

Greater Bentonville Area Chamber of Commerce **91st State of the Chamber and Awards Lunch**

Graphic Recordings and Strategic Reflections





greater
BENTONVILLE
area CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

#becausebentonville

JANUARY 25, 2018

CRAIG
RUMDO

CHALLENGES to CHAMBERS:

CREATING REAL VALUE

- HELP EMERGING BUSINESSES
- WORK COLLABORATIVELY

GENERATING FRESH LEADERSHIP

LISTENING TO MEMBERS

DRIVE COMMERCE Here!

We used these criteria in finding NEW CHAMBER CEO. Graham Cobb!

State of the Chamber 2018!



Introduction

Craig Rivaldo, Chamber Chairman of the Chamber Board

Craig Rivaldo, the Chamber Chairman of the Chamber Board, explained that many in the community got together to strategize the future of the Chamber. They changed the name and logo and focused on how the Chamber could be more relevant and effective to the business community. They conducted a nationwide search for a new CEO who could understand the area, be innovative and have vision. They found and hired Graham Cobb and named him CEO and President.

What do the leaders in the community expect from the Chamber going forward?

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JANUARY 25, 2018

Graham Cobb



our call for a new COMMUNITY Future
#because bentonville

VISION

CHARTING the FUTURE

Be RESPONSIVE & INNOVATIVE

Big Steps Ahead to COMMUNITY
PIVOT OF THE

BUILD AN OPEN PLATFORM

REFINE OUR BUSINESS MODEL

Future

EMBRACE GROWING DIVERSITY

Enhance OUR UNIQUE QUALITY OF PLACE

IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE

Grow, Attract + BUILD FUTURE TALENT

A FRIENDLY BUSINESS CLIMATE
In a 360° EXPERIENCE
GLOBAL + LOCAL

ARTWALK
Crystal Bridges

State of the Chamber 2018

actioncraftcompany.com

Vision for the Chamber

Graham Cobb, President and CEO

Graham Cobb, the new President and CEO of the Greater Bentonville Area Chamber of Commerce rode in on his mountain bike. Graham pledged that the Chamber would be future-focused and evolve quickly. The Chamber is evaluating all of its programs so each one meets relevant needs and is effective. In addition to serving the community, the Chamber will be intentional and unwavering about reaching out to every business person in the diverse community including young people. The goal is to empower the businesses of today and ensure a great environment for the creative workforce of the future.

Graham cited how in his first few days he found that people were working on high profile projects like feature films and an entry to Sundance, but they were also welcoming and thoughtful to him and his family. Graham and his wife marveled at the friendliness and cosmopolitan cuisine and asked, "What is this place? Where are we?" Graham said, "Because Bentonville," now that hashtag #BecauseBentonville has been used by hundreds from craft beer lovers, foodies to cyclists. #BecauseBentonville is about how Bentonville is

metropolitan and yet down home in its feel.

Graham said that if he holds to the old chamber model, it will fail. There is an old chamber saying that "If you've seen one chamber, you've seen one chamber." The Bentonville community is like no other one in the world. Over 50% of us have moved here from somewhere else. We are local and global. He said the GBACC will honor the history of this area and work with educators to attract and grow a world class work force. The Chamber will focus on the quality of place for arts, outdoors, food and respect the partnerships that are part of the DNA. The Chamber will provide innovative content and programming that benefits all the people here whether a company is a start-up that opened last year or a start-up that began 30 years ago.

Bentonville is about the 360-degree human experience that connects us to our nature, our roots, the world and each other, said Graham. Citing a Levon Helms quote about how if you bring the right people with the right hearts together, the music plays itself, he ended, "Let's start a band folks. Show time! #BecauseBentonville."

What is the new CEO's vision for the Greater Bentonville Area Chamber of Commerce in 2018 and what key actions should members take to help realize that vision?

AWARDS

AMBASSADORS OF THE YEAR

Gail Sprenger

- Collaboration
- Community Court Will
- Support

SPIRIT AWARD

Helped Entrepreneurs
 - Therman

Abby Foster
 COACH + MEMBER

"RABBIT" DICKERSON

Freddie Hickory Inn

- LONGEST CONTINUES
- DINING - RESTAURANT

REBUCK AWARD

Premiere Cycling

140 PROGRAMS

IM BCC

PLAST PARK

BEST HALF-MARATHON

OUTSTANDING RECREATION

- DAVID WRIGHT

MEMBER OF THE YEAR

COMPANY MAKING BIG CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY

MAIN STREET
 - SIMPLE MACHINES

WAL STREET

SPEAKER SERIES
 - TECH SUMMIT

enhance shopping eWalmart + SAMS IBOTTA

Award Presentations

Wyley Elliott of Celebrate Magazine

Ambassador of the Year, Gail Sneeringer, Arvest

The Bentonville Chamber has over 60 Ambassadors. What does it mean to be an Ambassador for the Bentonville Chamber? These volunteers welcome new members and connect with them to support them. Gail Sneeringer of Arvest rarely misses a ribbon cutting, ground breaking, event, check in, meetings or opportunity to talk to some about the Chamber. She exemplifies the spirit and intent of the Chamber of Commerce, which is one of collaboration, community goodwill, and support.

Spirit Award, Abby Foster, Ahnimisha Consulting

Every year it is exciting to select the Spirit award winner because it provides the opportunity to say "thank you" to an individual or organization that has contributed so much to the Chamber. Abby Foster has been a great asset to the Chamber's success in 2017 helping with check in at many events and helping young entrepreneurs and women develop their businesses and careers in ways that honor their unique and diverse offerings.

Rabbit Dickerson Award 2017, Fred's Hickory Inn

The Rabbit Dickerson award is presented in recognition of special contribution made to the community and it requires a minimum of 20 years of residency or doing business in the Bentonville area. In late 1969, Fred and Lou Gaye acquired two acres of hilltop land on Route 4, Highway 71. After more than 40 years of renovations as the longest fine dining restaurant in Benton County the local dining tradition, the current owners continue with the unparalleled spirit of hospitality established by founders Fred & Lou Gaye.

Ed Buck Award, David Wright, Director, Bentonville Parks and Recreation

Many of facilities and events we have come to love, such as the 140 recreation programs, Easter at Orchards Park, Bentonville Half Marathon and Training Program, Slaughter Pen Jam, the Razorback Greenway, our Downtown Public Gardens, Bentonville Community Center, the Bentonville Bark Park, public art installations, and a downtown splash park came into existence under David Wright's leadership. Today, Bentonville Parks and Recreation is commonly known as one of the top departments in this part of the country and many of the facilities and events have won awards. In November 2017, the BCC welcomed the 1,000,000th customer since opening in June 2015.



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SAM WALTON AWARD of Excellence AWARDS



We believe
in the Power
of ART +
BUILDING
BRIDGES

- Alice WALTON

It has taken the whole community
to support
**Crystal
Bridges**

PHILANTHROPIST
LOVER of
the ARTS

WALTON Family FOUNDATION,
NW Ark Council

LOCAL + Global
ISSUES

chief cheerleader:
CRYSTAR
BRIDGES MUSEUM

AIRPORT

Recalled SAM WALTON:

Our Hope
for CRYSTAL B.

TIME
Influential
PEOPLE
in the
WORLD

"Dad believed in
the POWER OF
COMMUNITY! He was
A PROUD MEMBER of,
the CHAMBER

and spent time MAKING BENTONVILLE

offer People
exposure to the
ARTS etc

Bentonville:

A welcoming Place, where you
CAN PUT DOWN ROOTS, WORK HARD,
AND DO WELL

And Generate Tourism
+ SHOW OFF Bentonville to the World!



A BETTER PLACE

ARTIST: [Name] COMPANY: [Name]

Sam Walton Award of Excellence

Alice Walton

Alice Walton is a philanthropist and lover of the arts. Her contribution to the Walton Family Foundation and Crystal Bridges has won her global and national recognition. She was named by Time Magazine as one of the most influential people in the world. She is a founding member of the Northwest Arkansas Council which opened the airport and helped develop important infrastructure in the area.

Alice expressed gratitude as she considers this award named after her dad as the most special. "Dad believed in the power of community" she said. "He was a proud member of the Chamber and spent a lot of time trying to make Bentonville a better place.... Bentonville has always been a welcoming place, a place to put down roots, work hard and do well."

Alice Walton reflected on arts and Bentonville. "When my family decided to build Crystal Bridges, we hoped it would bring exposure to the arts to this community – something we

did not have here when we were little. We hoped it would allow us to generate tourism and show off our community to the world. I am proud to show Bentonville off to the world. It's a unique and special place."

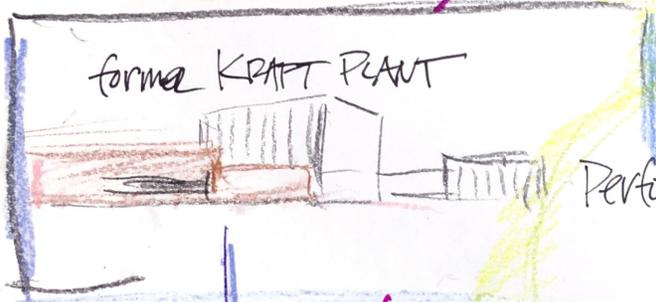
Alice thanked her team and the community for the work and commitment. "It's taken the whole community to support Crystal Bridges. My job is chief cheerleader because our team believes in the power of art and in building bridges that bring our community together." She concluded by saying that Crystal Bridges embraced the community, and the Community embraced Crystal Bridges. "My mom and dad would be so proud. Thank you for all your support and guidance through the years."

What were the goals and driving forces behind Crystal Bridges? How did the community support the effort? How can the Chamber and its members help fulfill and extend Crystal Bridge's mission?

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JANUARY 29, 2018

The MOMENTARY
conversation with Lieven Bertels

An Innovative CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER



Performance
Film

CULINARY
LIVE MUSIC

ARTIST STUDIOS

ARTISTS CREATING LIVE



New Re-use

A place of Discovery + Experience
FUSING ARTS + ENTREPRENEURSHIP

→ **Big Hope for 2020:**

CHANGE THINGS / Test New Things
AND CREATE NEW COMMERCES

→ CRYSTAL BRIDGES
(The "MOTHER SHIP")

Crystal Bridges has GREAT ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT,
WE WANT TO DO THAT JUSTICE: Creative Entrepreneurship
is KEY to ARTS + BUSINESS



A MARKET FOR MILLENIALS!!!

MOMENTARY - Arts District

- ACTION CENTER COMPANY.COM

Keynote Speaker

Lieven Bertels, Director of the Momentary

The Momentary is an innovative, contemporary arts museum being developed by Crystal Bridges in the decommissioned Kraft Food Plant. Lieven Bertels has joined a community of people that he says is "willing to change things, test new things and create new commerce."

Lieven, from Belgium, finds Bentonville a welcoming place where art is being created. The Momentary will have culinary offerings, live music and artist studios so people can see how art is being made these days. It's also a meeting place. Lieven remarked that it's special that the Chamber is allowing this conversation about creativity, arts and culture to happen during the luncheon.

Lieven Bertels says that the mother ship, Crystal Bridges has a great entrepreneurial spirit and that his goal is for the Momentary to do that justice. "Part of the creativity that makes it so an artist survives is entrepreneurship. There is a lot of overlap....There is a lot of creativity in business that we do embrace."

Lieven hopes the Momentary will be a magnet for millennials and others as it adds another exciting voice to the community. Who does Lieven hope to see in 2020 when he looks out at the Momentary audience? "It will look like the people on the square and on the bike trails today in Bentonville along with all their guests."

How does support of the arts also support innovation and entrepreneurship in the area?

