



## **Tulsa Women's Commission**

### **2025 Annual Report**

The Tulsa Women's Commission serves as an advisory body to the Mayor and City Council on issues affecting women's social, economic, and civic wellbeing. In 2025, under the leadership of Chair Dr. Laura Latta and Vice Chair Kate Neary, the Commission dedicated its work to a year-long learning agenda through three structured Units of Inquiry. This approach enabled commissioners to listen deeply, examine data, and engage directly with experts and community partners before determining the next strategic focus for Tulsa's women.

The Units of Inquiry spanned from October 2024 through November 2025 and summary deliverables were completed for each unit, included below:

**Unit 1:** Economic security, educational opportunities, and housing stability

**Unit 2:** Mental health, trauma recovery, and systems of care

**Unit 3:** Safety, healthcare access, and empowerment

This intentional year of inquiry builds on the Commission's 2024 work, which centered on the citywide childcare gap and culminated in the release of the [Tulsa Women's Commission Childcare Access Report](#), public forums, and the launch of [twcchildcareresources.com](https://twcchildcareresources.com). Together, these two years represent a comprehensive effort to understand the full landscape of challenges facing Tulsa women and to prepare for a strategic pivot toward targeted, sustained action.

## **2025: A Year of Listening, Learning, and Building Understanding**

### **Unit 1: Economic Security, Educational Opportunities, and Housing Stability**

Across four months of presentations and discussion, the Commission explored Tulsa's rapidly growing workforce, the underrepresentation of women in STEM fields, and the economic mobility that high-wage tech careers can create. Commissioners learned that women continue to face barriers to entering and advancing in STEM, including caregiving constraints, underrepresentation in training programs, and wage inequities. Tulsa's housing landscape further complicates economic advancement, as the shortage of affordable units and the prevalence of domestic violence as a driver of homelessness disproportionately affect women. Housing stability emerged as a necessary foundation for women's long-term economic security and career growth.

*Experts Consulted: Abisoye Ajayi, Tulsa Innovation Labs; Commissioner Dezeray Edwards, Lumen; Erin Velez, Housing Solutions Tulsa; Amy Olsen, Housing Solutions Tulsa; Commissioner Charisa Jacobs, Tulsa Public Schools*

### **Unit 2: Mental Health, Trauma Recovery, and Systems of Care**

From April through June 2025, the Commission deepened its understanding of the trauma and mental health realities affecting Tulsa women. Presenters from the Family Safety Center, Resonance, and the City of Tulsa shared stark data on domestic violence, polyvictimization, and the barriers women face in accessing culturally responsive, trauma-informed care. Commissioners discussed the ways trauma intersects with economic instability, housing access, and safety. The inquiry underscored the importance of coordinated mental health supports, survivor-led programming, and long-term pathways to stability for women recovering from violence or incarceration.



*Experts Consulted: Suzann Stewart, Family Safety Center; Dr. Rebecca Hubbard, former City of Tulsa; Melissa Hoover, Resonance Center for Women; Commissioner Deidra Kirtley; AnnMarie Hayden; Commissioner Premadonna Braddick, Soaring Eagles*

### **Unit 3: Safety, Healthcare Access, and Empowerment**

The final inquiry term examined the foundational connection between safety, health, and personal agency and empowerment. Commissioners learned about gaps in women's representation in public safety roles, persistent risks in public spaces, the legal and practical challenges surrounding women's healthcare access, and the social and economic constraints that shape women's empowerment. Presentations from public safety leaders, Community Health Connection, Planned Parenthood Great Plains, and academic experts reinforced the interdependence of safety, bodily autonomy, and women's ability to fully participate in society.

*Experts Consulted: Commissioner of Public Safety Laurel Roberts, City of Tulsa; Vice Chair Kate Neary, Community Health Connection; Heather Palacios, Planned Parenthood Great Plains; Commissioner Meg Myers Morgan, University of Oklahoma*

### **Summary of Learnings**

Across all three units, commissioners consistently heard that *economic mobility, safety, mental wellbeing, and health access do not exist in isolation*. Rather, they form a complex ecosystem of conditions that must be strengthened together in order to advance women's wellbeing in Tulsa.

### **Looking Ahead: From Inquiry to Action**

After a year of structured learning, commissioners agreed that the next stage of work must include *choosing one signature issue* for deeper, sustained action. The Commission's 2024 childcare initiative demonstrated the impact of targeted focus, cross-sector collaboration, and practical, solutions-oriented recommendations. In 2026, the Commission intends to apply this same model to a new priority.

The selection of this priority will draw directly from the themes elevated across all inquiry units:

- safety and personal autonomy
- housing and economic mobility
- mental health and trauma recovery
- access to reproductive and primary healthcare
- barriers tied to caregiving and workforce inequities

The Commission will finalize its next flagship issue in early 2026 and develop a coordinated strategy with partners across public safety, healthcare, economic development, and community organizations.

### **A New Opportunity: Inform Women, Transform Lives**

In addition to the forthcoming priority initiative, the Commission is excited to participate in the *Carter Center's Inform Women, Transform Lives* initiative. This global effort helps cities expand women's access to public information and civic systems, increasing transparency, agency, and engagement. Participation in this initiative aligns closely with Tulsa's goals of strengthening safety, economic opportunity, and empowerment by ensuring that women have equitable access to the information needed to make decisions for themselves, their families, and their futures.



## **Conclusion**

The Tulsa Women's Commission enters 2026 prepared for intentional, data-driven action. After learning from women across Tulsa, studying system gaps, and listening to experts, we are positioned to launch a focused initiative that will meaningfully improve women's lives and strengthen Tulsa's future.

We extend our gratitude to the Mayor, City Councilors, and City leadership for their continued support, and we look forward to deepening our work as trusted advisors and advocates for women across the city.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Dr. Laura Latta  
Chair, Tulsa Women's Commission

In 2025, the Tulsa Women's Commission included the following members: Premadonna Braddick, Deidra Kirtley, Betsy Jackson, Charisa Jacobs, Marcia Bruno-Todd, Dezeray Edwards, Dr. Meg Myers Morgan, Toneille Bent, Susan Crenshaw, Mary Quinn Cooper, Maria Carlota Palacios, Ashleigh Frohrip, Dr. Laura Latta (Chair), Kate Neary (Vice Chair)