



DECEMBER 2023 • OKCCHAMBER.COM

GREATER
OKLAHOMA CITY
CHAMBER

ESTIMATED ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY ARENA \$590 MILLION; CONSTRUCTION IMPACT EXCEEDS \$1B

As we quickly approach the Dec. 12 vote that will decide if Oklahoma City will build a new downtown arena, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, along with a long list of supporters, points to an economic impact study that the Chamber recently commissioned that shows the “significant” impact the arena has on OKC’s economy annually.

The study, conducted by Applied Economics of Phoenix, Arizona, finds an estimated annual impact of the arena to be \$590 million, while also supporting more



than 3,000 jobs. The study also estimates the impact of construction of the new arena would generate more than \$1.3 billion during the construction period and support more than 10,000 jobs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

VISIT OKC TEAMS WITH CHICKASAW NATION IN UK TO PROMOTE CITY, CHICKASAW NATION ATTRACTIONS

As Oklahoma City’s population continues its phenomenal growth – now the nation’s 20th largest city – the number of things to do and see across the metro has also steadily grown. And more are on the way.

Oklahoma City has already seen a steady stream of new openings of various new attractions and businesses in recent years, including the First Americans Museum, the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine and, most recently, Ramsay’s Kitchen by chef Gordon Ramsay. Other top-notch attractions and developments will be opening



Visit Oklahoma City’s Sandy Price, pictured above, was in the United Kingdom recently as part of Brand USA Travel Week Europe. The three-day event provided U.S. travel and tourism industry professionals an opportunity to market their products to tour travel companies in Europe.

soon. The Chickasaw Nation’s OKANA Resort, Andretti Indoor Karting and Games, and the new OKC Fairgrounds Coliseum are just a few examples.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



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

OU Health Physicians — Neurosurgery Clinic
1000 N Lincoln Blvd, Suite 4000
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
(405) 271-4912



LEADERSHIP NOTES



CHRISTY GILLENWATER
President & CEO

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE ON DEC. 12

Voting is a powerful tool that empowers you to help shape our community. That's why it's so imperative for you to vote in the Dec. 12 special election that holds tremendous significance for the future prosperity of Oklahoma City.

The economic impact that looms on the horizon is significant. Thunder games and various events inject over half a billion dollars annually into our local economy, sustaining a remarkable 3,000 jobs. Yet, the arena is not merely a basketball haven; it serves as the epicenter for concerts, family shows, thrilling monster truck events and nationally acclaimed athletic

competitions. These events draw visitors from beyond our city limits who bolster our local economy.

Voting YES ensures that Oklahoma City remains a major player on the national stage. A new arena guarantees the Thunder's presence in our city until at least 2050, securing the team for another generation and enhancing our competitiveness for elite concerts and major events. This initiative comes at no additional tax burden—it only extends the existing MAPS 4 tax once it expires.

By supporting this proposal on Dec. 12, you are not only preserving our city's legacy of self-investment but also fueling a positive economic trend. The anticipated ripple effect of the new arena promises to bolster our economy, creating a robust revenue stream that can be directed towards addressing pressing issues in Oklahoma City.

Your vote is your voice, and together, we can continue to propel Oklahoma City towards a future of economic vitality. Let's stand united and cast our ballots for a stronger, more prosperous community.

»» READ CHRISTY'S VELOCITYOKC ONLINE STORY OF THE MONTH

OKCMOA to showcase works of Oklahoma icon Ed Ruscha & art pioneer Georgia O'Keeffe

VELOCITYOKC.COM/CHRISTYSPICK



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CHRISTY GILLENWATER
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber
President & CEO



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UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDAR

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

DECEMBER 14

Annual Meeting

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
National Cowboy & Western
Heritage Museum
1700 NE 63rd St.
okcchamber.com/annual

JANUARY 17

Chamber Forum

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
The Petroleum Club
100 N Broadway, 34th Floor
okcchamber.com/januaryforum

JANUARY 18

Meet & Mingle

8:30 to 10 a.m.
Bar K
901 SE 5th St.
okcchamber.com/meetandmingle

JANUARY 25

Legislative Kickoff

8 to 9:30 a.m.
okcchamber.com/legislativekickoff

FEBRUARY 15

Chamber Forum

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
The Petroleum Club
100 N Broadway, 34th Floor
okcchamber.com/februaryforum



Chamber's 2023 Annual Meeting to feature discussion with Chickasaw Nation leaders

The officers and directors of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber invite you to attend the 2023 Annual Meeting. It will be held on Thursday, Dec. 14, at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In addition to celebrating the year's achievements, the event features an engaging conversation with Chickasaw Nation leaders. Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby, Chickasaw Nation Secretary of State Bill Lance and Chickasaw Nation Secretary of Commerce Dan Boren will offer insights into Chickasaw Nation's diverse business ventures and economic development initiatives. Attendees will also learn how the Chickasaw Nation is transforming communities across the state and preparing for an even brighter future.

Witness the passing of the torch and the beginning of a new chapter as Teresa Rose, executive director of Communities Foundations of Oklahoma, is formally installed as the 2024 Chamber Chair.

As we highlight the triumphs of 2023, we'll also share an exclusive preview of the bold next steps that lie ahead for our community. It's an exciting event you won't want to miss.

Tickets are \$75 for Chamber members and \$100 for nonmembers and can be purchased by visiting okcchamber.com/annual. Sponsor tables of eight with additional recognition are available for \$1,600. If you are interested in purchasing a table sponsorship, please contact Suzette Ellison Jordan at sellison@okcchamber.com.

Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor Bank of Oklahoma and Host Sponsor Cox Communications.



OKLAHOMA LAWMAKERS ADDRESS SESSION'S TOP PRIORITIES AT 2024 LEGISLATIVE KICKOFF

Chamber members will get an opportunity to hear from several key legislative leaders and make their voices known on issues impacting Oklahoma City's business community during the Chamber's annual Legislative Kickoff scheduled for Jan. 25.

A panel of leadership from both the House and Senate will share their thoughts and insights into what they see as some of the more critical issues state lawmakers will face throughout the next legislative session.

Participating on the panel will be:

- Greg Treat, Senate President Pro Tempore
- Kay Floyd, Senate Democratic Leader
- Charles McCall, Speaker of the House
- Cyndi Munson, House Minority Leader

The Legislative Kickoff will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Oklahoma City Northwest, 3233 Northwest Expressway. Registration and networking begin at 11 a.m.

Tickets are \$50 for Chamber members and \$75 for nonmembers. To register, visit okcchamber.com/legislativekickoff. Sponsor tables of eight with additional recognition are available for \$1,500. Contact Suzette Ellison Jordan at sellison@okcchamber.com for sponsor inquiries.

Special thanks to Government Relations Benefactor Devon Energy Corporation.

JANUARY CHAMBER FORUM GIVES PROGRESS ON OKC'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS



The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber will host its first Chamber Forum for 2024 on Jan. 17. The featured topic for January's Forum, one of 10 planned for 2024, will be an update on the progress of Oklahoma City's criminal justice reform efforts, which stemmed from the Vera Institute of Justice report in 2016.

To identify the recommendations the county made progress on as well as what further improvements in the system are necessary to achieve the task force's goals, the Oklahoma County Criminal Justice Advisory Council sought assistance from the Crime and Justice Institute,

which analyzed data from the detention center, reviewed state statutes and agency policies, and interviewed numerous system stakeholders.

The result of this assessment included seven findings about the county's criminal justice system identified within this report. Overall, the county has achieved its primary goal of reducing its population to address overcrowding, as the population has decreased by 46% since 2015. The new study provides an updated roadmap to continue the reform work in the next few years.

Join us at the January Chamber Forum to hear city and county leaders discuss the results of the new study and what's next.

The January Chamber Forum will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Petroleum Club Downtown OKC. The cost to attend is \$45 for Chamber members and \$55 for nonmembers. To register for the Forum, visit okcchamber.com/januaryforum. A discounted full-season package of 10 tickets can also be purchased for \$400 by emailing register@okcchamber.com.

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. Visit the events page on the Chamber website for up-to-date information on this and other events the Chamber hosts throughout the year.

CONGRESSMAN LUCAS SHARES KEY INSIGHTS DURING DC SPOTLIGHT DISCUSSION

As the longest-serving member of Oklahoma's congressional delegation, Congressman Frank Lucas recently reflected on his 18 years in Washington during a fireside-style chat at the Chamber's annual DC Spotlight event in southwest Oklahoma City.

Since being elected in 1994, Lucas has served under seven Speakers of the House, including the most recent appointee, Mike Johnson. Even with the Republican Party currently holding just a three-seat majority in the House and a new Speaker taking the gavel, Lucas said he was "cautiously optimistic."



"I serve with a handful of idealistic, principled folks who would rather be right than pragmatic, which complicates issues a little bit more," Lucas said. "Speaker Johnson is probably the most articulate Speaker that we've had in a very long time. And that's a good thing



for us. (He is) very socially, politically and economically conservative, but he's discovering now that it's one thing to be a group leadership member sitting toward the back of the room and vote in kind of a super-principled way and then suddenly becoming the chief executive officer and have to move the agenda."

Lucas said when he was first elected 40% of his constituents lived in parts of South, Downtown and Northeast Oklahoma City. Now, the Third Congressional District covers all or a portion of 32 counties in northern and western Oklahoma, including the extreme southwest corner of Oklahoma County.

Since most counties in Lucas's district are rural, Lucas emphasized the importance of organizations like the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber partnering with communities across rural Oklahoma to help make positive impacts.

"Whether it's a business on Main Street in Cheyenne or a business in any one of the communities within metropolitan Oklahoma City, it's still business. It's the tax code; it's the depreciation schedule; and it's the labor issues. It's all those things that matter, no matter where you are."

"So, when the Chamber helps me on the farm bill or you help me with the delegation on things related to energy, or you help us on things related to the tax code or depreciation, that's just a variety of things. Helping us helps you because it's that direct symbiotic relationship."

"Whether it's a business on Main Street in Cheyenne or a business in any one of the communities within metropolitan Oklahoma City, it's still business."

- Congressman Frank Lucas

STATE FILM OFFICES COLLABORATE IN LA TO BRING MORE BUSINESS TO THE SOONER STATE

A recent partnership among several Oklahoma film offices aimed to promote the state as a filmmaking destination among scores of industry professionals gathered in Southern California has gotten rave reviews. State film officials say this collaborative effort could lead to even more films and TV series being shot in Oklahoma City and other locales across the state.

Representatives from the Oklahoma City Film and Creative Industries Office (operated by the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber), the Oklahoma Film and Music Office, and Tulsa Office of Film, Music, Arts and Culture, as well as the Cherokee Film Commission, traveled to Los Angeles for the 2023 American Film Market (AFM). Upwards of 7,000 industry professionals, including film producers and distributors, attend AFM annually.

Jill Simpson, executive director for the OKC Film Office, said the partnership made Oklahoma unique.

“I think it struck people that [the four Oklahoma film offices] were in the same space even though three of us have separate incentives,” Simpson said. “It was nice to



OKC Film Office executive director Jill Simpson, second from right, shares a group photo with several film industry executives during a recent Hollywood VIP reception. Sitting next to Simpson on her right is Fred Roos, who produced “The Godfather, Part II,” which won the Oscar for best picture in 1975.

see people recognize that spirit of collaboration and teamwork that, okay, we want to get you to Oklahoma and then we’ll figure out the best spot for your project based on the locations you need. That’s unique.”

Simpson reeled off some of the top-notch facilities and equipment filmmakers have access to in Oklahoma City that resonated with many of the industry officials. For example, OKC currently has multiple soundstages, including five stages that cover 1.3 million square feet of space at Prairie Surf Studio. Filmmakers Ranch (formerly Green Pastures) sports what its website refers to as a “treasure trove” of support spaces, including its soon-to-open Apex Post OKC, a full Dolby Atmos mixing room which will be the first of its kind in the region, Simpson said.

Since AFM concluded, Simpson has spoken with Jon Vogl, owner, sound supervisor and re-recording mixer at Apex Post, who told her he had a great meeting with an LA studio interested in utilizing Apex’s services and was able to connect that studio with Boiling Point, another local company that offers high-quality post-production, VFX (visual effects) and animation services for films here and abroad.

“The LA studio in question has now reached out to both entities to ask for complementary bids, one for Boiling Point’s visual effects services, and the other for Apex Post’s Dolby mixing stage for sound re-recording and mixing,” Simpson said. “If we can grow and layer these capacities of local companies in the post-production and tech arenas, it will really help us round out the industry here.”

Oklahoma hosted a Hollywood reception for approximately 150 producers, directors and industry executives, which Simpson described as an “incredibly good turnout.” Guests included executives from NBC/Universal, Disney, Netflix, Paramount and more. Afterwards, Oklahoma hosted a VIP dinner for about 15 people, including studio executives from Amazon, NBC/Universal and Paramount.

“The VIP dinner was an intimate setting where we were able to have some not only great social interactions but talk a little business, too,” Simpson said. “The dinners are a good way to get to know people, and in our industry, that’s important. They’re spending a lot of money, so establishing personal connections makes a difference in building relationships and trust.”



ARENA (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

residents. Attracting visitors for these events supports local jobs and important government functions like improving our streets, our public safety and taking care of human needs.”

Gillenwater said that the study underpins the argument for a new arena, providing conclusive information about the impact on everyday residents.

“This arena matters for so many reasons – the image the NBA brings to our community, the world stage

KEEP
OKC
BIG LEAGUE
YES DEC 12

“This study, using real inputs from arena activity, makes it clear that the impact on our economy is significant,” said Christy Gillenwater, president and CEO of the Chamber. “There is an important impact to the families dependent on the arena activity – those that work in the building, along with restaurants, hotels and companies that provide goods and services to the arena.”

The study also details the annual tax revenue impact of arena activity. Annual impact to the city of Oklahoma City is estimated at \$9 million, Oklahoma County and school districts is \$4 million and to the state of Oklahoma, \$17 million.

“The numbers are an important consideration,” explained Eric Long, the Chamber’s research economist. “These are dollars that support basic services for



we are on because of what happens there, the joy and connection it brings to concertgoers and basketball fans – but a vitally important piece is the jobs it brings to families in our city.”

The Keep OKC Big League Coalition, a group of Chamber member businesses and organizations working together to ensure the vote’s success, has now grown to more than 60 supporters. The list of coalition members includes metro chambers of commerce, nonprofits, arts and entertainment entities, and various industry associations representing local restaurants, firefighters, police, general contractors, retail establishments, and sports and travel entities.

To view the entire study, visit velocityokc.com/arenastudy.



KEEP OKC BIG LEAGUE COALITION MEMBERS

Allied Arts OKC
American Council of Engineering Companies of Oklahoma
American Federation of Teachers – Oklahoma City
American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma
Arts Council Oklahoma City
Associated General Contractors of Oklahoma
Association of Oklahoma General Contractors
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Baptist Ministers Association
Boys and Girls Clubs of Oklahoma County
Bricktown Association
Capitol Hill Main Street (Calle dos Cinco)
Central Oklahoma Labor Federation
Chickasaw Nation, Cleats for Kids
Concerned Clergy for Spiritual Renewal
dead Center Film
Del City Chamber of Commerce
Downtown OKC Business Improvement District
Downtown OKC Partnership
Edmond Area Chamber of Commerce
Fields & Futures
Greater Oklahoma City Asian Chamber of Commerce
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce
Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Greater Oklahoma City Metro Hotel Association
Laborers International Union of North America – Local 107
Latino Community Development Agency
Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma
Midtown OKC

Midwest City Chamber of Commerce
Moore Chamber of Commerce
Norman Chamber of Commerce
North Oklahoma City Soccer Club
Northwest Oklahoma City Chamber
OKC Firefighters Association
OKC Fraternal Order of Police
Oklahoma Building Trades Council
Oklahoma City Ballet
Oklahoma City Black Chamber of Commerce
Oklahoma City Community Foundation
Oklahoma City Dodgers
Oklahoma City Innovation District
Oklahoma City Metropolitan Association of REALTORS
Oklahoma City Philharmonic
Oklahoma Hotel and Lodging Association
Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum
Oklahoma Municipal Contractors
Oklahoma Restaurant Association
Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame
Oklahoma Travel Industry Association
Oklahoma Youth Expo
Positive Tomorrows
South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce
The State Chamber of Oklahoma
United Way of Central Oklahoma
Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City
Visit OKC
West Village District Association
YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City
Yukon Chamber of Commerce
YWCA Oklahoma City

'TIS THE SEASON' TO EXPERIENCE OKC'S DOWNTOWN IN DECEMBER

The holiday season officially kicked off in downtown Oklahoma City Nov. 16 with the OKC Tree Lighting Festival outside of the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark. But if you missed it, don't worry. There will be many more events and attractions throughout the rest of December and into the New Year as part of Downtown in December.

The event was created more than 20 years ago by Downtown Oklahoma City Partnership, a not-for-profit organization that advocates for downtown revitalization. Since then, Downtown in December has grown into one of the most anticipated events of the season with over 30 events and attractions. From ice skating, concerts and plays to shopping, spectacular light displays and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus, Downtown in December is sure to bring a smile to even the stingiest of Scrooges.

Although several events happened in November, the months of December and January will be filled with many other events throughout downtown to celebrate the season, a few of which are highlighted below. Learn more by visiting downtownindecember.com.



Now in its 12th year, the Holiday Pop-Up Shops event has entrenched itself as an Oklahoma City and Midtown tradition, providing shoppers an opportunity to buy local from dozens of small businesses.

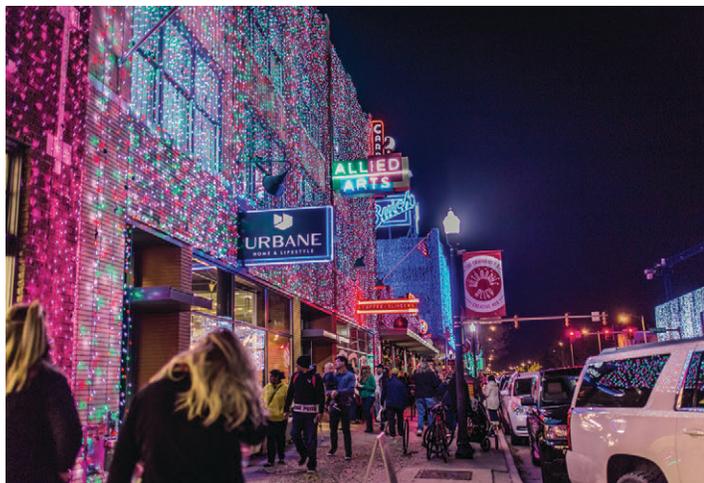
Dec. 16, holiday revelers will be able to enjoy local shopping, sidewalk entertainment, carriage rides, special promotions and other holiday-themed activities throughout the evening. And, of course, we can't forget about the lights – all 600,000 individual LED lights draped over buildings in a “dazzling display of Christmas cheer.” Whether you're experiencing Automobile Alley from your car, on foot or onboard the OKC Streetcar, the Lights on Broadway event will captivate your imagination and bring more joy to your holiday season.

LYRIC THEATRE'S 'A CHRISTMAS CAROL'

Lyric Theatre will present its holiday tradition of “A Christmas Carol” indoors at the Plaza Theatre now through Dec. 24. This timeless Charles Dickens' tale of transformation and redemption for one Ebenezer Scrooge will feature all-new sets, costumes, lights, sounds and staging. To learn more, visit lyrictheatreokc.com.

OKLAHOMA CITY BALLET'S 'THE NUTCRACKER'

What holiday season is complete without seeing a rendition of Oklahoma City Ballet's production of Tchaikovsky's “The Nutcracker”? An Oklahoma City favorite for more than 50 years, this joyous production awaits you and yours this holiday season. Performances are Dec. 8-10 and Dec. 15-17 at the Civic Center Music



LIGHTS ON BROADWAY

One of the most stunning holiday light displays in Oklahoma City continues in Automobile Alley this holiday season during the 8th Annual Lights on Broadway event. On Saturday, Dec. 9, and Saturday,



The Devon Ice Rink, located at the Myriad Botanical Gardens, is a popular attraction during the Holidays and throughout the winter season. Visitors of all ages and skill levels can lace up their skates and glide across 5,500 square feet of real ice while surrounded by glittering lights and smiling faces from both young and old alike.

Hall. This year's production features new choreography by Acting Artistic Director Ryan Jolicoeur-Nye as well as students from the OKC Ballet Yvonne Chouteau School and live music from Canterbury Voices and the Oklahoma City Philharmonic. A sensory-friendly performance is also scheduled Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. for children and adults who have sensory sensitivities or for anyone who may benefit from being in a more relaxed environment. To see showtimes or purchase tickets, visit okcballet.org.

HOLIDAY POP-UP SHOPS

Now in its 12th year, the Holiday Pop-Up Shops event has entrenched itself as an Oklahoma City and Midtown tradition. Whether you are looking to purchase a unique gift for that special friend or loved one in your life, the Holiday Pop-Up Shops will have all that and more!

Located at the corner of NW 10th and Hudson, the Holiday Pop-Up Shops provide shoppers an opportunity to buy local from dozens of small businesses. Participating shops will be rotating weekly throughout the event and will include dozens of local merchants such as Plenty Mercantile, Shop Good, Curbside Chronicle Wrapping Paper, the Painted Door Gift Boutique and many more.

Shoppers will discover a variety of gifts from clothing and accessories to home goods and children's toys. Holiday treats, including hot chocolate, are available from various shops such as Katiebug's Sips & Sweet. There is also live music and even visits from jolly Ol' Saint Nick himself. Still haven't purchased your Christmas tree yet? You will find Christmas trees for sale on site that are looking for that perfect home this holiday season.

The shops will be popping up every Friday, Saturday and Sunday now through Dec. 17. To learn more or to see which local merchants are participating in this holiday event, please visit okcpopups.com.



As it always does, the Chamber's very own Visit OKC gears up to market and promote Oklahoma City as a travel destination for not only U.S. residents, but also international visitors.

“That makes a big difference to people when you make the effort to go over there and visit them in their office.”

- Sandy Price

Sandy Price, vice president of tourism for Visit OKC, and Angel Green of the Chickasaw Nation recently attended the Brand USA Travel Week Europe trade show in London. The three-day event provided U.S. travel and tourism industry professionals an opportunity to market their products to tour travel companies in Europe.

Price met with 38 tour operators, mostly from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain and France, marketing Oklahoma City attractions, such as the First Americans Museum, OKANA Resort, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City Stockyards and Route 66, which goes right through Oklahoma City.

“2026 is the 100th anniversary of Route 66, and so there is a lot of interest there,” Price said.

Price described two groups of people that typically drive Route 66 – those that are purists and those that are hobbyists. The latter group is the most desirable group to court.

“A hobbyist tends to want to experience what's on Route 66 and experience the people on Route 66. Therefore, they want to spend more time at each destination,” she said.

The Grapevine (Texas) Convention & Visitors Bureau was also a partner during the UK trip. Price said it made sense to travel with someone from Grapevine since Dallas-Ft. Worth International Airport is an international inbound airport.

“I think partnering with Grapevine was really good because you can land at DFW and be in Oklahoma in an hour and 10 minutes, and you can be in Oklahoma City in two and a half hours,” Price said.

While in the UK, Visit OKC also partnered with the Chickasaw Nation, Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, as well as the Grapevine and Duncan (Oklahoma) CVBs on a sales mission to Leeds, England; Glasgow, Scotland; and Dublin, Ireland. The group met with tour operators in their own offices where they conducted in-office training.

“That makes a big difference to people when you make the effort to go over there and visit them in their office. First of all, it makes them feel like you've bought in and you're there for the long haul, and you're going to be a partner for a while because you're invested,” Price said.

Last year was the first time Price attended Brand USA Travel Week Europe, which was held in Frankfurt, Germany. She also regularly attends IPW, the largest international buyers show in the U.S.



Visit OKC and the Chickasaw Nation shared a table during Brand USA Travel Week Europe, where they were able to have 20-minute, one-on-one conversations with representatives from many tour travel companies. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, pictured above, also participated.

FIVE OKLAHOMA COMPANIES TO BENEFIT FROM STARTUP ACCELERATOR PROGRAM



Reina Mohan, founder and CEO of Mera Sona, makes a business pitch for her company during a recent gBETA OKC event in Bricktown.

Five early-stage startups are now participating in a free Oklahoma City business accelerator designed to help them grow. The gBETA accelerator was created by national venture capital firm gener8tor and supported through a partnership with the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, the Inasmuch Foundation, Full Sail Capital, Square Deal, Oklahoma State University, the University of Oklahoma and Love's Travel Stops.

The companies meet for seven weeks to receive intense concierge coaching as well as access to gener8tor's national network of mentors, customers, corporate partners and investors.

One of the cohort participants, Intact, uses seismic tools to record vibrations and create a digital representation of the building to monitor its structural health. Founder and CEO Priyank Jaiswal said he hopes to gain marketing and communication skills and meet new mentors.

"Selection in the program meant gBETA saw the potential in me and my plan. It boosted my confidence and renewed my enthusiasm. I appreciate what gBETA does for aspiring entrepreneurs," said Jaiswal, who is also a geophysics professor at OSU.

Mera Sona, or "My gold" in Hindi, creates wholesome, nutritious food for both pets and people. Company Founder and CEO Reina Mohan said she applied to the program to elevate her company to new heights.

"While I was initially impressed by what I read about the program, I had no idea how profoundly it would impact Mera Sona," Mohan said. "Being selected has

significantly boosted my business. This experience not only validates what I'm creating but also instills the confidence to effectively market and scale my business."

Other participants in the fall cohort include:

- All Counseling – Founded by company CEO Kenna Griffin, All Counseling helps mental health professionals grow their businesses by providing resources to help them learn about owning a practice, including business development and digital marketing. They can also create a profile on the company's searchable therapist directory.
- MyAddo – Founded by CEO Jose Becerril, MyAddo is currently working on creating strong alliances with state and federal authorities to become a trusted resource for the thousands of U.S. and Mexican manufacturers in the plastics, metals and textiles sectors. Customers may also be able to receive assistance with import/export documentation, customs clearance, logistics, and other aspects of cross-border trade.



Founder and CEO Priyank Jaiswal, shares information about his company, Intact, before a group of people attending a recent gBETA OKC event in Bricktown.

- Simbiosis – Co-founded by company COO Omar Alvarez, CEO Efrain Mendez and CTO Marco Rivadeneyra, Simbiosis connects U.S.-based tech companies with vetted software talent from Latin America for full-time remote or onsite positions via its marketplace platform. Working with a team of 14 full-time individuals with access to more than 5,000 senior software engineers in Latin America, Simbiosis's one-stop solution covers the matchmaking, vetting, hiring and payment processes, creating a simple and efficient experience.

Once the founders complete the gBETA program, they will pitch their companies to investors, community partners and the public at a showcase event scheduled for next summer.

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

gener8tor

Investment Management Services
Ms. Selena Skorman.....(704) 472-7694
12 E. California, Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-2459
gener8tor.com

Guidehouse

Consultants
Ms. Erin Hutchins
204 N. Robinson Ave., Suite 2407
111 Congress Ave., Suite 2500
Austin, TX 78701-4104
www.guidehouse.com

EMERGING LEADER

Bluecrest Financial Alliances

Financial Services
Mrs. Barbie Greer.....(405) 486-1400
1300 N. Walker Ave., Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73103-3802
www.bluecrestfa.com

ASSOCIATE

Life Pro Safety

Safety Training & Services
Mrs. Audra Miller.....(405) 345-4445
822-C West Edmond Road
P.O. Box 3907
Broken Arrow, OK 74013-3907
https://lifeprosafety.com/

CORE

Air Products Supply

Air Conditioning & Heating Equipment & Systems
Mr. Jason Hendrix.....(405) 288-0233
266 Industrial Blvd.
Goldsby, OK 73093-9116
Airproductssupply.com

Houck Transit Advertising

Advertising Agencies
Mrs. Lindie Lloyd.....(405) 585-8314
1025 Tomlyn Ave., Suite 100
12855 Arbor Meadows Lane
Oklahoma City, OK 73165-6555
houckads.com

National RollerDome League

Sports Complexes & Entertainment Centers
Mr. Bill Vincent.....(405) 301-7330
4401 NW 39th, #313
Oklahoma City, OK 73112-2838
nationalrollerdomeleague.com

SidexSide, Inc.

Nonprofit / Service Agencies
Mr. Chad Jordan
900 N. Broadway Ave., Suite 210
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-5852

Carlos Johnson (CPA) PLLC

Accountants and Accounting Services
Mr. Carlos Johnson.....(405) 642-6235
3124 Lamp Post Lane
Oklahoma City, OK 73120-5619

Life Pro Safety

Safety Training & Services
Mrs. Audra Miller.....(405) 345-4445
618 S. Aspen Ave.
P.O. Box 3907
Broken Arrow, OK 74013-3907
https://lifeprosafety.com/

OsteoStrong

Health Services
Ms. Mary Martin.....(405) 917-8424
13300 N. MacArthur Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73142-3021
www.osteostromg.me

VOX Audio Visual

Audio-Visual Equipment & Supplies
Mr. Jeff M. Bezdek.....(405) 231-1912
1205 SW 2nd St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73108-1403
www.voxaudiovisual.com

Enterprise Fleet Management

Truck Renting & Leasing
Ms. Elise Underwood.....(405) 463-2364
433 E. Memorial Road 2nd Floor
Oklahoma City, OK 73114-2214

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.

Andy B's

11917 N. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73120

OsteoStrong

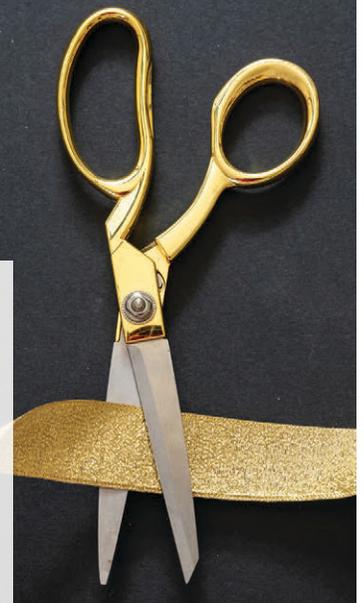
13300 N. MacArthur Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73142

Live Love Grow Center

12000 N. Virginia Ave.
Nichols Hills, OK 73120

T-Swirl Crepe

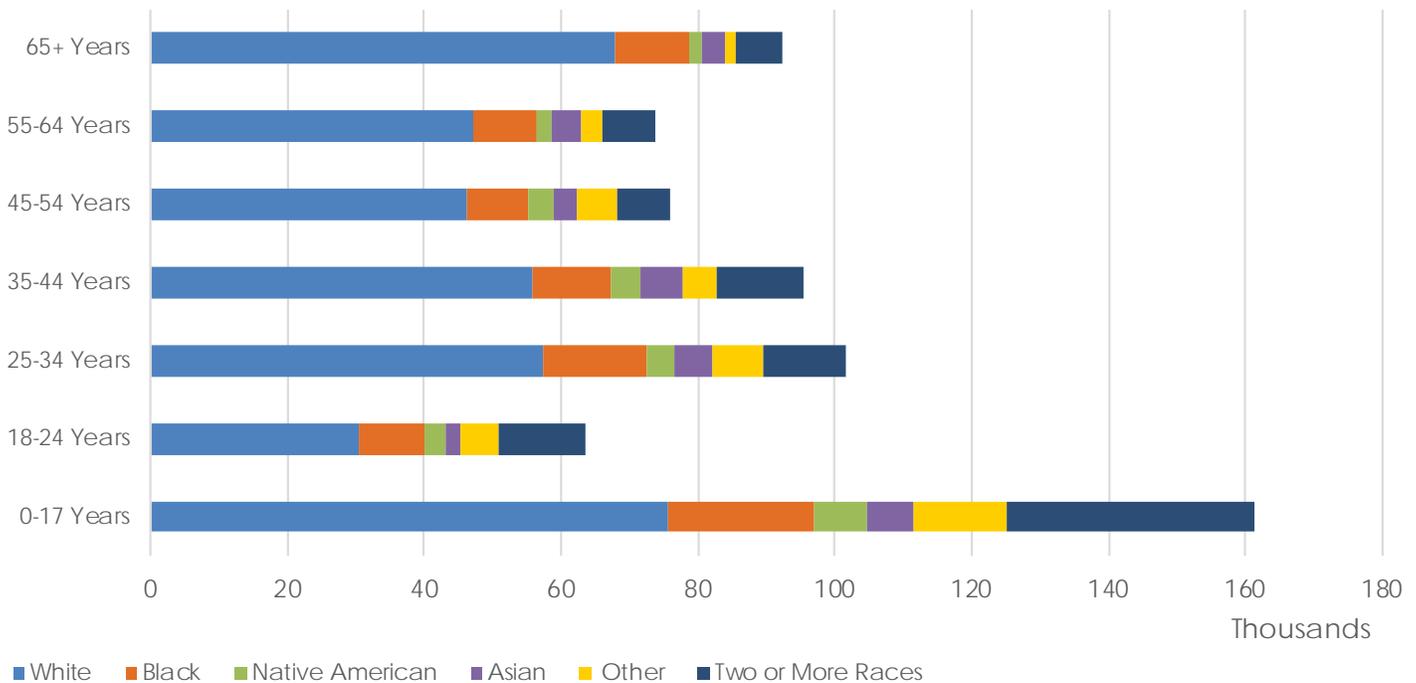
13419 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Suite A
Oklahoma City, OK 73134



ECONOMIC INDICATORS

OKLAHOMA CITY DIVERSITY ON THE RISE

Age by Race Distribution (City of Oklahoma City - in Thousands)



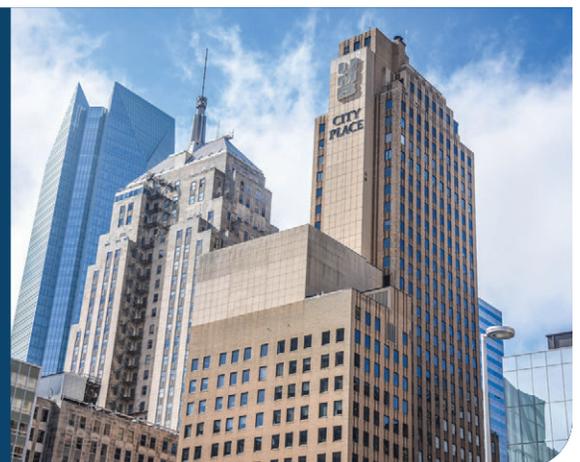
SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU , AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, 2022 1-YEAR ESTIMATES, CITY OF OKLAHOMA CITY; WOODS & POOLE POPULATION FORECAST

- The City of Oklahoma City experienced a 30% increase in its Hispanic population over the past decade.
- In OKC, 40% of adults 18 and older are non-white.
- Oklahoma has over 7 times more Native American residents compared to the national average. Within the state, 9.5% of residents are Native American, compared to only 1.3% for the United States.
- According to Woods & Poole, Oklahoma County is projected to be majority-minority in 2031, when the population of White residents in the county will drop below 50%.

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

DID YOU KNOW?

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



LOOK INSIDE!

- 1** Recent study for downtown arena shows 'significant' economic impact
- 5** January Chamber Forum gives progress on city's criminal justice reforms
- 10** 'Tis the Season' to experience OKC's Downtown in December event
- 15** Economic Indicators report shows diversity on the rise in OKC

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OKLAHOMA CITY
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TWITTER.COM/OKCCHAMBER



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2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, Dec. 14
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

\$75 Member & \$100 Non-Member

REGISTER NOW

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