

THE CHAMBER REPORT

TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER

Q2 2023

IMPROVE
OUR TULSA
3

Funding package renewal to go before voters August 8

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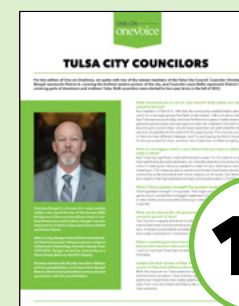
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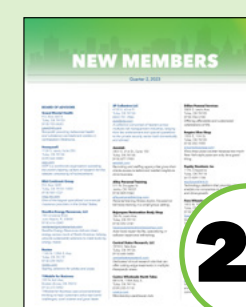
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HEAD TABLE

RECAPPING OUR RECENT ACTIVITIES,
EVENTS, PROJECTS AND MORE



ENEL INVESTS \$1 BILLION IN OKLAHOMA SOLAR

Italian clean energy company Enel North America has announced a \$1 billion investment to build one of the largest solar cell and panel manufacturing plants in the U.S. at the Port of Inola in northeastern Oklahoma. The project is expected to create over 1,800 construction jobs and 1,000 jobs by 2025. Governor Kevin Stitt expressed excitement over Enel's expansion, calling it a "huge win for Oklahoma." President Joe Biden highlighted the significance of the investment, stating, "Today's announcement from Enel is just the latest proof that my Investing in America agenda is working, and American manufacturing is back." Enel's decision to choose Oklahoma was influenced by the state's commitment to workforce development and its attractive investment climate.



BLAKE SHELTON JOINS OKPOP CAMPAIGN TO EMPOWER OKLAHOMA'S POP CULTURE

Blake Shelton, the renowned country music super star and coach on "The Voice," has been named the honorary campaign chairman for the OKPOP Foundation's fundraising campaign. The campaign aims to raise \$30 million to complete the Oklahoma Museum of Popular Culture, also known as the OKPOP Museum, by late 2024. Shelton's role will involve creating awareness about the project and inspiring others to contribute to the museum's mission of empowering young Oklahoma musicians and artists. Shelton expressed his passion for the project, stating, "OKPOP is telling the stories of Oklahomans who have impacted and continue to influence pop culture in such a cool, innovative way. Folks from all over the country are going to love it." The OKPOP Museum, located in the Tulsa Arts District, will preserve and share Oklahoma's pop culture history, serving as a source of inspiration for future generations.

ONEVOICE ADVOCATES GATHER IN D.C.

The annual OneVoice Washington D.C. Fly-In provides an important platform for the Tulsa Regional Chamber and representatives from the northeastern Oklahoma business community to engage and advocate with policymakers. This year's Fly-In focused on discussing federal legislative priority topics such as cybersecurity, minority business development, downtown revitalization, and energy. Despite the busy schedules of members of congressional members, attendees expressed their enthusiasm for the in-person briefings, emphasizing the importance of federal support in maintaining the region's economic development momentum.



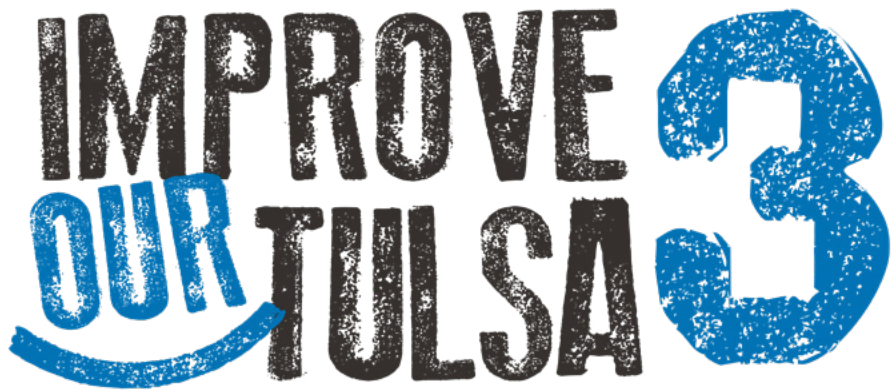
H&P CELEBRATES AT STOCK EXCHANGE

Helmerich & Payne celebrated 60 years on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on June 6 by traveling to New York. CEO John Lindsay, H&P executive leadership and the board of directors gathered on the stock exchange floor and rang the iconic opening bell. Since 1920, H&P has been the industry's most trusted partner in drilling productivity and reliability, and for almost 100 years they have been headquartered in Tulsa. The last time H&P was at the stock exchange officially was during its initial public offering (IPO) in 1963.

SWEDISH MANUFACTURER EXPANDS TULSA OPERATIONS

Swedish manufacturer Roxtec Inc. is investing \$9.4 million to expand its operations in Tulsa, nearly doubling its size. The company, known for its modular-based cable and pipe transits, has had a presence in Tulsa for over 25 years and is transitioning to a newly remodeled 56,000-square-foot building. This expansion will create 17 new jobs, solidifying Tulsa's reputation as a favorable destination for manufacturing growth. Aaron Fowler, President of Roxtec Inc., praised Tulsa as an ideal location for growth due to its central location, affordability, and strong workforce. Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and Arthur Jackson, senior vice president of economic development for the Tulsa Regional Chamber, expressed their support for Roxtec's decision and highlighted the city's commitment to manufacturing and future foreign direct investment.





Funding package renewal to go before voters August 8

A bond package with the ability to transform the city of Tulsa is going to be on the ballot this August 8 for every voter within the city limits. The Improve Our Tulsa renewal is a proposed \$814 million package that will not raise tax rates, but will fund needed improvements to City facilities, equipment, and street infrastructure. It will also make a substantial investment toward a Tulsa Housing Initiative to help fill a critical housing need in Tulsa. Improve Our Tulsa, which was first approved by voters in 2013 and again in 2019, has become the driving force behind the city's commitment to maintaining its infrastructure, quality of life, and overall prosperity.

From the rejuvenation of streets and transportation systems to the enhancement of city facilities and the advancement of public safety, Improve Our Tulsa has had a strong impact on the city's landscape. The upcoming extension vote is crucial for Tulsa's continued growth and prosperity. It is a chance to build upon the successes of the past, address ongoing challenges and pave the way for a more vibrant and resilient city.

For all of these reasons, the Tulsa Regional Chamber's Board of Directors unanimously endorsed the Improve Our Tulsa extension, and the Chamber will manage the campaign to support its passage. This package will make Tulsa a better place to live and do business, and the Chamber will be doing everything it can to support it.

The History of Improve Our Tulsa

In 2013, city officials saw a number of critical issues, including deteriorating roads, outdated transportation systems, and aging city facilities. With a forward-looking vision, they devised a plan aimed to revitalize Tulsa's infrastructure and create a more efficient, accessible, and sustainable city for residents and businesses alike.

This plan became Improve Our Tulsa, and voters approved it resoundingly. The money immediately started being used to transform Tulsa's infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing city on the cusp of a boom.

The initial success of the Improve Our Tulsa plan inspired confidence in its approach and laid the groundwork for subsequent extensions. In 2019, Tulsa voters once again demonstrated their commitment to the city's progress by overwhelmingly approving an extension of the plan. This extension not only reinforced the ongoing need for infrastructure improvements but also introduced new elements to meet the evolving needs of the community, including funding for amenities such as Tulsa Parks, the Tulsa Zoo and Gilcrease Museum.

The upcoming extension vote on August 8 presents an opportunity to build upon the successes of the past and propel the city's progress forward. It is a chance to invest in smart projects that will ensure Tulsa remains a desirable place to live, work and thrive.

How is it paid for?

The extension of the Improve Our Tulsa bond package will not increase tax rates for any Tulsa resident. A yes vote will keep in place the current 0.95% temporary sales tax and property-tax financed General Obligation Bonds issued by the City of Tulsa that fund these key projects.

When is it being decided?

The Improve Our Tulsa renewal questions are planned to be on the ballot for August 8, 2023, in the city limits of Tulsa. Here are some important dates to follow:

- » **July 14:** Voter registration deadline for the August 8 election
- » **July 24:** Last day to request an absentee ballot for the August 8 election
- » **August 3 & 4:** Early voting from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Tulsa County Election Board for the August 8 election
- » **August 8:** Election day, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Why does this matter to the business community?

- » **Enhanced Infrastructure:** Improve Our Tulsa 3 focuses on improving the city's infrastructure, including streets, transportation, and city facilities. Well-maintained public facilities and quality infrastructure create a favorable environment for commerce, attracting customers, clients, and investors.
- » **Workforce Development and Talent Retention:** A thriving city with impressive infrastructure and amenities is better able to attract and retain a talented workforce. Improve Our Tulsa 3's investments in housing initiatives and neighborhood revitalization also contribute to creating an affordable, desirable living environment, making it easier for businesses to recruit and retain skilled employees.
- » **Economic Growth and Business Attraction:** The investments made through Improve Our Tulsa contribute to economic growth and business attraction. By creating a vibrant and modern city with the infrastructure to support economic growth, Tulsa will become a more appealing location for businesses to establish or expand their operations. Improve Our Tulsa 3's emphasis on revitalizing neighborhoods and enhancing public spaces can also drive economic activity, attracting new customers and visitors to local businesses.

BREAKING DOWN THE PACKAGE

Streets and Transportation - \$295.8M

The package dedicates the largest portion of the funding, \$295.8 million, to streets and transportation improvements. Notable allocations include \$46 million for street widening projects, \$24 million for bridge replacement and rehabilitation, and \$21.6 million for matching funds to leverage additional investments.

The package also designates funds for traffic engineering (\$19.32M), American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance (\$10M), sidewalks (\$4.88M), and various other components, such as construction completion incentives and additional resources for engineering, inspection and testing (\$3M).

Improve Our Tulsa 3 also includes \$93.8 million for an inflation adjustment to previously approved street projects, ensuring that we finish the work. Additionally, \$68 million is allocated for citywide routine and preventive maintenance, addressing ongoing road repairs and maintenance needs.

By investing in our infrastructure, Improve Our Tulsa 3 will help business and citizens alike, while empowering further economic growth for the entire region.

City Facilities - \$270.4M

The package designates \$270.4 million for city facilities improvements. Improve Our Tulsa 3 uses this money to upgrade and maintain public buildings that are in the most dire need.

The allocations include \$4.4 million for the Safety Training Center Driving Track Overlay, \$6.4 million for building improvements and safety/security enhancements at the BOK Center, and \$18.8 million for roof replacement, building improvements, and safety/security upgrades at the Cox Business Convention Center. A significant portion, \$79.7 million, is dedicated to updates and renovations at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center, encompassing HVAC, plumbing, electrical, fire sprinkler systems, ADA compliance, dressing rooms, lighting and more.

Public amenities also receive some bolstering in Improve Our Tulsa 3. River Parks will receive funding for a maintenance building (\$5M), and Tulsa Parks is receiving nearly \$32 million for various improvements across parks, such as golf courses, roofs, lighting, pools, trails and more. \$10 million of the package will match privately raised funds for the completion of the Gilcrease Museum and \$5 million for Zink Lake infrastructure.

Improve Our Tulsa 3 also provides funding (\$47.5M) for a new Public Safety Center, as well as \$16 million for a consolidated maintenance facility for the Tulsa Police and Fire Departments and \$20 million for other citywide facility maintenance.

These improvements will enhance the quality of life for visitors and residents of Tulsa and spur economic growth by making key public buildings more accessible and functional.

Capital Equipment - \$152.8M

Improve Our Tulsa 3 sets aside \$152.8 million for capital equipment needs. Of this amount, \$58.5 million is allocated to improving the Tulsa Fire Department Fleet. The money will be used to purchase new fire trucks for the first time in over a decade and to improve the Fire Department's capacity to maintain and repair its fleet. These investments will ensure that the department has the necessary vehicles and equipment to carry out its duties and keep Tulsans safe.

The remaining \$94.3 million covers other vehicles, equipment, and information technology (IT) needs across various departments and services in the city.

These resources will help replenish some of the most crucial resources the City of Tulsa has to keep its citizens safe.

Housing and Neighborhoods - \$95M

For the first time, Improve Our Tulsa 3 includes a significant portion of the funding, \$95 million, dedicated to housing and neighborhood improvements. Within this category, \$75 million is combined with other funds to establish the Tulsa Housing Initiative, aiming to address housing affordability, community development, and revitalization efforts.

The package also designates \$15 million for neighborhood revitalization projects. These projects would greatly benefit neighborhoods regarding enhanced walkability, mobility, economic development, parks and recreation, and other placemaking efforts. An additional \$5 million is allocated for the implementation of the Kirkpatrick Heights-Greenwood Area Master Plan, a plan for the development of 56 acres of publicly owned property in the Kirkpatrick Heights/Greenwood area of North Tulsa.

These revitalization efforts create vibrant, attractive neighborhoods and enhance the overall quality of life for every Tulsan.

VOTE YES!

The Chamber's role in managing the campaign for Improve Our Tulsa 3 stems from our commitment to advancing the prosperity of the business community and the city as a whole. We believe that a strong and vibrant Tulsa is essential for the success of our members and the overall economic growth of the region.

We ask that our members stay engaged in the campaign to pass Improve Our Tulsa 3. We encourage you to vote **YES** on August 8 and to encourage others to do the same.

By supporting Improve Our Tulsa 3, the Tulsa business community is contributing to the continued growth and success of Tulsa, fostering an environment that nurtures business expansion, attracts investment, and enhances the overall economic vitality of the city. Together, let us seize this opportunity to build a stronger, more prosperous Tulsa for future generations to come.

UPWARDLY MOBILE

TRAM Corridor puts area on fast track for innovation in unmanned aircraft sector

BY RHETT MORGAN

Nearly every time Hopper Smith refreshes his web browser, he says some breakthrough in aviation pops up on his news feed.

That both amazes and delights the state of Oklahoma’s director of aerospace and defense.

“I get an idea what it must have been like at around the turn of the 20th century, at the dawn of fixed-wing aviation,” Smith says. “Back then, I’m sure it seemed like every month there was another invention or innovation that wowed people.”

Today, these sources of high-altitude astonishment often involve unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), or drones, a sector in which the Tulsa region and Oklahoma are excelling.

TO NOTE:

- » The state of Oklahoma is ranked first in the United States in drone readiness, according to a George Mason University study released in 2022.
- » Oklahoma State University is home to the Unmanned Systems Research Institute, which was the first in the nation to receive approval from the Federal Aviation Administration to fly an unmanned, fixed-wing aircraft swarm within national airspace.
- » In 2019, the FAA in 2019 gave the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma one of the first BVLOS (beyond visual line of sight) waivers to fly in the 54-square-mile BVLOS corridor on its test range at Daisy Ranch near Durant. By 2024, the Nation hopes to have FAA approval for BVLOS operations throughout its entire 11,000-square-mile reservation.
- » And in 2022, the Tulsa made national headlines in the sector when it was awarded \$38.2 million for the Tulsa Regional Advanced Mobility (TRAM) Corridor project, funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration’s Build Back Better Regional Challenge.



Guillaume Catry, co-founder and CEO of WindShape.

RIDING THE RIGHT WAVE

Led by the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) and designed to lure and support growth in advanced mobility in the area, the corridor proposes four projects. One of them is the establishment of a 114-nautical-mile, BVLOS commercial flight corridor linking OSU, Osage and Tulsa facilities, and another is the creation of the LaunchPad Research and Technology Center at OSU-Tulsa, which will focus on developing new technologies to meet advanced mobility industry needs.

Officials claim the entire corridor will result in 30,000 to 40,000 jobs – equal to about \$3.5 billion to \$5 billion in economic activity – over the first two to three years.

“Most folks who aren’t from Oklahoma don’t know realize how long and rich the history is in aerospace,” Smith says. They don’t think of Oklahoma as cutting-edge aerospace. But once I mention the attributes and capabilities that we have, both historically and forward-looking, that opens up their eyes a little bit.

“Oklahoma is extraordinarily well-positioned and is taking off in the advanced mobility industry. We’re all riding the right wave at the right time at the right place.”

SKYWAY36 LANDS DRONE BUSINESS

Cresting that wave in Tulsa this spring was WindShape, a Swiss-based drone testing company.

Relocating its U.S. operations from New York state, WindShape announced in April that it would be partnering with the Osage Nation to open a roughly 19,000-square-foot drone testing and validation facility at the Skyway36 Droneport and Technology Innovation Center in Tulsa.

“It’s another indication that Oklahoma is doing things well when you have a company that is already established in the U.S. is finding Oklahoma to be a preferable place to do business,” Smith says. “It’s another indication that a lot of the reforms that we’ve made in the state and the Tulsa community to invite business are gaining traction.”

WindShape will use its ‘Windshaper’ technology to create an indoor, free-flight laboratory, simulating natural wind and weather profiles, according to Guillaume Catry, company co-founder and CEO. The facility will encompass eight specialized labs, each designed to test and validate different drone systems.

These will include a climate lab for assessing weather resilience, a propulsion lab to validate propulsion units and two free-flight activity labs equipped with motion-tracking cameras, GPS generators and other digital tools.

“As we’re developing a new business and a new solution for a growing industry, we have to make sure we’re setting up in a state or in a place where there is a relevant strategy,” says Catry, speaking on a video call from Geneva, Switzerland. “Tulsa and the region have a great strategy.”

With the help of cash and infrastructure from the Osage Nation, WindShape will spend the next year building out operations at Skyway 36.

“The new WindShape Tulsa test facility is a unique and much needed resource for the nascent Advanced Aerial Mobility sector,” Jamey Jacob, director of the Oklahoma Aerospace Institute for Research and Education and Counter-UAS Center of Excellence at Oklahoma State University, says in a statement. “I am very excited to work with their team and use the WindShape concept to benefit our customers, government and commercial alike. I’m a big proponent of their design, and their services will provide critical testing and evaluation capabilities required to push adoption forward across the industry.”

PARTNERING FOR PROGRESS

While INCOG is serving as the lead institution for the coalition’s efforts to build the corridor, it will work with many partners, including Tulsa Innovation Labs (TIL), Tulsa Ports, OSU, Osage LLC, City of Tulsa, PartnerTulsa and the Tulsa Regional Chamber.

Of the \$38.2 million, four-year federal grant, \$13.7 million will go to OSU, \$5.2 million for the LaunchPad Center and \$8.5 million for the flight corridor, according to records provided by PartnerTulsa.

The balance will be earmarked for the TRAM project’s other two components: workforce training (\$2.9 million to Tulsa Community Foundation) and upgrades to the Tulsa Port of Inola (\$22.3 million to the City of Tulsa-Rogers County Port Authority).

The port is building a new wastewater treatment facility, so the industrial park is “pad-ready” for high-tech transportation systems. A ribbon cutting is scheduled June 30 for Oklahoma Aerospace Institute for Research and Education’s LaunchPad Center for Advance Air Mobility, which is working to hire an executive director, says Jennifer Hankins, deputy managing director of Tulsa Innovation Labs.

The Center will pair OSU’s research in unmanned systems with industry-defined research topics, entrepreneurship support and community engagement programs to address challenges in the advanced mobility sector.

TECH HUB PUSH

Tulsa Innovation Labs, pioneered by the George Kaiser Family Foundation, seeks to position Tulsa as a tech hub.

“What we’re looking ahead to are those entrepreneurial support programs, building in a fellowship program,” Hankins says. “We have a key consortium of venture capital partners who have agreed to wrap arms around researchers and students.

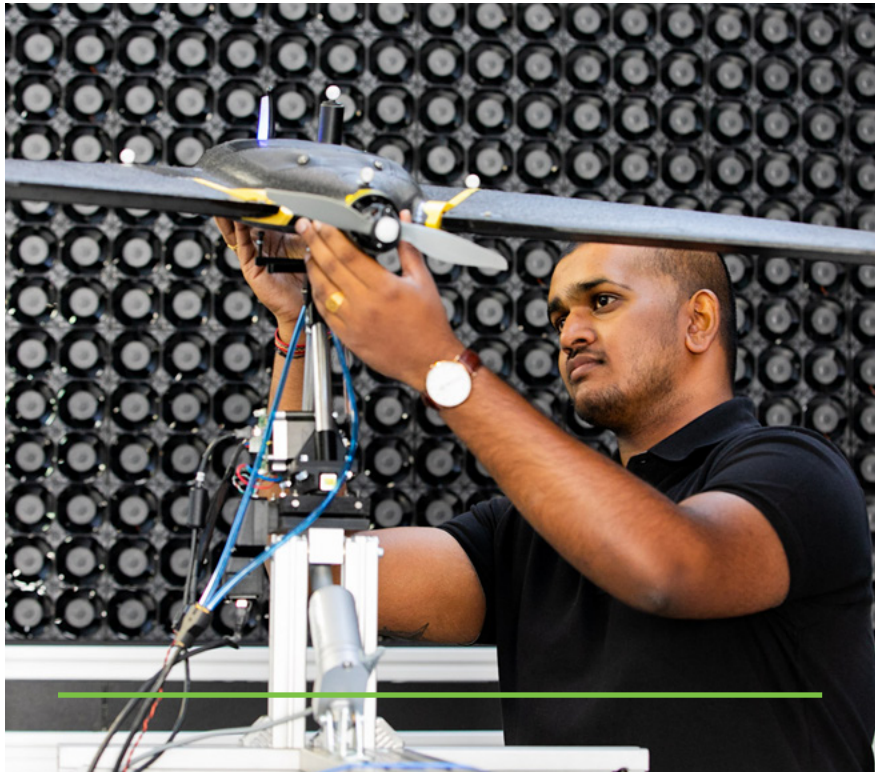
“What we’re frankly most excited about is the fact that the LaunchPad sits in the historic Greenwood District. A lot of efforts coming out of Launchpad will be indeed community engagement, making sure, for example, that high school students know what’s happening at the Launchpad, know how to access us. And then of course, providing mentorship all along the way.”

The global commercial drone market size was estimated at \$29.86 billion in 2022 and is expected to expand at compound annual growth rate of 38.6% from 2023 to 2030, according to global market research company Grand View Research.

Drones are used for many purposes, including filming, emergency response and getting goods and services to difficult-to-access places.

“We are really marrying together the whole value chain here, all the way from the tech to vehicles to the component supplies and the manufacturing that we know our region is so good at,” Hankins says of the TRAM Corridor.

“What we love most about it is that none of this is unrealistic for Tulsa. We really leaned hard into our region’s MRO (maintenance, repair and operations/overhaul) background, all of those skills, those knowledge bases, those companies. This cluster is allowing us to kind of button it up and move it 10 years ahead of schedule.” ■



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A *Visit* WITH REGIONAL TOURISM QUARTERLY INSIGHTS FROM THE FOUR PILLARS

Frequently referred to as the 'front door' to economic development, tourism has a significant impact in the Tulsa region and throughout Oklahoma. This brief quarterly "visit" with Tulsa Regional Tourism, an initiative of the Tulsa Regional Chamber, aims to spotlight some of your community's unique, successful and upcoming activities in this exciting industry—and how it supports your business and quality of life.

PUTTING VISITORS FRONT AND CENTER

Visit Tulsa is opening doors this summer to its first ever stand-alone visitors center. Their July 12 Grand Opening will unveil the initial phase of a new, immersive experience for guests in Tulsa.

"Tourism is about exploration and experiences; and if you're not investing in the second one, a return visit certainly isn't guaranteed," said Matt Stockman, VP of Experiences and Events of Tulsa Regional Tourism. "Fortunately, Tulsa already boasts some of the best hotels, unique attractions and delightful restaurants to ensure memorable and positive experiences. So, investing into a dedicated space for visitors to discover, explore and connect through dialogue with a helpful voice allows for visitors to create their experience."



VISIT TULSA - LEISURE TRAVEL

The new brick-and-mortar hotspot is on Route 66, in the Shops at Mother Road. The space will be open Wednesday - Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with fully trained hospitality staff always onsite.

Location is everything, so a high-traffic spot on the Mother Road with great neighboring companies like: Curations: By Gilcrease, Mythic Press, Gambill's Jewish Deli & Wine Bar and Southwood Home & Garden is an ideal selection. It certainly doesn't hurt that it sits directly in front of Oklahoma's first-ever non-profit food hall.

Who will be using the Visitors Center?

Leisure travelers • Event attendees • Travel journalists • Travel tours • Local media

Upon entry, travelers will gain access to print and video exploration assets, including the current edition of the Official Tulsa Visitor Guide, attractions information, multiple selfie-spots, fun promotional items—along with Wi-Fi access and clean restrooms. With Tulsa returning to (and exceeding) pre-pandemic visitors and tourism traffic, this space will be a 'center' of many lasting Tulsa experiences.

TULSA CVB - MEETINGS & CONVENTIONS

100X Reining Classic: An Equine Event Of A Different Color

There's a new equine event in town, and this one is looking to make some noise. 100X Reining Classic, formerly Tulsa Reining Classic, is being revamped, re-amped and bringing with them some famous faces.

If you are chomping at the bit to attend your first equine event, the Built Ford Tough Livestock Complex at Expo Square Aug. 26 through Sep. 3 is as great a time as any. With the above-and-beyond entertainment additions to the event, it will likely not be your last.

"It was very important to us when we took on this show to have some fun events paired with a very high level of competition. Many of us spend our disposable income at a horse show rather than on the beach in Hawaii, so let's make it feel like a little bit of a vacation!" shared Carter Smith, owner of 100X Shows.

The show organizers and new owners are very enthusiastic about the excitement they are bringing to the market with the goal of reining in a whole new audience of fans and attendees over. Adding to the excitement is the fact they will continue to host in the equine mecca that is Tulsa.



MAJOR HORSEPOWER AFTER 100X

Tulsa truly is a premier equine destination hosting 14+ of the largest horse events in the nation. Following this year's 100X Reining Classic, additional massive industry events will make their way to Tulsa in 2023, including the American Miniature Horse Registry Nationals, the Arabian Horse Association's Annual U.S. National Arabian & Half-Arabian Championship Show and the Pinto Horse Association of America's Color Breed Congress. Combining those three events alone presents an estimated total economic impact of \$27.85M for Tulsa and the region.



“Tulsa has become a preferred location for equine activities,” said Cheryl Cody, owner of Pro Management, Inc. which manages the world’s four largest reining events. “In over three decades in the industry, we have learned what to look for in a location, a venue and community. Tulsa checks all the boxes and we couldn’t be more excited about the 100X Reining Classic at Expo Square.”

A Glimpse of the 100X-Factor

- » **AUG 29** - VIP Sponsorship event: Wine & cheese reception accompanied by music from singer/pianist Marie Michèle (Located on the concourse of the Ford Truck Arena.)
- » **AUG 30** - VIP Sponsorship event: Whiskey tasting accompanied by music from Ryan Berg of NBC’s The Voice (Located on the concourse of the Ford Truck Arena.)
- » **AUG 31** - The 100X County Fair on the Expo Square’s Esplanade complete with vendors, games, food and entertainment including a Billy Joel cover band (Located on the west side of the Esplanade.)
- » **SEPT 1** - Multi-platinum recording artist, Grammy nominee, and Billboard award winner Larry the Cable Guy live (Located in the Pavilion. Tickets sold separately.)
- » **SEPT 2** - Academy of Country Music-nominated musician Dylan Scott in concert (Located in the Pavilion. Tickets sold separately.)

To learn more about the Tulsa CVB, go to visittulsa.com/cvb.

TULSA SPORTS COMMISSION - PRO & AMATEUR SPORTS

It may be difficult to keep up with the significant increase in coverage of sports and athletic events being hosted in the region. Your eyes aren’t playing tricks on you. Rather, Tulsa is skyrocketing in the sports industry with a flourishing reputation of being the sports destination.

In fact, such sentiments were solidified in Kansas City, MO in early May 2023, when Tulsa Sports Commission was honored by Sports Events & Tourism Association as the Sports Commission of the Year (population over 500,000) category.

ry. Tulsa Sports Commission was named Sports Commission of the Year by Sports ETA in the “over 500,000” category.

The selection committee commented on the nomination: “In its last fiscal year, the Tulsa Sports Commission secured more than 180,000 room nights, for an overall economic impact of \$218 million, hosted the 2022 PGA Championship, Ironman Tulsa, events for USA Volleyball and Wrestling, and celebrated the opening of the new USA BMX headquarters and racing venue.”

This upset saw Tulsa beat out more than 600 member organizations, including cities like Detroit, Orlando and Houston-and even state-level commissions in Indiana and Maryland.

“This recognition is no doubt a reflection of the world-class community we represent,” said Joel Koester, director of sales for the Tulsa Sports Commission upon receiving the honor on behalf of Tulsa. “We are thankful for our incredible local partners who help us attract business and keep them coming back for more. We are grateful for the planners who have worked with us to bring their events to Tulsa and create lifelong experiences for thousands of athletes, their families and fans.”



Additional Tulsa-related honors & buzz at Sports ETA included:

- » Induction of previous Tulsa Sports Commission team member, Suzann Stewart into the Class of 2023 Sports ETA Hall of Fame
- » Tulsa-riddled keynote from John David, Chief Strategy Officer, USA BMX as the incoming President & CEO of Sports ETA
- » Press announcement of UCI BMX World Championships selecting Tulsa for their only US portion in 2023
- » Discussion of Tulsa’s record-breaking wrestling March and the then-upcoming LIV golf in May

To learn more about the Tulsa Sports Commission, go to visittulsa.com/sports.

TULSA FMAC - FILM & MUSIC

Making its debut at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival on May 20 and immediately followed by an unprecedented 9-minute standing ovation, “Killers of the Flower Moon” has started what will most certainly be a multi-faceted journey of information, discovery, advocacy and emotion with a resounding impact on the film industry and perceptions of Oklahoma’s history.

About The Film

Directed and co-produced by Martin Scorsese, who also co-wrote the screenplay with Eric Roth, the film is based on the 2017 book of the same name by David Grann. The cast is robust and brimming with well-known talent, including Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, Lily Gladstone, Jesse Plemons, Brendan Fraser and John Lithgow.

The IMDb synopsis of the film: Members of the Osage tribe in the United States are murdered under mysterious circumstances in the 1920s, sparking a major F.B.I. investigation involving J. Edgar Hoover.

The film is set to receive an exclusive theatrical release on October 6, 2023, with Apple TV+ working alongside Paramount Pictures on distribution. It will then become available to stream on Apple TV+ October 20, 2023.

More On Cannes Film Festival

With the film screening on the schedule and the opportunity to highlight the Osage Nation and the Oklahoma film industry on a global stage being very real, bags were packed and flights were booked—destination Cannes.

Leaders from the Osage Nation and Oklahoma’s Lt. Governor Matt Pinnell then walked the red carpet, fielded questions with the press and represented the state in front of the international film industry. They were joined by four of the predominant film offices in our state, including Tulsa FMAC, Cherokee Nation Film Office, OKC Film & Creative Industries and the Oklahoma Film & Music Office making Oklahoma a major presence in the Film USA Pavilion.

Ready. Set. What’s Next?

In a recent panel discussion led by Tulsa FMAC’s Executive Director Meg Gould serving as moderator during the June 20 Tulsa Regional Chamber Joint Board Meeting, those present heard insights from both Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear, Principal Chief of the Osage Nation, and Julie O’Keefe, who served as a cultural consultant for the production.

Just before the panel began, the room viewed the official trailer together followed by a pre-recorded message from Oklahoma’s Lt. Governor Matt Pinnell. In his message, he shared his thoughts on the quality of the film, its festival adoration and praise, the ripples this will have on the state’s film and tourism industries – and left viewers with charged and inspiring words on preparation needs around infrastructure and communication for an inevitable rush of visitor traffic through cultural tourism.



As the panel discussion was underway, attendees were treated to a dive into the filming process where the Osage Nation worked with filmmakers to tell the Osage story. This included painstaking levels of research, costume design/use and language training with the cast and production teams, all with the goal of providing the most detail and care possible and ensuring their unwavering authenticity was translated to the final product.

Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear indicated that the Osage Nation has and will remain taking a very proactive stance on educating and there is a profound understanding of the nuances and complexities involved when commercializing such a serious and devastating moment in history. An additional take-away from the panel was from O'Keefe as she highlighted a need for added focus on ensuring local artisans are platformed effectively to stimulate their involvement in future industry projects.

To learn more about Tulsa FMAC, go to tulsafmac.com. ■



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO CELEBRATE



Tulsa Music Month returns for its third year and much like it sounds, the month-long event will be a community celebration of all-things-tunes in Tulsa including live music, highlighting new and historic music attractions and offering music industry workforce education and training.

With an official proclamation from the mayor's office and Tulsa FMAC aiming to ensure all voices in the local music industry feel empowered to evangelize this conversation with them.

To learn more about Tulsa Music Month, go to visittulsa.com/tulsa-music-month.

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TULSA CITY COUNCILORS

For this edition of One-on-OneVoice, we spoke with two of the newest members of the Tulsa City Council. Councilor Christian Bengel represents District 6, covering the furthest eastern portion of the city, and Councilor Laura Bellis represents District 4, covering parts of downtown and midtown Tulsa. Both councilors were elected to two-year terms in the fall of 2022.



Christian Bengel is a former U.S. Army combat soldier who stood the line of the Korean DMZ during one of the most tumultuous times to defend democracy and freedom. Bengel was also deployed to combat in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

After serving, Bengel returned home and attended Tulsa Community College to pursue a degree in Electronics Technology and raise a family. From 1999-2016, Bengel served his community as a Tulsa County Reserve Sheriff's Deputy.

Christian and his wife, Brynda, have four children and two grandchildren. In his spare time, Bengel likes to ride his Harley Davidson motorcycle and spend time with the grandchildren.

What motivated you to run for city council? What makes you well suited for this job?

As a resident in District 6, I felt that the community needed better advocacy for a tax-paying base that feels undervalued. I talk a lot about what East Tulsa was economically, and how the failure to support viable revenue generating businesses and job opportunities has crippled it and led to it becoming its current state. I would never state that I am well suited for this job, but I am grateful to the citizens for the opportunity. The nine city council districts have different makeups, and I'm just hoping my district knows I'm doing my best for them, and that I don't take their confidence lightly.

What are the biggest needs in your district that you hope to address while in office?

East Tulsa has significant code enforcement issues. For this district to attract significant jobs and investment, our culturally diverse community must unite in creating the vibrancy needed to make it truly a destination worth investing in. This means property owners and renters must have a sense of community pride and stand with me to reverse our fortunes. Our district also needs to feel represented and have a strong advocate in City Hall.

What is Tulsa's greatest strength? Our greatest weakness?

Tulsa's greatest strength is its people. That might sound cliched, but their generosity is unmatched. Its biggest weakness is it's landlocked. It's going to take careful, and purposeful planning in what little undeveloped space it has left.

What can be done at the city government level to ensure continued economic growth in Tulsa?

The City has to equally distribute its attention throughout. Too often it has overlooked areas of potential because it was too focused on specific corridors. It needs to purposefully revitalize the cores of dilapidated communities and create incentives for investment in these zones.

What is something you have learned in this role about the city of Tulsa that you did not know when you first decided to run?

I had no clue that Tulsa had tunnels. [Also,] the significant collection of Gilcrease.

Imagine the best version of Tulsa 10 years from now. How does that version of Tulsa look different than the city we live in today?

With the Improve our Tulsa extension package pending, its precursors, and the Vision projects, Tulsa and the region will be the benefactors to additional investments that create additional revenue streams. I think 10 years from now, the citizens will take pride in their decisions to make these improvements.



Laura Bellis is a community health access strategist and organizer who focuses on breaking down social and political resource barriers. As the executive director of the Take Control Initiative (TCI), the longest-running local contraceptive access program in the nation, Bellis has worked to expand access to quality care in coalition with over 200 clinic and community partners.

Bellis is deeply involved in the Tulsa community. She has served on the City of Tulsa's Human Rights Commission since 2017, serving as vice chair in 2018, and a subsequent two years as chair. In March of 2020, she co-founded Save Our State: Oklahomans United, a grassroots group of over 50,000 people working on pandemic-era resources and policies.

Bellis has been recognized for her deep commitment to the Tulsa community. In 2019, she received the Rev. Len Busch Social Justice Award from Langston University. The same year she was recognized as an Achiever Under 40 by the Oklahoma Journal of Record. In 2018 she was listed by NextGen Oklahoma as one of the NextGen Achievers Under 30.

What motivated you to run for city council? What makes you well suited for this job?

I've committed my life to service and removing barriers to resources and opportunities. I served our city's youth as a middle school teacher for five years. In the seven years since leaving the classroom, I've worked every day as a non-profit leader to ensure Tulsans have access to reproductive health care. As a twice-appointed member of the city's Human Rights Commission, I served to make Tulsa a better place for everyone as the commission's vice chair for a year and chair for two years. This, combined with an overall eight years of experience working on municipal policy, gives me a deep understanding of how local-level government can make a difference in the lives of Tulsans.

What are the biggest needs in your district that you hope to address while in office?

Affordable, high-quality housing is a significant need for our city. Thousands of Tulsans are on waitlists to access shelter, but with our housing infrastructure almost at capacity, we lack the units needed to ensure everyone has a place to call home. The housing crisis paired with the mental health crisis we face, both the result of years of underinvestment on the state and local level, deeply impact District 4 as the downstream effects of it strain other resources and lead to public safety challenges, especially in the downtown and surrounding neighborhood area. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to be part of the solution through collaborative, strategic policy work.

What is Tulsa's greatest strength? Our greatest weakness?

Our greatest strength is our compassionate community. Whether people are investing their wisdom, their work, or their wealth, we see time and again that Tulsans step up and collaborate for the greater good. Our greatest weakness is in fully realizing the moral imperative to address historic economic inequities in our city. The city's Destination Districts effort is a great start, as evidenced by the success of Kendall Whittier Main Street, the vibrant growth of Historic Greenwood Main Street, new investment in Kirkpatrick Heights, Route 66 Main Street and the Tulsa Global District. We need to scale these successes, including along Charles Page Blvd, and ensure their sustaining impact

What can be done at the city government level to ensure continued economic growth in Tulsa?

In addition to scaling and sustaining investment in communities that have historically been disenfranchised, we also must take a multi-faceted approach to attract and retain employers and talent. We need to streamline processes and remove barriers when it comes to permitting and other relevant steps businesses and developers, both grown out of and seeking to operate in our community, engage in. If we fail to ensure barriers are removed, we will lose economic opportunities to neighboring communities that make things easier or are more readily embracing. Another critical element to economic development is ensuring we are a model for inclusion and affirming that all people are welcome and safe here. This more socio-cultural element is essential in our current context when it comes to attracting and retaining people and businesses.

What is something you have learned in this role about the city of Tulsa that you did not know when you first decided to run?

Having been engaged in municipal policy work for quite some time, not too much has surprised me, though I never expected to get as many emails as I do about geese. More seriously, I think the granular details of the budget and budget process and how it interrelates with policy has been both critical and, for me, genuinely fun to learn. I believe a budget is a moral document and discovering what it looks like to strive to put that ideal into action has been eye-opening for me.

Imagine the best version of Tulsa 10 years from now. How does that version of Tulsa look different than the city we live in today?

An optimal transformation for Tulsa to me is a city that has significantly elevated accessibility when it comes to resources, opportunity, and physical access to amenities for all. In order to be resilient in the face of a changing climate, this accessibility must have more walkability (which includes greenery and green spaces) and public transportation access. To ensure all Tulsans have access to city information and resources, our digital infrastructure for being able to engage with the city remotely would be scaled. Most critically, given the investments we are working to make today to address our housing crisis, homelessness would be rare, brief and non-reoccurring, yielding better health and safety outcomes for all. ■



STATE OF INCLUSION CELEBRATES DEI IN THE TULSA REGION

On June 1, the Tulsa Regional Chamber held its annual State of Inclusion event, which elevates the Tulsa region's efforts to cultivate diverse, equitable and inclusive best practices.

The gathering featured keynote speaker Brian Alexander Black, director of diversity and inclusion for the Customer Channels Group (CCG) and BioProduction Group (BPG) at Thermo Fisher Scientific. Black discussed inclusive leadership and the importance of creating a sense of belonging and community that is at the center of any diversity and inclusion initiatives. He ended his keynote with a challenge to the crowd of more than 500 people to commit to “sponsor” underrepresented talent in their organizations. By engaging with and promoting employees from marginalized communities we can foster inclusive environments and develop inclusive leaders.

State of Inclusion also featured an expert panel of local leaders discussing inclusive leadership. They were Shella Bowlin, vice president of corporate strategy at Cherokee Nation Businesses; Wes Mitchell, director of business services for Green Country Workforce; and Debbie Cowan, senior vice president and chief human resources officer at Williams.

The event wrapped up with the launching of the 2023 Mosaic Inclusive Workplace Index. Taken annually by dozens of Tulsa-area companies and organizations, the Mosaic Inclusive Workplace Index quantifies the region's progress toward inclusivity and equity. The index results provide both macro-level insights and tailored feedback for participants to help them improve their own DEI efforts. ■

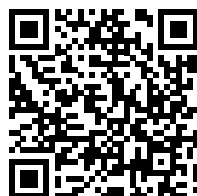
2023 MOSAIC INCLUSIVE WORKPLACE INDEX NOW OPEN

The Mosaic Inclusive Workplace Index helps companies benchmark their diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts and track progress year-to-year.

The index will remain open through Friday, July 28.

Individual results with recommended resources will be returned at a later date.

Scan to take the index



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INTERCITY VISIT 2023 ★ AUSTIN, TEXAS OCTOBER 2-4



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Portland, OR (2014)
Nashville, TN (2015)
Cincinnati, OH (2016)
Fort Worth, TX (2017)
Columbus, OH (2018)
Minneapolis - Saint Paul, MN (2019)
Multiple cities virtually (2020)
Northwest Arkansas (2021)
Denver, CO (2022)

INTERCITY VISIT HEADED TO AUSTIN

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL TRIP TO LOOK AT GROWTH - AND GROWING PAINS

Each year, as part of its Community Development strategic initiative, the Tulsa Regional Chamber leads an Intercity Visit to a peer city to hear best practices.

Intercity Visits are an opportunity for Chamber members and staff, elected officials, business leaders, education administrators, young professionals and regional partners to gather ideas and insights from cities overcoming challenges and leveraging opportunities similar to those in Tulsa.

"Intercity Visit is easily one of the most popular events the Chamber produces each year," says Justin McLaughlin, executive vice president and chief operating officer for the Tulsa Regional Chamber.

"No two cities are alike, of course, but looking at how another city has approached issues such as downtown development, housing and tourism can be extremely educational," McLaughlin adds. "These trips help attendees better visualize both the advantages and the potential pitfalls of various approaches."

"No two cities are alike, of course, but looking at how another city has approached issues such as downtown development, housing and tourism can be extremely educational. These trips help attendees better visualize both the advantages and the potential pitfalls of various approaches," says Justin McLaughlin, executive vice president and chief operating officer for the Tulsa Regional Chamber.

LESSONS LEARNED

The Chamber's first Intercity Visit went to Louisville, Kentucky, back in 2010. In the years since, Intercity Visits have spent time in cities as varied as Portland, Nashville, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Fort Worth and—just last year—Denver.

These trips have featured in-depth looks at topics ranging from river development, healthy living initiatives and transit to regional branding, workforce and the arts.

"Regionalism and diversity, equity and inclusion are always very engaging topics during Intercity Visits," says McLaughlin. "The best trips are when experts from the host city are willing to talk openly - not just about the successes they've enjoyed, but also about the challenges they've faced and the lessons they've learned as a result."

In many cases, Intercity Visits have inspired conversations among attendees that ultimately led to real change back home. Packages like Vision Tulsa and Improve Our Tulsa made actionable some of the possibilities identified on past Intercity Visits.

NEXT STOP: AUSTIN

This year marks the fourteenth annual Intercity Visit, and the destination will be Austin, the vibrant and quirky capital of Texas.

One of the fastest growing cities in the nation during the past decade, Austin combines live music, mouthwatering cuisine, outdoor adventures, and its unique cultural scene.

Known as the "Live Music Capital of the World," Austin features talented musicians playing in every nook and cranny, from legendary venues to local bars and even street corners.

Of course, Austin isn't just about music; it's a foodie's paradise, too, offering everything from food trucks serving up innovative eats to award-winning barbecue joints and upscale restaurants.

There's also lots to explore beyond the city limits, with stunning parks, beautiful hiking trails, and the refreshing waters of the Colorado River.

But for many, it's the lively festivals and events - such as South by Southwest (SXSW) and the Austin City Limits Music Festival - that make Austin truly unique.

"People make comparisons between Austin and Tulsa, especially around our creative culture," McLaughlin notes. "Lots of articles ask if Tulsa is the next Austin. Given the comparisons, it felt like a great chance to see up close what has fueled Austin's growth - and to better understand the growing pains their community has experienced along the way."

This year's Intercity Visit will take place October 2 through 4, and direct flights from Tulsa to Austin are available via American Airlines and Southwest Airlines.

Registration for this year's Intercity Visit can be accessed via the Events page on tulsachamber.com. This year's trip is presented by Resolute PR and Nabholz Corporation.

"We're very excited about visiting Austin this fall," says McLaughlin. "Based on the extensive conversations we've had with many of their local organizations, Austin may well be the most content-rich Intercity Visit yet. Austin has so many stories to tell that the challenge will be fitting them all into the trip schedule. That's a good problem to have. Attendees will love it." ■



SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

FARMBAR

Among dining options in the Tulsa region, FarmBar stands out as truly exceptional. An urban incarnation of the Living Kitchen Farm & Dairy in Depew, Oklahoma, FarmBar features agricultural cuisine specifically created to showcase the natural flavor and beauty of local ingredients. FarmBar offers its Tulsa guests multi-course tasting menus using ingredients from the Living Kitchen and other local farms. We recently spoke with Linda Ford, who co-owns the restaurant with chef Lisa Becklund, about what makes FarmBar – and Tulsa – so unique.

What is something unique about you or your business that your customers, clients or community may not know?

Our primary focus as a restaurant is on providing a dinner experience that uses almost exclusively ingredients from local farms. We believe supporting local agriculture is a critical way to help build a strong food system for everyone. To achieve this, we change our menu frequently, so it's likely that if you dine with us once and return in a few weeks, you will see a different menu.

What makes the Tulsa region a special place? What do you most enjoy about owning or operating a business here?

We love the close, connected and generous community in Tulsa. Support from our guests in the early years of our farm business enabled us to maintain stability while we determined the best model for our business. Continued support from them has helped us grow. There is

a strong community of patrons here that believes in supporting local, small businesses.

What's your outlook for your business, as well as for the Tulsa region? What hopes do you have for the future?

We have been impressed with recent efforts to diversify the local economy and attract new business and industry. The support for tourism in the Tulsa region has also been a very hopeful sign that Tulsa is on solid ground for growth in the future. Growth of the region and increased tourism help our restaurants thrive.

What has the Chamber done recently that you have found to be particularly valuable or useful?

We benefit from the annual opportunity that the Mosaic Inclusive Workplace Index provides to help us measure our efforts to improve in diversity, equity, and inclusion. The index helps us identify

growth opportunities and create focused goals to do better. Additionally, Tulsa Regional Tourism has done a great job of informing us of ways we can prepare for and take advantage of large influxes of tourists for major events. The programs provide great support to help us thrive. ■

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