



OKLAHOMA CITY
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
MEDIA GUIDE



Tabbi Burwell, Communications Manager
123 Park Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73102 | 405.297.8912 | VisitOKC.com

QUICK OKLAHOMA CITY FACTS

- Oklahoma City is the largest city in the State of Oklahoma, with a metro population of more than 1.2 million
- The Oklahoma City proper has a population of 579,999 residents.
- In land area, Oklahoma City is the 3rd largest in the nation.
- Oklahoma City was settled by the historic Land Run of April 22, 1889. The city's population grew to more than 10,000 in a single day.
- I-35, I-40 and I-44 all converge in Oklahoma City. The metropolitan area has 130+ miles of federal interstate and state highways.
- Oklahoma City's top three employers are the State of Oklahoma, Tinker Air Force Base and the University of Oklahoma- Norman.
- Tinker Air Force Base is the 2nd largest military air depot in the nation.
- Oklahoma City averages more than 300 days of sunshine per year
- Oklahoma City residents have voted yes to \$2.83 billion worth of investment in their city since 1993. Most of this investment surrounded the MAPS initiatives. The total value of investment projects related to MAPS, both public and private, is more than \$5 billion.
- The world's first installed parking meter was in Oklahoma City, on July 16, 1935.
- The first shopping cart was invented and used in Oklahoma City at Standard Food Markets in 1937.
- The state capitol building at 23rd and Lincoln is the only capitol in the nation with a working oil well on its grounds.
- Oklahoma means "Land of the Red People" in the Choctaw Language.
- Oklahoma was admitted to the Union on November 16, 1907 as the 46th state
- Oklahoma City is equidistant from Los Angeles and New York, and within 500 miles of 71 million people
- Oklahoma's state motto is Labor Omnia Vincit - Labor Conquers All Things

OKLAHOMA CITY'S NATIVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS



- Johnny Bench - Baseball player
- Sam Bradford - NFL athlete
- Charlie Christian - Jazz musician
- Wayne Coyne - Lead singer of The Flaming Lips
- Ralph Ellison - Author
- Blake Griffin - NBA athlete
- Mat Hoffman - BMX athlete
- James Marsden - Actor
- Bobby Mercer - Baseball player
- Megan Mullaly - Actress
- Wes Welker - NFL athlete

BACKGROUND ON OKLAHOMA CITY

Born at the sound of a gunshot, Oklahoma City was settled by a historic land run involving 10,000 homesteaders on April 22, 1889. Located equidistant from both coasts, Oklahoma City has long been hailed as Mid-America's International Connection. The convergence of I-35, I-40 and I-44 as well as the development of Tinker Air Force Base made Oklahoma City into a major interchange on the interstate highway system – with 130-plus miles of federal interstate and state highways. And with the central location of the nation's major highway arteries, Oklahoma City became a principal distribution center within the state and the southwest region. Efficient transportation has been the cornerstone in the overall planning of Oklahoma City. As a result, getting to any part of the city (622.5 square miles!) takes about 20 minutes or less.



City Development: Metropolitan Area Projects

live in the suburbs. For that reason, Metropolitan Area Projects (MAPS) was passed in 1993. Through this initiative, Oklahoma City has succeeded in developing and renovating a series of nine public projects in the downtown core. These included renovations to the Convention Center, Civic Center Music Hall and Oklahoma City fairgrounds, development of the Bricktown Ballpark, Bricktown Canal, Ford Center, Library, Spirit Trolley System, and the Oklahoma River and recreational facilities.

After the success of the original MAPS program, Oklahoma City citizens were ready to take the city's transformation a step further. In November 2001, voters passed a combination sales tax and bond initiative known as MAPS (Metropolitan Area Projects) for Kids. This temporary sales tax was collected for seven years, with 70 percent disbursed to the Oklahoma City School District and 30 percent to the Suburban School Districts. Many of the major construction projects are complete, and every school building in Oklahoma City's school district is scheduled to be renovated or replaced by the time the program draws to a close in 2012. In addition to construction projects, the program also includes major transportation and technology upgrades.

In late 2009, Oklahoma City leadership brought another comprehensive city improvement package to voters with a list of eight new projects. With a projected cost of \$777 million, Oklahoma City voters agreed and voted "yes" to the extension of an existing one-cent sales tax to fund these projects. Known as MAPS 3, this program will build a new 70-acre downtown park, new convention center, downtown modern transit, more than 50 miles of biking and walking trails, improvements to the Oklahoma River and State Fairgrounds and several senior health and wellness centers. More importantly, MAPS 3 will continue to position Oklahoma City as a hub for sports, recreation, learning, cultural and convention facilities. The tax began on April 1, 2010, and will be collected for seven years and nine months.

OKLAHOMA CITY INFORMATION

Date Founded	1889
Date Incorporated	1907
Population	579,999
Land Area	621 sq. miles
Elevation	1,285 ft. above sea level
Average Annual Rainfall	32.03 inches per year
Average Annual Precipitation	33.36 inches per year
Average January Temperature	47 degrees Fahrenheit (high) 25 degrees Fahrenheit (low)
Average July Temperature	93 degrees Fahrenheit (high) 71 degrees Fahrenheit (low)
Average Sunshine Days	More than 300 days per year
Major Industries	Oil and gas, aviation and health care

OKLAHOMA CITY HOTELS

LOCATION	NUMBER OF HOTELS	NUMBER OF ROOMS
Central Downtown	16	2,393
Northeast	23	1,319
Northwest	50	4,920
Southeast	24	1,593
Southwest/Airport	65	6,102
Oklahoma City Total	178	16,397

OKLAHOMA CITY ACCOLADES



#1 Lowest Unemployment in the Nation, March – September 2011; Top 3 for Lowest Unemployment of Metro Cities in US since Oct. 2008 (*US Dept of Labor, US Census Bureau*)

#1 Most Cost Effective City in the US (*KPMG Competitive Alternatives, March 2012*)

#1 Lowest Unemployment among Young Adults (metros of 1 million or more) (*US Census Bureau, February 2012*)

#1 in Charitable Giving (*Parade Magazine, March 2011*)

#1 in Gross State Product Growth 2008-2009 (*US Bureau of Economic Analysis, November 2010*)

#1 Overall GMP Growth from 2007- 2009; #2 Highest GMP Growth 2009 – 2010 (*Global Insight, July 2011*)

#1 on America's Most Affordable Cities (*Forbes, November 2010*)



#1 for Cost of Living (*CNBC.com, America's Best States for Business, July 2010*)

#1 in Entrepreneurial Activity (*Kauffman Foundation, May 2010*)

#1 Most Cost Competitive Large City in the US (*KPMG, May 2010*)

#1 in Home Equity (*CoreLogic, May 2010*)

#1 Metro for Economic Security (*Urban Institute MetroTrends, Dec. 2011*)

#1 in Job Creation (*Gallup's Job Creation Index, April 2012*)

#1 Oklahoma City Thunder (*Power Rankings NBA, April 2012*)

#1 Best Place for Military Retirees to Launch Second Career (*USAAand Military.com, Nov. 2011*)

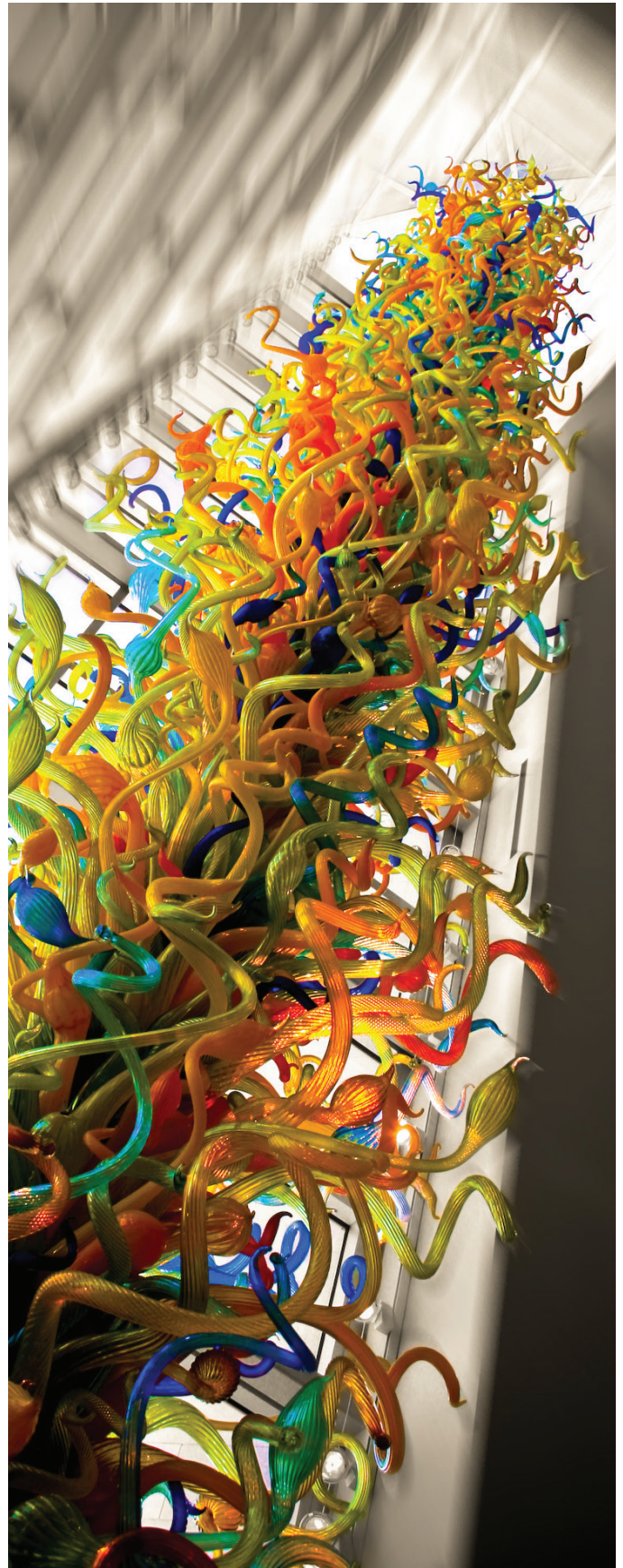
#2 Hottest Spots to Start a Small Business (*Fiscal Times, July 2011*)



#2 Least Expensive Headquarters City (*The Boyd Company, Site Selection Magazine March 2011*)

#2 on Small Business Vitality Index (*US Census, Bureau of Labor Statistics, April 2011*)

#3 Happiest Place to Work in the Nation (*CareerBliss.com, Feb. 2012*)



#3 Best state for Retirees (*MoneyRates, October 2011*)

#3 City for Recent Grads (*Daily Beast, June 2011*)

#3 Best Wind Capacity (*State of Oklahoma, American Wind Energy Association, October 2011*)

#3 for Greatest 5-year Gain in Real Estate Values (*Zillow, September 2011*)

#4 Best Personal Income Growth Among all States (*US Bureau of Economic Analysis, September 2011*)



#4 Best Places to Buy a Home Right Now (*Forbes, May 2011*)

#4 One of only Nine States to Add Jobs since 2006 (*The Business Journals, December 2011*)

#4 Top State for State Personal Income Increase (*Wells Fargo, March 2012*)

#4 Best Cities for Jobs this Spring (*Forbes, April 2012*)

#5 Best Cities for a Job Search (*Benefitspro.com, October 2011*)



#6 Best City for Business (*Wall Street Journal, December 2011*)

#6 NBA Arena Rankings (*Orlando Sentinel, August 2011*)

#6 Least Expensive Market for Total Operating and Fixed Expenses (*Building Owners and Managers Association, December 2011*)

#6 in Nation for New Wind Development (*US Dept of Energy, July 2011*)

#6 Job Growth Leader (*Business Facilities Magazine, August 2011*)

#6 Best Franchises in Sports (*ESPN Magazine, June 2011*)

#7 Best Place for Young Adults to Get Started (*Business Journals, June 2011*)

#8 Top Big Cities for Manufacturing Jobs in the US (*Forbes, May 2011*)

#8 Places where Mortgages are Staying Afloat (*AOL Real Estate, November 2011*)



#9 Least Expensive Office Market in the Nation (*Building Owners and Management Association, December 2011*)

#9 Cities where Real Estate is Ripe for Rebound (*Forbes, January 2012*)

#10 Top Places to Live (*Relocate America, July 2011*)

#10 Best Cities for Recreation in 2010 (*Parenting Magazine, June 2011*)

#11 Best Cities for IT (*Zinnov, January 2012*)

#20 Fastest Growing Area for 5 – 17 Year Olds (*New Geography, June 2011*)

#23 Fittest City in America (*Men's Fitness, March 2012*)

#27 Destination Cities (*U-Haul, March 2012*)

One of the Nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People (*America's Promise Alliance, October 2010 and again in October 2011*)

100 Leading Locations- Desirable Places to do Business (OKC mentioned multiple times) (*Area Development, June 2011*)

Top 20 Strongest Performing Metros, One of Top 20 Metros for Economic Recovery (*Brookings MetroMonitor, February, March, 2012*)



FUN FACTS

Oklahoma City is the **Horse Show Capital of the World**.

The **Boathouse District** along the Oklahoma River is the official U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Site for rowing and canoe/kayak.

The Oklahoma National Stockyards is the world's largest stocker and feeder cattle operation.

Oklahoma City is home to the Museum of Osteology which is the only museum of its kind displaying hundreds of skulls and skeletons from all corners of the world.

The **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum** holds the largest collection of Western art and artifacts.

H&8th Night Market is a pet- and family-friendly food truck festival on the last Friday of the month from March through September in Oklahoma City's thriving **Midtown district**. The event is free to the public and draws crowds of between 30,000-40,000 each month, making it unofficially the largest monthly food truck event in the U.S. based on attendance.

The Oklahoma City Zoo is ranked the third **best zoo** for kids in the nation according to Child Magazine and was a top five finalist in Microsoft's "America's Favorite Zoo" contest.

ESPN ranked the **Oklahoma City Thunder** as no. 1 for fan appreciation and team community commitment.

Green Goodies, a popular cupcake , frozen treats, coffee and more restaurant, won the Food Network's **Cupcake Wars** in 2013.

Cattlemen's Steakhouse, Oklahoma's oldest continually operated restaurant, in Stockyard City has been in OKC since 1910 and has served steak to President George Bush (while he was President), John Wayne, Ronald Regan and Gene Autry. Cattlemen's was also featured in Diners, Drive-In's and Dives on the Food Network and the Travel Channel's Man vs. Food.

The Boathouse District has the world's tallest adventure course and the tallest stainless steel slide in America.

The **Chickasaw Bricktown Baseball stadium** is made up of 480,000 bricks to the exterior of the ballpark and if those brick were stacked, they would reach 23 miles into the sky.

