

# 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS LUNCHEON



CHISHOLM CREEK



GREEN TREE PROJECT



BANK OF OKLAHOMA



GOVERNOR BILL ANOATUBBY

**Thursday, March 26, 2020**

*Oklahoma City Golf & Country Club*

**Oklahoma City Mayor's Award**  
Chisholm Creek

**President's Special Recognition**  
Green Tree Project

**Aubrey McClendon Corporate Award**  
Bank of Oklahoma

**Pendleton Woods Lifetime Achieve Award**  
Governor Bill Anoatubby,  
Chickasaw Nation

**Community Spirit Award**  
"Together Square"

OG&E, Energy FC, Energy Assist Foundation, Team Griffin Foundation, Fields and Futures, and the Myriad Botanical Gardens

**Volunteer Spirit Award**  
Valerie Naifeh

**LitterBlitz Volunteer Award**  
Elliott Roofing

**Visionary Award**  
Oklahoma City Zoo & Botanical Garden

*For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, call (405) 525-8822 or email Lisa Synar at lisabsynar@okcbeautiful.com*



TOGETHER SQUARE



VALERIE NAIFEH



ELLIOTT ROOFING



OKC ZOO & BOTANICAL GARDEN



3535 N. Classen Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

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OKC Beautiful



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## MOTHER EARTH



PROFESSIONAL ACTORS PORTRAY MOTHER EARTH, DARLIN' DAISY, AND LARRY THE LITTERBUG



THIS INTERACTIVE PLAY IS FUN FOR THE WHOLE SCHOOL

## YOGA IN THE PARK



YOGA IS FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES



FREE YOGA IN THE PARK CLASSES ARE HELD BIWEEKLY APRIL THROUGH OCTOBER

## TEEN BOARD



SERVICE PROJECT AT BODINE ELEMENTARY



VISITING SCISSORTAIL PARK

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PUBLIC ART PROJECT:

"BIRDWATCHING OKC LIGHTNING THUNDER DANCE PARTY" BY JOE SLACK

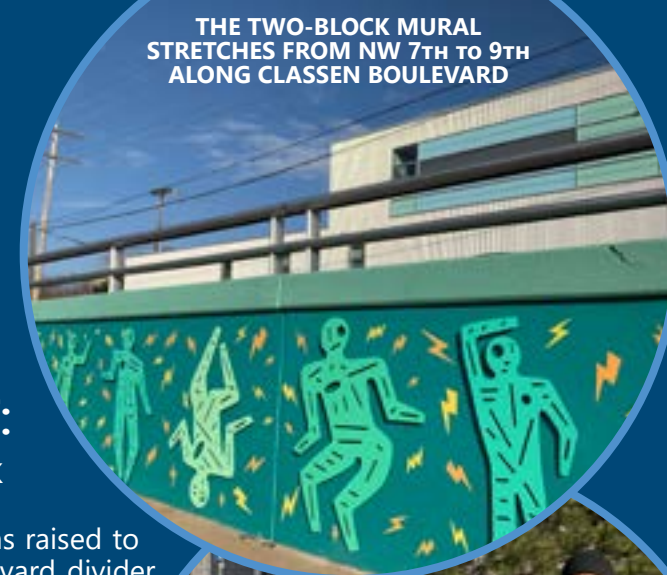
At OKC Beautiful's 50th Anniversary "Golden Garden Gala", \$38,000 was raised to install a public art project to bring color and life to the Classen Boulevard divider between NW 7th and 9th. Over the last two years, OKC Beautiful has worked with Robbie Kienzle and Artist Joe Slack to make this dream a reality. "Projects like this could not happen without the philanthropic support and tenacity of private sector partners like OKC Beautiful. This portion of Classen Boulevard had been previously identified as infrastructure recommended for improvement through public art. Unfortunately, roads and streets are not eligible for 1% for Art funding and OKC Beautiful stepped up to make this project happen. Now it is an important and impressive gateway to downtown and the Arts District," stated Robbie Kienzle, Arts Liaison for Oklahoma City's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs.

The project is a colorful combination of paint and metal work that is unique and reflective of the surrounding community. The installation depicts characters of various shapes and sizes dancing in an Oklahoma thunderstorm. Ward 6 councilor JoBeth Hamon remarked, "The new mural on Classen is a beautiful example of how public art can be a simple but powerful tool to beautify our streets and other public spaces. Joe's mural is a bright and eye-catching improvement that will encourage people to literally slow down and see Classen in a new and creative way."

Joe is a wood and metal sculptor working and living in Oklahoma City. Joe and his assistant put 1,800 hours into this project between sketching, measuring, cutting, installing, and painting. When asked to reflect on the two-block mural, Joe said, "I feel very proud of the accomplishment. When I look at the piece it just makes me smile, which is the best possible result. I hope that it contributes to a furthering sense of pride and community in the area. You can't have a thriving, thinking, productive, and happy community without the contribution of public art. I also hope it makes people smile and makes their commute just a little bit better than it was before."

The benefits of public art are numerous and often immeasurable. Developer and chairman of Allied Arts, Steve Mason said, "The economic health of our city relies on creating an innovative and beautiful environment that people want to live and do business in. Public art directly influences how people see and connect with our city, providing access to art that supports OKC's identity and makes residents feel appreciated and valued. OKC Beautiful's 50th Anniversary project is a perfect example of this in action." Steve's Classen Inn redevelopment sits east of the mural along Classen.

The principal donors who made this mural possible are: W&W Steel, Ron Norick, Laura Rankin, Lance and Cindy Ruffel, Jerry & Cynthia Brindley, Terri Cooper, Jerry and Mark Gautreaux, Vicki Clark Gourley, Kellie and Robert Hefner, Kirk Humphreys, Meg Salyer, Carla and G. Calvin Sharpe, John and Kathy Williams, Carol Alexander, Charlotte and Brian Mitchell, Stephanie O'Gara, Kerry Owens, Andrew and Ellen Spiropoulos, and Kari and Hardy Watkins.



THE TWO-BLOCK MURAL STRETCHES FROM NW 7TH TO 9TH ALONG CLASSEN BOULEVARD



ARTIST JOE SLACK



MAYOR DAVID HOLT, JOE SLACK, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LISA SYNAR



JOE AT THE MURAL "UNVEILING"

Cynthia Brindley  
Cynthia Brindley  
Elizabeth Dalton, President  
Ashley Howard  
Tara LaClair  
Glen Maynard  
Lily McAnally  
Lynda Mobley  
Jeff Oakley  
Lisa Putt  
Jeff Reading  
Amanda Riggs  
John Roberson  
Carla Sharpe  
Dustin Stubblefield  
Hardy Watkins

**OKLAHOMA REDBUD**

Ann Lacy Foundation  
AT&T  
BancFirst  
Bank of Oklahoma  
Susan & Floyd Bergen  
Chickasaw Nation  
Deep Fork Creek Association  
Dental Depot  
Devon Energy Corporation  
Christy & Jim Everest  
David Fleischaker  
Floyd Bergen Trust  
Inasmuch Foundation  
Jean I Everest Foundation  
Don Kastens  
Keep Oklahoma Beautiful  
Dr. Anupa Khashtgir  
The Kirkpatrick Family Fund  
Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores  
McAfee & Tait  
Katie McClendon  
Dave & Jean McLaughlin  
McLaughlin Family Foundation  
MidFirst Bank  
Larry & Polly Nichols  
Newmark Grubb Levy Strange Beffort  
Ron Norick  
OGE Energy Corporation  
Oklahoma Department  
of Environmental Quality  
Oklahoma Department  
of Transportation  
Phillips Murrah  
Potts Family  
Price Waterhouse Cooper  
Quail Creek Bank  
Lance & Cindy Ruffel  
Richard Sias  
Sonic, America's Drive-In  
State Fair of Oklahoma  
Glenna & Richard Tanenbaum  
Total Environment  
Waste Management  
Williams, Box, Forshee and Bullard, P.C.  
W&W Steel

**MIGHTY OAK**

B.D. Eddie Enterprises  
Mark Beffort  
Jerry & Cynthia Brindley  
Clifford L. Knight Foundation  
Cooley Construction  
Davidsons Turf Team  
Drivers Legal Plan  
Dunlap Coddling  
Valerie Naifeh  
Northrop Grumman  
Corbyn & Avery Rhodes  
Ross Electric  
Roy & Bev Smith  
Andrew & Ellen Spiropoulos  
Teaching Textbooks, LLC  
Urban Lawn & Landscape  
USA Construction

**ROYAL CYPRESS**

Clayton & Louise Bennett  
Gale Bollinger  
Phyllis L. Brawley  
Easton Construction  
Daystar Foundation & Library  
Delmar Gardens  
Jerry & Mark Gautreaux  
Charles Givens  
Vicki Clark Gourley  
Hal Smith Restaurant Group  
Kellie & Robert Hefner  
INTEGRIS  
Dick & Patti Marshall  
Franklin Naifeh  
Jeanen Naifeh  
Jeff & Valerie Oakley  
Oklahoma Heart Hospital  
Oklahoma Natural Gas  
The Oklahoman  
George & Joanne Orr  
Presbyterian Health Foundation  
Meg Salyer  
Carla & G. Calvin Sharpe  
Spencer & Holly Smith  
Sylvia Trachtenberg  
John & Kathy Williams  
Don & Carolyn Zachritz

# ECO-SPOTLIGHT: SUSAN BERGEN

OKC Beautiful program director, Kristen Milburn, had the chance to sit down with Susan Bergen to learn more about her background in organic farming, her new composting business, and her passion for the earth and philanthropic work.

Susan grew up in a family where beautiful landscaping and home gardening were a priority. She said, "I grew up in the Boston area. I was recruited to Oklahoma by a small brokerage firm and there I met a handsome cowboy. We have been married 35 years. My mother had a passion for gardening and our home was wonderfully landscaped. We had 5 acres and a greenhouse attached to our home. After marrying the cowboy, I stayed home eventually with our two children. In 2003, four years after my husband had worked to develop an orchard in Stratford, I took over those operations. We had so many great times with that business, and grew it into a 300 acre organic fruit and vegetable operation."

Susan reflected on their decision to turn their conventional farming practices into organic farming practices, "Putting a man on a tractor with a hazmat suit one time a week soon seemed like the wrong way to go about things. I could no longer in good conscience feed folks with the food that we were producing. I started looking for help in a more earth friendly way to manage, and what I found was that the health of your soil determines the health of the plant, which determines the health of the person. Healthy soil, healthy people, healthy plants."

When asked about her new composting project, Susan said, "At Prairie Dirt Solutions we are producing healthy soils for Oklahomans. We believe that we can slow down the flooding in central OKC with better soil in the yards of citizens and businesses alike. We believe that composted yards need less water. We will start demonstration yards this year on how to not water your yard. It is so fun to get up every day and be doing this project. Our core values are People Planet Profit. The landfill is overfull. We can reduce the inflow to it by 35%, as has been demonstrated in Norman. Bring your green waste to us. We make black gold with it." Learn more at prairiedirtsolutions.com.

"I have a wonderful family," Susan emphasized when asked about her personal life and what she likes to do for fun. "I love being with them and we play games and enjoy home cooking. And I garden everywhere I go. I just love to dig in the dirt." Susan also spends much of her free time on her philanthropic work. "This year we are providing support to a middle school program called Love Works. We have put in a large garden including a hoop house. We are also providing all the food to their efforts. The program has wonderful success of teaching leadership to students. It is magical to watch them grow and develop as human beings."

## SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

2019 SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Applications are now open for OKC Beautiful's annual service scholarship. The \$5,000 scholarship is open to high school seniors who live or go to school in Oklahoma City and have displayed leadership skills in the area of service. Special consideration will be given to students who have placed an emphasis on environmental service. The recipient will be presented the scholarship award at OKC Beautiful's 36th Annual Distinguished Service Awards Luncheon on Thursday, March 26, 2020. The funds were raised for this scholarship through the Teen Board's annual poinsettia sale. Applications can be found on OKCBeautiful.com. Contact OKC Beautiful program director, Kristen Milburn, with any questions at Kristen@OKCBeautiful.com or 405-525-8822.



SUSAN BERGEN



A LOVE OF VEGGIES STARTS AT A YOUNG AGE! KINDERS TASTE TESTING THEIR SCHOOL-GROWN GREENS AT BODINE ELEMENTARY



STUDENTS TEND THE GARDENS FROM START TO FINISH AT CLEVELAND ELEMENTARY

# GARDEN EDUCATORS MAKE AN IMPACT

OKC Harvest began in 2014 as a conversation over the garden gate between two neighbors who shared a passion for the value of school gardens. In 2017, OKC Beautiful inherited OKC Harvest from these volunteers and created a staff position to ensure the sustainability of each garden and the long-term success of the program. School gardens most often succeed where there is a dedicated gardener in charge of maintenance who also coordinates with teachers to provide hands-on lessons to students. Thanks to a capacity-building grant from Sprouts, OKC Beautiful was able to launch a garden educator pilot program to demonstrate this model at two carefully chosen elementary schools. Garden Educators Sarah Mossman and Micah Stover were placed at Cleveland Elementary and Bodine Elementary, respectively. OKC Harvest Program Director, Kat Gant, designs the lessons and trains the garden educators. School garden lessons are focused on exposing children to science and math, language arts, and social studies within the context of a natural environment where they grow, harvest, and eat healthy foods.

The school year started with school garden orientation, setting expectations, a silent garden walk, and proper tool procedures. In September, students learned about seasonality, temperature patterns for our region, climate vs. weather, warm vs. cool season crops, seed structure and germination. 4th graders at Cleveland started a semester-long hot compost project. During October, kindergarteners enjoyed a letter sounds and numbers lesson, walking the garden to practice identifying and counting plants and objects. 1st and 2nd grade practiced observing and composing sentences with a garden journaling exercise. 3rd and 4th grade practiced scouting for pests, measuring plant growth, and graphed the data from their compost pile. In November, students participated in a school-wide social studies unit about harvest-time traditions. Students tasted four featured fall vegetables they helped grow: kale, spinach, chard, and radishes. The theme for December's school garden lessons was nutrition with students learning the vitamin and mineral content of the foods they have grown. Students were introduced to several varieties of winter squash, tasting and comparing their flavors and taking recipes home to share with their families.

The pilot program is a quarter underway, and already the results are compelling. One teacher says of the garden program: "It makes them so happy to see that something they planted can provide food for everyone. They become connected to our community. It is an experience they will remember the rest of their lives." OKC Beautiful's goal is to fund garden educators for each of the schools where they operate a garden. Please consider supporting OKC Beautiful's garden educator program.



MEASURING IS A KEY MATH STANDARD! THERE ARE AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MATH & SCIENCE LESSONS IN THE GARDENS



LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS ARE PRACTICED THROUGH GUIDED GARDEN JOURNALING & OBSERVATIONS

# 2020 "VISION FOR THE FUTURE" ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

OKC Beautiful celebrates 2020 Vision for the Future! In 2020, OKC Beautiful is laser focused on a future that is environmentally, socially, and financially sustainable. OKC Beautiful needs you to help fulfill the vision of OKC as a vibrant community where citizens and visitors see OKC as a clean, green, and beautiful place to live.

**OKLAHOMA REDBUD | \$2,500+**

Annual subscription and recognition in the OKC Beautiful newsletter; recognition on OKCBeautiful.com; sponsorship recognition at all major fundraising events; a tree planted in your honor

**MIGHTY OAK | \$1,500-2,499**

Annual subscription and recognition in the OKC Beautiful newsletter; recognition on OKCBeautiful.com; sponsorship recognition at all major fundraising events

**ROYAL CYPRESS | \$1,000-1,499**

Annual subscription and recognition in the OKC Beautiful newsletter; recognition on OKCBeautiful.com; sponsorship recognition at the Annual Distinguished Service Awards Luncheon

**BLAZE MAPLE | \$500-999**

Annual subscription and recognition in the OKC Beautiful newsletter; recognition on OKCBeautiful.com

**ELM | \$25-499**

Annual subscription to the OKC Beautiful quarterly newsletter



LITTERBLITZ VOLUNTEER



STUDENTS HARVESTING LETTUCE THROUGH OKC HARVEST PROGRAM



THE MCGINLEY FAMILY WITH THEIR WINNING CHILI!

## FALL HARVEST FEST

OKC Beautiful Young Professionals hosted the 2nd annual "Fall Harvest Fest" in October. Attendees celebrated the bounty of fall harvest with an afternoon full of favorite seasonal foods and activities. Fall Harvest Fest featured a chili cook-off, local beer, live music, yard games, and pumpkin carving.

Mobile taproom, The Big Friendly Beer Bus, was there pouring local beers from brewery sponsors. Two hundred attendees filled their bellies with unlimited chili prepared by home chefs and local restaurants. Famed local chef Kurt Fleischfresser and The Oklahoman's Food Dude Dave Cathey were this year's celebrity judges. Whiskey Cake, the McGinley Family, The Jones Assembly, Innovative IT Solutions, Team K&G, and Cooks of Koch were this year's chili cook-off winners. Live performances by local artists Wood Willow and Chase Kerby entertained the crowd. Festival goers also spent the afternoon playing yard games, making DIY caramel apple nachos, shopping at the OKC Harvest pop-up market, and carving pumpkins.

More than \$20,000 was raised for OKC Beautiful programming like Mother Earth, LitterBlitz, and OKC Harvest! OKC Beautiful thanks the many sponsors that made this possible. Special recognition to Festival Presenters, The Chickasaw Nation and the Ann Lacy Foundation. OKC Beautiful partnered with Fertile Ground to make Fall Harvest Fest a zero-landfill event by providing compostable food and beverage containers.



JESSIKA BERGERON, MIRANDA PATTON, & DILLON WEHBA ENJOY THE BEER BUS



FURRY FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!