

Your Adventure In

Oklahoma City

FOOD FOR ALL
OKC's first food truck park, Bleu Garten, offers a variety of eats.

BY MEREDITH CAREY

A thriving entertainment district, a fresh food scene, and plentiful outdoor activities prove that Oklahoma is more than just OK. But before we make a break for the Sooner State's capital, we'd like to know a bit more about you. *So, are you an...*

Get There
Essential info for planning your trip

Fly Here Will Rogers World Airport (OKC) flyokc.com
Get Around The free Downtown Discovery shuttle circuits downtown and Bricktown. For two-wheeled transport, rent a bike from Spokies at one of seven bike-share kiosks. embarkok.com, spokiesokc.com



Outdoor Adventurer
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FLASH FLIGHT
A ride on the SandRidge Sky Zip averages 80 seconds.

Get Some Fresh Air

The ever-expanding Boathouse District on the Oklahoma River is a haven for adrenaline junkies. Navigate the rope bridges and balance beams of the six-level SandRidge Sky Trail, and then choose your method of descent: a 72-foot ride down the country’s tallest slide, a harnessed free-fall jump, or a quick trip over the water on a 700-foot zip line. Santa gets in on the action this month when these popular attractions receive a holiday twist. boathousedistrict.org

Hit the Trail

Hike, bike, or run on these scenic outdoor stretches



SkyDance Bridge
A 20-story sculpture inspired by the state bird tops this pedestrian bridge, which offers an easy walk with stellar city views. okc.gov



Bert Cooper Trails
A favorite among walkers and cyclists, this 9.6-mile loop connects the parks along Lake Hefner, with stops at the lighthouse and marina. okc.gov



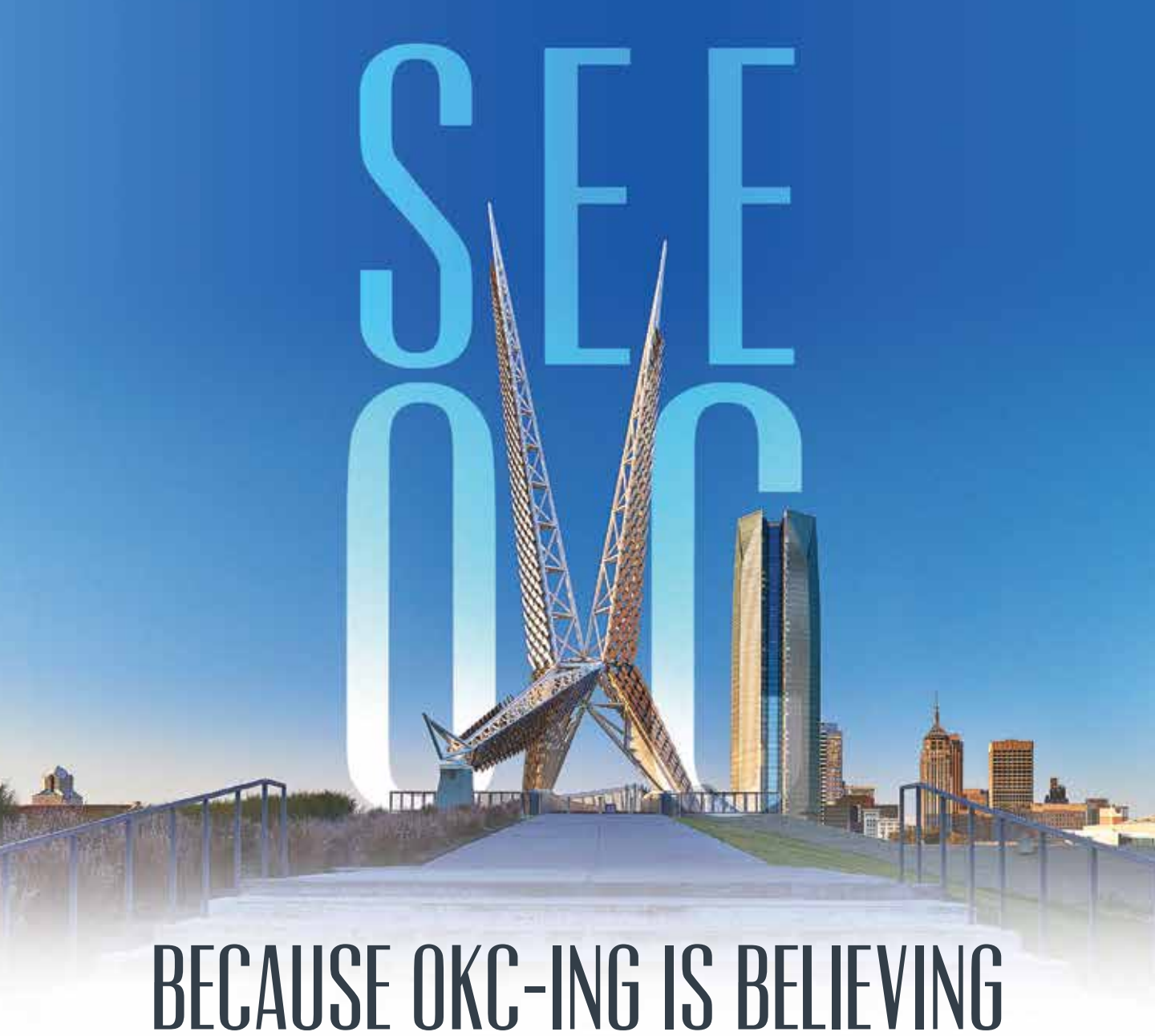
Martin Park Nature Center Head here for 2.5 miles of wooded trails and educational programs that cover topics like meteorology and the solar system. okc.gov

Return in Summer

Warm up to water sports in the Boathouse District

Stand-up Paddleboarding Test your balance on an oversize surfboard. Once you've mastered standing, try an on-board yoga class. **Kayaking** Learn paddling basics, or, if you're an experienced kayaker, improve your skills. Bring the whole family—kids 8 and up can participate in lessons. **Dragon Boating** Gather a group, and hop into one of the colorful watercraft. Per Chinese tradition, an onboard drummer keeps the beat as everyone rows.

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF RIVERSPORT ADVENTURES/GEORGIA READ (ZIPLINE), OKLAHOMA CITY CVB (SKYDANCE BRIDGE, LIGHTHOUSE, AND MARTIN PARK NATURE CENTER)



It's no longer a secret – Oklahoma City has the world talking. From the OKC Thunder to the OKC skyline. From our totally unique river watersports to the restaurants and nightlife of Bricktown, Midtown and the Arts District. National monuments and museums. And people whose welcoming spirit built the experience that will surround you.

Now is the time to OKC us in a whole new light.

—VisitOKC.com—



The Buzz
Get your caffeine fix at these cafés



Elemental Coffee
The baristas here are coffee purists. Study the nuances of a particular roast (they change daily) with an espresso or a pour-over. elementalcoffee.com



Cuppies and Joe
Located in a historic home, this cozy meeting place is a bakery/coffee house that pairs lattes with cupcakes and pie. cuppiesandjoe.com



Coffee Slingers Learn where your coffee comes from when you order a cup at this sunlit spot. The shop prides itself on importing beans directly from Guatemalan farmers. coffeeslingers.com



District House Order pastries and sandwiches alongside coffee and craft beer. On Monday mornings, drop in for a free cup of joe. districthouseokc.com

Always Hopping
Our favorite local breweries



Anthem
Head brewer Matt Anthony got his start with a Mr. Beer home-brew kit. Now, he makes six year-round beers as well as special releases. Try the tart, oak-aged Babalon. anthembrewing.com
Rough Tail
Never shying away from flavor, this brewery puts out bold suds like the bitter-citrus Rough Tail IPA and the chocolatey Polar Night. roughtailbeer.com
Bricktown
Pair your stouts and ales with burgers and nachos from the attached restaurant. bricktownbrewery.com



GRUB HUB
Bleu Garten hosts food trucks seven days a week.

Satisfy Your Cravings

To try some of the city’s best food without table-hopping, head to Bleu Garten, a food truck park that opened in September. Six trucks ring a courtyard filled with tables, a giant Jenga game, and a live-music stage. Among the rotating roster of eateries: Off the Hook, whose smothered seafood fries have a cultlike following; Kaiteki, serving authentic ramen; and the Saucee Sicilian, whose piping-hot pies are cooked in a wheeled oven. Area breweries are on tap at the bar, so you can drink like a local too. bleugarten.com

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RACHEL WATERS (BLEU GARTEN)

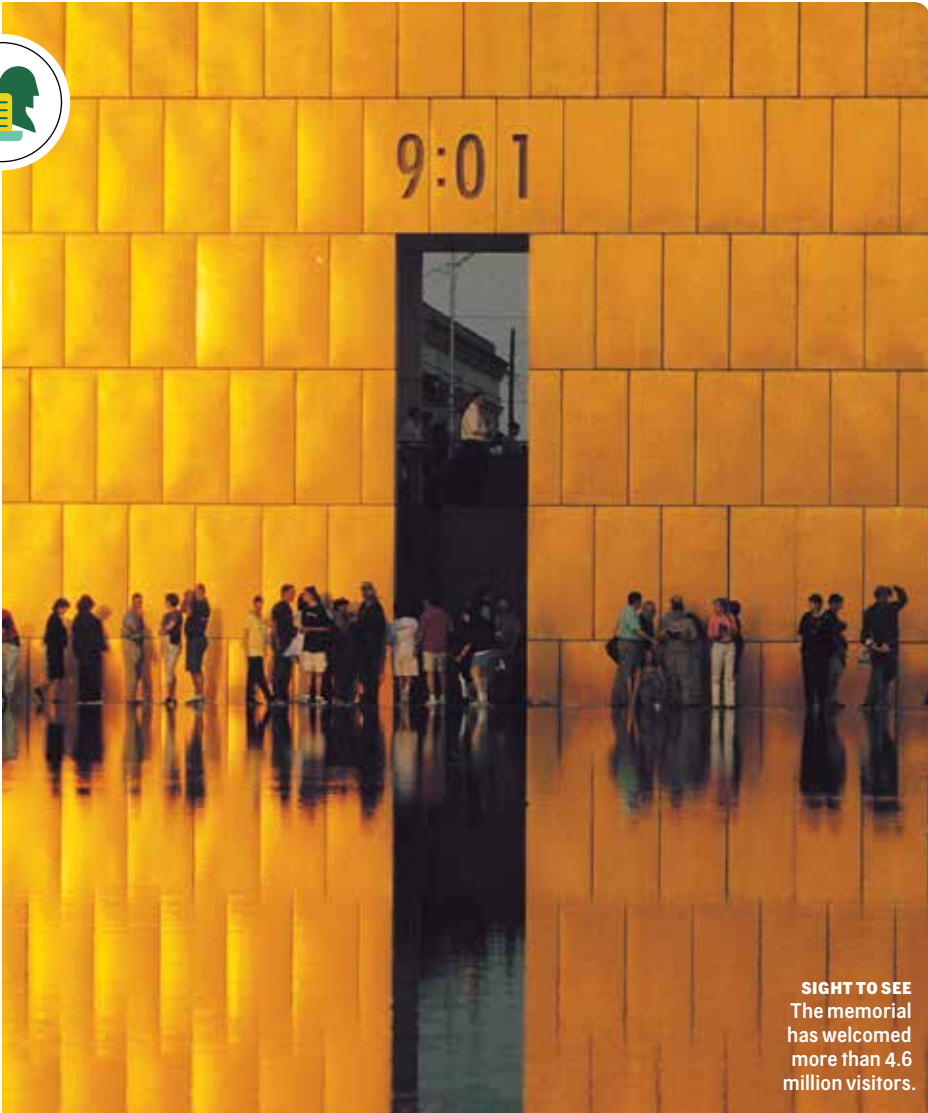
PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF RACHEL APPLE (ELEMENTAL COFFEE), CANDI COFFMAN (CUPPIES AND JOE), SLINGERS PHOTOS (COFFEE SLINGERS), AND WILLIAM HIDER (DISTRICT HOUSE)

Booming OKLAHOMA

Only in **Oklahoma** can you explore the most diverse terrain, 400+ miles of Rt. 66, the sacred traditions of 30+ tribal nations, world-class Western art & artifacts, be welcomed by the friendliest folks you'll ever meet. Start your adventure today at **TravelOK.com**.

Fine Dining
Hearty eats with a
side of history

Mickey Mantle's Steakhouse Find memorabilia from the famous Oklahoman's legendary career, as well as some of the city's best steaks. mickeymantlesteakhouse.com **Cheever's Café** This former flower shop draws crowds for updated comfort food, like short-rib shepherd's pie. cheeverscafe.com **Cattlemen's Steakhouse** Open since 1910, this Stockyards City staple hand-cuts its meat at the in-house butcher shop. cattlemensrestaurant.com



SIGHT TO SEE
The memorial
has welcomed
more than 4.6
million visitors.

Reflect on History

Nearly 20 years after the tragic bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, almost \$8 million in upgrades breathes new life into the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. Follow the investigation that began minutes after the explosion, and hear oral histories of those affected. Then stroll the Outdoor Symbolic Memorial, where 168 empty chairs honor lives lost and a wall of tiles painted by children embodies a brighter future. oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org

Rest Easy
Drop your bags at a
historic hotel



The Ambassador
The brick exterior of this 1929 office building turned boutique hotel belies what's inside: 54 modern rooms and, on the roof, a chic bar. ambassadorhotelcollection.com



Colcord Hotel
Well-appointed rooms and a restored, marble-clad lobby now fill the city's first skyscraper, built in 1910. A free shuttle takes guests downtown. colcordhotel.com



The Skirvin Hilton
This genteel hotel has been serving travelers since 1911. The opulence extends from the piano bar to the guest rooms. skirvinhilton.com

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF OKLAHOMA CITY CVB (OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM), THE AMBASSADOR, COLCORD HOTEL, AND SKIRVIN HILTON HOTEL

20th Anniversary OKLAHOMA CITY NATIONAL MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

2015 marks the completion of more than \$8 million renovation for the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. As we move into the 20th year since one of the worst acts of home-grown terrorism committed on U.S. soil, it is with the unveiling of the final pieces in the story – the investigation and, ultimately, **justice**.

Showcasing more than hundreds of artifacts, 35 new interactive stations, and never-before-seen key pieces of evidence, the newly-enhanced Museum is a life-changing pilgrimage through loss, resilience, and the ultimate renewal of a city and its people.

EXPERIENCE THE JOURNEY FIRST-HAND



On
Display
Take in the
city's vibrant
art scene

Red Earth This center highlights the city's deep American Indian roots with 1,400 artifacts and works of fine art, many available for purchase. redearth.org
Oklahoma City Museum of Art The museum lays claim to one of the world's largest permanent collections of Dale Chihuly's glass works. okcmoa.com
Paseo Arts District This two-block area houses 22 galleries and studios. Explore them all during the monthly First Friday Gallery Walk. thepaseo.com



THE DRIFTERS
In Bricktown, you can stroll canal-side or ride the river.

Take a Neighborhood Tour

OKC's first warehouse district is still quite the bustling hub. In place of cotton producers, entertainment venues and restaurants have transformed Bricktown into a buzzing, pedestrian-friendly zone. One block from Chesapeake Energy Arena, home of the Oklahoma City Thunder, it fronts a scenic, mile-long canal. Head to TapWerks Ale House to choose from 200-plus beers, the American Banjo Museum to hear some twang, or Bricktown Candy Co. to indulge your sweet tooth. welcometobricktown.com

Around
Town
Four more
stops that are
uniquely OKC



National Cowboy Western & Heritage Museum Examine real-life rodeo gear and paintings by Western artists along with other artifacts. nationalcowboymuseum.org



Myriad Gardens Even in the winter, this 15-acre oasis has flora in spades. Explore tropical plants in the 13,000-square-foot greenhouse. myriadgardens.org



Oklahoma City Zoo At one of the oldest zoos in the Southwest, you'll find everything from okapi and western lowland gorillas to the endangered harpy eagle. okczoo.com

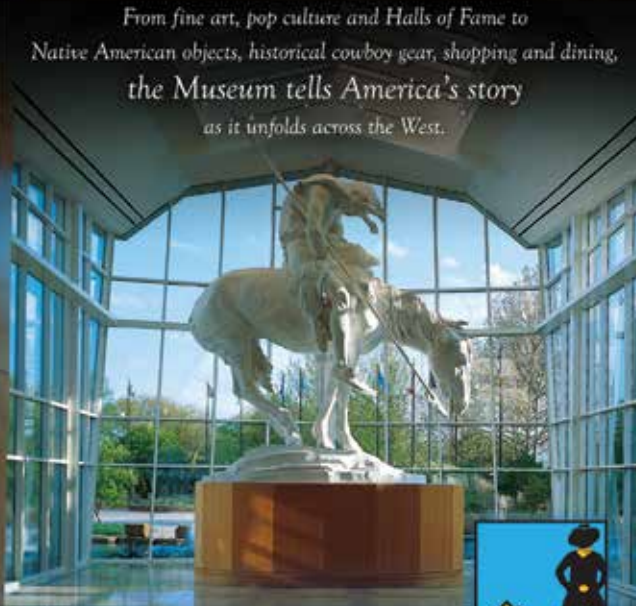


Vast See the city from 700 feet up when you snag a table at this fine-dining spot on the 49th floor of Devon Tower, OKC's tallest building. vastokc.com

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF OKLAHOMA CITY CVB (BRICKTOWN), NATIONAL COWBOY MUSEUM, CARL SHORTT JR. (MYRIAD GARDENS), OKLAHOMA CITY ZOO, AND VAST

The West Begins Here™

From fine art, pop culture and Halls of Fame to Native American objects, historical cowboy gear, shopping and dining, the Museum tells America's story as it unfolds across the West.




Open Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(405) 478-2250
1700 NE 63rd St., Oklahoma City, OK
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day
www.nationalcowboymuseum.org

NATIONAL COWBOY & WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM

MUSEUM PARTNERS
Devon Energy Corp. • Chesapeake Energy Corp. • E.L. & Thelma Gaylord Foundation

Kd's SOUTHERN CUISINE
Kevin Durant



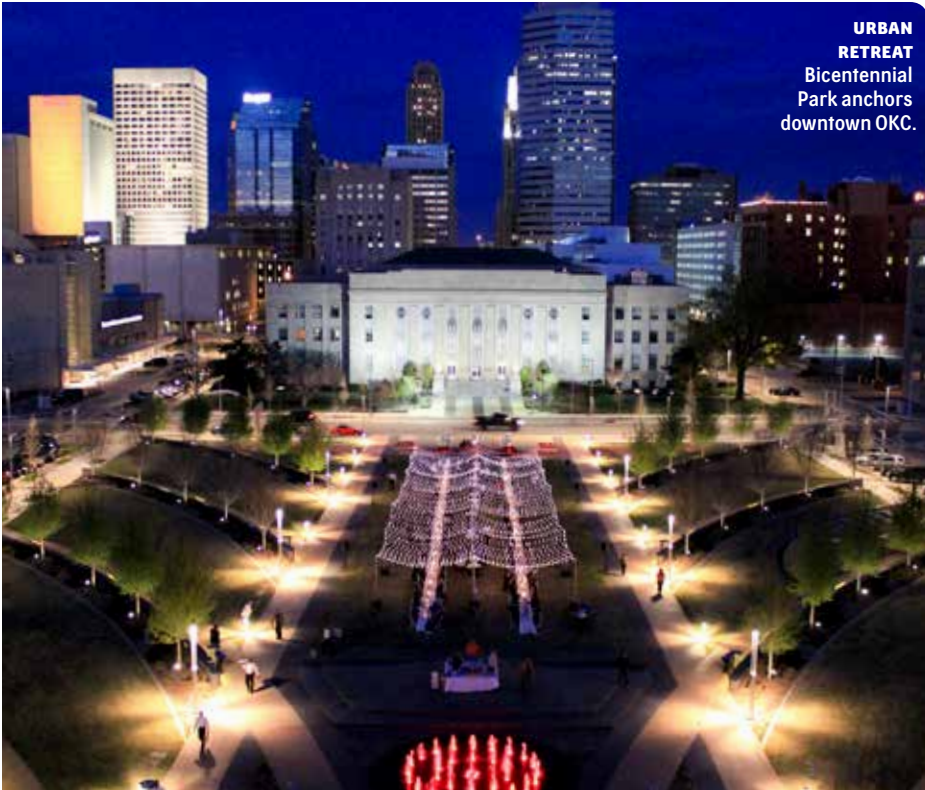
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LOWER BRICKTOWN - OKLAHOMA CITY
WWW.KDSBRICKTOWN.COM

OKLAHOMA CITY

LAND WHERE IT'S GRAND



WILL ROGERS WORLD AIRPORT
flyokc.com



**URBAN
RETREAT**
Bicentennial
Park anchors
downtown OKC.

OKC: Open for Business

“I love the energy in this city and the excitement about the future. For instance, over the past 20 years, private investment in Oklahoma City has exceeded \$5 billion, creating a perfect environment for economic growth. Will Rogers World Airport is part of that growth. We have several projects under way, including the development of 1,000 acres of airport property and a terminal expansion project. What’s not to love?”

—Mark Kranenburg,
Airports Director, Oklahoma
City Department of Airports

“The people of Oklahoma City are known for being friendly and hard-working, and that translates into good business partnerships and economic development, a thriving cultural and arts community, a fantastic food scene, and a genuine sense of pride in our city. Our citizens are willing to support public improvement projects through sales tax, and there are so many generous leaders that contribute to meaningful funds for the betterment of the city.”

—Jane Jenkins, President
and CEO of Downtown
Oklahoma City, Inc.

“The Hal Smith Restaurant Group is proud to call Oklahoma home. Our concepts vary from burger joints and high-end steakhouses to Mexican and seafood. Several of our flagship restaurants have locations in Oklahoma City, including Charleston’s, Mahogany Prime Steakhouse, and Redrock Canyon Grill. We have anything your taste buds desire in OKC.”

—Hal Smith, CEO,
Hal Smith Restaurant
Group, Inc.

Vital Stats

A closer look at OKC’s growth

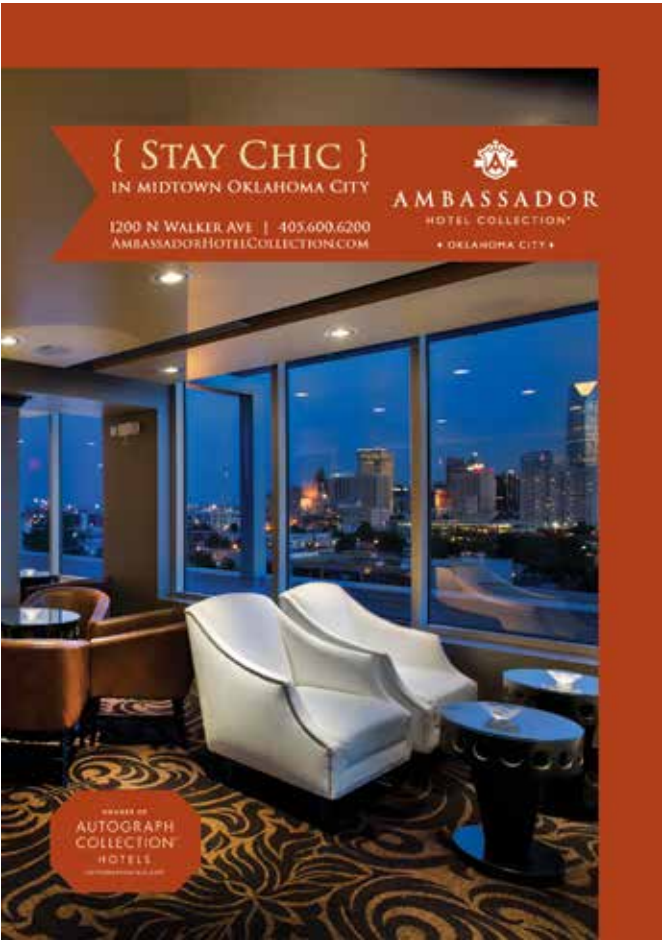
Metropolitan Area Projects The \$360 million improvement program was funded by a temporary one-cent sales tax approved by city voters for new and upgraded sports, entertainment, cultural, and convention facilities.

All-Ages Appeal Census data shows the city is one of the most popular for millennials. But it’s not just for the 18 to 34 set; *Forbes* named it one of the best places to retire.

Home Life OKC is among America’s most affordable cities, with a cost of living 7 percent below the national average. According to home buying website Zillow.com, the median price of homes currently listed is \$165,330.

Project 180 This \$176 million redesign of downtown streets, sidewalks, and parks makes the central core of Oklahoma City more pedestrian-friendly.

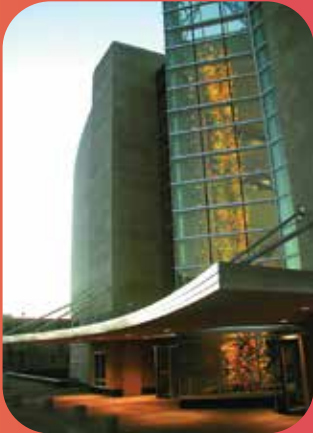
Corporate HQ Oklahoma City is home to two Fortune 500 companies: Devon Energy and Chesapeake Energy. Sonic Drive-In and Hobby Lobby are also based in OKC.



You have to OKC it to believe it.

DOWNTOWNOKC.COM

Oklahoma City is a city on the rise. But don’t take our word for it, experience firsthand our eclectic local shopping, fine dining with a Midwest twist, vibrant nightlife and inspiring attractions.



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF OKLAHOMA CITY CVB