 2nd St., Suite 163  
Edmond, OK 73034-5313  
www.finscompany.com

### Walmart Neighborhood Market #2877

*Grocers - Retail*  
Mr. Chris Holland.....(405) 773-3555  
11101 N. Rockwell Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73162-2724  
www.walmart.com

### Walmart Neighborhood Market #7308

*Grocers - Retail*  
Mr. Kevin Dunn.....(405) 515-7418  
2551 Classen Blvd.  
Norman, OK 73071-4381  
www.walmart.com

### The Century Hotel

*Hotels & Motels*  
Mr. William Hollis, Jr.....(405) 232-5624  
512 NW 9th St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-1008

### The Lume

*Meeting / Banquet Facilities*  
Mrs. LaKhrisha Medina.....(405) 259-4407  
619 W. Main St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-2221  
www.thelumeokc.com

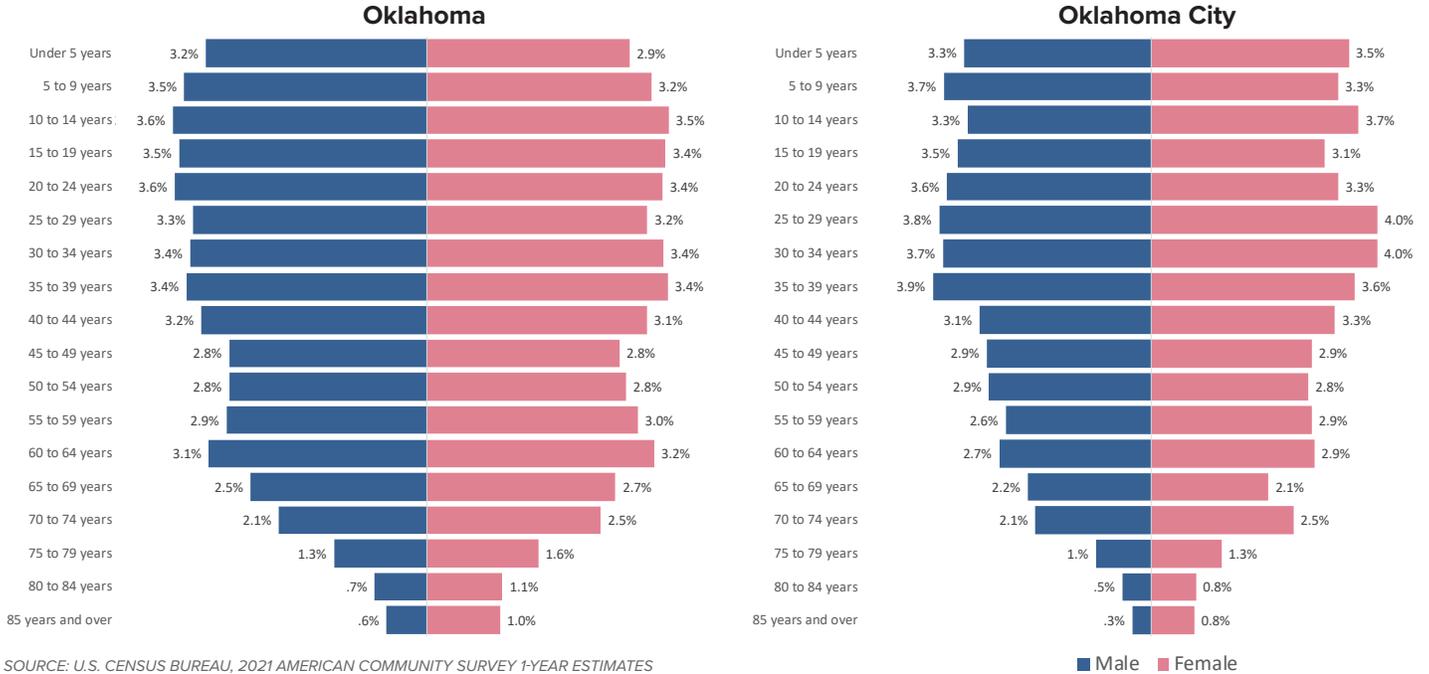
### Walmart Neighborhood Market #3615

*Grocers - Retail*  
Mr. Glen Garcia.....(405) 521-1431  
2217 NW 23rd St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73107-2403  
www.walmart.com

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## OKLAHOMA IS IN THE TOP 5 FOR YOUNGEST STATE IN THE NATION

### Age & Sex Population Pyramid % of Total Population - Oklahoma / Oklahoma City



SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2021 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 1-YEAR ESTIMATES

- According to new data released by the U.S. Census Bureau, Oklahoma is the 5th youngest state with a median age of 37.1. The national median age is 38.9.
- Among peer metros, the Oklahoma City MSA is the 2nd youngest at a median age of 36.1.
  - (San Antonio: 35.7; Columbus MSA: 36.6, Indianapolis MSA: 37.0, Kansas City MSA: 37.9, Albuquerque MSA: 39.4)
- The City of Oklahoma City is even younger with a median age of 35.
  - (Male: 34.6, Female: 35.5)
- A young median age implies that employers benefit from a younger workforce which bodes well for tapping into a pipeline of young workers in the future.

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!

- 5** State of the Schools keynote to address workforce of the future
- 6** City's bus rapid transit system gaining speed; December launch expected
- 8** Chamber's attendance at aviation events helps propel OKC's economy
- 10** Oklahoma-based startups find funding at gBETA & gener8tor showcase

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OKLAHOMA CITY  
**CHAMBER**



## STATE OF THE **SCHOOLS**

**Wednesday, Aug. 9 | 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**  
**National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum**

