



As America approaches its 250th anniversary, communities across the country are reflecting on the values, investments and partnerships that have shaped our nation's progress.

In Oklahoma City, that reflection also serves as an opportunity to look ahead.

The growth and momentum our region is experiencing today are the result of decades of intentional investment, strong leadership and a shared commitment to building a community positioned for long-term success. Generations of residents, businesses and civic leaders helped create the foundation that continues to drive opportunity across our region.

America's strength has always been rooted in the strength of its communities, and that spirit of collaboration remains one of Oklahoma City's greatest assets.

Over the years, our community has demonstrated what is possible when people work together around a shared vision. From investing in ourselves through billions of dollars in voter-approved public improvements and the private investment they inspired, we have built a city where people want to live, work, serve and visit. Those investments helped transform Oklahoma City into an emerging tourism and sports destination while serving as a catalyst for growth across industries including aerospace, defense, biosciences and advanced manufacturing.

That progress is also reflected in the experiences that make Oklahoma City distinct. Our Western heritage, the energy of 100 years of Route 66, the rise of the Oklahoma City Thunder and our role in serving as a staging site for several Los Angeles 2028 Olympic events all tell part of the same story: Oklahoma City is a place that honors its history while confidently building what comes next.

Today, Oklahoma City continues to attract new businesses, support innovation across industries and create opportunities for residents and families. At the same time, our affordability, business climate and quality of life position our region for continued growth.

America's 250th anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate not only our nation's history, but also the communities and partnerships that will help shape its future.

At a time when communities across the country are navigating rapid change, moments like this remind us of the importance of shared purpose, civic investment and long-term thinking.

Here in Oklahoma City, we are proud to participate in officially recognized America 250 events, including the Stars and Stripes River Fest at RIVERSPORT OKC on June 27, 2026, and the Water Lantern Festival – Oklahoma City on Sept. 5, 2026. Events like these bring people together, strengthen community connection and provide an outlet to celebrate the shared values that move our country forward.

As we look toward the future, Oklahoma City remains focused on building upon the momentum that has defined our recent progress. That means continuing to invest in our workforce, supporting business growth, strengthening public-private partnerships and creating opportunities that benefit future generations. We must also invest in the future success of Tinker



Air Force Base and the 27,000 military and civilian workforce personnel who safeguard a bright future for our region and for America.

The decisions communities make today will help shape America's next chapter. The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber remains committed to supporting initiatives that position Oklahoma City for long-term success and ensure our region remains competitive, resilient and prepared for what comes next.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christy Gillenwater". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Christy Gillenwater
President & CEO
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber