Dear OAAA members, colleagues, and friends -

As we each reflect on the past year, it is with great pride and gratitude I share the accomplishments we’ve collectively made as an organization. Upon reflection, it is important to underscore how the last year was decidedly different for us.

After returning to pre-pandemic levels faster than expected, our upward trajectory eased in the 4th quarter as a result of economic uncertainty and a challenging ad marketplace. The out of home industry persevered by proving its value to brands and continuing to modernize and advance.

Last year, we looked within, evaluated our playbooks and processes, optimizing for efficiency, and internalized key roles to set a strong foundation for acceleration over the next 12 months and beyond. After surveying members, we established new priorities and goals, consolidated and streamlined committees from 16 down to six, created several new working groups and task forces to spearhead projects that will help advance our industry, and renewed the Independent Media Company Advisory group to ensure OAAA resources are resonating with this important segment of our membership.

We brought more brands into the conversation, doubled the size of our OAAA Brand Council, and hosted a series of very successful Salon Dinners. We increased our focus on media-buying agencies, hosting dinners and meetings to better understand what media buyers want and how out of home can deliver on their needs. For the second year in a row, we hosted our highly popular Agency Days series, convening 200 agencies, brands, and members to discuss the latest industry insights and trends through a local lens. And I would be remiss if I didn’t mention our annual OOH Media Conference in Nashville, which featured over 70 speakers from across the advertising and media spectrum, including executives from Casper, Diageo, goodr, Meta, TripAdvisor, Zelle, and more.

In collaboration with members, brands, and agencies, we produced a record number of research studies to arm members with vital and compelling out of home proof points and Sales Tips, including the extensive, multi-year Benchmarketing OOH Media Effectiveness ROI Analysis.

On the Government Affairs front, we brought on a new Association Counsel, crafted guidance on legal topics important to the industry such as the emergence of amortization proposals in local municipalities, continued to inform our digital media members of emerging state privacy laws, and worked with Members of Congress to broaden the utilization of billboards for constituent services.

This summary merely scratches the surface of our collective achievements. Your unwavering support, active participation, and collaborative spirit are paramount to our success. Thank you for your dedication to OAAA and the industry. Here’s looking forward to another year of perseverance and remarkable progress!

All my best,

[signature]
NEW OAAA LEADERSHIP

After consulting for OAAA for three years, Julie Thompson joined the trade group as EVP and CMO in July to help elevate and amplify the OOH industry.

A well-known advocate for the advertising industry, Julie has a depth of knowledge in media, tech, and creative agency industries in addition to key trade associations. She has served in leadership or advisory roles at IAB, 4A’s, Yahoo, PopSugar, TED, Tumblr, Turner Broadcasting, Fallon, and Leo Burnett Worldwide, and as founder at juliethompsoninc.
Legal
OAAA welcomed a new Association Counsel in 2023 with Allen Smith joining OAAA to assist the government affairs team and member companies on legal and regulatory matters. Allen is Chairman of the Board at SettlePou in Dallas, Texas, and has represented out of home advertisers for over 30 years.

Allen authored a Spring Legal Report which reviewed the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2022 billboard industry case of Austin v. Reagan and related federal circuit court rulings. Allen later issued a Fall Legal “Flash” Report on the emergence of amortization proposals in local municipalities.

OAAA also released a legal and regulatory advisory regarding the installation of ancillary devices on outdoor structures. The memorandum encouraged member companies to thoroughly understand device use and functionality, and informed companies of state privacy laws and compliance obligations surrounding the collection of personal data.

Legislative Activity
OAAA successfully secured billboard protections in U.S. House legislation that would authorize and renew Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) programs. The pending legislation maintains an exemption for billboards and other similar structures from FAA location disclosure requirements.

Congressional Visit
Rep. Mike Ezell (MS), a new member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, visited the Lamar Gulfport office to learn more about out of home advertising and to meet local employees. Rep. Ezell is a former county sheriff and was complimentary of our industry collaboration with law enforcement and emergency management agencies.

OAPAC
Our Outdoor Advertising Political Action Committee is a steady presence for our industry with Members of Congress.
Congressional Recognition

At a congressional hearing, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee leader Rep. Garret Graves (LA) engaged the Administrator of FEMA on the use of billboards for public service messaging. The FEMA Administrator commented that digital billboards and our industry partnership “enhances public safety information and elicits public response.”

Rep. Dan Bishop (NC) recognized the use of digital billboards as a law enforcement tool with remarks in the Congressional Record. Rep. Bishop praised Adams Outdoor for their community work with the FBI and for receiving a Director’s Award from the FBI’s Charlotte field office.

Congress & Billboards

OAAA continued to work with Members of Congress to broaden the utilization of billboards for constituent service purposes. Billboards are an allowable communications option for U.S. House members in reaching out to constituents with official policy messages, to publicize town halls, and to identify government programs.

Industry Conferences

Government Affairs helped secure Mitch Landrieu for our OOH Media Conference in Nashville. Landrieu serves as President Biden’s Senior Advisor and Infrastructure Coordinator, overseeing the landmark $1.2T transportation funding law.

“As we start to rebuild America, we are actually building the canvas that you’re going to use to paint the story and the messages of America.”

Mitch Landrieu
Member Outreach & Engagement

OAAA continues to expand our member services through advisories and working groups. We renewed an Independent Media Company Advisory, chaired by Diana Stevenson at Grace Outdoor, to help inform us on challenges faced by independent billboard operators and ensure that OAAA resources are reaching this important segment of our membership.

Our New York City Working Group, comprised of member companies operating in and around the five boroughs, has become a forum for discussing common interests and industry opportunities, while our Privacy Working Group brings our digital media members together for awareness of evolving state privacy laws and a fast-changing regulatory landscape surrounding digital platforms.

Our work with state outdoor advertising associations remains a top priority for OAAA Government Affairs, as does our continued participation in industry conferences. This year, OAAA attended state association meetings in CO, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, NC, NM, PA, WI, and WV.

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I’ve never been more proud and excited to be in this industry. And OAAA is instrumental in that.

Member, Media Company
Building A Worldclass Function for Future Acceleration

Under new leadership, the marketing department underwent a significant overhaul this year to set a strong foundation for future growth. Key roles were brought in-house, a new project management software system was implemented, and all department vendor and supplier contracts were reviewed. The department is growing the team to deliver on the 2024 pillars of building the marketing function, serving OAAA members even better, and supercharging marketing initiatives to build excitement in the marketplace and help grow the industry.

Bringing Brands into The Conversation

The nascent OAAA Brand Council grew significantly in 2023 to include senior marketing executives from American Express, Columbia Records/Sony, Frontier Communications, Hellofresh, Loewe, L’Oreal, Macallan Whiskey, Novartis, Progressive Insurance, True Value, and UGG. The group is comprised of 22 members and growing.
This impressive network of respected leaders participated in active discussions throughout the year on key issues and emerging trends to inform a playbook for elevating OOH in the marketing mix.

“The Brand Council is one of the absolutely best things you guys do. Getting us in these rooms with marketers is gold.”

Member, Media Company

Beyond the Brand Council, OAAA engaged with brands and agencies at tentpole events throughout the year, including CES, Cannes Lions, POSSIBLE, the World Out of Home conference, Advertising Week, Out of Home New York (formerly Digital Signage Week), and The Ad Club of New York’s Out of Home: NOW event.

At The Female Quotient’s Equality Lounge at CES, Anna Bager discussed how to combat “quiet quitting” with fellow c-suites before connecting with members at a cocktail hour co-hosted by Solomon partners.
OAAA provided a curated experience for member companies at Cannes this year, orchestrating major meetings with brands, and bringing OOH to the Côte d'Azur in a bigger, bolder way. Other activities included a Market Ride “acclimation tour,” a member-focused industry luncheon co-hosted by Clear Channel and Talon, and a VIP Dinner Club with the crème de la crème of Cannes-goers.

Anna Bager discussed OOH brand safety, sustainability, and innovation during a Brand Safety Series interview, shared the stage with leaders from Snap, Yahoo, WPP, Jack Morton Worldwide, and Momentum Worldwide during a Female Quotient panel on how companies can better embrace women executives, and moderated several TED-like Future Gazer sessions on the future of video, sound, and bespoke AI, creativity, neurodiversity, and the weather (the original influencer). Aboard OUTFRONT’s OOH Yacht, Anna led a seaside chat with marketing masterminds Todd Kaplan (Pepsi), Sophie Kelly (Diageo), Randi Stipes (The Weather Company), and Sade Balogun (Peloton).
MARKETING + INDUSTRY INITIATIVES

Discover OOH
This year’s Discover OOH sponsorship series increased the profile and awareness of OOH amongst agency executives and brand decision makers in key markets across the country. The program offered an extended platform to advance dialogue on the enduring strengths of OOH and drive consideration. The series had two pillars:

Salon Dinners were intimate events connecting program sponsors with agency/brand executives to break bread, meld minds, and closely network. This year, four Salon Dinners were hosted in New York, with a total of 13 agencies and 22 brands in attendance.

Agency Days consisted of afternoon events with sponsoring member companies presenting important industry insights and trends to local agencies and advertising professionals, followed by a networking reception. This year, three Agency Days were hosted in Chicago, Austin, and Miami, garnering a total of 275 registrants and nearly 200 attendees.

“Great day learning about the latest out of home trends, stats, and new technology!”
Miami Agency Day Attendee
OAAA/Geopath OOH Media Conference
Over 1,000 people congregated in Nashville at the end of March to tackle the tough topics facing the industry, embrace the enduring strength of OOH, and set the stage for a bold future.

Seventy-two speakers took the stage – both big and small, from tracks to townhalls – to discuss everything from breaking through the generational divide to challenging the status quo, building a more diverse and equitable industry, and supporting high-growth brands.

In addition to strategically planning, programming, and delivering a newsworthy, action-packed 2023 conference agenda, marketing released original, proprietary research and headline-grabbing news stories to promote awareness of the conference and OAAA.
To combat webinar fatigue, we strategically condensed our webinar schedule to cover key topics relevant to our members, using data to inform our programming decisions. We produced eight webinars that explored topics such as the specialists’ perspective, Harris Poll insights, local ad sales insights courtesy of Borrell Associates, retail media, and how to maximize OOH in today’s ad marketplace.
Committees, Working Groups, Councils, and Task Forces

This year, the Industry Initiatives team focused on refreshing all committees, working groups, councils, and task forces, ensuring each group had a clear focus and trajectory. A Committee Member Survey was deployed at the top of the year to better understand what was working, what needed improvement, and which initiatives were important to our members. The feedback was then used to inform the mission, priorities, and goals for each group. Out of this important work, three new working groups and two task forces were formed:

**Student OBIE Awards Working Group:** Established to strategize and curate the launch of the inaugural Student OBIE Awards in search of the next generation of OOH designers. The program officially launched in October, and the winner will be declared at the 82nd Annual OBIE Awards ceremony on April 30, 2024.

**Programmatic Working Group:** Established to put goals declared by the Automation & Programmatic Committee into action. Projects executed are meant to deliver consistency, transparency, and alignment in programmatic DOOH technology and standards, ultimately driving investment and attracting new buyers.

**Taxonomy Working Group:** This working group was declared as an extension of the Data & Analytics Committee. Launched in November, this group plans to evaluate, align, and define naming conventions utilized across the industry, encouraging consistent nomenclature across all sectors (buyers, media owners, tech, measurement entities, etc.).

**Sustainability Task Force:** Comprised of OOH sustainability experts, this group was established to build our industry narrative surrounding sustainability, exploring ways to educate and endorse best practices across the OOH landscape.

**Airport Task Force:** Comprised of Airport OOH leaders, this group was established to discuss pain points and potentially drive consistencies across all airport media suppliers, creating ease in planning and measuring.

*Established in 2023*
Public Service Report

OAAA united the industry throughout the year to support vital public service campaigns, including relief efforts for victims of the Hawaii wildfires and earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Here’s a recap of some of this year’s campaigns:
Research Propels OOH Forward

OAAA, with vital support from FOARE, worked collaboratively with members, brands, and agencies to understand business conditions and deliver valuable insights that best position OOH in an ever-evolving marketplace. In 2023, OAAA produced a record five major research studies from Benchmarketing, The Harris Poll, and Morning Consult, which generated outstanding OOH proof points including:

- **88%** of adults have seen OOH ads in the past 30 days.
- **76%** of U.S. adults took an action on their mobile device after recently seeing an OOH ad. Of those who acted, **43%** made an online purchase.
- Multicultural consumers are even more likely than U.S. adults in general to notice OOH while on shopping excursions (Black: **78%**, Hispanic: **76%**, Asian: **73%**).
- **68%** of U.S. adults notice OOH ads on their way to shop in physical store locations.
- **61%** of adults view billboard ads favorably, higher than any competitive ad media.
- OOH ads for key product categories typically generate consumer notice rates of at least **50%** and usually drive engagement rates around **70%** or more.
- **42%** say OOH ads impact their in-store purchase decisions.

The Benchmarketing OOH Media Effectiveness ROI Analysis revealed highly compelling findings to support agencies and brands shifting greater share to OOH:

- **OOH delivers a strong revenue return on ad sales** (RROAS) that can improve overall campaign RROAS for the total media mix.
- **OOH drives improved brand perceptions** throughout the marketing funnel.
- For the three product categories studied, and independent of ad budget size, no matter the KPI or current RROAS, current media mixes are not being optimized because OOH is not being planned at a sufficient allocation.
- **Underfunding OOH prevents total media plan optimization** because share is being allocated to other channels beyond their point of diminishing returns. TV and Digital tend to be over-spent and Print typically does not perform well for improved sales or brand metrics.
OAAA members used these key insights to promote the power of OOH across their social channels throughout the year, creating customized infographics.
81st Annual OBIE Awards
Twenty-nine awards were presented during the 81st OBIE Awards Show, celebrating creative excellence, showcasing innovative technology, and signaling the future for the OOH industry. This year’s top honor, the Platinum OBIE Award, went to 20th Century Studios for “Avatar: The Way of Water” for its exceptional work in their larger-than-life fantasy adventure, ubiquitous across multiple venues and experiences.

Gold Winners

**Algorand Times Square Takeover**
- Category – Buzzworthy
- Brand – Algorand
- Agency – Invisible North

**RODCO Steel Distributors**
- Category – Custom Installation
- Brand – RODCO Steel Distributors
- Agency – Lamar Advertising

**Find that Thing**
- Category – Interactive (Online Integration)
- Brand – Google
- Agency – MFG and Overall Murals

**FirstBank – Less Intimidating Bankers**
- Category – Consumer Goods & Services
- Brand – FirstBank
- Agency – TDA_Boulder

**Betty White Tribute OOH**
- Category – Public Service & Nonprofits
- Agency – Extra Credit Projects

**“Wednesday”**
- Category – Combined Multi-OOH Formats
- Brand – Netflix

**The OBIE Hall of Fame** went to Netflix for their consistently exceptional creative work and continued investment in OOH over the years.
AWARDING EXCELLENCE

OOH Industry Awards
Every other year, the industry pays tribute to its most influential leaders and visionaries with the presentation of the OOH Industry Awards. In 2023, 11 individuals were celebrated for their significant contributions to the industry.

Myles Standish Industry Award
Sean Reilly

L. Ray Value Marketing Award of Merit
Jeffrey Buntin Sr.
Stephen Freitas

Hall of Fame
Liz Caprio
Michelle Costa
Marc Fenty
Andrea Messimer (posthumous)
Phil Stimpson
Chris Zukin

Rising Star
Stephanie Gutnik
Ross Reilly

Local Case Study Contest
This year’s highly competitive Local Case Study Contest generated over 90 entries, 47 case studies, and two grand prize winners: Jenny Cohen at OUTFRONT Media for Poppi and Ward Farrell at Lamar Advertising Company for Mahalo Heating. Both were granted a free trip to attend the OAAA/Geopath OOH Media Conference to receive their awards.
Media Plan Awards

This year’s OOH Media Plan of the Year went to MilkPEP for its “26.2” campaign, created in partnership with GALE and Talon to reposition Milk as a performance drink while celebrating the power and perseverance of female athletes participating in the 2022 NYC Marathon. Winners were revealed at The Ad Club’s 16th annual Out-of-Home: NOW event in December.

Gold Winners

General Motors Chevrolet
Dentsu & Commonwealth | McCann
Chevrolet: Data-driven Programmatic for Silverado

MilkPEP
GALE | TALON
26.2

Plenty of Fish
OMD Vancouver | 123W | TALON
Redefining Dating Norms

Williamsburg Tourism Council
NPRP Media | Connelly Partners
Life. At Your Pace

Zola
PJX Media
Zola – Engagement Season & Vendor Marketplace OOH

Silver Winners

FBI
Clear Channel Outdoor
FBI- Houston Division

Glossier
PJX Media
Glossier – Q1 2023 OOH

Match.com
NPRP Media
Adults Wanted

Nissan Ariya
Omnicom Media Group
Nissan Ariya 2023

Q Mixers
PJX Media
Q Mixers – Better Mixers
Educate. Inspire. Elevate.

In 2023, we set out to elevate the profile and raise the awareness of both the OOH industry and OAAA by developing a communications strategy that ensures a consistent stream of well-curated positive public relations coverage is disseminated across multiple media and social channels.

We replaced our external PR function with a broader, more connected industry firm, and we in-housed a number of formerly outsourced functions such as website management, analytics, and digital marketing executions, and are in the process of streamlining our operations. All of this has set the stage for an aggressive, comprehensive communications, PR, marketing, and industry outreach program for 2024. Our overall goal is to educate and inspire the marketplace and elevate the OOH medium in the marketing mix.

OAAA released a steady drumbeat of news throughout the year, with 27 news and press releases, resulting in 130+ article mentions and 94 million impressions/UVMs.

Top headlines include: OOH quarterly revenue results, OAAA’s new CMO, Earth Day, OBIE Award finalists and winners, keynotes and coverage of the OOH Media Conference, and a slew of research projects.

Thought Leadership

OAAA’s blog features special reports, thought leadership, and insights from members about the latest trends and opportunities. This year, 25 thought leadership content pieces have been published to the blog.

We reestablished and revamped the Across the Desk series, interviewing industry experts about their perspectives on the industry and future trends. Eight interviews have been featured on The Drum, the OAAA website, our monthly newsletter, and across social channels.
**Membership/New Members**

OAAA provided a high level of service to our members, offering enhanced tools, education, best practices, and resources its members need to ensure advertisers understand the power of OOH.

**Serving Member Interests**

OAAA members remain pleased with the association’s value and level of service, with 90 percent renewing membership in 2023. OAAA put an increased emphasis on membership recruitment, seeking both new members and reaching out to former members. The association welcomed 42 new members in 2023.
At the end of 2023, FOARE’s total assets were $1,163,796 with $86,320 in unrestricted funds and the balance in endowment accounts. A total of $174,950 was contributed by colleagues and friends during the annual Fund Drive. This money was used to support the foundation’s scholarship program and several OAAA marketing research initiatives.

FOARE funded a refresh of the Benchmarking OOH MMM/ROI study, along with marketing and consumer behavior research with The Harris Poll. The total funding for research was $178,000.

Thirteen students received FOARE scholarships for the 2023-2024 academic year, including the inaugural Eric M. Rubin Scholarship. The FOARE Scholarship Program supports the education and career goals of those who are part of the out of home (OOH) advertising industry family as well as students who may have an interest in the industry or be in a position to shape its future.

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Allman Family Business Development, Marketing, and Sales Scholarship

Marlene G. Plua
Reagan Family Scholarship Endowment

Daniel P. Ritter
Reagan Family Scholarship Endowment
And now, on to a great 2024 ahead!