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Media Contact:
Shoshana Wasserman
W: (405) 239.3270
swasserman@adgokc.com

CITY PRESENTS AMERICAN INDIAN BLVD TO AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK (April 20, 2006) – The world will soon log on to the many online map finders in search of the American Indian Cultural Center and find it located on American Indian Boulevard. **May 11, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. Mayor of Oklahoma City, Mick Cornett** will symbolically present American Indian Boulevard to **Governor Anotubby, Governor of the Chickasaw Nation and Chairman of the Native American Cultural and Educational Authority (NACEA)**. Immediately south of I-40 and at the east entrance of the future site of the Cultural Center Complex the street has been renamed American Indian Boulevard. This dedication will take place on the Cultural Center site and represents the City's commitment and partnership with the NACEA to build and create a monumental place that will give all Oklahomans not only a world class destination and tourism attraction, but also a sense of pride as 300 acres of neglected land is transformed into the Central Park of Oklahoma.

The dream began almost thirty years ago when Senators Kelly Haney and the late Robert M. Kerr, introduced legislation to establish the NACEA to design, construct and operate an American Indian Cultural Center and Museum. The NACEA has been positively advancing the creation of this new institution by assembling a world class design and planning team that demonstrated its commitment by investing significant time and resources with Indian communities to ensure that interior, exterior, architectural design, exhibit design, and institutional plans appropriately reflect the values and ethos of the tribes throughout the state. **Now the NACEA has the new task of building, staffing and programming this new cultural institution.**

The Cultural Center is a signature Centennial project. Blake Wade, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Centennial Commission comments, "We're thrilled that the City of Oklahoma City has decided to rename this portion of the street American Indian Boulevard. This is one of many signs that the American Indian Cultural Center is moving forward."

The first phase of construction has begun with well excavation underway. In the past, the site has witnessed everything from Indian encampments to the development of an industrial oil field, realignment of the Oklahoma River, coming of the railroad, placement of utilities, the emergence of downtown Oklahoma City and redevelopment of Historic Bricktown. As the excavation work prepares the site for future construction Centennial Builders are finding various items that have been dumped on the grounds throughout the years, including tires. Centennial Builders Project Executive, John Jamison comments, "There is a mound of over one thousand tires. This helps illustrate how much site clean up must occur while we prepare to build on this location. As we clear discarded items, we are always looking for ways to utilize the resources in productive and positive ways. We would be thrilled if a tire company who has the capability of shredding tires would commit to the task and then donate the remnants to an appropriate educational facility for playground usage."

The mound of abandoned tires on an American Indian site awaiting removal is an image reminiscent of the powerful 1970's television commercials that became a compelling symbol of the anti-littering campaign. What beautiful irony for this special commemoration to take place with these tires reminding all of the incredible partnership and commitment between city, state and tribal communities to continue the process of positively transforming this city and great state.

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