

# THE CHAMBER REPORT

Q4 2022



## ALL EYES ON US

TULSA IS FAST BECOMING THE FIRST WORD IN FILM AND TV.



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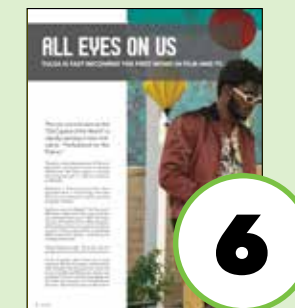
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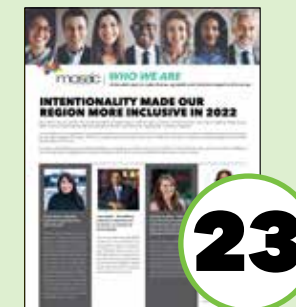
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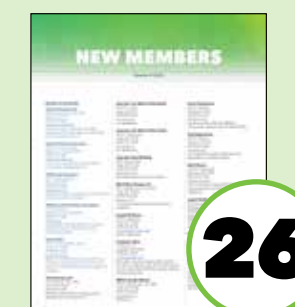
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The Chamber Report (ISSN 1532-5733) is published quarterly by the Tulsa Regional Chamber, Williams Center Tower I, One West Third Street, Suite 100, Tulsa, OK 74103, (918) 585-1201. Members receive a subscription for \$12 paid from annual dues. Nonmembers can subscribe for \$24 per year. Periodical postage is paid at Tulsa, Oklahoma. Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertising.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Chamber Report, Williams Center Tower I, One West Third Street, Suite 100, Tulsa, OK 74103.



# HEAD TABLE

RECAPPING OUR RECENT ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, PROJECTS AND MORE



## CHAMBER EARNS FIVE-STAR REACCREDITATION

The Tulsa Regional Chamber was recently awarded its five-star reaccreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The U.S. Chamber's Accreditation Program facilitates continuing excellence in the chamber industry, and accreditation with the U.S. Chamber is a prestigious honor that distinguishes the high quality, expertise, and strong leadership displayed by accredited state and local chambers of commerce. In order to receive accreditation, a chamber must meet minimum standards in their operations and programs, including areas of governance, government affairs, communications, and technology. To receive five-star accreditation, the applicant must have met all minimum requirements plus 90% to 100% of additional criteria. The Chamber scored 117 out of a possible 117 points on its reaccreditation application. Accreditation is good for five years, and the Chamber had previously been reaccredited in 2017.



## NON-STOP SERVICE TO NYC STARTS

American Airlines started its new nonstop service from Tulsa to New York City's LaGuardia Airport on Nov. 4. This is Tulsa International Airport's first direct flight to New York City, and is American's ninth nonstop destination served from Tulsa, along with Austin, Charlotte, Chicago O'Hare, Dallas/Fort Worth, Los Angeles, Miami, Phoenix and Washington, D.C. For the past several years, the Tulsa Regional Chamber has advocated for increasing the number of direct flights through the OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda. Having direct flight access to major markets supports the Tulsa-area business community, aids in business attraction efforts and increases the number of visitors to our region.

## TOURISM EVENTS WIN INDUSTRY ACCOLADES

Two Tulsa Sports Commission events were named 2022 Champions of Economic Impact in Sports Tourism by Sports Destination Management. This year's winners represent events that had a significant economic impact upon the communities where they were hosted, and the 2022 USA BMX Legacy Nationals and the 2022 PGA Championship were both recognized. Sports Destination Management is the leading publication with the largest circulation of sports event planners and tournament directors in the sports tourism market. Congratulations to the Tulsa Sports Commission and everyone within Tulsa Regional Tourism on this outstanding honor.



## MAYOR ANNOUNCES \$500 MILLION HOUSING INITIATIVE

At the Tulsa Regional Chamber's State of the City event in November, Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum announced a new \$500 million housing initiative to address homelessness. Homelessness is a pressing topic that was discussed at length during the Chamber's 2022 Intercity Visit to the city of Denver. During his address, Mayor Bynum also highlighted economic development, tourism, and quality of life successes, as well as announced further efforts to ensure that Tulsa will continue to strive to be a globally competitive, world-class city.

## GILCREASE EXPRESSWAY WEST OPENS

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority recently opened the Gilcrease Expressway West, which has been a mainstay of the OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda for years. Travel on the new turnpike facilitates a modern connection from I-44 to US-412 across the Arkansas River four miles west of downtown Tulsa. During the next few months there will still be ongoing construction on the intersecting roadways, but this opening is a major milestone finally reached. The Gilcrease West project would not have been possible without the participation of numerous partners, including the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, the City of Tulsa, Tulsa County, and the Indian Nations Council of Governments. Special thanks to former Chamber board member and Transportation Commissioner, the late Guy Berry, and INCOG Executive Director Rich Brierre for helping make this long-sought-after infrastructure addition a reality.





# ALL EYES ON US

TULSA IS FAST BECOMING THE FIRST WORD IN FILM AND TV.

The city once known as the “Oil Capital of the World” is rapidly earning a new nickname: “Hollywood on the Prairie.”

Thanks to a veritable explosion of film and television production across northeast Oklahoma, the Tulsa region is quickly becoming the new “it” spot for creatives worldwide.

Nowhere is Tulsa’s ascendance more apparent than in “Tulsa King,” the new Paramount+ television series starring Sylvester Stallone.

Stallone stars as Dwight “The General” Manfredi, a New York mafia capo that was just released from prison after serving a 25-year stint behind bars. After being exiled by his former boss, he has to set down roots in T-Town, a place that’s completely different than he’s used to – and with some unlikely characters.

Interestingly enough, Tulsa was not the producers’ first choice for show location.

“A lot of people don’t know, but it was originally ‘Kansas City King,’ and that’s how they thought they were going to write the show,” says Renee McKenney, senior vice president of tourism for the Tulsa Regional Chamber and president of Tulsa Regional Tourism. “But they found out there were



Credit Brian Douglas & Paramount +



# LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION...

In the world of business, as the saying goes, it's all about location.

Turns out, the same can be said for television shows such as "Tulsa King." Whether you are a native Tulsan or a relative newcomer, you are likely familiar with one or more of the Tulsa-area locations seen on-screen in the first season of the Sylvester Stallone series airing on Paramount+.



**South Boston Avenue** in the Deco District is not only one of the most scenic streets in Tulsa, but it's also the perfect spot for a movie icon. Fans from near and far are having fun recreating Stallone's establishing shot in the middle of the street with the Art Deco Boston Avenue Methodist Church in the background.



**Tulsa International Airport** was the setting for Dwight Manfredi's entrance to the city, which makes sense given the fact that TUL offers nonstop flights to places like New York LaGuardia and Washington D.C.



**Center of the Universe** in downtown Tulsa provided Sly and crew another unique filming location. An intriguing stone circle located in the Tulsa Arts District, tourists and residents alike find it fascinating. If you sing or shout from the circle, the sound will echo back to you even louder. Some have even said you can't hear outside noise from the center of the circle. When on Boston Avenue, it's definitely an interesting spot to visit.



Credit Tyler Layne Photography

**The Mayo Hotel** is also downtown. A perfect setting for a television series, the elegance of this famous hotel can be seen from the inside out. From luxurious suites to a rooftop bar to a glamorous ballroom, the Mayo is fit for a movie star.



Courtesy of Triangle Coffee

**Triangle Coffee** is one of Tulsa's most popular coffee spots, so it's no wonder people were confused when they temporarily closed their doors. Turns out, they were preparing for their close-up as a "Tulsa King" filming location. Now that Triangle is back open, they're excited to serve the community with their people-first philosophy. If you ask, the staff may even share their stories of serving Sly Stallone!

a lot of incentives they could get here in the state of Oklahoma."

McKenney shared her enthusiasm for Oklahoma film and TV production in general - and "Tulsa King" in particular - during a recent on-air interview with Tulsa's News on 6.

"They wanted a fish out of water feel," says McKenney, "and the authenticity of Tulsa and bringing the show here led to a great script. The writers took that and ran with it."

According to McKenney, the combination of authentic Tulsa locales and a dynamic show with a very recognizable and popular star is proving irresistible to tourists and fans.

"It's been huge because people come and want to see what they are seeing on TV," she says. "They have Instagrammable moments."

For many, a great example of an Instagram-worthy locale is Tulsa's Center of the Universe, which is featured prominently in the show. Other area locations include Tulsa International Airport and the famous Mayo Hotel.

Non-local fans of the show are eager to see in-person what they may previously have only seen on their screens. And the buzz around "Tulsa King" continues to spread - in some cases, even internationally.

"We even heard the other day that a double decker bus in London had "Tulsa King" on the side of it," McKenney says. "We've been seeing pictures of that from around the world, and there is just so much interest in the show. We have been in 29,000 news stories this year, so you can imagine the buzz that creates."

According to media monitoring software, "Tulsa King" generated more than a billion dollars' worth of free publicity for the city and region during 2022 alone.

"Tulsa King" is not the first - and will by no means be the last - example of northeast Oklahoma featuring prominently in marquee TV and film productions. The FX comedy-drama series "Reservation Dogs" from local filmmaker Sterlin Harjo has also won lots of accolades from critics, some of whom cited it as the best show of the year.

"Moving forward, we have so many movies that will be premiering," notes McKenney. "The Cherokee Film "Fancy Dance" just premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.



Credit Brian Douglas & Paramount +

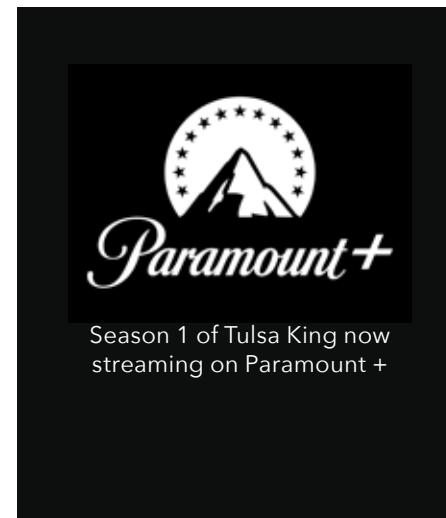
And we also have things like "Killers of the Flower Moon," which will be out this spring."

"Killers of the Flower Moon" is Martin Scorsese's adaptation of the best-selling non-fiction David Grann book. It stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro, and includes scenes filmed across multiple locations in northeast Oklahoma.

Based on the current crop of Oklahoma-centric projects, McKenney envisions a bright future full of lots of local filmmaking ahead.

"We also have Hallmark movies filmed here," she says. "All different budget films are choosing Oklahoma because of our incentive program, and the way that the state is positioning itself, we hope to see many, many more." ■

"A lot of people don't know, but it was originally 'Kansas City King,' and that's how they thought they were going to write the show," says Renee McKenney, senior vice president of tourism for the Tulsa Regional Chamber and president of Tulsa Regional Tourism. "But they found out there were a lot of incentives they could get here in the state of Oklahoma."



Credit Brian Douglas & Paramount +





**TULSA'S FUTURE**  
**ACCELERATION**

# DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH

## TULSA'S FUTURE: ACCELERATION HITS FUNDRAISING GOAL

Strong partnerships are key to a city and a region's long-term success. When you look at cities that have seen transformational growth, adapted to change and driven innovation, they have a common theme: partnership from the business community.

Tulsa is no different.

In the last two decades, downtown Tulsa and its regional communities have seen record-breaking development. Northeast Oklahoma continues to invest in itself with projects like the 222 N. Detroit building, the under-construction Santa Fe Square, and the development in downtown Jenks and along Route 66, to name just a few.

To continue to move our region forward, we must work together to build the region we want to see in the next decade, and a lot of that work is done through Tulsa's Future, the Chamber-led regional economic development partnership that works with the City of Tulsa, hundreds of private investors, and regional and tribal partners to bring transformational investment to the Tulsa region.

"Since coming to Tulsa nearly two years ago, I've seen firsthand the investment in economic development from our business community and regional and tribal partners through Tulsa's Future," says Arthur Jackson, senior vice president of economic development for the Tulsa Regional Chamber.

Since its inception in 2005, Tulsa's Future has generated more than 72,500 jobs and more than \$4.25 billion in capital investment. Additionally, more than 200 public and private investors have supported Tulsa's Future during the last 17 years.

Tulsa's Future has seen continued involvement from the region's business community, regional partners and tribal partners and look forward to building upon its success in the coming year. Last year's economic development efforts focused on post-pandemic economic recovery, which was supported through Tulsa's Future: Road to Recovery, a one-year-strategic work plan. This year saw the launch of a new multi-year economic development strategy, Tulsa's Future: Acceleration, which focuses on accentuating our existing industry strengths and capitalizing on emerging trends.

During the last year, Chamber staff and volunteer leadership met

with the business community to outline the Tulsa's Future: Acceleration strategic plan and fundraise. As announced at the Chamber's State of the Economy event in December, 133 companies and regional and tribal partners have pledged more than \$3.1 million in annual commitments to support Tulsa's Future: Acceleration and bolster the region's economic development activity.

In its first year, Tulsa's Future: Acceleration has celebrated several wins, including multiple headquarter relocations. These wins include ClearSign Technologies' move from Seattle; aerospace company Air Transport Components' relocation from the Phoenix area; Milo's Tea Company, an Alabama-based beverage

manufacturer, investing an additional \$20 million at its local production facility; Hayden Industrial, a California-based manufacturer, expanding its operations to Tulsa; and financial services company Compu-Link locating at Eastgate Metroplex.

Additionally in 2022, a Tulsa coalition was announced as one of 21 winners of the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Build Back Better Regional Challenge. The \$38.2 million grant will go toward establishing the Tulsa Regional Advanced Mobility Corridor. The coalition was led by INCOG and partners included Tulsa Innovation Labs, Tulsa Ports, the City of Tulsa, Partner Tulsa, Oklahoma State University, Osage LLC and the Tulsa Regional Chamber.

These successes would not be possible without the strong support of our regional business community, regional and tribal partners and the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. Thank you to the numerous Tulsa's Future investors that are helping us drive regional economic prosperity. ■



## INVESTORS

- |                                                    |                                                      |                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| AAA Oklahoma                                       | Grand River Dam Authority                            | Propeller Communications           |
| American Residential Group                         | Greater Tulsa Association of REALTORS®               | Regent Bank                        |
| Arvest Bank                                        | Greenheck Group                                      | Rogers State University            |
| Bama Companies, Inc.                               | Griffin Media                                        | Sanguine Gas Exploration, LLC      |
| Big Elk Energy Systems                             | Hall Estill                                          | Schnake Turnbo Frank               |
| Bill Knight Automotive Group                       | Hilti                                                | Security Bank                      |
| Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma             | HoganTaylor, LLP                                     | Senior Star                        |
| Blue Sky Bank                                      | HUB International Mid-America                        | Small Business Capital Corporation |
| BNSF Railway Company                               | Ingredion, Inc.                                      | Sofidel                            |
| Case & Associates Properties, Inc.                 | JE Dunn Construction                                 | Summit Financial Group, Inc.       |
| CBIZ Stinnett                                      | Jim Norton Toyota                                    | TEDC Creative Capital              |
| CF Industries                                      | Joshi Technologies International, Inc.               | The Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation |
| Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies | JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.                            | The Persimmon Group                |
| Commerce Bank                                      | LUXA Enterprises, LLC                                | The Robson Companies, Inc.         |
| CommunityCare                                      | Mabrey Bank                                          | The University of Tulsa            |
| ConsumerAffairs                                    | Manhattan Construction Group                         | TTCU Federal Credit Union          |
| Cox Communications                                 | McElroy Manufacturing, Inc.                          | Tulsa Bone & Joint Associates      |
| Cyntergy                                           | McGraw Realtors                                      | Tulsa Community College            |
| Dewberry                                           | Nabholz                                              | Tulsa Tech                         |
| Dolese                                             | Northeastern State University                        | Tulsa Zoo Management, Inc.         |
| Don Thornton Automotive Group                      | Oklahoma Blood Institute                             | UMB Bank                           |
| Eller & Detrich, P.C.                              | Oklahoma Central Credit Union                        | University of Oklahoma Foundation  |
| Ernst & Young, LLP                                 | Oklahoma State University                            | Vast Bank                          |
| Flintco, LLC                                       | Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences | Wallace Design Collective          |
| FORVIS, LLP                                        | Oklahoma State University-Tulsa                      | Walmart, Inc.                      |
| Frederic Dorwart, Lawyers                          | Omni Air International                               | Webco Industries, Inc.             |
| GableGotwals                                       | OU-Tulsa                                             | Wellness Labs, LLC                 |
| Gateway First Bank                                 | Oral Roberts University                              | Whiptail Midstream, LLC            |
| Google, Inc.                                       | Parkside Psychiatric Hospital & Clinic               |                                    |

# Thank You

## to our investors and regional partners.

The more than \$3.1 million raised to support economic development work in 2022 is paving the way for future job growth through a renewed focus on retaining, expanding and recruiting businesses for our region.

## LEAD INVESTORS



## REGIONAL PARTNERS

- |                                               |                                                       |                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Bixby Metro Chamber of Commerce               | City of Sand Springs                                  | Corporation                        |
| Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce              | City of Sapulpa                                       | Osage Casinos                      |
| Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation | City of Skiatook                                      | Osage Nation                       |
| Cherokee Nation                               | City of Tulsa                                         | Owasso Chamber of Commerce         |
| Cherokee Nation Businesses                    | Claremore Industrial & Economic Development Authority | Public Service Company of Oklahoma |
| City of Bixby                                 | INCOG                                                 | Rogers County                      |
| City of Broken Arrow                          | MidAmerica Industrial Park                            | Rogers County Development          |
| City of Catoosa                               | Muscogee (Creek) Nation                               | Sand Springs Chamber of Commerce   |
| City of Claremore                             | Muskogee City-County Port Authority                   | Tulsa County                       |
| City of Collinsville                          | Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology     | Tulsa Ports                        |
|                                               | Okmulgee Area Development                             |                                    |

\*List as of 1/23/2023





**INDIVIDUAL AWARD**

**Andrea Pemberton** is a champion for elevating the voices of young professionals, creating inclusive cultures, and building the next generation of leaders in Tulsa. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Andrea served as executive director of TYPROS, where she helped build the most diverse leadership board in the organization's history, supported the launch of a new program to train young professionals to run for local government, and raised the largest amount of funds in TYPROS Foundation history - \$50,000 for projects that honored the legacy of Black Wall Street. Today, Andrea serves as the Talent & Organizational Effectiveness Lead at Arrowhead Consulting, where she specializes in solving complex organizational problems, helping organizations build inclusive, productive cultures, and supporting organizations in their talent attraction, development, and retention efforts.

**BUSINESS AWARD**

**ACT Tulsa** is six-month, cohort-driven accelerator program aimed at cultivating and driving innovation of Black and Latino technology startups located in Tulsa. With a dynamic team of architects, creatives, and techies, ACT House's \$5 million accelerator - ACT Tulsa - has invested in 26 Black and Latino-led startups in the past 18 months. ACT Tulsa helps innovators craft the best version of themselves, build their ideal team, and execute their dream by leveraging innovation with cross-cultural collaboration.

**NONPROFIT / ORGANIZATION AWARD**

**BeHeard Movement** is an award-winning nonprofit that provides a mobile drop in center with showers through a mobile shower trailer, laundry through a mobile laundry trailer, clothing through a clothing trailer, haircuts through a barbershop bus, case management and radical care to those who are experiencing homelessness. Evan Dougoud, 26, founded the BeHeard Movement in 2020 after building a relationship with youth experiencing homelessness. The group has continued to grow since 2020 and plans to grow their work and case management services in 2023.

**BOOMTOWN LEGACY RECIPIENT**

**Jerica D. Wortham** is a Tulsa native, best-selling author and award-winning spoken word artist. She is the founder of J'Parlé LLC, J'Parlé Artist Group Inc., (B)Light Tulsa, EnChante outdoor gallery, Community Pride Gardening Club and the Pärälä Creative Festival. Her passions include championing BIPOC creatives, supporting continued education goals, and providing placemaking activities for people of color throughout the city of Tulsa.

**TYPROS HONORS INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES AT ANNUAL GALA**

On November 5, Tulsa's Young Professionals (TYPROS) hosted the 2022 Boomtown Awards. This annual event celebrates those in our city who further the TYPROS mission of making Tulsa awesome and serves as the largest annual fundraiser benefitting the TYPROS Foundation.

"We are fortunate to have a broad collection of individuals, businesses, and organizations contributing to the improvement of the Tulsa community," said David Tollette, executive director of TYPROS. "Each Boomtown award nominee and recipient is truly worthy of praise and recognition. TYPROS is proud to celebrate the impact of each in the Tulsa region."



**BEHEARD**



**TYPROS FOUNDATION NAMES 2023 GRANT RECIPIENTS**

The TYPROS Foundation provides funding for projects that engage young people in placemaking, innovation and community development projects throughout the city of Tulsa. In previous years, the TYPROS Foundation has funded initiatives such as the Greenwood Reflection Garden, Black Wall Street Mural, Tulsa Art Alley, the Outsiders House Museum and the Tulsa Flag.

At this year's Boomtown Awards, the TYPROS Foundation announced grant funding for six placemaking projects to be completed in 2023 totaling \$35,000.

"We had more grant applications this year than ever before," said Aaron Labounty, president of the TYPROS Foundation. "I think that goes a long way in showing how invested Tulsans are in this community, and how much impact we can make when we really activate the creative and hard-working young professionals in this city."

**COMMUNITY SKATE COURT AT MCCLURE PARK**

**Mandy Durham**

Roller skating as a sport has had a major resurgence. This project helps create a well-designed, family-friendly outdoor skating rink at McClure Park in Tulsa. The grant improves the skating rink by providing amenities like barbecue grills and outdoor seating. This project provides fun, safe, affordable entertainment, particularly for families in north and east Tulsa, helps address the detrimental effects the pandemic has had on mental and physical health and our ability to socialize, and brings people together from all parts of the city who want to skate.

**THE BUSINESS CYCLE**

**This Machine Bike Share**

This Machine Tulsa Bike Share is a nonprofit program that

connects people to places where they live, work, and play through cycling. The Business Cycle program will raise awareness around the employee benefits of cycle commuting for businesses, including cost savings; improved mental and physical health, improved concentration, fewer sick days, and better productivity. This program will also raise awareness about additional benefits of cycle commuting, such as reduced motor vehicle expenses, increased calorie burn, improved mental and physical health and pollution reduction. Through this grant, the Business Cycle program will encourage Tulsans to commit to cycle commuting one day a week to make a big impact for themselves and their community.

**CULTURAL NIGHT MARKET AND FOOD FESTIVAL**

**AAPI Tulsa**

The goals of this event are to promote cultural diversity



through food, support local, minority-owned small businesses and restaurants, and bring Tulsa's unique cultures together through ongoing cultural events. Two night markets will be held in 2023 where Tulsans will be invited to meet, mingle, enjoy delicious food and vendors from various cultures, and build community with their neighbors.

**SISTER CITY SPOTLIGHT**

**Twisted Arts**

"Sister City Spotlight" is a series of free, live performances in which a local LGBTQ+ artist from Tulsa will share a stage with a world-class underground LGBTQ+ artist from outside Oklahoma. These special evenings will highlight local talent and give Tulsa artists the chance to gain national exposure, as well as bring amazing performers to Tulsa from major cities around the country. Shows will include cabaret, drag, performance art and music.

**MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION PROJECT**

**Andrew Duffy**

The Mental Health Education Project will offer free, accessible mental health classes to Tulsans. Through lectures, guided discussions, and coping skill practices, licensed therapists will create safe and inclusive environments for people to come and learn about mental wellness. Classes are open to all ages. Everyone is encouraged to come out and learn more about how to be mentally healthy.

**ART WORKSHOPS AND TOURS IN ASL**

**Nic Annette Miller**

This innovative project will bridge the gap between the deaf community and major museum establishments in Tulsa by producing up to five guided tours at Tulsa museums in American Sign Language (ASL), followed by hands-on art activities. This program will be led by a deaf educator or teaching artist directly in ASL. There are 71,000 deaf individuals in Oklahoma, yet programming for the deaf community is limited. Making art accessible in ASL provides an opportunity to reach a large audience of visual learners. These programs will educate deaf adults and children, along with their families, on a multitude of topics, inspire creativity, and encourage discourse from multiple perspectives. ■



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The Tulsa Regional Chamber has again earned five-star distinction - the highest possible honor - from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

**Thank you to the members, investors and partners who enable us to shine.**





## TULSA COUNTY COMMISSIONER KELLY DUNKERLEY

Kelly Dunkerley is a business executive and local public official who in November 2022 became the newest elected Tulsa County Commissioner. Commissioner Dunkerley joins Commissioner Karen Keith and Commissioner Stan Sallee to form the Board of County Commissioners, the body responsible for Tulsa County's execution of a wide range of legal and fiscal responsibilities.

Commissioner Dunkerley has more than 25 years of experience in business, insurance, and local government. Dunkerley served as a member of the Jenks Planning Commission from 2011 to 2013, then as a member of the Jenks City Council from 2013 to 2017. While serving on the council he was elected by his peers to serve as mayor of Jenks from 2015 to 2017. Dunkerley also served on several local boards, including the Tulsa County Board of Adjustment, Jenks Chamber of Commerce and Junior Achievement of Oklahoma.



### How do you expect your experience as a businessman will help you in this role?

Experience in communicating, working, and collaborating with people in large and small business environments, is central for negotiating and reaching consensus in a competitive setting with limited resources.

### What are the biggest issues you see in the region?

Improve public safety by supporting law enforcement, creating a better business environment to fuel economic growth, increasing employment opportunities and small business investment.

### What are some changes you see coming to Tulsa County in the near future?

Improvements in transportation infrastructure, quality of life initiatives with a commitment to a business-friendly environment.

### At the end of your first term, what do you hope you can say you accomplished?

A safer community environment for business, residential living, and recreational activities, creating more opportunities for young people to live, work and raise families.

### What role do you see the country having in regional economic growth?

ps with business leaders, leveraging resources focusing on growth, encouraging entrepreneurial activity, and attracting new investment. ■

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2023

# REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Representing business-driven consensus on northeast Oklahoma's top policy priorities, the 2023 OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda will guide the Chamber's advocacy efforts throughout the year. The agenda's 15 state and 15 federal priorities are the result of collaboration over 300 of individuals from hundreds of businesses and more than 75 chambers of commerce, municipalities, counties and economic development organizations.

## STATE PRIORITIES:

### ENSURING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

- Advanced mobility cluster
- Economic Incentives
- Support the Department of Tourism's Promotional Fund
- Promote Robust Energy Production
- Strategic Investment in Innovation Economy

### BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE CRITICAL TO BUSINESS

- Support Critically Needed Transportation Funding
- Oppose Burdensome Data Privacy Legislation
- Complete Oklahoma's Authorized Online Voter Registration Platform
- Pursue a Hydrogen Economy in Oklahoma
- Modernize the Open Meetings Act

### EDUCATE AND HEALTHY WORKFORCE

- Invest in Proven Programs as Strategies for Workforce and Talent
- Health Care Workforce Expansion
- Create a Sustainable Future for Public Higher Education in Oklahoma
- Oklahoma's K-12 Funding
- Address Children's Mental Health

## HIGHLIGHTED STATE PRIORITIES:

### ADVANCED MOBILITY CLUSTER

Support the next generation of mobility by building on developments from the Tulsa Regional Advanced Mobility Cluster (as awarded a Build Back Better grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration) and supporting the agreement between the States of Oklahoma and Arkansas to be leaders in advanced mobility. These initiatives will attract new business and encourage economic growth along the Highway 412 corridor of northeastern Oklahoma and the Arkansas border. State leaders should produce, amend, or remove legislation that will help this agreement become a success for years to come.

### SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM'S PROMOTIONAL FUND

The return on investment of advertising dollars for tourism in northeast Oklahoma is \$70 per visitor and \$6 in tax for every dollar spent. Yet, the advertising in Oklahoma by the Tourism Department significantly lags that of surrounding states. Multiple attractions such as Route 66, the Gathering Place, the Bob Dylan Center, and the Greenwood Rising museum provide a unique opportunity to draw thousands of visitors to northeast Oklahoma with a positive ad campaign. It is imperative to take advantage of the current momentum and support the legislative effort to increase the cap on apportionment of sales tax provided to the Oklahoma Tourism Promotion Revolving Fund.

### CREATE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN OKLAHOMA

Now is the time for the legislature to look more strategically at the higher education landscape in Oklahoma, including expanding our workforce pathways. We need to adequately resource higher education institutions to ensure persistence and success of STEM students. We encourage the legislature to review the State Regents new system wide strategic plan upon its completion, as well as the remaining recommendations spelled out by the State Regents Task Force on the future of Oklahoma higher education, to implement policies needed to increase efficiency, innovation, and modernization.

## FEDERAL PRIORITIES:

### ENSURING A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

- Accelerate Permitting of Energy and Infrastructure Projects
- Launch Supply Chain and Reshoring Recruitment Effort
- Federal Historic Tax Credit
- Support Funding for Economic Development Programs
- Establish a Biomedical/Life Sciences in the New Downtown Medical District

### BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE CRITICAL TO BUSINESS

- McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS)
- Complete US-412 Interstate Designation & Corridor Improvements
- Increase Oversight of Foreign Owned Land
- Tulsa's Levee System
- Support Passage of the Safe Banking Act

### EDUCATED AND HEALTHY WORKFORCE

- Jumpstart Our Business by Supporting Students (Jobs) Act
- Federal Immigration Reform
- Ensure Ongoing Access to Virtual Care for Patients
- Reform Federal Financial Aid
- Remove Barriers to Needed Psychiatric Inpatient Treatment

## HIGHLIGHTED FEDERAL PRIORITIES:

### ACCELERATE PERMITTING OF ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

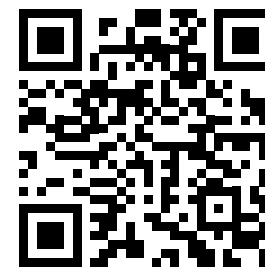
Strongly support efforts to accelerate federal permitting for projects necessary to achieve domestic energy independence and complete infrastructure projects. Legislative and Administrative efforts should focus on ensuring concurrent and timely permitting for all federally required approvals and encourage coordination and communication with state permitting. These projects would create a boom in the U.S. domestic economy, support job creation, strengthen our trade balance, and increase product security and price stability on a global scale.

### MCCLELLAN-KERR ARKANSAS RIVER NAVIGATION SYSTEM

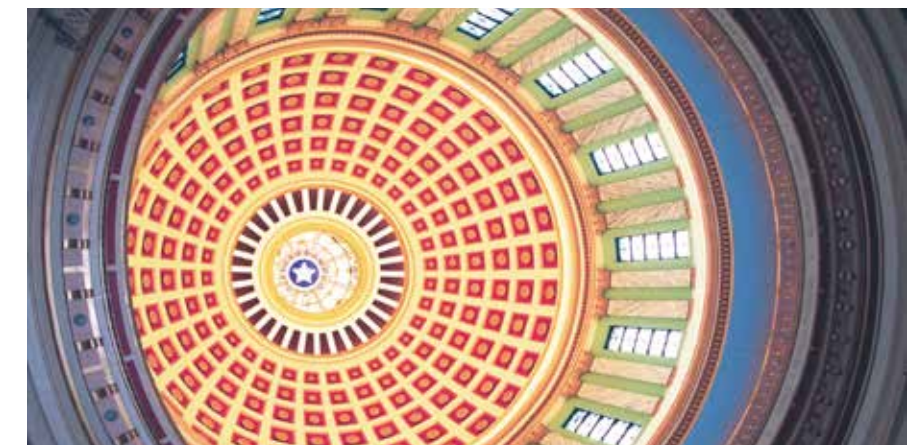
Increase Congressional appropriations to address the approximately \$230 million in the backlog of critical maintenance on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. Failure to do so continues to put the system at risk of a long-term navigation shutdown due to failure of waterway infrastructure such as locks and dams.

### TULSA'S LEEVE SYSTEM

Continue to address the critical infrastructure needs with Tulsa's aging levee system, which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has designated as one of the five percent highest-risk levee systems in the country. Improvements that would protect the structural integrity of the levee system were authorized in the 2020 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), and the project was set to receive \$137.4 million in funding under the 2022 Supplemental Disaster Appropriations Act. Despite this progress, increasing costs for construction, materials, and labor have resulted in a funding shortfall that is jeopardizing the project's completion. If one levee fails, it would be catastrophic for homeowners, nationally strategic oil refineries, multiple industries currently protected by the system, and have devastating environmental impacts for our region.



For more information on the OneVoice agenda and priorities, please scan the QR code.







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## WHO WE ARE

Actionable steps to make diverse, equitable and inclusive integral to who we are

## INTENTIONALITY MADE OUR REGION MORE INCLUSIVE IN 2022

The end of one year and the start of the next offers an opportunity to reflect on past successes and future hopes. Our region made big strides during 2022, with many organizations placing a greater focus than ever before on creating safe, inclusive workplaces.

"I'm excited to see companies in our region be intentional in their inclusion work," says Jonathan Long, vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion for the Tulsa Regional Chamber. "We can't mistake activity for achievement, but in 2022, we saw more companies thinking strategically about the shared value of inclusion."

To better understand the ways northeast Oklahoma is changing, we asked a few of our members to share their diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) wins from the past year. Hopefully their progress will inspire all of us to continue making the Tulsa region more inclusive.



**Tanya Garza - Member Experience Specialist for Tulsa Remote**

"Being part of a team that organized 'Cheers to Careers' was my highlight of the year. Cheers to Careers is a fun and casual networking event to learn about opportunities to advance your career, start a new career or continue learning new skills. My favorite part was that we supported the event in English, Spanish, and Ukrainian. I love being part of a community that works to break down barriers and create opportunities you may not know exist and are available here in Tulsa."



**John Baker - Tulsa Metro Chairman, Diversity and Inclusion, for Aristocrat Technologies**

"As we pushed through 2022, Aristocrat continued with its 'People First' values. The attention to detail with our focus on DEI within the company and externally has been outstanding. Our Aristocrat CARES program really hits the mark for employees and the community."



**Hannah Jackson - Partner, Executive Vice President and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director for Schnake Turnbo Frank**

"When I reflect on 2022 DEI wins there are a couple of things that come to mind—one is the number of people and organizations who reached out for support in recruiting for DEI positions. This tells me that organizations are continuing to prioritize and see the importance of this work."



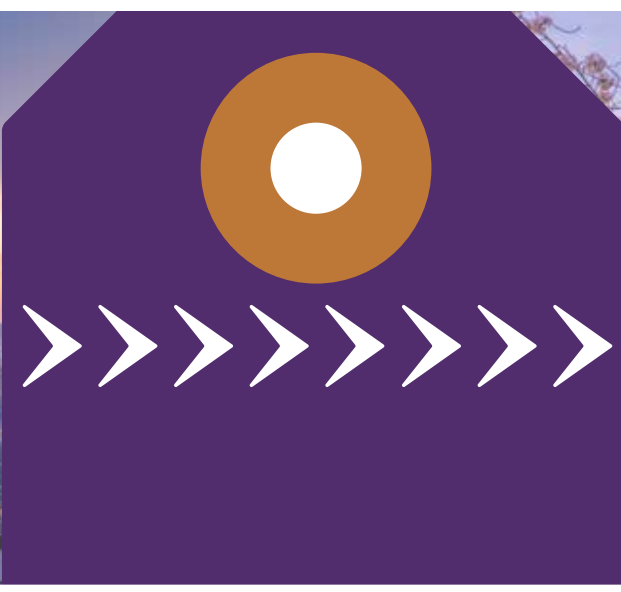
**Crystal Carter - Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for CAP Tulsa**

"We've continued efforts around becoming a racial learning organization by engaging in the New Teacher Center's Equity Series, with a focus on Culture Matters and Culturally Responsive Teaching. We've exceeded our goals regarding board diversity, with 71% of our Board of Directors identifying as women and/or People of Color, and are progressing well towards our goal of representation in leadership, with 33% identifying as People of Color at the end of last year, which is up from 22% in 2020."





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# SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## PARTY PRO RENTS

If you ask Party Pro Rents owner Stephanie Layson, she'll tell you that her company is about far more than just helping customers stage events of all shapes and sizes.



"Our goal is not just to create a customer but a partner," says Layson. "Our qualified sales staff and operations teams are happy to help you every step of the way."

Party Pro Rents is a premier tent, full-service event rental and production company in Tulsa. The entire Party Pro Rents team is dedicated to providing the highest level of professionalism and quality products to ensure successful events at all times.

Party Pro Rents specializes in all rental needs for private events, corporate functions, weddings, sporting events, trade shows, community events, fundraisers, concerts - or any party with people. They offer their clients years of event knowledge and associations with the best caterers, event planners and florists. They provide event setup and breakdown, placement, customized décor, location-specific computer-aided design (CAD) drawings, event logistics (vendor management), complete design and install, and day-of coordination.

Layson believes Party Pro Rents' ability to customize its offerings based on individual client needs is a real differentiator in the event production space.

"While we offer ready-to-go items, Party Pro Rents is also able to produce custom installation and focal pieces," Layson says. "These pieces are as unique as your event, and the sky is the limit. Come to us with your vision, and we will bring it to life!"

Party Pro Rents' inventory includes tables, chairs, linens, flatware, china, tents, flooring, staging, heating and air conditioning, and trade show services. They are consistently adding to their inventory to keep up with current fabrics, colors, patterns and designs. They offer free consultations with their experts within their "Rental Experience" showroom. ■

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# NEW MEMBERS

Quarter 3 2022

## BOARD OF ADVISORS

### Citizen Energy III, LLC

320 S. Boston Ave., Ste. 900  
Tulsa, OK 74103  
(918) 949-4680  
[citizenenergyok.com](http://citizenenergyok.com)

Exploration and production company developing horizontal play concepts in the onshore region of the U.S.

### Smith & Pickel Construction

13415 N. Santa Fe Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73114  
(405) 755-7624  
[smithandpickel.com](http://smithandpickel.com)

Full-service, comprehensively allocated construction management firm.

### Gulfstream Aerospace

6911 N. Whirlpool Dr.  
Tulsa, OK 74117  
(918) 395-9508  
[gulfstream.com](http://gulfstream.com)

Designs, develops, manufactures, markets and services business jet aircraft.

### Oklahoma Auto Dealers Association

101 N.E. 26th St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
(405) 521-1295  
[okauto.org](http://okauto.org)

Organization advocating for the common business interests of franchised new automobile dealers.

### PartnerTulsa

100 S. Cincinnati Ave., Ste. 6  
Tulsa, OK 74103  
(918) 497-0704  
[partnertulsa.org](http://partnertulsa.org)

Public trust established to support the City of Tulsa in carrying out its community and economic development priorities, goals and programs.

### 10-8 Services, LLC

115 W. 5th St., Ste. 1010  
Tulsa, OK 74103  
(918) 527-6285

Off-duty police officers, security guards, training and risk assessments.

### America's Car-Mart of Tulsa North

6519 E. 11th St.  
Tulsa, OK 74112  
(918) 835-2341  
[car-mart.com](http://car-mart.com)  
Car dealership.

### America's Car-Mart of Tulsa South

4810 S. Peoria Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74105  
(918) 747-1850  
[car-mart.com](http://car-mart.com)  
Car dealership.

### American Pipe Bending

3207 Dawson Rd.  
Tulsa, OK 74110  
(918) 749-2363  
[apb-bend.com](http://apb-bend.com)  
Pipe bending and coiling company.

### Black Mesa Energy, LLC

401 S. Boston Ave., Ste. 450  
Tulsa, OK 74103  
(918) 706-5520  
[blkmesa.com](http://blkmesa.com)

Oil and gas exploration and production company.

### Campbell Nissan

8190 E. Skelly Dr.  
Tulsa, OK 74120  
(918) 233-8190  
[campbellcarsnissan.com](http://campbellcarsnissan.com)  
Nissan dealership.

### Conquest Cyber

1 Music Cir. S.  
Nashville, TN 37203  
(918) 261-5815  
[conquestcyber.com](http://conquestcyber.com)

Elite cyber security company that protects the nation's defense and critical infrastructure sectors, including healthcare, energy, finance and manufacturing.

### FREYA: Nordic Kitchen

3410 S. Peoria Ave., Ste. 200  
Tulsa, OK 74105  
(918) 779-4413  
[freyatulsa.com](http://freyatulsa.com)  
Restaurant.

### Frost Chiropractic

6221 E. 61st St.  
Tulsa, OK 74136  
(918) 576-6611  
[chirofrost.com](http://chirofrost.com)

Practices gentle, safe, and effective chiropractic treatment for the whole family.

### Guy Engineering

6910 E. 14th St.  
Tulsa, OK 74112  
(539) 424-5083  
[guyengr.com](http://guyengr.com)

Civil engineering, land surveying, land acquisition and utility locating.

### Ideal Homes

1320 N. Porter Ave.  
Norman, OK 73071  
(405) 215-7285  
[idealthomes.com](http://idealthomes.com)

One of America's top private home-building companies and one of the largest in Oklahoma.

### Jogan Health

84 Inverness Cir. E.  
Englewood, CO 80112  
(918) 284-6696  
[joganhealth.com](http://joganhealth.com)

Staffing agency specializing in core and crisis staffing, public health and emergency preparedness.

### Kingdom Chiropractic

8156 S. Lewis  
Tulsa, OK 74137  
(518) 817-6318  
[kingdomchiro.life](http://kingdomchiro.life)  
Chiropractor.

### Kirkpatrick & Kinslow Productions

P.O. Box 52188  
Tulsa, OK 74152  
(918) 407-9254  
[kkp.film](http://kkp.film)

Emmy award-winning film production company, producing feature-length movies and documentaries.

### LOOK Eyecare & Eyewear

3746 S. Peoria Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74105  
(918) 992-5337  
[looktulsa.com](http://looktulsa.com)  
Optometrist.

### McIntosh Corporation

P.O. Box 472208  
Tulsa, OK 74147  
(918) 270-1414  
[mcintoshok.com](http://mcintoshok.com)

Mechanical service provider.

### Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium

P.O. Box 3174  
Oklahoma City, OK 73101  
(918) 604-3051  
[okethics.com](http://okethics.com)

Supports and promotes ethical standards in business by providing networking, resources and education.

### Pizza Twist

12583 S. 73rd E. Pl.  
Bixby, OK 74008  
(918) 999-3535  
[pizzatwist.com](http://pizzatwist.com)

Pizza franchise with Indian-flavored and traditional pizzas with vegan and halal options.

### Scandinavian Group

10214 E. 122nd Ct. S.  
Bixby, OK 74008  
(228) 800-8888

Connecting business investment between Scandinavia and the world.

### Software Selection Advisors

10026A S. Mingo Rd., #472  
Tulsa, OK 74133  
(918) 600-8700  
[ssa-ok.com](http://ssa-ok.com)

Works with organizations to identify and select the appropriate solution based on their needs, long- and short-term goals, and the desired outcome.

### Town Village Senior Living

8222 S. Yale Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74137  
(918) 493-1200  
[townvillagetulsa.com](http://townvillagetulsa.com)

Independent community for seniors.

### Triangle Insurance Group

767 W. New Orleans St.  
Broken Arrow, OK 74011  
(918) 771-9181  
[triangleinsurancegrp.com](http://triangleinsurancegrp.com)

Home, auto, life and commercial/business insurance.

### Tulsa Heaters Midstream

1215 S. Boulder Ave., Ste. 1040  
Tulsa, OK 74119  
(918) 392-8000

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

Reliable, flexible heater and combustion gas processing industry.

### Woodrum, Tate & Associates

321 S. Boston Ave., Ste. 200  
Tulsa, OK 74103  
(918) 584-4800  
[wktv.net](http://wktv.net)

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