

Texas Firm to Guide BA Economic Plan Development

By Bob Bethell, Neighbor Newspapers - 11/8/2006

The Broken Arrow Economic Development Corp. has hired an Austin, Texas - based consulting firm, AngelouEconomics, to lead a five-month planning process that will result in a new economic development strategy for the Broken Arrow region. Chamber of Commerce President Ted Allison made the announcement late Tuesday.

"We selected AE to develop our strategic plan because they have a respectable track record of guiding communities of all sizes to a higher level of economic growth," Allison said.

"Since they also have an impressive client list of Fortune 500 companies, we feel AE is best-positioned to help address the needs of our existing employers as well as recruit new companies that would be most suitable for BA."

The local economic development corporation was formed following numerous meetings with business, city and school leaders, Allison said.

"This corporation provides support, direction and input on economic development issues that enhance the community through the cross functional efforts of the Chamber, City of Broken Arrow and Broken Arrow Public Schools."

In February, the BA City Council, Board of Education and chamber executive board unanimously approved Narissa Rampey, Jim Dawson, Bruce Binkley, Rick Hudson, Joe Robson and Jack W. Ross as development corporation members. The position held by Dawson remains vacant following his death.

School Superintendent Dr. Jim Sisney, City Manager Jim Twombly and Allison also serve on the development board.

Allison indicated AE will develop an economic assessment that will highlight the key economic development issues that exist in Broken Arrow; an identification of target industries that are appropriate for the area; improvements that may be required to meet the needs of the industries and recommendations for attracting additional investment and improving overall economic prosperity.

"There is significant opportunity to expand BA's economic capacity over the next five years, and we are looking forward to creating a strategy that complements the assets of the city and leads to greater prosperity for its residents and businesses," said Angelos Angelou, a principal of AngelouEconomics.

He indicated the planning process will be driven by public input.

A project website has been created at <http://www.brokenarroweconomicdevelopment>.

Allison said residents, business owners and managers can visit the site and take part in related surveys.