



MEG SALYER

OSU-OKC Paint This Town Orange 2018 HONOREE

SHARED PASSIONS WITH OSU-OKC: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, INVESTING IN PUBLIC SAFETY, JOB CREATION, SERVANT LEADERSHIP, THE IMPORTANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

"I TRY TO FOCUS ON JOB CREATION AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT. IF I HAD TO PICK ONE MAIN FOCUS OF MY WORK IT WOULD BE CREATING A QUALITY OF LIFE TO ATTRACT BUSINESSES AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO STAY IN OKLAHOMA CITY."

Meg Salyer is a New York native who has brought her visionary leadership and outstanding ideas for community development to the Oklahoma City metro area.

One of Meg's earliest childhood memories involves her father talking around the dinner table about the potential of investing in properties and community development. He inspired Meg early in her life, giving her visionary entrepreneurial skills that motivated her to tackle similar community projects of her own, and eventually led to her integral role in shaping Oklahoma City's transformation.

After her move to Oklahoma City in 1984 Meg became interested in a building on North Broadway Avenue and purchased it. She saw potential in the area beyond the boarded-up structures and envisioned a vibrant district within walking distance of downtown. "As a former New Yorker I thought when do you get a chance to purchase a city block so close to the center of the city?"

Out of this vision Automobile Alley was born. Today the area serves as a bustling hub of restaurants and businesses. Through her business development career Meg knew the importance of investing in people and the community. Seeing her potential, a friend encouraged Meg to run for the Oklahoma City Council. Meg was elected to the City Council in November 2008 and served for 10 and a half years. During this time, she championed the planning processes for MAPS 3 initiatives.

Meg believes creating economic opportunity goes hand-in-hand with developing a high quality of life for a city's citizens. That principle is evident in the wellness opportunities she supported such as walking trails, sidewalks, transit street cars, and green spaces throughout the city.

Meg recalls there was a time when young people were quick to move to Dallas or other larger cities, but she believes Oklahoma City's ongoing evolution is changing that paradigm, transforming Oklahoma into a highly sought-after place to live. The metamorphosis of downtown Oklahoma City has not only attracted businesses to the metro area, but it's also created a vibrant environment where young people and families live and thrive.

Meg believes OSU-OKC's programming is essential to the future of Oklahoma City residents and communities. "The school goes above and beyond to take care of the student body and create opportunities," Salyer said.

In particular Meg has worked with the police and fire training center on campus and sees the close relationship between the students of these programs and the City of Oklahoma City when they graduate.

"We want to create a city that attracts people here and keeps them here. It's because of the type of programming OSU-OKC offers that we're able to do this. We need to create more partnerships between educational programs and industries. The role OSU-OKC plays is vital to the city's success."