

# Old Town Made New



## Old Town Revitalization Effort Beginning to Take Shape

For decades, Moore's Old Town district has been a sleepy part of the city, but now the community is breathing new life into the area with a long-term revitalization plan that addresses infrastructural woes and aims to attract new businesses, housing, dining and entertainment venues.

"It's been a long time coming," said Elizabeth Weitman, community development director for the City of Moore.

"Old Town is not a very big area, but it's very important because it's our downtown area," Weitman said. "It's the living room of the town."

Revitalization efforts are already underway, Weitman says. However, infrastructure improvements to drainage and transportation systems as well as updates to zoning codes may take a few years to complete.

Transportation improvements in the area will include increased on-street parking. They also will include new sidewalks, bicycle lanes and bike routes to connect Old Town with other areas of the city, Weitman said.

The city received input from area residents and businesses, including voter approval for a tax to help fund the creation of a new park in Old Town. The park is being designed with adult visitors in mind, said Kahley Gilbert, project-grants manager for the City of Moore.

"We want it to be a different kind of park," she said. "This park is really focused on the adult population."

Located at the intersection of Old Town's Main Street and the railroad tracks, the park will be a nod to the railroad's historical importance to the area and will include a replica of the original 1895 train depot that once sat at the site.

Half of the depot will be a creator's studio space where the city's new artist in residence, Maria Chaverri, can share her work with visitors. The other half of the building could be used as a business incubator or event space, Gilbert and Weitman said.

The city hopes to finish construction on the park and depot by the end of April 2020, Gilbert said. — 19SM

# Art Talk

## City of Moore Selects Artist-in-Residence

An ex-fashion designer turned photographer and educator, Maria Chaverri lives in Oklahoma City and will be the City of Moore's first artist-in-residence.

Chaverri is an active, full-time artist, said Kahley Gilbert, project-grants manager for the City of Moore. When the Old Town Depot and maker's space open in late spring 2020, she will hold visitor's hours that will allow time for discussions with the public.

Chaverri began her career as a photographer during a five-year adventure that took her to Japan to teach English as a second language, Gilbert said.

While living in Japan, she spent much of her free time traveling around Asia, documenting her travels in professional photos. Chaverri's work has been showcased in solo and group shows in Oklahoma City, Tulsa and in Japan.



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