

## EPA Region 6—Brownfields Success Story—2008



### BOK Center Tulsa, Oklahoma

#### *Anchor for a City's Core Revitalization*

Through its Vision 2025 initiative, the City of Tulsa has committed to a revitalization effort that enhances its citizenry's quality of life by providing desirable jobs, a vibrant economy, educational advancements, and new venues of recreation and entertainment, ranging from the BOK Center to pedestrian-friendly downtown parks and expanded trail systems. Included in the master plan for downtown were a new City Hall, transformation of the historic Tulsa Union Depot into the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, the Tulsa Air and Space Museum, and planetarium. Several months of collaboration through workshops, summits and citizen-built consensus has resulted in a vision encompassing the entire Tulsa regional community.

The BOK Center anchors this regional endeavor's extensive scope which also includes development and renovation of community centers, health care facilities, arts and historic preservation sites, river improvements, commercial and public development sites, housing in the city core, and commitments to higher education. The 18,000-seat arena will accommodate sporting events, concerts, and other productions of all sizes and serve as an unparalleled and enduring city landmark. Located next to the Central Business District, the arena supports the revitalization of downtown Tulsa along with existing nearby public facilities such as the Tulsa Convention Center, hotel, and parking amenities.



**Artist's Rendering of the BOK Center**

The initial steps to redevelopment of the arena property were assisted by site assessment funding provided by the Tulsa Industrial Authority from their EPA Brownfields Assessment grant and support from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. Approximately 20 individual properties were investigated for potential contamination, sources of which ranged from auto repair shops, painting operations, machine shops, dry cleaners, and electroplating and printing facilities. As the development planning progressed, the City funded and performed follow-on environmental investigation, demolition, and cleanup to prepare the site for arena construction. Total cleanup cost was \$670,000. Approximately 19,000 cubic yards of soil required removal.

Designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli, construction for the BOK Center began in 2005 and had its grand opening in September 2008. This \$198 million project is funded mainly through Vision 2025 county sales taxes; nearly \$18 million comes from arena sponsors.

For more information concerning brownfields redevelopment in Tulsa contact Adrienne Russ, phone: 918-584-7881, or e-mail [office@tia-tulsa.com](mailto:office@tia-tulsa.com).