



AUGUST 20, 2025

HOLLAND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER





Established in 1993 to honor the 100th anniversary of the Greater Omaha Chamber, the Omaha Business Hall of Fame recognizes the important role business leaders play in the growth and development of Omaha.

Youth, education, business and outstanding leaders make up the emblem of the Omaha Business Hall of Fame, designed by Omaha artist John Thein. The symbol incorporates the flame, representing energy; the circle, a sign of continuing life and the profile of a person, symbolizing individual initiative and enterprise.

The Omaha Business Hall of Fame exhibit is located at The Durham Museum.

✦ ✦ *Mission*

Preserve the role of individual business achievement in Omaha's history.

Recognize outstanding contributors to the business history of the Greater Omaha area who have advanced the excellence of the region, through either sustained superior performance or through a specific achievement.

Recognize the importance of business and free enterprise to the development, future growth and overall quality of life of this community.

Contribute to the overall business image of the Greater Omaha area.

Provide funding, through an annual gala, for projects that contribute to the economic development of Omaha and opportunities for young professionals.



MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

CEREMONY: Jennifer Novak Haar, piano

RECEPTION: Heartland String Quartet

WELCOME & PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Heath Mello, *President & CEO*
Greater Omaha Chamber

Stephen Bruckner, *Partner*
Fraser Stryker PC LLP

Dave Anderson, *Managing Partner*
KPMG LLP

Joe Sullivan, *SVP, Business Banking Market Leader*
U.S. Bank

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Dave Anderson	Brenda Mainwaring	Carmen Tapio
Stephen M. Bruckner	Heath Mello	Willy Theisen
Rodrigo López	Jane Miller	Beth Whited
Linda Lovgren	Jay Noddle	
John Lund	Joseph Sullivan	

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Roger A. Dixon
Todd & Mary Heistand

Chris J. Murphy
The Simon Family
Bruce Simon, posthumously
Todd Simon



View all upcoming events: OmahaChamber.org/Events

Roger A. Dixon



Roger A. Dixon

President & Chief Executive Officer

Metropolitan Entertainment
& Convention Authority

Roger Dixon is the President and CEO of the Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (MECA), which manages the operations of CHI Health Center Omaha and Charles Schwab Field Omaha. He also holds the same titles for MECA Tri-Park Complex, LLC, which operates The RiverFront in downtown Omaha.

Dixon joined MECA in 2000 with the goal of building Omaha's premier arena and convention center. In his over two decades with MECA, MECA's facilities regularly host top concerts and coveted sporting events, such as the Men's College World Series, volleyball and basketball NCAA Championships, and four consecutive Olympic team trials for USA Swimming. Under Dixon's leadership, MECA was also charged with overseeing the construction and activation of The RiverFront. Comprised of three public parks— Gene Leahy Mall, Heartland of America Park, and Lewis and Clark Landing— The RiverFront hosts dozens of events each month and welcomes millions of people annually. The latest project Dixon is overseeing at MECA is the 90,000 square foot expansion of the CHI Health Center's convention center, aimed at allowing Omaha to compete for larger conventions.

Dixon has been in the industry for nearly 50 years. Before coming to Omaha, he served in management positions around the country in cities including St. Louis, Philadelphia, Miami, and Louisville, Kentucky. Dixon was also an executive with SMG, which manages several major facilities throughout the country.

Dixon is a 1976 graduate of Southern Illinois University.



**Omaha Community
Foundation**

Generosity, Amplified

Donor Advised Funds make giving easy and meaningful. Support the causes you love with a fund at the Omaha Community Foundation.

» omahafoundation.org/open

Todd & Mary Heistand



Todd & Mary Heistand

Owners

NuStyle Development Corporation

High school sweethearts Todd and Mary Heistand were born and raised in the close-knit town of Woodbine, Iowa. After graduation, Todd pursued college at ISU and Mary at DMACC, but soon returned home to help operate Mary's family farm due to her father's declining health. When the farm crisis of the early 1980s hit, Todd shifted paths and moved to working in Omaha, launching a full-time career in real estate with a broker's license and construction—an industry he'd worked in since the seventh grade.

While Todd built his career, Mary dedicated herself to raising their four children—Carrie, Mindy, Matt, and Kassey. In 1988, Todd partnered with his sister, Tammy Barrett, to co-found NuStyle Development, the company originally focused on rehabilitating condemned homes. By 1994, they had expanded into multifamily and historical apartment development, completing their first affordable housing project in Omaha. Tammy stepped away in 2003 to raise her own family, and Mary stepped into an active role at NuStyle, guiding the design, aesthetics, and amenities of their properties while Todd leads development and construction.

Over three decades, Todd and Mary have played a transformative role in reshaping Omaha's downtown landscape. Their work brings character and charm to once-forgotten buildings, breathing new life into dilapidated and run-down buildings.

Beyond development, they established the Heistand Family Foundation, dedicated to uplifting families and children affected by poverty. Their commitment to community runs deep, and they remain proud residents of Woodbine, Iowa.

When they're not on a job site, Todd and Mary enjoy traveling—Costa Rica being a favorite destination—boating during their annual family vacation to Table Rock Lake, and riding their Harley through the countryside. Most of all, they cherish time with their 16 grandchildren, whose ages range from Kindergarten to College Freshman. Their growing family keeps their hearts full and their lives joyfully busy.



BUILDING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW, TODAY.

The Omaha Business Hall of Fame Gala is proud to support the Greater Omaha Chamber's Young Professionals program, providing professional development, networking and community engagement opportunities to develop, recognize and retain the next generation of Omaha's trailblazers.

Excellence & Legacy

Bridges Trust proudly supports the Omaha Business Hall of Fame, honoring the remarkable achievements and enduring legacy of its inductees, whose contributions continue to inspire and shape the next generation of leaders.

Congratulations to the 2025 inductees and past honorees of the Omaha Business Hall of Fame.



Chris J. Murphy



Chris J. Murphy
Executive Chairman
First Westroads Bank

Chris J. Murphy is Executive Chairman of First Westroads Bank, one of the most successful locally owned banks serving the community since 1967.. Chris and Betsy purchased the Bank in 1990.

Under Chris's leadership, the Bank has received the coveted highest rating from Bauer Financial for the past 17 consecutive years, and its excellence rating for 32 consecutive years. Bauer Financial recognized First Westroads Bank for excelling in capital adequacy, profitability, asset quality, and much more.

The Murphy Family believes strongly in giving back to the community that has long supported their business and values.

He currently serves on the Creighton University board of directors and on the University of Notre Dame's Graduate Studies & Research Advisory Council.

He has served in leadership roles on the boards and executive committees of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Mid-America Council, Children's Hospital and its Foundation, The Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben, and Nebraska Bankers Association, among others.

Several recognitions include the Chamber's Volunteer of the Year, Scouting's Walter Scott, Jr. Citizen of the Year and the Salvation Army's Tree of Lights Honorary Chairman.

A graduate of Creighton Prep, Drake University, and the Colorado Graduate School of Banking, Chris and Betsy have two children. Their son, Daniel, is part of the Bank's senior leadership and board of directors.

With the Bank's 50th year anniversary, Chris and Betsy created the Murphy Vision Fund from which was made the lead investment in Omaha's Startup Collaborative. Several of those investments are making significant small business transformations.

Since 2013, Chris and Betsy have also sponsored the Murphy Cup, a joint marketing strategy competition between Creighton and Drake University. The event brings together top marketing seniors from both schools to collaborate on real-world client challenges in a weekend-long competition that emphasizes both teamwork and innovation.

Chris's dedication to family, community, education, and entrepreneurship reflects his belief that success is best shared—and that strong communities are built through service and vision.

Bruce Simon



Bruce Simon
President & Chief Executive Officer
Omaha Steaks (posthumously awarded)

Bruce Simon was a fifth-generation family owner of Omaha Steaks, where he served as President and Chief Executive Officer. Bruce's career with Omaha Steaks dates back to his childhood, when he accompanied his father to the plant and helped assemble boxes to earn extra spending money. Bruce began his full-time Omaha Steaks employment in 1981, upon graduation from the University of Pennsylvania – Wharton School of Finance, with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics.

Bruce's first full-time position post college graduation was as Assistant Plant Manager and from there he went on to hold numerous other positions throughout the company until being named President and Chief Executive Officer in 1994. He held this role until the time of his passing in 2021. Under Bruce's direction, the company experienced tremendous growth. The brand, Omaha Steaks, has become synonymous with the finest quality beef and the company's award-winning customer service is unparalleled.

Bruce lived the philosophy of "leading by example." His decisive leadership and genuine philanthropic commitments were evident in all he did. Bruce was recognized as a strong leader in supporting the cultural arts and health and human service organizations both locally and nationally.

Over the years, Bruce was actively involved on the boards of numerous philanthropic organizations including the Omaha Performing Arts Society, Omaha Symphony, Joslyn Art Museum, and Boys and Girls Clubs.

On a professional level, Bruce was a past member and Chairman of the Executive Board of the Nebraska Chapter of the Young Presidents Organization. He also served on the board of the CEO Organization and was a long-time member of the American Meat Institute and the North American Meat Association. At the time of his passing, Bruce sat on the Friends of Florence (Italy) board where he served as treasurer. He was passionate about Italian Renaissance art and its preservation. He loved all things Italian: clothing, art, wine, history, etc.

Bruce and his wife Stacy have two daughters and one granddaughter.

Todd Simon



Todd Simon

Chairman & Chief Steak Evangelist
Omaha Steaks

Todd Simon is a 5th Generation owner of the Omaha Steaks® group of companies, currently serving as Chairman of the Board after almost 4 decades in various roles including Vice-President of Sales & Marketing, Chief Marketing Officer and, most recently, Chief Executive Officer.

Todd joined Omaha Steaks 39 years ago after graduating from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He was responsible for developing and implementing Omaha Steaks' brand strategy and many award-winning marketing programs, as well as the employee development efforts that make Omaha Steaks one of the finest customer service organizations in the USA.

Mr. Simon believes that supporting the community is a critical personal and corporate endeavor. He has had the honor to serve on the Douglas County Visitor Promotion Council since June of 2019, and today as chair of the Committee.

Over the years, Todd continued the Simon family's legacy of philanthropy and dedication to the community by serving on the Boards of Directors for various arts, civic and human services organizations. Currently, Todd serves as a Trustee of the Omaha Community Foundation, President of the Board of Directors of the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, a Director of the Mid-American Arts Alliance and a Trustee of United States Artists.

He was the recipient of the Humanities Nebraska Sower Award and was named Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year by the Nebraska Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. He and his wife Betiana were named Humanitarians of the Year by Inclusive Communities. Todd and Betiana have two children.



CONGRATULATIONS
TODD SIMON

+

IN HONOR OF
BRUCE SIMON

Your dedication to the arts in
Omaha has left a profound
and lasting mark.

Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts
bemiscenter.org

THREE CHEERS FOR

Todd Simon!

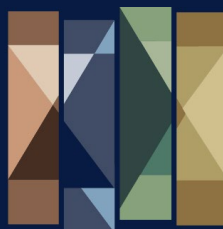
Congratulations on your well-deserved induction into the
Omaha Business Hall of Fame.

Your visionary leadership and steadfast commitment to
making Omaha a more accessible, vibrant, and culturally
enriched community continue to make a lasting impact.

We are proud to work alongside you and grateful for your
enduring dedication to business, civic, and artistic life.

With sincere admiration,

Your Fellow Advisory Committee Members
UNO Samuel Bak Museum: The Learning Center



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

**Samuel Bak
Museum**
The Learning Center

Show up for a student in your community.

Join the Team. Be a Mentor.

1. Scan the QR code or apply at TeamMates.org
2. Receive two hours of quality training
3. Meet your mentee!



TEAMMATESSM

MENTORING



MEMBERS *of the* OMAHA BUSINESS *Hall of Fame*

1993

Rose Blumkin
Warren Buffett
John A. Creighton
Robert Daugherty
Peter Kiewit
V.J. Skutt

1994

Charles W. Durham
Samuel M. Greenberg
Charles M. "Mike" Harper
Herman Kountze
Allan G. Lozier

1995

Abe Baker
Leo A. Daly Jr.
Joseph Hopkins Millard
John J. Mulhall
Walter Scott Jr.

1996

Mildred Brown
Ike Friedman
John R. Lauritzen
Joseph Cullen Root
Willis A. Strauss

1997

Harold W. Andersen
George Brandeis
William F. Fitzgerald
Harry G. Watanabe
Clarence L. Werner

1998

N.P. "Phil" Dodge
Vinod Gupta
George Joslyn
Lester Simon
Roy A. Smith

1999

Milton R. Abrahams
Dr. C.C. and Mabel Criss
Fred H. Hawkins
William A. Paxton Sr.
Charles D. Peebler Jr.
Michael B. Yanney

2000

Eugene C. Eppley
John C. Kenefick
Byron Reed
J. Joe Ricketts
Phillip G. Schrager
Harley D. Schrager

2001

Perry E. "Bill" Esping
John Gottschalk
Wayne L. Ryan, Ph.D.
Maurice M. "Maury" Udes
John A. Wiebe

2002

John D. Diesing
Howard L. Hawks
Joseph Kirshenbaum
Harlan J. Noddle
Amos T. and Alberta F. Pearl
John W. Weekly

2003

C.R. "Bob" Bell
Father Edward Flanagan
Stanley J. How
Kenneth E. Stinson
J. Wendell Thomas
Benjamin Wiesman

2004

Hal Daub
Bruce R. Lauritzen
Lee G. Simmons
David L. Sokol
Robert H. Storz

2005

Jack W. Baker
Charles F. Heider
Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock
Harry A. Koch Jr.
Robert J. Kutak
John P. Nelson

2006

Edward Creighton
Richard K. Davidson
William A. Fitzgerald
Michael R. McCarthy
Alan D. Simon
Frederick J. Simon
Stephen H. Simon
Gilbert C. Swanson
W. Clarke Swanson

2007

Chip Davis
Kathleen C. Dodge
N.P. Dodge Jr.
Henry Doorly
Richard D. Holland
A.F. Jacobson

2008

Tal Anderson
Clifton B. Batchelder
Anne Stuart Batchelder
Edward H. Harriman
William McBain Kizer
Edward Fred Owen
Arthur B. Pittman, D.V.M.

2009

Robert D. Bates
Deryl F. Hamann
Frank L. Hayes
Clarence L. Landen
Harold M. Maurer, M.D.
Michael Simmonds
Pamela Watanabe-Gerdes

2010

Erastus A. Benson
Pennie Z. Davis
Samuel D. Mercer
Joseph H. Moglia
Theodore "Ted" M. Seldin
Janice D. Stoney

2011

Richard R. Bell
Dan Gordman
George F. Haddix
John P. Schlegel S.J.
Wallace Roger Weitz
Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein

2012

Michael G. Fahey
Robert Gregg "Bob" Hoig
Paul and Lori Hogan
Jun and Ree Kaneko
Linda Hoepfner Lovgren
D.J. Witherspoon

2013

Mogens C. Bay
Marshall E. Faith
Susan M. Jacques, G.G., F.G.A.
William M. "Willy" Thelsen
James R. Young

2014

Irvin Blumkin
Louis Blumkin
Ronald Blumkin
John K. Boyer
Paul C. Jessen
Aldo J. Tesi

2017

William A. Cutler
John S. Dinsdale
Stan Olsen
Robert A. Reed
Lee H. Sapp
William D. Sapp

2018

Irving R. Dana Jr.
Gary Gates
Fred Hopka Hawkins Jr.
Kenneth Michael Hawkins
John J. Koraleski
Steven S. Martin

2017

Todd A. Becker
Leo Bozell
Edson L. Bridges II
Jim Clifton
Morris Jacobs
Jane Miller
PJ Morgan

2018

Larry Courtage
Bruce E. Grewcock
Dianne Seeman Lozier
Dan O'Neill
Dr. Maryanne Stevens, RSM

2019

Daniel J. Bishop
Gail DeBoer
John W. Estabrook
Jeff Kavich
Larry Kavich
Lazier Kavich
Gale L. Wickersham
Amea Zetzman

2021

Ronald B. Gartlan
James Linder, MD
Karen A. Linder
Rodrigo Lopez
Robert G. Lueder (1922 - 2013)
Paul Smith

2022

Don Eckles
Linda Eckles
John F. Lund
Jay Noddle
Carmen Tapio

2023

Ron Carson
Gregory S. Cutchall (1952 - 2022)
David Karnes (1948 - 2020)
Beverly Kracher, Ph.D.
Mary Ann O'Brien

2024

Lance M. Fritz
Clarence L. Landen, Jr. (1924 - 2011)
Clarence L. Landen, III
James E. Landen, Sr.
Sid Meridith
Constance Ryan
Joan H. Squires

2025

Roger A. Dixon
Todd & Mary Heistand
Chris J. Murphy
Bruce Simon (1957 - 2021)
Todd Simon

Sponsors

This event is made possible by the generous contributions of our sponsors.

Presenting Sponsors:



Fraser Stryker PC LLO provides comprehensive legal solutions to clients in the Midwest and throughout the country. Whether our clients need strategic legal guidance or formidable litigation representation, our pragmatic approach and collaborative working style ensuring that each client receives customized legal representation. Our full range of legal services includes business law, litigation, employment law, technology, employee benefits, government and regulatory, energy, estate planning, nonprofit law, and more.

Discover all that Fraser Stryker has to offer by visiting www.fraserstryker.com



KPMG is one of the world's leading professional services firms, providing innovative business solutions and audit, tax, and advisory services to many of the world's largest and most prestigious organizations. KPMG is widely recognized for being a great place to work, building a rewarding career and supporting inclusion and diversity and lifelong learning programs. Our people share a sense of purpose in the work we do, and a strong commitment to our core values of doing what is right, providing excellent service, respecting each other and supporting our local community. Our professionals in Omaha and Lincoln provide global support, industry insights, and the quality service our clients expect and deserve by working together with the right team of professionals who live and serve in our mutual community.

Learn more at www.kpmg.com/us



U.S. Bancorp, with approximately 70,000 employees and \$587 billion in assets as of March 31, 2022, is the parent company of U.S. Bank National Association. In Nebraska, there are 34 U.S. Bank offices in 10 cities. Of those, 17 are located in the Omaha metro area. The Minneapolis-based company serves millions of customers locally, nationally, and globally through a diversified mix of businesses: Consumer and Business Banking; Payment Services; Corporate & Commercial Banking; and Wealth Management and Investment Services. The company has been recognized for its approach to digital innovation, social responsibility, and customer service, including being named one of the 2022 World's Most Ethical Companies and Fortune's most admired superregional bank.

Learn more at www.usbank.com/about

Reception Sponsor:



Bridges Trust, established in 1945, is a leading wealth management firm based in Omaha, Nebraska. With a team of 80 professionals overseeing assets exceeding \$10 billion for a diverse clientele with varying needs and affluent backgrounds, including managing \$2.6 billion for non-profit entities. As the state's first registered investment advisor, Bridges Trust remains privately owned, specializing in built to suit services providing trust, investment management, family office, philanthropic consulting and strategic planning services for a growing client base.

Committed to delivering lasting value across generations, Bridges Trust maintains a legacy of trust and excellence both in the financial sector and within the community. Dedicated to supporting the community it serves, Bridges Trust actively contributes to over 50 organizations each year through donations and sponsorships.

Explore more at www.bridgestrust.com and connect on [LinkedIn](#) for updates



Thank You to Our Patrons

ACCESSbank
Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, Inc.
AOI
Baxter
CHI Health
Cordia
Creighton University
Fiserv
Google Fiber
Guinan O'Siochain Law Group
Hamilton Business Technologies
Harrison Financial Services
HDR
Kiewit
Koley Jessen
Lindsay Corporation
Nebraska Medicine
North End Teleservices
NP Dodge
Peetz & Company
Pinnacle Bank
Signature Performance
University of Nebraska System
Valmont
Volano Software
Valentine O'Toole, LLP



View all upcoming events: OmahaChamber.org/Events



voda
CLEANING & RESTORATION

402.621.4997
24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICES AVAILABLE



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE!

CLEANING SERVICES
CARPET & FLOOR
UPHOLSTERY
TILE & GROUT
ODOR REMOVAL
AIR DUCT / DRYER VENT

RESTORATION SERVICES
WATER DAMAGE
FIRE / SMOKE DAMAGE
STORM DAMAGE
MOLD REMOVAL
ODOR REMOVAL

**VODA
CLEANING &
RESTORATION
OF OMAHA-
LINCOLN**



MYVODA.COM/OMAHA-NE/

SERVING BOTH RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS

Congratulations to this year's
Business Hall of Fame Inductees



See their stories on display now!

50 YEARS THE DURHAM MUSEUM

801 S 10TH ST, OMAHA • DURHAMMUSEUM.ORG

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE OMAHA BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

**CONGRATULATIONS
HONOREES!**

Lutz
ACCOUNTING • FINANCIAL • TECH • M&A • TALENT