

TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER

« INTER » CITY »

2010 - 2025 **KEY TAKEAWAYS**







TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER

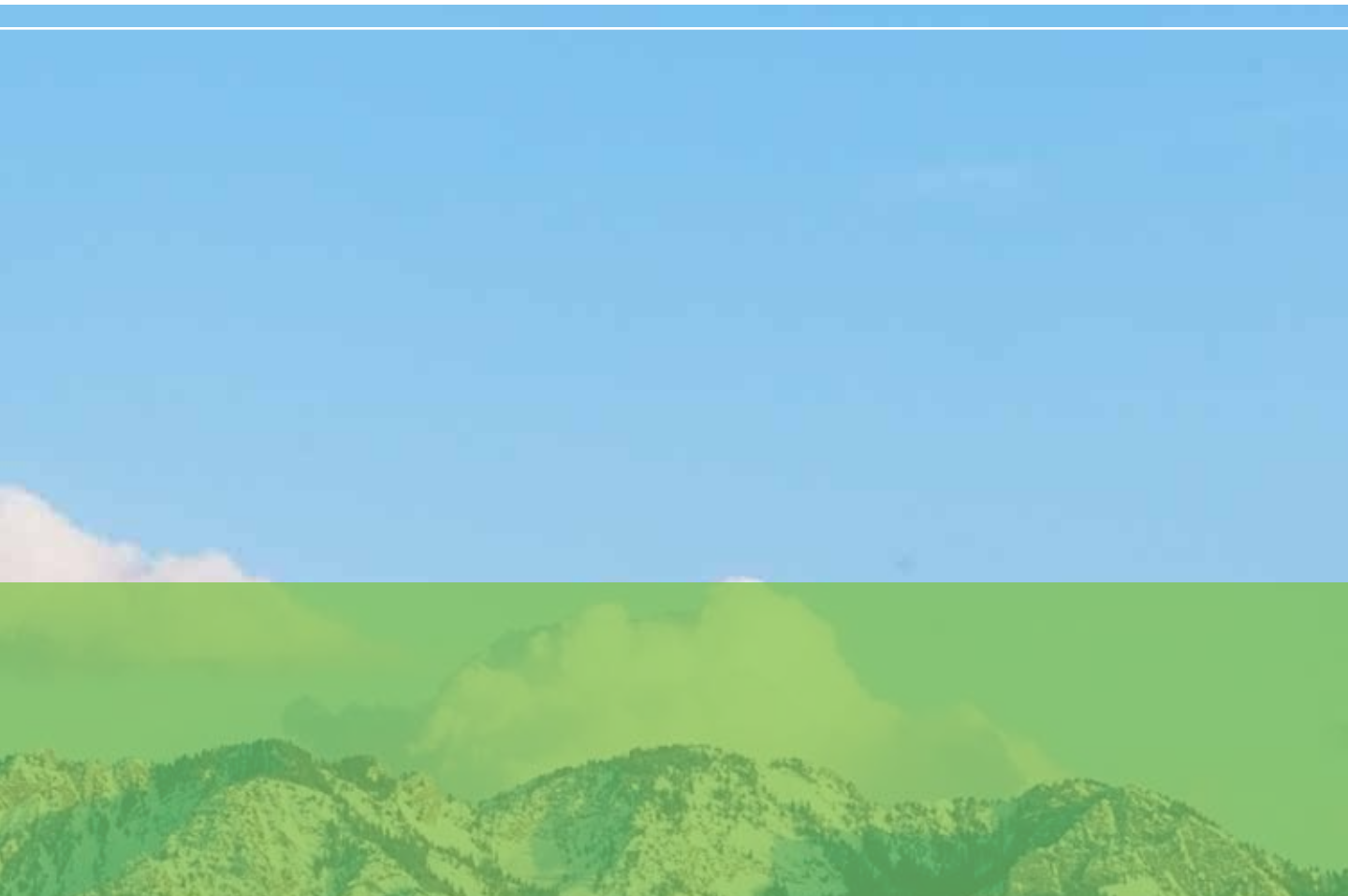
《 INTER CITY 》

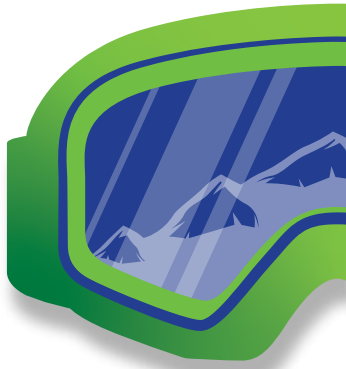
INTRODUCTION TO INTERCITY VISITS

Each year, the Tulsa Regional Chamber assembles a delegation of approximately 100 community leaders to visit a peer city and learn best practices. Intercity Visits are an opportunity for Chamber members and staff, elected officials, business leaders, educational administrators, young professionals and regional partners to gather ideas and insights from cities overcoming challenges similar to our own.

A volunteer task force convenes each spring to review different peer cities and what they offer in areas relevant to our region. Based on this review, a destination is selected for a three-day trip in the fall. Past trips have included in-depth looks at topics ranging from river development, healthy living initiatives and tourism to regional branding, workforce and the arts.

Intercity Visits are part of the Tulsa Regional Chamber's strategic initiative of community development, which seeks to leverage Tulsa's assets to improve the quality of community life in northeast Oklahoma. By hearing about the challenges and successes from other communities, local leaders learn best practices to help move our region forward. Read on to learn more about key takeaways from past trips.





INTER CITY

2025 SALT LAKE CITY

2025 SALT LAKE CITY, UT

LONG-TERM TOURISM IMPACT

Tourism leaders emphasized how natural assets, cultural attractions and the momentum of the 2034 Winter Olympics are fueling investment and global visibility.

PUBLIC SAFETY FOCUS

Salt Lake City leaders shared how visibility, community engagement and data-driven deployment have strengthened public confidence and supported downtown vitality.

TALENT PIPELINES

Utah's workforce strategy places employers at the center, aligning education and training programs with real-time industry needs to fuel competitiveness.





2024 DETROIT, MI

CITY REVITALIZATION

Attendees heard how Detroit has rebounded from bankruptcy by stabilizing finances, reducing blight and reinvigorating its downtown and riverfront.

HOUSING AND PARTNERSHIPS

Panels highlighted the city's investment in affordable housing and the role of public-private partnerships in building trust with neighborhoods.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BRANDING

Attendees learned how Detroit is leveraging major development projects, nonstop flight connections and a strong civic identity to drive growth.





2023 AUSTIN, TX

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

From hotels to housing, cities like Austin and Tulsa must invest in infrastructure to serve residents and visitors, especially after attracting big economic development projects.

THE POWER OF MUSIC

Austin has built its brand as the “Live Music Capital of the World,” and Tulsa can similarly lean into its musical heritage to spur future growth.

CULTIVATING TALENT

Companies are following talent as much as they are chasing incentives, so it behooves Tulsa to grow its skilled talent pool, and collaboration with the tribal nations can help.





2022 DENVER, CO

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

During the past several decades, Denver has invested in a wide variety of community enhancements, from public art to tourism assets to multi-modal transit plans.

MENTAL HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS

Like many cities across the country, Denver is employing some innovative approaches to address a variety of challenges related to mental health and homelessness.

SHIFTING DOWNTOWNS

Denver's downtown has undergone changes of late, and trip attendees heard from urban experts on the shifting use of downtown spaces in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.





2021 NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

Our 2021 trip took us to multiple northwest Arkansas communities, including Bentonville, Fayetteville, and Springdale.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Attendees heard from leaders across a half dozen local communities about how they intentionally work together when developing new regional assets.

CREATIVE ECONOMY

Northwest Arkansas is home to a thriving arts scene that includes not only Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art but also fashion, music and culinary arts.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Attendees learned how northwest Arkansas communities use outdoor amenities like bike trails to attract and retain talent.





2020 MULTIPLE CITIES

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we pivoted from an in-person trip focused on one city to two virtual panels featuring participants from five different cities.

DOWNTOWN AND RIVER DEVELOPMENT

Our first panel focused on strategies for maximizing downtown and river assets. We heard development successes and challenges from Des Moines, Iowa; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Omaha, Nebraska.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our second panel focused on ways to encourage and support diverse entrepreneurs and foster a more inclusive economy. We gathered inspiration from panelists in Detroit, Michigan; Atlanta, Georgia; and Omaha, Nebraska.





2019 MINNEAPOLIS - SAINT PAUL, MN

ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Attendees heard from organizations such as The Center for Economic Inclusion that are dedicated to advancing inclusion across all sectors in this major metropolitan area.

HEADQUARTERS ECONOMY

Minneapolis is home to multiple Fortune 500 companies, and local leaders and management experts spoke to what makes the region so well suited to host headquarters.

REGIONALISM

A regional approach to addressing community challenges is a hallmark of Minneapolis - Saint Paul, so attendees were excited to learn how this collaborative spirit developed and is maintained.





COLUMBUS[★] INSPIRES TULSA

2018 INTERCITY VISIT

2018 COLUMBUS, OH

NEIGHBORHOOD REDEVELOPMENT

Big highlights were guided tours of the Arena District, Riversouth and Scioto Mile neighborhoods. All three areas have undergone massive development changes in the past decade, and all three are thriving as a result.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Educational institutions such as The Ohio State University and Columbus State Community College have formed powerful partnerships with local industries to ensure workforce needs are met. The power of collaboration was a recurring theme throughout the trip.

REGIONAL BRANDING

From the moment attendees stepped into the Columbus airport, it was impossible to escape the fact that Columbus has done an excellent job of creating a cohesive regional brand.

THE POWER OF DIVERSITY

Through organizations such as the Columbus Chamber and the Columbus Women's Commission, Columbus is tackling challenges like pay inequity in a direct way.



FORT WORTH STOCK

LOVE CLUCK



2017 FORT WORTH, TX

RIVER DEVELOPMENT

Fort Worth's Trinity River Vision master plan is a model for how to manage a large-scale river development project. Many of the attendees were very interested in how an authority is established to implement such a project.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Many on the trip were especially interested in the Blue Zones Project, a community-wide well-being improvement initiative that is being contemplated for our region.

DOWNTOWN WALKABILITY

Given the emphasis on improving walkability in our region, many attendees were inspired by Sundance Square, a 35-block area that is a model for downtown walkability.

REGIONAL BRANDING

Fort Worth has done a tremendous job of developing and managing its brand, and many trip attendees were eager to hear more about branding as an economic driver.





2016 CINCINNATI, OH

RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

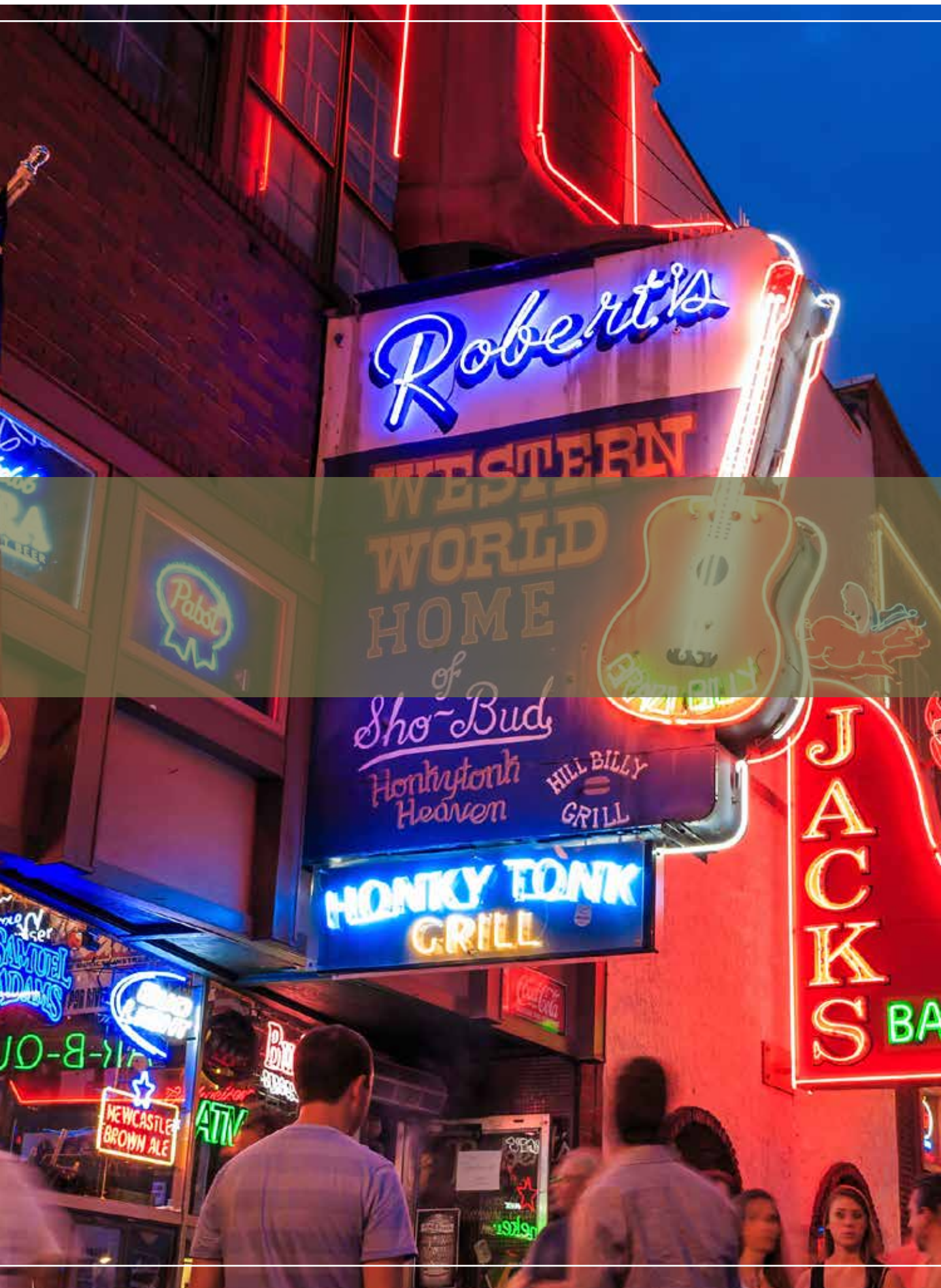
Cincinnati has done a tremendous job of developing the riverfront area between their two sports stadiums. Many on the trip were inspired to see the ways in which the development took shape.

URBAN REVITALIZATION

Many pointed to the work of 3CDC to reclaim and reuse deteriorating buildings, especially in the Over the Rhine neighborhood, as a highlight.

MSA STRENGTH

Cincinnati has generated great value by leveraging its wider MSA, and many on the trip felt Tulsa could learn from this.





2015 NASHVILLE, TN

SUPER SUBURBS

Our visit to the suburb of Franklin was a highlight for many, as it included discussion around economic development and education. This also prompted new discussions around regionalism and its benefits.

VISITORS AND BRANDING

Nashville knows how to market itself, and many attendees were very interested in hearing more about what Tulsa might do to better market our region.



Portland

Oregon

OLD TOWN



EXCHANGE. EXPLORE. EXPAND.

TULSA REGIONAL INTERCITY VISIT | PORTLAND, OR | OCTOBER 8 - 10

2014 PORTLAND, OR

TALENT ATTRACTION AND RETENTION

We heard a great deal about the importance of attracting and retaining young talent, and the impact this has on the local economy.

SAFE STREETS

We also heard about the police role in homeless population management, and what can be done to improve the safety of downtown streets.





TULSA REGIONAL INTERCITY VISIT . PITTSBURGH, PA . OCTOBER 13-15, 2013

2013 PITTSBURGH, PA

RIVER DEVELOPMENT

By far the biggest outcome of the Pittsburgh trip was a renewed determination to develop our river asset. This dialogue was first started back in Louisville but really picked up momentum in Pittsburgh.





What's Next

EXCHANGE. EXPLORE. EXPAND.
TULSA REGIONAL INTERCITY VISIT
CHARLOTTE, NC | OCT 28-30, 2012

2012 CHARLOTTE, NC

FUNDING FOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

Charlotte was very creative in its funding sources for downtown development, and we learned a lot about what might be possible in the Tulsa region.

ARTS & CULTURE

The power of the arts was also a major focus of this trip, which included a visit to Mint Museum.



What's Next

EXCHANGE. EXPLORE. EXPAND.
TULSA REGIONAL INTERCITY VISIT

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA | OCT 10–12

2011 INDIANAPOLIS, IN

CITY / COUNTY CONSOLIDATION

We heard a lot in Indy about opportunities for regionalism and shared government. The City of Tulsa and Tulsa County subsequently created a “shared services” taskforce that was implemented in areas like IT.

THE VALUE OF SPORTS

Indy offered up numerous examples of how sports and sports venues can drive tourism and revenue. Visits to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the NCAA Museum and Colts Stadium were highlights.





EXCHANGE. EXPLORE. EXPAND.

**TULSA REGIONAL INTERCITY VISIT
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY | OCT 10-12**

2010 LOUISVILLE, KY

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMPACT

We studied Louisville as an example of one of the top 16 “super regions” in the United States. We used Louisville’s language and example as we signed our own regional compact the next year.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Louisville trip was also a conversation starter regarding diversity in the workplace. We had excellent speakers from the University of Louisville, and we studied the Ali Center. These conversations helped lead to the establishment of Mosaic in 2011.



TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER

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