

Pat Woodrum

After retiring as an Executive Director of the Tulsa City County Library in 1996, Pat Woodrum became a Master Gardener. In 1999, she collaborated with other individuals to create a larger garden, a world-class botanical garden. They visited other gardens in other parts of the country and met with local community leaders to gather vital information. In 2001, Oklahoma State University provided funding to hire a botanical planning firm, to help select a site and develop a master plan. The Garden's first legal address was the home of Pat and Clayton Woodrum. Pat was appointed the Executive Director. In 2002, Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were written. The four founders contribute money to open a bank account. In 2003, an area philanthropist contributed \$25,000 to the Garden, another contributed \$100,000 in stocks. In 2004, Persimmon Ridge, LLC donated 170 acres of land for the Garden site. And, in 2006, The Oklahoma Centennial Commission awarded grants totaling \$2.2 million to the Garden to begin construction on the site. In 2007, Pat invited John Red Eagle, Assistant Chief of the Osage Nation, to have a blessing of the Land Ceremony. Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden was born!

Pat Woodrum has held many positions over the years as the botanical garden was built, Executive Director, CEO, President and continues as a member of the Board. Pat's extensive work and vision has helped create a world-class botanical garden, the Tulsa Botanic Garden!