



# COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP VISIT 2023 TULSA, OK



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The 2024 Community Leadership Visit delegation, comprised of key community, business and civic leaders from the Springfield region.

# Where Visionary Goals & Partnership Meet

When business leaders, elected officials and entrepreneurs describe Tulsa, a common theme emerges: success lies in their drive to achieve forward momentum without perfection. Like all communities, Tulsa faces complex challenges both modern and historic. What sets it apart is a willingness to try, fail and forge ahead with candor and collaboration.

**“When I moved to Tulsa five years ago, I had a palpable feeling and a sense of vibrancy about the city - it’s the intersection of people, place and economy.”**

*Brian Kurtz*  
President and CEO  
Downtown Tulsa Partnership

When 83 delegates from the Springfield region arrived in Tulsa for the Chamber’s 29th annual

Community Leadership Visit, they found a city and region fueled by public, private and philanthropic partnerships.

Over two and a half days, local speakers from every industry and perspective spoke of growing Tulsa’s physical infrastructure, building world-class attractions and facilities, helping residents prosper, and attracting new businesses and talent.

**“Like in sports, economic momentum rises all tides and Tulsa is blessed to have phenomenal momentum. We have a strong sense of collaboration and the importance of pursuing community vision together.”**

*Mike Neil*  
President and CEO  
Tulsa Regional Chamber

# Telling an Aspirational Story

The CLV road to Tulsa was three years in the making. Originally slated as the 2020 destination, the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a pivot in 2021 that resulted in a “trip” to Springfield to reflect on our own successes and examine areas for growth. The importance of capturing and promoting our identity and strengths led us to Northwest Arkansas in 2022, where the focus on regional collaboration, and the clear benefits it can provide, bloomed. That trip led our focus back to Tulsa to compare how regions with different municipal and economic development structures approach collaboration.

When it comes to identity, Tulsa has the advantage of being the only city of its name in the United States. Even so, the city has been known by many names, from Oil Capital of the World in the 1920s to The Capital of Route 66, the mention of which sparked good-natured debate among CLV delegates proud of Springfield’s claim as The Birthplace of Route 66.

**“Tulsa never had a strong identity, it was known as a ‘beige city,’ so brand wasn’t hugely significant. We just needed to tell the story. We implemented an aggressive marketing campaign, but the brand happened organically at the regional partner level.”**

*Arthur Jackson*

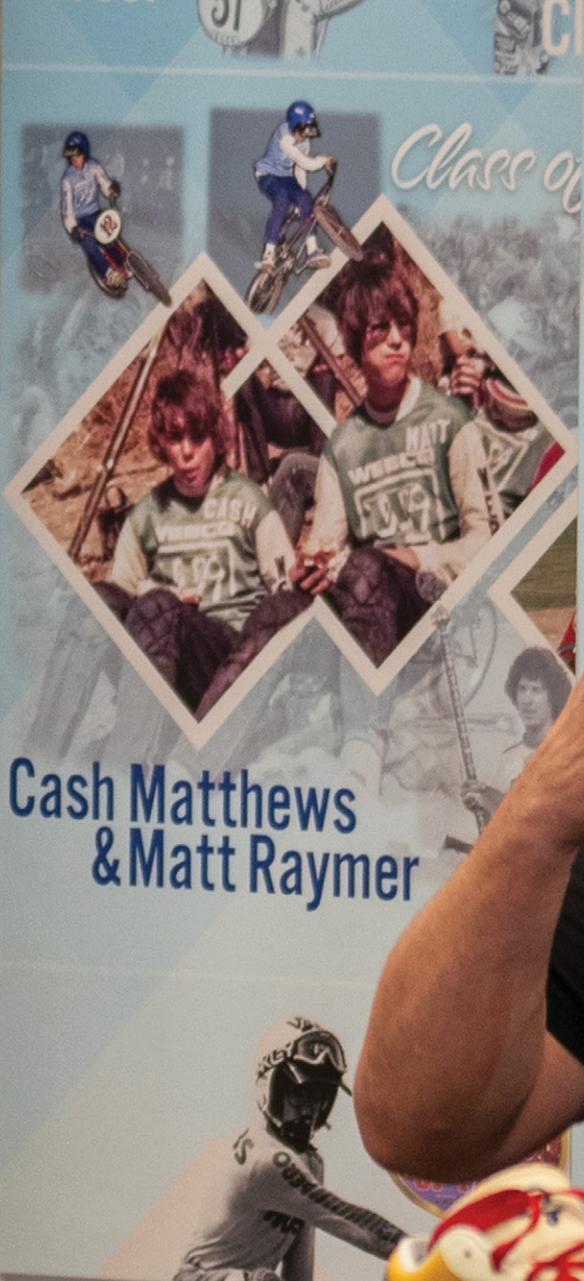
*Senior Vice President of Economic Development  
Tulsa Regional Chamber*

**“The Tulsa of 10 years ago is not the Tulsa of today or the Tulsa of 10 years from now. A lot of storytelling is regional, and we must work together to make sure we’re telling the story correctly. ‘Tulsa’ may be the brand, but it encompasses the region and so much more.”**

*Renee McKenney*

*Senior Vice President of Tourism | Tulsa Regional Chamber  
President | Tulsa Regional Tourism*

In the last 20 years, Tulsa can best be described as a city and region on the move. As Tulsa approached the centennial of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, community leaders recognized the need to invest in themselves and were motivated to enhance growth and prosperity. They streamlined government services and worked to earn the trust of regional partners, developers and the public for a series of sales tax packages aimed at funding civic and capital improvements. The resulting development of new roads, sports facilities and arts and outdoor amenities led to booming business and entrepreneurial investment. Tulsans also worked to recognize and learn from past atrocities and give new opportunities to those continuously impacted. Ultimately, the intentional focus on building Tulsa for Tulsans defines leaders’ approach to regional growth and has propelled the area to success.



Class of  
Cash Matthews  
& Matt Raymer

Since 198



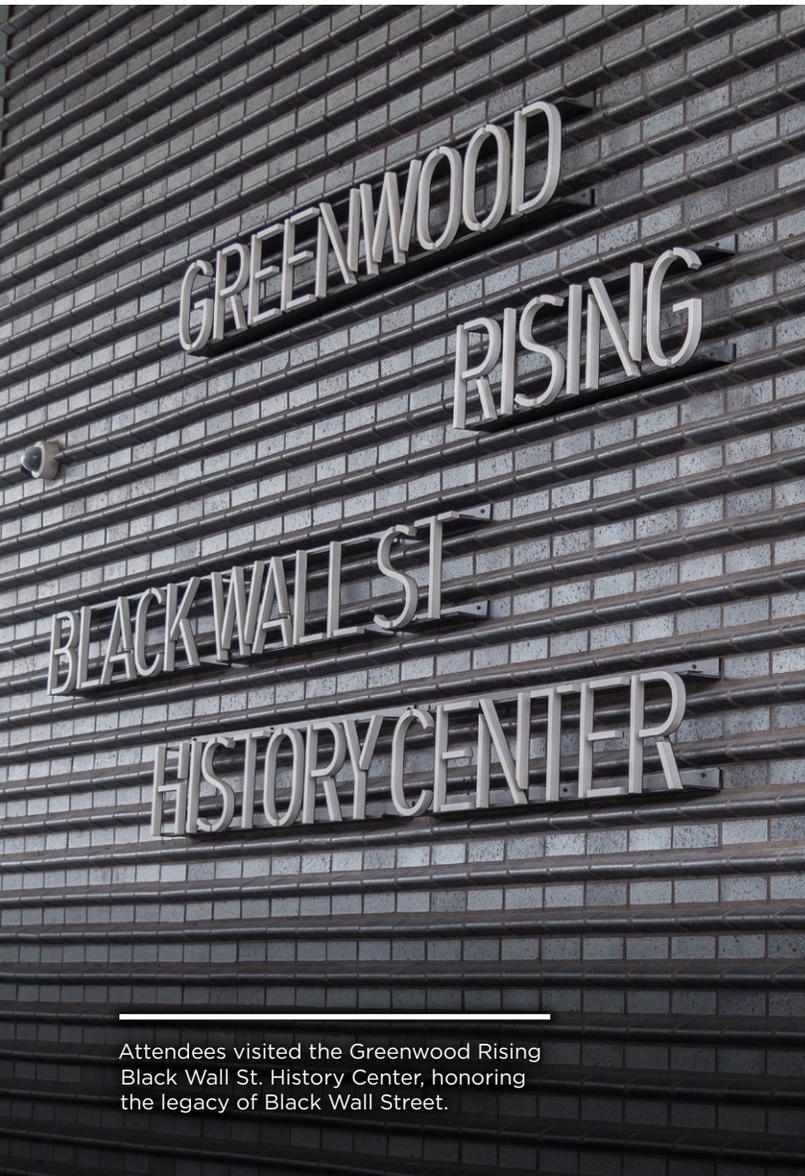
  
**Joel Koester**  
Tulsa Sports Commission



Shane Fernandez, president and chairman of USA BMX, shared the story of community investment and successfully bringing the USA BMX headquarters to Tulsa.



Attendees heard about community inflection points from Tulsa leaders at The Gathering Place.



Attendees visited the Greenwood Rising Black Wall St. History Center, honoring the legacy of Black Wall Street.



2023 Chamber Board of Directors Chairman Joselyn Baldner, Central Bank, welcomed Tulsans to the community reception with the CLV delegation.

# Driving the Conversation

Community best practices highlighted by CLV trips have inspired several significant projects in the Springfield area over nearly 30 years. The collective power of influential delegates spurs action upon return, but the results are not always immediate. The most tangible impact of any CLV is a shift in the community conversation about priorities that everyone can champion and accomplish.

Throughout the Tulsa CLV, the Springfield Chamber worked to facilitate a process for delegates to easily identify key takeaways. A pre-trip reception focused on data comparing the Springfield and Tulsa metro areas, and the trip agenda featured program sessions with clearly defined objectives. While in Tulsa, Chamber staff asked delegates to pinpoint “one big idea” for the Springfield region inspired by Tulsa. During a debrief process, each delegate

submitted this one idea, which was then ranked by peers and ultimately laid the foundation for a discussion centered around the top-ranking ideas in small breakout groups. Convening again a week later for a new post-trip study session, delegates and other community volunteers prioritized these ideas for next steps. Tulsa’s best practices that informed the ideas fall under five interrelated themes:

- 0 **Game-Changing Capital Projects**
- 0 **Process Improvement**
- 0 **Regional Collaboration**
- 0 **Talent**
- 0 **Inclusion**



Attendees visited the USA BMX Headquarters, relocated to Tulsa in 2022.

# Game-Changing Capital Projects

Tulsa and Springfield share a spirit of collaboration and diverse industry mix. While the Springfield area has been growing at a faster rate since 2000, Tulsa encompasses a larger metro area with a larger population. Tulsa also has a higher median household income, skewed slightly by the number of high net-worth individuals who live there. In fact, Tulsa has been trademarked as America’s Most Generous City™ due in part by significant support from the George Kaiser Family Foundation (GKFF) and the Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation, among others. Yet delegates learned on the trip how Tulsa’s public-private partnerships drive critical investment beyond philanthropy.

Decades ago, Tulsa city and county leaders failed to persuade voters to invest in what they believed were important infrastructure improvements. Over time, newly elected officials changed tack with a goal to create economic opportunity where there wasn’t previously. They adapted their approach after intentionally listening to Tulsans about what they really cared about, how they felt about their government,

and the city’s role in building a strong community. As a result, residents began passing a series of tax packages that helped Tulsa improve streets and bridges, build large-scale event facilities, strengthen public safety and retain and attract business investment.

**“The tipping point for Tulsa has been sticking with the things that need to get done, finding the visionary people and backing them. Sometimes that means money, but it’s just as valuable to open the doors and support them.”**

*Brian Paschal*

*CEO*

*Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation*

The Gathering Place is one of Tulsa’s most well-known transformative projects, a \$465 million world-class riverfront park. Described by Julio Badin as an “adventure-oriented childhood dream”, The Gathering Place aims to engage, educate and excite visitors with year-round cultural, artistic and STEM-based storytelling. With an initial \$200 million donation from the

GKFF, private sector leaders raised another \$200 million and the City of Tulsa invested \$65 million in transforming 100 acres of completely flat land into the topography needed for a variety of free outdoor activities.

**“Previous city leaders didn’t believe that the philanthropic and corporate sector could lead visionary projects like The Gathering Place. It wasn’t easy, but now that it exists, it’s much easier to discuss because people now understand what quality looks like, and they want it here in Tulsa.”**

*Phil Lakin Jr.*

*CEO | Tulsa Community Foundation*

*District 8 City Councilor | Tulsa City Council*

Since opening in 2018, the park has been privately managed with a team of 150 people who are charged with finding ways to support its ongoing maintenance beyond the initial \$200 million endowment.

**“A destination like The Gathering Place takes committed people with a vision and passion behind it. Rich people helped build it, but so many people and the city really supported it. I left a job with Disney to move to Tulsa because I was intrigued by a city with a can-do attitude that believes they can make things happen, and they do.”**

*Julio Badin*

*Executive Director*

*The Gathering Place*

The USA BMX Headquarters and Hall of Fame, opened in February 2022 after a decade of work, stands as the most recent testament to Tulsa’s private-public-philanthropic partnership. When the national governing board of the Olympic sport outgrew its Phoenix area headquarters, Tulsa’s leaders advocated for relocation to their city not only with BMX officials, but also with their own residents. As the long-standing host of the annual USA BMX Grand Nationals, Tulsa worked to create public buy-in for the long-term potential of attracting the project. With support from a voter-approved economic development initiative and the Hardesty Family Foundation, the \$23 million headquarters, hall of fame and

national stadium now brings in athletes and visitors from across the world. Situated within the Greenwood District, the facility also helps revitalize the historic neighborhood severely impacted by the Tulsa Race Massacre. Public art sculptures in front of the facility commemorate both the past and hopes for the future, while a mentorship and education program engages local youth in riding through coaching, nutrition, fitness and community-building.



The Gathering Place



Kian Kamas, executive director of PartnerTulsa, and Blake Ewing, chief of staff for the City of Tulsa, shared insights with attendees.

# Process Improvement

Regulatory streamlining and strong entrepreneurial engagement have paved the way for game-changing projects in Tulsa. Governmental leaders wanted to hear from more than a small but vocal opposition and earn residents' trust, especially in areas where historical context and racial tensions are often intermingled. In addition to visionary tax packages, the city responded to frustrations from neighborhoods and developers by merging five separate economic development agencies.

**“Tulsa had fallen into the trope of building a city for the people instead of building a city with the people.”**

*Blake Ewing*  
Chief of Staff  
City of Tulsa

Formed in 2021, PartnerTulsa serves as the consolidated, independent economic development authority for the city. Designed to last beyond mayoral administrations, PartnerTulsa focuses on removing friction between political entities and developers, transforming policies to create economic opportunity and strong community ties.

At the ground level, entrepreneurs had been building the restaurants, bars and mixed-use developments that create fertile ground for major projects. City leaders understood that if zoning and permitting procedures were outdated and understaffed, they would lose business investment to other communities. Improving those processes became the top priority to increase Tulsa's speed to market. In areas like downtown Tulsa, broad zoning codes

without height, use or parking restrictions helped spur private development and innovation alongside major investments like the BOK Center arena and ONEOK Field baseball park.

**“In 2004, I built my first neighborhood pub downtown, then needed to build the neighborhood around it. In the early days, we were supported by people who just wanted downtown to ‘happen’ and I was the guy building stuff for people to come to. With higher density and more infill, we can attract high-skilled talent like recent college graduates and families. The target demographic for downtown is everyone.”**

*Elliot Nelson*  
Founder/CEO  
McNellie's Group

While developers continue to push for more progressive zoning so they can move forward with certainty, city and economic development leaders work to shift negative perceptions around public safety, density and housing.

**“Tulsa has done well in recent years in advancing institutional changes. Big changes can be scary because it means a loss of power for individuals or entities, but without working through these hard things, we wouldn't be able to accomplish what we have.”**

*Kian Kamas*  
Executive Director  
PartnerTulsa



Attendees learned more about key inflection points that have contributed to Tulsa's success, along with continued areas for growth in the community.

# Regional Collaboration



Mural located in the Greenwood District.

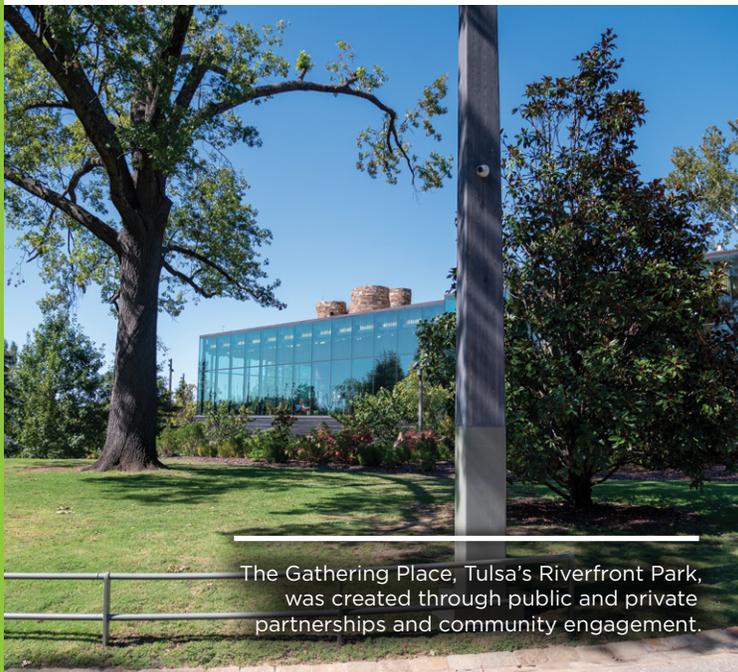
During both the Tulsa and Northwest Arkansas CLV trips, regionalism surfaced as a best practice. Although community leaders may define and practice regionalism differently, collaboration is the throughline. In Tulsa, the most impressive examples of regional collaboration revolve around legislative priorities, economic development and tourism. These rallying points all contribute to Tulsa's sense of regional identity.

**“We serve nine counties in the northeast Oklahoma region, and we do nothing by ourselves. When you get business leaders, local and state elected officials, tribal partners and the philanthropic community around a table, you can really get things done.”**

*Mike Neil*

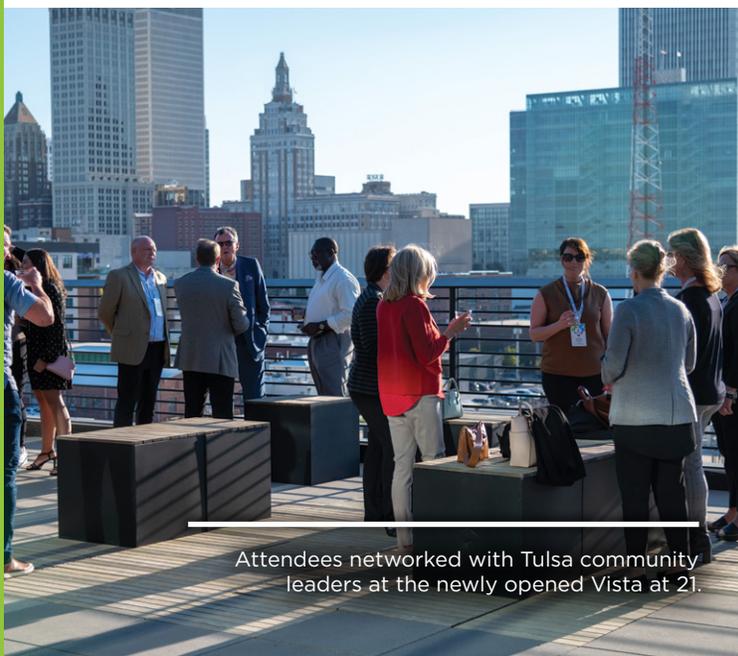
*President and CEO*

*Tulsa Regional Chamber*



The Gathering Place, Tulsa's Riverfront Park, was created through public and private partnerships and community engagement.

In 2007, the Tulsa Regional Chamber created the OneVoice Regional Legislative Agenda to unify and leverage advocacy influence at the local, state and federal levels. Previously, the Tulsa Chamber's advocacy efforts had been insular, but over time, the coalition behind the OneVoice agenda has grown to include more than 300 individuals and 75 chambers of commerce, cities, counties, economic development organizations, school districts and higher education institutions. The OneVoice input process has created trust among partners and legitimacy with elected officials, strengthening Tulsa's regional economic development efforts.



Attendees networked with Tulsa community leaders at the newly opened Vista at 21.

To attract business investment, Tulsa today touts its low cost of living, 20-minute average commute, great sporting and arts facilities, a rich musical legacy, and a broad industry base from energy production to aerospace,



Attendees learned from a panel of Tulsans about building community pride.

manufacturing and health care. To create this foundation, economic development leaders listened to municipal, port and industrial park partners and hired consultants to evaluate the region's assets.

**“Coming to Tulsa for work, I fell in love with the community-centered approach to artists and the entrepreneurial people I met. Why Tulsa? It’s the intersection of creativity and business.”**

*Bianca Caampued*

*Co-Founder and Interim Executive Director  
Tulsa Creative Engine*

Rather than investing in branding, Tulsa Chamber leaders decided Tulsa's quality of life would sell the city, with opportunities for engagement in a community where everyday people can make a difference. They developed goals around attracting new business and talent, retaining growing businesses, developing the workforce and providing research and data for the full region.

**“As Tulsa was working on capital improvements like building a low-water dam in the Arkansas River, suburban chambers of commerce opposed it because they weren’t being heard. To rebuild that collaboration, we had to make sure everyone in the region had significant participation in drafting the plan because if they write it, they’ll underwrite it.”**

*Arthur Jackson*

*Senior Vice President of Economic Development  
Tulsa Regional Chamber*

To differentiate Tulsa's competitive advantage and enhance placemaking efforts, the Tulsa Chamber and its partners also focus on tourism. Major sports facilities like the Hardesty BMX National Stadium not only attract visitors and potential business investors, but also raise the quality of life for residents. In fact, Tulsans from around the region continue to support and volunteer for national-level competitions like the NCAA Basketball Tournament, PGA Championship and IRONMAN races, even when those events may disrupt day-to-day life in their community.

**“Tourism is really the front door to economic development. When we bring in these events and facilities, we’re giving our own kids opportunities and making a lasting impact through lower taxes, charitable proceeds and additional amenities people want in Tulsa.”**

*Joel Koester*

*Director of Sports Sales  
Tulsa Regional Tourism*



# Talent

Combined with placemaking efforts designed to make its community attractive, Tulsa employs targeted workforce strategies to propel economic growth. Since 2018, the GKFF has developed and funded initiatives and nonprofits alongside public-private partners to build a robust talent pipeline for Tulsa.

**“Tulsa is a responsive city. We’re willing to try. When there’s hard stuff, we don’t ignore it or avoid it, but work on it together and see what’s possible.”**

*Dr. Laura Latta*  
Executive Director  
Tulsa Higher Education Consortium

Tulsa Remote grabbed headlines in 2018 with an offer of \$10,000 for remote workers willing to move and reside within Tulsa city limits for one year. The initiative has successfully retained 75% of the 4,000 people it has attracted so far, many of whom are knowledge workers earning average salaries of \$100,000 a year while working for out-of-state employers.

A complementary effort, inTulsa, focuses on keeping the talent Tulsa already has. inTulsa utilizes data and analytics to understand the skills employers are currently hiring for and to help align educational curriculum.

**“We can’t wait for the next Census; we use data to understand the workforce needs now. Tulsa is a certified ‘Welcoming America’ city and while it’s not traditionally a workforce development entity’s role to manage visas and furnished apartments for refugees, it’s challenging and rewarding work to be a person’s primary contact for a new city and a new country.”**

*Aaron Miller*  
Head of Partnerships  
inTulsa

To position Tulsa as the next tech hub, Tulsa Innovation Labs (TIL) develops city-wide strategies and partnerships to build Tulsa’s inclusive innovation economy. Through economic development programs, TIL invests in the emerging tech clusters of virtual health, energy tech, advanced air mobility and cyber.



Attendees heard more about tourism and workforce investments at the USA BMX Headquarters.

The Tulsa campus of the Holberton School offers in-depth software engineering vocational training. Often drawing in nontraditional students in their 30s looking to switch careers, the program replicates a collegiate learning environment over 20 months and partners with tech startups to prepare graduates for the workplace without the time and cost of a 4-year degree.

**“I own a technology company, a platform that connects creators with clients, but I don’t know how to code. Partners like the Holberton School understand that technology plugs into every facet of business. Talent is everywhere, but opportunity isn’t. Living here allows you to accelerate as a human.”**

*Kelsey Davis*  
Founder and CEO  
CLLCTVE

Traditional and innovative educational programs in Tulsa work together to skill up the future workforce for 21st century jobs. The Tulsa Higher Education Consortium is the only such consortium in the U.S. to have cross-sector affiliate members like the city, chambers of

commerce and philanthropic organizations working alongside higher education institutions to create equitable access for all students. Despite the absence of a public university main campus, Tulsa offers 425 courses of study to meet rising student enrollment across four private universities and the largest community college in Oklahoma.

**“Tulsa has great connective tissue with access to people and ideas, but it’s also our greatest weakness. There’s a perception that everyone is ‘in the loop’ which can cause duplicative work or friction among organizations. Community ownership is really the link that is sometimes missing from philanthropy and involvement. You have to move from ‘happy to help’ to making action happen.”**

*Tori Burris*  
Manager, Strategic Initiatives  
Tulsa Innovation Labs

# Inclusion

Inclusivity is intentional in Tulsa across economic and community development. This is demonstrated by efforts like PartnerTulsa's focus on equality of opportunity, programs that assist new arrivals and invest in small businesses and downtown ambassadors who care for the unsheltered population.

Intentional conversations around Tulsa's painful racial past and how to commemorate the legacy of Black Wall Street led to the formation of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission in 2015.

**“As we approached the centennial, Tulsans reconciled that the Race Massacre happened, so they invested more in black entrepreneurs and communities to help them find a niche, find capacity and participate in development processes. Tulsa is a place where you can do, be or become what you want, if you put in the work.”**

*Rose Washington*  
Chief Executive Officer  
TEDC Creative Capital

The commission's marquee project is the \$30 million Greenwood Rising Black Wall St. History Center, which opened in 2021.

**“This is not a scar, it's a wound. We don't have it all figured out, but what we have figured out is to try. This is the resilience that defines Tulsa: we collaborate. How do we make sure talent - which is distributed equitably - has the same resources and support they need without the social circles that can provide loans and capital? Inclusive means engaging everyone in the process.”**

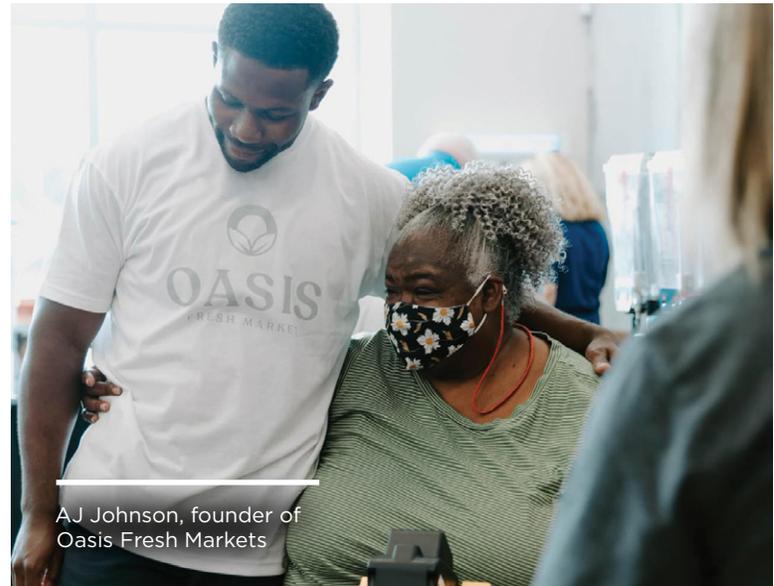
*Ashli Sims*  
Managing Director  
Build in Tulsa

In addition to bringing a wide array of people to the table to discuss reconciliation, Greenwood Rising has fostered awareness of supporting

today's Greenwood District and north Tulsa entrepreneurs and businesses to address disparities.

**“In north Tulsa, people are expected to die 11 years faster than they are in south Tulsa due to poorer health outcomes. My community grocery store is the first one in north Tulsa in 14 years. It's a refuge, a safe place. It's easy to criticize, but harder to contribute to someone who doesn't look like you. Think about how you can help people, no matter what they look like, have the same exposure and access and show them they can be something.”**

*AJ Johnon*  
Founder  
Oasis Fresh Markets



AJ Johnson, founder of Oasis Fresh Markets

Additional efforts focused on fostering inclusivity continue to grow in Tulsa, illustrated through Build in Tulsa. This initiative aims to close the racial wealth gap through elevating entrepreneurial founders with supportive resources, programming and capital.

Oasis Fresh Market is a crucial resource for north Tulsans, opened in 2021 as the first and only black-owned grocery store in over 50 years. Oasis exists as a hybrid for-profit and nonprofit model that aims to establish community and eradicate food deserts through accessible food and programming.

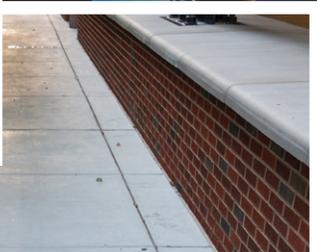
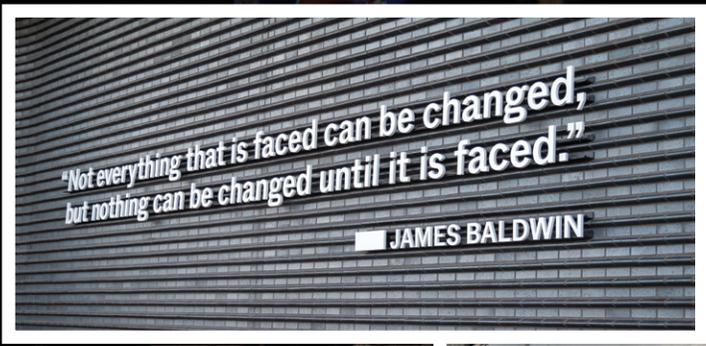
**“You have to give people a way to resonate with parts of hard history and connect with humanity. As a black entrepreneur, how can I use my creative talents to help? We create things that have real value, because if you can’t see it, you can’t be it. We’re not sharing black stories just in Tulsa, but around the country. Tulsa’s mindset includes shame, disgust and the ugliness of the Race Massacre. We want to change the narrative to ‘Greenwood Ave is everywhere’ because it wasn’t buried in 1921, it was a seed that’s been replanted.”**

*Trey Thaxton*

*Owner*

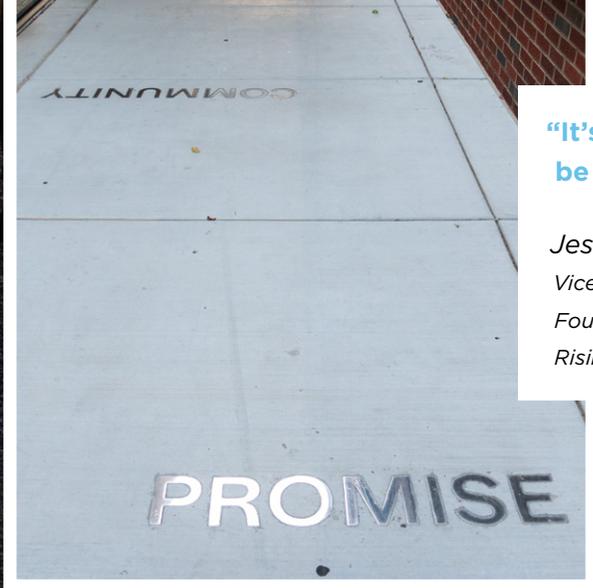
*Goldmill Co. & Greenwood Ave.*

Delegates immersed themselves in the story of Black Wall Street and learned more about ongoing investments in this area.



**“It’s about finding a way to be part of the change.”**

*Jessica Lowe-Betts*  
*Vice President | Schnake Turnbo Frank*  
*Founding Board Member | Greenwood*  
*Rising Black Wall St. History Center*



# Charting Next Steps

Armed with the delegation's takeaway ideas inspired by Tulsa, the Chamber is now working to harness that energy and enthusiasm into thoughtful action. No single entity can or should implement these ideas alone, but the Chamber has committed to:

- Serving as a trusted convenor for the individuals and organizations willing to take up specific ideas, explore feasibility, authority, funding and public interest, and determining which actions should be taken.
- Providing semi-annual email updates to the Tulsa delegation and Chamber board regarding momentum on these championed ideas.
- Utilizing the prioritized ideas, survey results and other feedback mechanism to inform ongoing Chamber work and the development of future CLV trips.





# 2023 Delegation List

Organizations and titles listed for each participant reflect positions at the time of the October 2023 trip.

**Logan Aguirre**

*Publisher*  
417

**Rachel Anderson**

*Executive Director, efactory*  
Missouri State University

**Christina Angle**

*CFO*  
Erlen Group

**David Argueta**

*President*  
Mercy Hospitals Springfield Communities

**David Atkisson**

*Springfield Office Leader*  
J.E. Dunn Construction

**Brandi Bailey**

*Vice President of Strategic  
Development & Marketing*  
Snyder Construction Group

**Joselyn Baldner**

*President & CEO*  
Central Bank of the Ozarks  
*Chair, Springfield Chamber Board of Directors*

**Brent Baldwin**

*Executive Vice President, Commercial  
Division Manager*  
Commerce Bank

**Tiffany Batdorf**

*Vice President, Communications and  
Community Relations*  
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

**Jessica Blake**

*Coordinator of Community Relations*  
Springfield Public Schools

**Andrea Brady**

*Community Outreach and  
Development Manager*  
Great Southern Bank

**Max Buetow**

*President & CEO*  
CoxHealth

**Callie Carroll**

*Councilmember*  
City of Springfield

**Danny Collins**

*Founder*  
37 North Expeditions

**Chris Coulter**

*County Administrator*  
Greene County

**Scott Crise**

*Board of Education - Vice President*  
Springfield Public Schools

**Jennifer Dalton**

*Chief Operating Officer*  
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

**Linda Daugherty**

*Chief Operating Officer*  
Academy of Hair Design

**Ryan DeBoef**

*Senior Partner*  
Hahn | DeBoef Government Relations

**Bob Dixon**

*Presiding Commissioner*  
Greene County

**Paula Dougherty**

*CEO / Private Wealth Advisor*  
Achieve Private Wealth - Ameriprise Financial

**Thomas Douglas**

*CEO*  
JMARK

**Jason England**

*President / CEO*  
Arvest Bank

**Brad Erwin**

*President*  
Paragon Architecture

**Sara Fields**

*Executive Director*  
Ozarks Transportation Organization

**Brian Fogle**

*CEO*  
Community Foundation of the Ozarks

**Dwayne Fulk**

*SVP - Chief Legal & Economic Development  
Officer*  
City Utilities of Springfield

**Jason Gage**

*City Manager*  
City of Springfield

**Jonathan Garard**

*Owner*  
Grooms Office Environments

**Gary Gibson**

*President - CEO*  
City Utilities of Springfield

**Emily Givens**

*Director of Development*  
Bryan Properties

**Victoria Gorham**

*Senior Workplace Strategist*  
Grooms Office Environments

**Brian Hammons**

*President*  
Hammons Black Walnuts

**Heather Hardinger**

*Councilmember*  
City of Springfield

**Sally Hargis**

*VP / Chairman*  
Ozarks Coca-Cola / Dr Pepper Bottling Co.

**Jessica Harmison-Olson**

*Owner*  
Maxon Fine Jewelry

**Spencer Harris**

*President & Co-Owner*  
Mostly Serious  
*Co-Founder*  
Habitat Communication & Culture

**Brandy Harris**

*CEO*  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Springfield

**Kristen Haseltine**

*President / CEO*  
Show Me Christian County

**Mark Hecquet**

*President / CEO*  
Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau

**Amanda Hedgpeth**

*Chief Operating Officer*  
CoxHealth

**Michelle Herzan**

*Marketing & Communications Manager*  
SRC Reman Corp.

**Hal Higdon**

*Chancellor*  
Ozarks Technical Community College

**Monica Horton**

*Councilmember*  
City of Springfield

**Katie Jackson**

*Business Development Manager*  
SERVPRO of Springfield / Greene Co.

**Jen Johnson**

*Vice President, Corporate Affairs*  
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

**Allen Kunkel**

*Associate Vice President for Economic Development*  
Missouri State University

**Karen Kunkel**

*GO CAPS Coordinator*  
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

**Grenita Lathan**

*Superintendent*  
Springfield Public Schools

**Derek Lee**

*Councilmember*  
City of Springfield

**Christian Lewis**

*Regional Community President*  
Simmons Bank

**Ken McClure**

*Mayor*  
City of Springfield

**Tori Mercado**

*Public Policy Analyst*  
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

**Matt Morris**

*Vice President for Administration & Finance*  
Missouri State University

**Matt Morrow**

*President*  
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

**Zora Mulligan**

*Executive Vice President*  
Missouri State University

**Lauren Mustoe**

*Acting Vice President, Public Affairs*  
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

**Stephanie O'Connor**

*Senior Vice President - Chief Technology & People Officer*  
City Utilities of Springfield

**Amanda Ohlensehlen**

*Director of Economic Vitality*  
City of Springfield

**John Oke-Thomas**

*President*  
Oke-Thomas + Associates, Inc.

**Paige Oxendine**

*Board Chair*  
Springfield-Branson National Airport

**Andy Peebles**

*Attorney*  
Carnahan Evans

**Chad Ray**

*Assistant Director of Aviation*  
Springfield-Branson National Airport

**Rob Rector**

*Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services*  
Ozarks Technical Community College

**Parker Reid**

*Member Engagement Manager*  
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce

**Carrie Richardson**

*Executive Director*  
Leadership Springfield

**Nancy Riggs**

*Regional Vice President*  
Penmac Staffing Services, Inc.

**Rachael Salveter**

*President / CEO*  
Ozark Chamber of Commerce

**Ben Sapp**

*Partner | Business Development*  
Sapp Design Architects

**Gary Schafer**

*Managing Partner*  
FORVIS - Southern Missouri  
*President, Springfield Business Development Corporation Board of Directors*

**Gregg Scholtens**

*Executive Vice President*  
Nabholz

**Jeff Schrag**

*Owner*  
The Daily News

**Stephanie Shadwick**

*Senior Project Architect*  
N-FORM Architecture

**Krystal Simon**

*CEO*  
Care to Learn

**Matthew Simpson**

*Mayor Pro Tem*  
City of Springfield

**Carly Taft**

*Industry Marketing Leader*  
FORVIS - Southern Missouri

**Joel Thomas**

*Principal*  
BUF Studio

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