

John & Joy Reed Belt: Helping to Preserve the Paseo District

With its rich history dating back to the 1920s, the Paseo District is a truly unique neighborhood located in central Oklahoma City. Its Spanish revival architecture stucco buildings were once home to jazz clubs in the 1950s and the counter culture in the 1960s. It was during the 1970s that the area began its transformation into a vibrant artist haven that today is home to nearly 20 galleries as well as restaurants and boutiques. Its annual arts festival, held each Memorial Day weekend, attracts a wide and varied crowd.



For over 30 years John and Joy Reed Belt have led the charge to revitalize the area and make it a desirable neighborhood in which to live and work. John, who has served as the General Counsel of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation since 1984, owns a majority of the commercial space in the Paseo District. In addition to her career as an executive recruiter and corporate consultant, Joy works to promote local and regional artists through her Paseo gallery, JRB Art at the Elms. John was also the founder of Harding Fine Arts Academy, a charter high school located near the Paseo District.

In 2007 the couple created a Legacy Fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, ensuring their support of the Paseo District and other arts-related and beautification projects continues well into the future.

“The many years of experience I have had with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation as well as several other foundations, enables me to say that it is the most efficient and certain way of achieving a donor’s charitable goals that I have seen,” John said.



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