



MARCH 2024 • OKCCHAMBER.COM

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## 2024: A YEAR OF PROGRESS FOR MAPS 4

This year many of the dreams of MAPS 4 will become reality. Oklahoma City voters overwhelmingly approved the \$968 million revitalization plan in 2019, but nothing has been easy since. The pandemic of 2020 triggered economic disruptions, skyrocketing construction costs and crippling inflation, all major obstacles to completing the long list of projects included in MAPS 4. Those driving the program forward shared their insight during a panel discussion at last month's Chamber Forum.

“If you were to go back and look at the consumer price index from the summer of 2019, it's essentially about 20% inflation. So, think what the impact of a 20% increase

in cost means,” said Jason Cotton, president and CEO of ADG Blatt, the MAPS 4 program consultant. “It has changed the way that we've had to design projects, the way we've had to approach projects, and the way we had to think about construction on projects.”

MAPS 4 is funded by an eight-year penny sales tax. Projects aren't started until the funds are collected. Teresa Rose, MAPS 4 Citizen Advisory Board Chairperson, said they realized the jump in construction costs would affect what they could build. Thankfully, collections are about 2% over projections.

“In previous versions of MAPS, we held that money because of normal escalation and construction costs, but this time city council went ahead and approved an additional \$100 million to go ahead and add to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## JAIL POPULATION DROPS, DIVERSION PROGRAMS EXPAND DUE TO OKLAHOMA COUNTY JUSTICE REFORM EFFORTS

Transformative changes implemented by the Criminal Justice Advisory Council (CJAC) have led to a significant drop in the Oklahoma County jail population and the expansion of a mental health diversion program.

### HISTORIC MILESTONE REACHED IN JAIL POPULATION REDUCTION

The first half of fiscal year 2024 (FY24) marked a significant milestone for Oklahoma County, with the jail population hitting two historic lows. The Oklahoma County Detention Center (OCDC) population has



*The Education and Employment Ministry (TEEM) helps break cycles of incarceration and poverty through education, personal development and work readiness training.*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



## 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.

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Oklahoma City, OK 73104  
(405) 271-4912



# LEADERSHIP NOTES



**CHRISTY GILLENWATER**  
President & CEO

## OKC'S TOURISM INDUSTRY SOARS WITH NEW NONSTOP FLIGHTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

A recent announcement from Will Rogers World Airport could boost our economy and Oklahoma City's image. The airport plans to open its international gate at the end of the year along with the potential for nonstop flights to Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America.

Nonstop flights like these are a fundamental piece of putting Oklahoma City on the world stage. They are crucial

to fueling the momentum of our visitor economy and building an overall image of Oklahoma City as a vibrant and thriving destination.

Tourism is now Oklahoma's third-largest industry with a staggering \$4.3 billion economic impact in 2022. The influx of spending from 23.2 million visitors affects everything from employment to tax revenues. That's why it's imperative to invest in tourism infrastructure and marketing.



Airports, roads, public transportation, hotels and attractions stimulate economic growth by creating jobs, generating revenue and attracting investment. This can have a positive impact on the local economy and contribute to overall economic development.

A well-developed tourism infrastructure enhances the visitor experience by providing convenient services and unique amenities. This can lead to increased satisfaction, repeat visits and positive word-of-mouth recommendations, which helps Oklahoma City continue to grow its reputation as a destination for tourists, residents and economic investment.

These investments make us more competitive in the global tourism market, positioning Oklahoma City as a desirable place to visit. The presence of nonstop flights creates the perception that the city is well-connected, accessible and cosmopolitan, which is appealing to travelers seeking a diverse and dynamic experience.

We'll explore the visitor economy in more detail at this month's State Spotlight event with Gov. Kevin Stitt. We look forward to seeing you there!

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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.)

### MARCH 20

#### Chamber Forum

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

The Petroleum Club

100 N Broadway, 34th Floor

[okcchamber.com/marchforum](http://okcchamber.com/marchforum)

### MARCH 28

#### State Spotlight

8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Embassy Suites by Hilton OKC NW

3233 NW Expressway

### APRIL 17

#### Chamber Forum

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

The Petroleum Club

100 N Broadway, 34th Floor

[okcchamber.com/aprilforum](http://okcchamber.com/aprilforum)

### APRIL 26

#### Meet & Mingle

4 to 6 p.m.

Oklahoma City Ballet

6800 N Classen Blvd

[okcchamber.com/meetandmingle](http://okcchamber.com/meetandmingle)

### MAY 2

#### Elevate

8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Oklahoma City Convention Center

100 Mick Cornett Dr.

[okcelebrate.com](http://okcelebrate.com)

### MAY 8

#### State of the Aerospace Industry

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

Reed Conference Center

5800 Will Rogers Rd, Midwest City

### MAY 21

#### Chamber Connection

3 to 4:30 p.m.

Credit Union House

631 E Hill St



## *The impact and growth of Oklahoma City's commercial districts focus of March Forum*

Oklahoma City's uniqueness and vibrancy is created by the distinct areas scattered throughout our community. These commercial districts bring residents and visitors an unforgettable experience as they shop and dine. As the city continues to grow, the impact the different districts provide will be an important economic driver.

During the March Chamber Forum, attendees will hear what's happening in Oklahoma City's districts and what's next as we plan for the future.

The forum will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., March 20, at the Petroleum Club Downtown Oklahoma City, 100 N. Broadway, 34th floor.

Participating on the panel will be:

- Amanda Bleakley, Executive Director, Paseo Arts Association
- Rachael Leonhart, Executive Director, Plaza District
- Phi Nguyen, Chief Operating Officer, Downtown Oklahoma City Partnership
- Gloria Torres, Executive Director, Calle Dos Cinco in Historic Capitol Hill

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

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.

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

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

From neglect to renewal: BancFirst's bold revamp of a landmark tower

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



## STATE SPOTLIGHT TO FOCUS ON GOV. STITT'S PRIORITIES & TOURISM IMPACT

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt will present his legislative priorities for 2024 during a conversation at the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber's State Spotlight breakfast on March 28.

The event will also include a panel discussion on the impact of the Tourism Development Act, which encourages investment in new or expanded tourism sites. Visit OKC President Zac Craig and Rep. Mark Lawson (R-Sapulpa) will join others in the discussion.

The State Spotlight event will take place from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at Embassy Suites by Hilton Oklahoma City Northwest, 3233 NW Expressway. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. for networking opportunities, followed by the program and breakfast at 8 a.m.

Tickets are \$55 for Chamber members and \$80 for nonmembers. Sponsor tables of eight with additional

recognition are available for \$1,500. To purchase your tickets, please visit [okcchamber.com/statespotlight](http://okcchamber.com/statespotlight). If you would like to purchase a sponsor table or have additional questions, please email [register@okcchamber.com](mailto:register@okcchamber.com).

The Chamber would like to thank Presenting Sponsor Cox Communications.



# YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



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## Total Average Population Jail Totals

Oklahoma County



steadily declined since the onset of the pandemic, culminating in record lows by the end of last year. In December 2023, the monthly average population dropped to 1,289, marking a 27-year low.

In comparison, Tulsa County's jail population for the same date was 1,446. Throughout December, OCDC maintained an average of 1,289, while Tulsa County's average was 1,390. Despite Oklahoma County's population being 125,000 higher than Tulsa County's, its jail population is no longer the highest in the state. This is particularly noteworthy given that Oklahoma County's overall population has grown by 3.2% since 2015.

The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, with local leaders, began focusing on criminal justice reform in 2015. That work spurred the creation of CJAC, a permanent oversight body responsible for executing six key recommendations: establishing oversight mechanisms, reducing jail admissions for low-level offenses, improving pre-trial release processes, addressing court case processing delays, expanding diversion programs and mitigating the impact of fines and fees on jail growth and recidivism.

Substantial progress has been made on several of those goals, including increasing the use of diversion programs. Pre-trial release, alternative sentencing and mental health diversion programs have all expanded.

### INNOVATIVE DIVERSION PROGRAM SEES RAPID EXPANSION

In less than a year, the Court-Ordered Outpatient (CO-OP) mental health diversion program has grown to over 160 participants. It is expected to continue expanding, especially with the recent addition of three recovery navigators to the Oklahoma County Diversion Hub. These navigators, all Peer Recovery Support Specialists and graduates of the Oklahoma County Treatment Court Programs, play a crucial role in assisting clients with various needs, including housing, employment, benefits applications and obtaining identification documents. They also help clients stay compliant with their outpatient services.

The recovery navigators' primary goal is to facilitate the transition of clients from the Oklahoma County Detention Center (OCDC) to their outpatient treatment

providers, ensuring they receive services promptly. After this initial connection, the navigators continue to support clients and provide access to stabilizing services while ensuring they attend their appointments. They maintain close communication with the courts, providing regular updates on clients' progress and serving as a resource for CO-OP court staff and providers. Leveraging their personal experiences and professional training, the recovery navigators create a safe environment for clients and guide them toward becoming healthy, stable and independent.

### OKLAHOMA COUNTY'S DOC INTAKE PLUMMETS: DIVERSION PROGRAMS CREDITED

The ongoing decline in the OCDC population has led to a significant decrease in the number of individuals from Oklahoma County being sent to prison at the Department of Corrections (DOC). Since 2018, the number of individuals from Oklahoma County receiving a DOC prison sentence has decreased by nearly 48%.

### COLLABORATION KEY TO SUSTAINING SUCCESS

This reduction in prison admissions from Oklahoma County sends a clear message to the governor and Legislature that a crucial strategy for alleviating prison overcrowding is to allocate state resources to county diversion programs, as envisioned by State Question 781 (SQ 781).

In line with this, in 2023, the Legislature and governor allocated \$12.5 million to counties to fulfill the objectives of SQ 781. Oklahoma County received nearly \$2.5 million to enhance nine different diversion and treatment programs. The sustainability of such an expansion will depend on continued collaboration between the governor and the Legislature during the 2024 session.

## CONVERGENCE REACHES NEW HEIGHTS WITH TOPPING OUT CEREMONY

Last month's topping out ceremony for Convergence wasn't just a construction milestone, it was a symbol of Oklahoma City's commitment to innovation, collaboration and growth.

The 230,000-square-foot mixed-use development will be the crown jewel of Northeast OKC's Innovation District, a thriving hub for advancements in science and technology.



*Convergence OKC developers Mark Beffort (left) and Richard Tanenbaum (right) at last month's Topping Out Ceremony.*

"This is an incredibly special building. I've built a lot of stuff in Oklahoma City, but nothing as special as this building," said Richard Tanenbaum, CEO of Gardner Tanenbaum Holdings, one of the project's development partners along with Robinson Park Investments.

Convergence has several goals. One is to forge meaningful connections between Oklahoma City's aerospace industry and other innovation sectors. To accomplish that, the building's eighth floor will house a strategic partnership between the University of Oklahoma, Tinker Air Force Base and a soon-to-be-named aerospace partner.

The development also includes an office and research tower, a boutique hotel, Stiles Park and Innovation Hall, a cutting-edge community event center that will serve as a nexus for collaboration and progress. Innovation Hall was funded by Oklahoma City voters through the MAPS 4 package.

In 2022, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber helped secure a \$35 million Build Back Better Grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to further develop Oklahoma City as a biotech hub. The grant, created through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), will help launch six core projects including BioTC, Oklahoma's first biomanufacturing training facility.

Spearheaded by BioTC Executive Director Koey Keylon, this facility promises to address a critical need for hands-on training in the biomanufacturing industry. Keylon's vision of providing short-term, skills-based programs reflects the practical approach needed to meet the demands of this highly technical field.

"There's going to be \$7.4 million worth of specialized equipment in this training center," said Keylon. "Most colleges can't even stand something like that up, and the only reason we're getting to is because of the EDA and ARPA funding that we got for this."

The center will provide much-needed workers for the Innovation District's anchor tenant, Wheeler Bio, a contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) for next-gen protein therapeutics.

"The most important people they're looking for when they get a new project is the people that do the actual production work on the production floor in a clean room, and they're the ones that typically take the longest to train because they don't have that hands-on experience with that very technical equipment," said Keylon.

BioTC will provide that specialized training in just three weeks, whether the student is coming from high school, college or a completely different industry. Once they're certified they can immediately get to work, making approximately \$50,000 a year.

The design of the BioTC not only facilitates effective training but also serves as a showcase for Oklahoma City's innovation ecosystem. Its proximity to Convergence's production floor highlights the seamless transition from training to real-world application.

"You'll be able to see people being trained in biomanufacturing on one side of that promenade, then turn around and look the other way and there's the production floor," said Keylon.

Convergence is on track to open early next year.

# ELEVATE YOUR WORKFORCE WITH THE CHAMBER'S ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENT

Invest in the future of your company by sending your company's managers and new employees to Elevate, a professional development conference and networking event that's all about strengthening Oklahoma City's workforce.

Designed to help your company provide professional development options to its employees—without having to send people out of the market to experience an excellent conference—Elevate will take place on Thursday, May 2, at the Oklahoma City Convention Center, with registration and continental breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. Morning and afternoon breakout sessions will feature professional development from some of Oklahoma City's top companies, and include education tracks for new managers, new employees, small business owners, entrepreneurs and general sessions that will apply to everyone, no matter the career stage.

The closing keynote speaker will be Brett Culp, a filmmaker documenting the positivity of the human experience. In his stirring presentation, Culp will demonstrate the power within every one of us to build influence, capture opportunity and create connections. Attendees will learn to unlock and harness new possibilities within themselves and others that accelerate business performance and spark innovation.

Breakout sessions included in the event will be presented by Oklahoma City's best and brightest leaders. Below are the current sessions but to see the latest updates and read the descriptions for each, visit [okcelebrate.com](http://okcelebrate.com).

## BUSINESS

### *Why Storytelling in Business Matters*

Speaker: Matt Payne, Prairie Surf Creative

### *How to Make Artificial Intelligence Your Unfair Business Advantage*

Speaker: Gunnar Hood, WSI Summit



*Afternoon keynote Brett Culp inspires audiences around the world through filmmaking, speaking and charity efforts.*

## FUTURE

### *Relationships Matter*

Speaker: Sunny Cearley, Allied Arts

### *So You Want to Do This: Steps to Help You Succeed*

Speaker: Samantha Divine Jallah, Geisinger Health Plan

### *Fail Until You Don't*

Speaker: Michael Shellabarger, Love's Travel Stops, Inc.

### *Navigating Your Career Journey*

Speaker: Jessica Mollica, Hertz

## INFLUENCE

### *Beyond the Title*

Speaker: Rhonda Thompson, WM

### *Energize with Working Genius*

Speaker: Teresa Atkinson, Express Employment International

### *Code-Switch or Switch the Culture Code?*

Speaker: Shalynne Jackson, City of Oklahoma City

### *Public Speaking: Walk Confidently into the Terror*

Speaker: Shannon Lockwood, Allied Arts

### *The Emotionally Intelligent Leader*

Speaker: David McLaughlin, Pendulum Coaching LLC

## MINDSET

### *Fact or Story?*

Speaker: Tammy Betts, American Fidelity

### *Mindful Self-Compassion: An Experiential Workshop*

Speaker: Lauree Dash, Meditation Revbound, LLC

### *Cultivating a Flourishing Workforce: 5 Strategies for Enhancing Employee Well-being*

Speaker: Michael Dickerson, Dickerson Consulting Group

## SALES

### *Accelerate Your LinkedIn Impact: Quick Wins and Long-Term Strategies*

Speaker: Gunnar Hood, WSI Summit

### *Leading Teams to Success - Celebrate & Elevate*

Speaker: Michele Leeper, Topgolf OKC

## TEAM

### *Lighting the Fire and Passing the Torch*

Speaker: Bryan Estabrooks, Leidos

### *Being an Authentic Leader*

Speaker: Matt Palmer, Heartland

### *Creating an Inclusive Work Culture*

Speaker: Angela Russell, Express Employment International

### *Navigating Team Dysfunction*

Speaker: Jacqueline Hirlinger, Love's Travel Stops, Inc.



## REGISTRATION OPTIONS

The Elevate experience is open to everyone, and right now, Chamber members can purchase individual tickets for an early bird discounted price of \$200. Nonmembers may purchase individual tickets for \$300. The early bird discount is only available until March 15, so purchase your tickets today!

An all-day conference registration includes breakfast, lunch, all keynote speakers, four breakout sessions, morning and afternoon refreshments and a drink ticket to the Elevate closing reception. Chamber members that are nonprofit organizations will also receive a discounted rate of \$200 per person or \$160 per person for groups of three or more within the same organization. To purchase tickets, view the schedule and see additional information, visit [okcelebrate.com](http://okcelebrate.com).

Businesses can also elevate their workforce with several ticket package options, including:

- Boost Package for \$2,500 which includes 10 tickets and sponsorship recognition.
- Uplift10 Sponsor package for \$3,000 which includes 10 tickets plus additional sponsorship recognition.
- Uplift20 Sponsor package for \$4,000 which includes 20 tickets and even more sponsorship recognition.

To secure your organization's ticket package, contact Suzette Ellison at [sellison@okcchamber.com](mailto:sellison@okcchamber.com).

Special thanks to Aspiration Sponsor OG&E.





SXSW attracts filmmakers, musicians, and tech enthusiasts from around the globe, offering a platform for networking, collaboration and discovery across various creative industries. Photo credit: Adam Kissick

## SUPPORTING THE GROWTH OF THE OKC FILM INDUSTRY AT SXSW

The Oklahoma City Film & Creative Industries Office recently hosted a roundtable discussion in advance of this month's SXSW conference in Austin. The event, which draws over 300,000 attendees annually, is known for its focus on technology, film, culture and music. The discussion centered around engaging potential industry support companies at SXSW and exploring opportunities for growth and innovation in the local film industry.

Jennifer Martin, the Greater OKC Chamber's Business Development Manager, plans to attend the event's Tech sessions with a specific goal: enticing new businesses to enter the Oklahoma City market.

"My goal is to connect with experts in various technology fields, from artificial intelligence and virtual film production to manufacturing, and logistics," said Martin.

The roundtable included representatives from local film and creative services companies such as Filmmakers Ranch, Notis Studios, Boiling Point Media, Vox Audio Visual, Tabb Movie Makeup and Apex Sound. Jill Simpson, the Director of the OKC Film & Creative Industries Office, led the discussion, seeking insights into the types of businesses that would benefit the Oklahoma City film and creative industries.

One of the key needs identified by the group was transportation, particularly rolling stock. These work vehicles, such as vans, trucks or trailers, are essential for carrying equipment and serving as workspaces for cast and crew during production. Currently, there is only one vendor in the state with enough rolling stock for a studio film, leading studios to seek out-of-state options when this vendor is booked. Another need mentioned was more catering company options for productions.

The group also highlighted opportunities in technology, with video gaming and AI being areas of particular interest. The importance of storytelling and showcasing Oklahoma's offerings was another key theme. Many attendees noted that highlighting the state's strengths could pay dividends.

"Things like affordable property and utility costs are factors that impact a company's bottom line and make us attractive to businesses, but they can't take advantage of it if they don't know about it," said Simpson. "That's why having a presence at major events like SXSW is so important."

Richard Janes of Filmmaker Ranch agreed.

"A lot of people don't know what Oklahoma is. When they can actually see what we have here, that can make a really big difference," said Janes.

SXSW runs from March 8-16.



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projects and deliver what was promised,” said Rose.

The inaugural groundbreaking for a facility under the MAPS 4 initiative was the fairground coliseum a year ago. According to Rose, its topping-out ceremony is imminent, and it is slated to open early next year. Significant progress has also been made on the Family Justice Center and Diversion Hub, both of which will see construction begin in the forthcoming months.

Meagan Taylor, executive director of Oklahoma County Diversion Hub said the extra space can't come soon enough.

“In 2022, we served around 2,500 people. In 2023, we served almost 3,700 people. That is a significant volume for about a 12,000-square-foot facility. So, this new space will allow us to bring on more partner agencies and help more community members exit the criminal legal system and improve their lives,” said Taylor.

Planning has also begun for the \$71 million multipurpose stadium on undeveloped land south of Bricktown and east of the Oklahoma City Convention Center. Bob Funk, Jr., co-owner of Oklahoma Energy FC, plans to buy the 40-acre site and donate 7.2 acres to the city for the stadium. The city will own the stadium with Energy FC acting as operator. Funk said the facility will host dozens of soccer games and other events per year.

“There's a real opportunity to have a dynamic catalyst in the stadium and the property around it to really kind of fill this in a way that's intentional,” said Funk. “It's not just our fans as the professional soccer team, it's also people who attend concerts. It's people who want to come and attend high school football championships, collegiate football, lacrosse, all these other things that are

going to happen in the facility.”

Funk says they toured stadiums in Louisville, Kansas City and other cities across the country before beginning the design process.

“I mean, it makes Oklahoma City a better place to live, work and play. And that is going to be probably, in my mind, our key economic driver for attracting people here and attracting business,” said Funk.



*Artist rendering of the multipurpose stadium expected to host professional soccer games, concerts and other events.*

ADG Blatt has consultants working on master plans for youth centers, parks and beautification projects. Cotton said details on those projects will be coming out later this year.

The panelists agreed all the projects will enhance the city's cultural and economic landscape and the importance of continued momentum in urban development.

“Every time we've done this, it's been transformative in a way that has had multi-generational impact and is a legacy for everyone in this room to be proud of,” said Funk. “If we're envisioning what Oklahoma City looks like in the next 50 years, it started 30 years ago and will be carried on for the next hundred years. So, it's a great foundation to start with, but we do have to keep it moving.”



*Significant progress has been made on the new fairgrounds coliseum pictured above.*

## FACES OF THE MODERN FRONTIER: OKC'S CREATIVE COMMUNITY TAKES CENTER STAGE

Visit OKC recently launched a vibrant new advertising campaign, showcasing local talent and production crew. During this process, Visit OKC met with four local creatives who lent their voices to the Oklahoma City commercials. As the team delved into the voiceover production, the unique stories and creative contributions of these artists became a narrative worth sharing.

It was crucial for Visit Oklahoma City to narrate OKC's story through the perspectives of its residents. To achieve this, Visit OKC collaborated with Prairie Surf Studios, a local video production team, to produce the Faces of the Modern Frontier video series. This project served as a platform for collaboration, centered around a shared love for the city and a desire to create something meaningful together.

These videos provide an in-depth look at each artist and their affection for OKC, capturing them in their natural environments. There were no scripts or pre-set questions; the goal was to capture authenticity and individuality.

One of the featured artists, Tony Tee, collaborates with a group of artists at Spark! Creative Lab.

"Oklahoma City has definitely progressed in the last ten years of just becoming its own sound. There are enough artists from here that we can say that's an Oklahoma team. I think people's passions are overriding what their fears are and it's really kind of a dope moment to be an artist in Oklahoma City," said Tee.

Shante Russell, a singer and performer, draws inspiration from the unwavering support of the Oklahoma City community.

"If I want to perform, I know who to reach out to. If I want to dance, I know where to go. What I love about Oklahoma City is how connected we are. There is like a web here of people and you meet one and they connect you to another. People want to support you," Russell said.

Meet more Faces of the Modern Frontier at [VisitOKC.com](http://VisitOKC.com).



Local singer Shante Russell is featured in Visit OKC's Faces of the Modern Frontier campaign.

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# 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.

## ASSOCIATE

### American Global Strategies

*Government Relations*  
Mr. James Skinner .....(202) 930-7279  
100 N. Broadway Ave., Suite 1890  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-8812  
<https://americanglobalstrategies.com/>

### Cooper Project Advisors

*Building Maintenance  
Program / Project Management*  
Ms. L. Dawn Byram .....(405) 657-4385  
1701 N. Broadway Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103-3416  
[www.cooperpa.com](http://www.cooperpa.com)

## ADVISOR

### Jacobs

*Engineers - Consulting*  
Mrs. Amanda George .....(405) 810-8254  
3600 NW 138th St., Suite 203  
Oklahoma City, OK 73134-2504  
[www.jacobs.com](http://www.jacobs.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).

## PARTNER+

Commerce Bank  
*Banks*  
Ms. Shannon O'Doherty .....(405) 254-3010  
Atrium Towers North  
3503 NW 63rd St., Suite 300  
Oklahoma City, OK 73116  
[www.commercebank.com](http://www.commercebank.com)

### Insperty

*Business Support Services  
Employment Resources  
Employment Services / Employee Leasing  
Human Resource Services / Consulting  
Payroll Services*  
Mr. Bobby R. Stewart .....(405) 968-4312  
210 Park Ave., Suite 2625  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-5613  
[www.insperity.com](http://www.insperity.com)

### PlanGroup Financial

*Financial Services  
Investment Management Services*  
Mr. Chip Carter .....(405) 848-1099  
6 NE 63rd St., Suite 240  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-1401  
[plangroup.com](http://plangroup.com)

## CORE

### Associated Builders & Contractors

*Associations / Membership Organizations*  
Mr. Tim Mathis .....(405) 609-4626  
1915 Yellowwood Ave.  
505 NE 46th St., Suite A  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3327  
[www.abcokla.org](http://www.abcokla.org)

### ISP Reports

*Internet Service Providers*  
Mr. Edwin Ivanauskas .....(801) 984-8100  
10808 S. River Front Parkway  
South Jordan, UT 84095-5761  
<https://ispreports.org/internet-service-providers-oklahoma-city-ok/>

### Jasco Products Company, LLC

*Electronic Equipment & Supplies*  
Ms. Shelby McClendon .....(405) 302-2243  
10 E. Memorial Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73114-2205  
[www.byjasco.com](http://www.byjasco.com)

### Mitchell Martin Inc.

*Employment Agencies*  
Mr. Jason Jacoby .....(832) 524-0027  
550 Seventh Ave., 16th Floor  
411 NE 1st Terrace  
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-4056  
[www.mitchellmartin.com](http://www.mitchellmartin.com)

### Oklahoma Promo

*Gift & Specialty Shops  
Printers*  
Ms. Karyl Henry .....(301) 254-7211  
5101 W. 5th Ave.  
Stillwater, OK 74074-2829  
[www.oklahomapromo.com](http://www.oklahomapromo.com)

### The Roche Group Wealth Advisors

*Financial Services*  
Ms. Paige Adams .....(405) 215-9515  
13104 N. MacArthur Blvd., Suite B  
Oklahoma City, OK 73142-3017  
[www.rochewealth.com](http://www.rochewealth.com)

### Rogue Accounting Management

*Accountants and Accounting Services*  
Mr. Alexander Iglesias .....(703) 727-7253  
18 Cabots St.  
Charles Town, WV 25414-1345  
[rogueams.com](http://rogueams.com)

### The Salvation Army of Central Oklahoma

*Nonprofit / Service Agencies*  
Mrs. Traci Jinkens .....(405) 246-1100  
1001 N. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73107-6411  
TSAOK.org

### Swing 365 Golf

*Golf Courses - Private  
Golf Courses - Public*  
Mr. Jamie Loeffler .....(402) 276-3273  
14201 N. May Ave., Suite 208  
19805 Dalemead Way  
Edmond, OK 73012-2214  
[swing365golf.com](http://swing365golf.com)

### Valera Diaz & Associates

*Attorneys / Lawyers*  
Mr. Luis F. Valera, Esq. ....(405) 265-6147  
101 Park Ave., Suite 1300  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-7216  
[www.valeradiaz.com](http://www.valeradiaz.com)

# GRAND OPENINGS

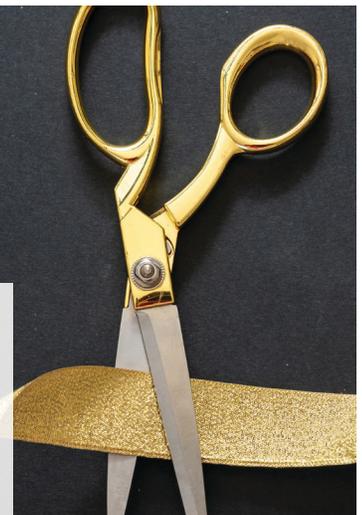
Congratulations to Chamber members on their recent Grand Openings! To see the schedule of upcoming Grand Openings or subscribe to the Grand Openings calendar, visit [okcchamber.com/grandopenings](http://okcchamber.com/grandopenings).

### amshot

1300 N Broadway Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103

### Oklahoma Humane Society

Spay + Neuter Clinic  
4301 Will Rogers Parkway  
Oklahoma City, OK 73108



# ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## OKC HAS THE LOWEST COST OF LIVING AMONG LARGE CITIES

### Where You Live Matters! C2ER 2023 Annual Average Price Report

| CITY             | COMPOSITE INDEX | COFFEE | APARTMENT RENT | GASOLINE | DOCTOR VISIT | MEN'S HAIRCUT | MOVIE TICKET |
|------------------|-----------------|--------|----------------|----------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| OKLAHOMA CITY OK | 85.1            | \$5.64 | \$857          | \$3.25   | \$137.83     | \$17.33       | \$9.39       |
| EL PASO TX       | 87.9            | \$5.86 | \$1,235        | \$3.47   | \$131.00     | \$23.57       | \$11.85      |
| MEMPHIS TN       | 89.8            | \$5.70 | \$1,400        | \$3.08   | \$108.51     | \$23.91       | \$14.09      |
| SAN ANTONIO TX   | 91.2            | \$5.34 | \$1,462        | \$3.06   | \$146.52     | \$27.73       | \$11.70      |
| COLUMBUS OH      | 91.8            | \$6.02 | \$1,497        | \$3.42   | \$117.73     | \$21.46       | \$12.00      |
| INDIANAPOLIS IN  | 92.1            | \$5.77 | \$1,336        | \$3.39   | \$99.19      | \$19.53       | \$10.91      |
| ALBUQUERQUE NM   | 93.8            | \$5.91 | \$1,383        | \$3.50   | \$134.17     | \$31.90       | \$12.54      |
| NATIONAL AVERAGE | 100.0           | \$5.87 | \$1,512        | \$3.46   | \$136.28     | \$24.34       | \$12.17      |

Oklahoma City ranks No. 1 for the lowest cost of living among all reporting large cities with a population over 500,000. The C2ER Annual Cost of Living Index for Oklahoma City in 2023 was 85.1—or 15% below the national average.

Example: If you are earning \$70,000 after taxes in San Francisco, the comparable income to achieve the same standard of living in Oklahoma City is \$34,938. If you moved from San Francisco to Oklahoma City:

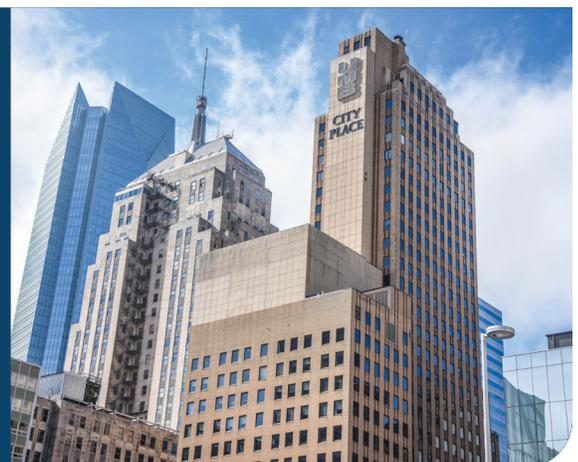
- Groceries will cost 24% less
- Housing will cost 77% less
- Utilities will cost 29% less
- Transportation will cost 25% less
- Healthcare will cost 16% less

Check out the Cost of Living Calculator at [www.abetterlifeokc.com](http://www.abetterlifeokc.com)

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).



# → VELOCITY ←

Periodicals  
**PAID**  
Oklahoma City, OK  
73102

## LOOK INSIDE!

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



TWITTER.COM/OKCCCHAMBER



FACEBOOK.COM/OKCCCHAMBER

## Elevate your career at OKC's professional development conference



## ELEVATE

May 2, 2024 | 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Oklahoma City Convention Center

[OKCElevate.com](https://okcelevate.com)

\$200 Earlybird by March 15  
Group rates available

### Keynote Speaker: Brett Culp

Filmmaker and speaker who documents the positivity of the human experience

An award-winning documentary filmmaker, Brett inspires us to engage in a passionate, meaningful mission that leaves a positive impact on the world. Energetic and engaging, he encourages audiences to find the superhero within and their own path to "everyday leadership."