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**Celebrate the New Year with Live Entertainment and Fireworks at Opening Night 2019  
7p.m. - Midnight, Monday, December 31st, 2018**

[OKLAHOMA CITY, OK - 2018] – Downtown Oklahoma City's largest family-friendly New Year's Eve celebration is returning on Monday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> from 7p.m. to midnight in Bicentennial Park. Presented by MidFirst Bank and Devon Energy, Opening Night is a place for people of all ages to experience music, theatre, comedy, magic, fireworks, and more as they ring in the New Year together.

The festivities begin with the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Finale 5K at 3p.m. starting at Colcord Drive in Bicentennial Park. The 5K is open to runners of all abilities and features live entertainment throughout the course, as well as a warm up before the race by the Thunder Drummers, Storm Chasers, Thunder Girls, and Rumble the Bison. All runners receive an Opening Night wristband, a finisher medal, and have the opportunity to win prizes including "Most Festively Dressed." Early registration is \$30 ending on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Late registration is \$35 through race day. First 250 to register receive a limited edition Finale 5K t-shirt.

The celebration ramps up after the race with entertainment for the entire family. Live acts will captivate audiences across 9 stages including music by The Allie Lauren Project, Edgar Cruz, Orquesta D'Calles and Take Cover. The Civic Center's Hall of Mirrors hosts the Children's Area with face painting by the Bricktown Clowns, various interactive art projects, a photo booth, and upbeat tunes by Moetowne Alex & The Nightview Band. Attendees can also enjoy interactive comedy by OKC Improv, a Joe Coover Magic show, and a Broadway Review by Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma.

For the first time, Opening Night is helping attendees toast to the New Year by presenting the New Year's Cheers beverage tent in Bicentennial Park facing the Finale Stage. Adults ages 21 and older can warm up with wine, beer, and champagne in a ritzy, heated tent as they make their way from venue to venue.

The Finale Stage in front of the Civic Center Music Hall will come alive at 9pm with the Finale Band: Take Cover. Take Cover is guaranteed to get everyone in the mood to party as they perform yesterday's classics and today's top hits before they count us down to midnight, when the Opening Night ball will rise and one of the state's largest fireworks shows will kick off 2019.

An Opening Night wristband grants attendees to all event venues and experiences. Wristbands are \$8 in advance and can be purchased beginning Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> at 7-Eleven stores and MidFirst Bank locations across the city, and on Arts Council Oklahoma City's website. Wristbands will also be available to purchase for \$10 on the night of the event at sales locations in the Civic Center Music Hall, the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library, and the Oklahoma City Museum of Art.

Opening Night is produced by Arts Council Oklahoma City. The 2019 event co-chairs are hospitality professional and event producer Kindt Steven Myers and avid OKC volunteer and Lyric Theatre Community Engagement Coordinator Rachael Crawford.

Arts Council Oklahoma City is a non-profit 501 ©(3) organization dedicated to bringing the arts and the community together through free or low-cost cultural events and a variety of arts outreach activities that impact underserved populations. Each year, Arts Council events, programs and services reach approximately one million Oklahoma City residents and visitors. Arts Council Oklahoma City is sponsored by MidFirst Bank, Devon Energy Corporation, Ozarka Water & Coffee Service, Sonic - America's Drive-in, ICG, OGE Energy Corporation, Toucan Production and Tyler Media. Arts Council Oklahoma City receives funding from the Oklahoma Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts, and is an Allied Arts member agency. For more information, call 405-270-4848 or visit [www.ArtsCouncilOKC.com](http://www.ArtsCouncilOKC.com).

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