

News 9 will move offices to downtown Oklahoma City

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Griffin Communications announced Monday an agreement to purchase the Century Center building in Oklahoma City.

The media organization will move its News 9 studios, newsroom and corporate headquarters into the space, and will be spending more than \$26 million, including \$10 million in renovations, to buy the building.

The company anticipates completing its move in 2022, and plans to bring nearly 200 jobs downtown.

The building is located at the corner of Sheridan and Robinson. It is currently occupied by The Oklahoman, Mahogany Prime Steakhouse, the downtown YMCA and others. The Oklahoman and all other current tenants are expected to remain in the building.

“For more than 100 years, Griffin Communications has been committed to keeping Oklahomans safe, informed and entertained, and we believe that our headquarters should be in the heart of the city we serve,” said David Griffin, President and CEO of Griffin Communications.

Ray Rivera, executive editor of The Oklahoman, said, "We welcome Griffin Communications downtown and look forward to the opportunity for collaboration between our news organizations."

Griffin Communications is a 113-year-old, locally owned media company that includes TV, digital platforms, radio and an outdoor billboard network. In addition to News 9, the company owns News On 6 and The Tulsa CW in Tulsa.

The company has been reviewing options for relocating its corporate headquarters and News 9 broadcast organization for several years.

Griffin Communications could potentially receive some financial incentives from the city for its move. An incentive package has been discussed, but not been finalized, and will be examined further by the Tax Increment Financing Board in July, according to the company.

“I am thrilled at the relocation of Griffin Communications downtown, which brings a new kind of energy to our city’s central business district,” Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt said. “It also ensures that the key property they are moving into retains its status as a downtown anchor.”

In addition to the purchase of Century Center, Griffin Communications announced it is exploring options alongside the Inasmuch Foundation, the University of Oklahoma and others to create a media and innovation co-working and news conference space inside the new location.

The Media Innovation Collective would be a central hub for nonprofit and for-profit media organizations and individuals, where they can share resources to cover critical issues facing the state. The shared space would be the first of its kind in the state for media and journalists and include conference rooms, a multimedia studio and more.

“This is an exciting opportunity for media organizations of all sizes to collaborate on stories relevant to Oklahomans,” said Ed Kelley, Dean of the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma. “At Gaylord College, we are committed to new ideas that strengthen accuracy and fairness, ethics, critical thinking and inclusion. We look forward to being part of the discussions about how to elevate journalism, across all platforms, that best serves Oklahoma.”