

o! so surprising omaha!



the importance of branding

If great salesmanship were enough to succeed in business, the world would look much different than it does now. Today, with markets becoming more and more competitive, companies must fight harder to ensure their products stand out from the crowd. Indeed, with scores of cities building new convention centers and arenas and enhancing their tourist attractions, it's getting harder to achieve the kind of instant recognition every city hopes for.

That's where branding can help. We all know what a great city Omaha is—what an asset we have in our friendly people, how great our restaurants are, how easy it is to get around, how wonderful our zoo is, and on and on. We know what makes us unique. Branding is the strategy that can help others recognize those assets, too. Branding creates name recognition for the city—and moreover, it helps people associate it with a reputation for something meaningful and valuable to visitors and prospective visitors and meeting planners.

Branding is not just marketing. It's an entire strategy. World-class examples include Volvo (safety and rugged construction), Coca-Cola (the "real" thing), Mercedes (luxury and engineering), Hilton (business travel), United Airlines (the friendly skies).

Tenets of branding include:

- The slogan must be simple or memorable.
- The slogan must be associated with a position, capability, characteristic, or value that is credible.
- The branding must be unique, differentiatable or asserted before anyone else.
- The message must be clear and iterated, reinforced by everything the company/city does.

- The branding should be derived from and integrated into the company's/city's vision statement and strategic plan.
- The company/city must exercise discipline to eschew any message or activity inconsistent with the brand.
- Everyone—even including accounting staff—must understand the branding position, be able to articulate it, practice it, and embrace it every day.

Branding can be an important strategy for those seeking to gain access to higher value clients and contracts. Furthermore, development of a branding strategy can often force a company—or, in this case, an entire service industry—to develop the focus and discipline so necessary to succeed in today's competitive environment for tourist and convention dollars.

If implemented, the hotels and motels, restaurants, retailers who cater to visitors, museums and galleries, and so on, should be brought on board so that delivery is consistent across organizational units. Brand development is a process of aligning the behavior of every component delivering service to tourists and convention-goers.

Our goal—and the goal of every employee within the GOCVB and associated businesses—should be to show every visitor to Omaha what delightful surprises we can bring to their stay here. The benefits of branding can include customer loyalty and pricing power, but can also include greater employee cohesiveness, easier decision-making, lower systemwide marketing costs, more success in attracting good employees, and better employee retention.

marketing elements incorporating the brand

While branding should not be considered merely marketing—indeed, it should be part of your overall marketing strategy to enhance the city's reputation and recognition as a destination for visitors and business groups—marketing elements can play an enormous role in making manifest the city's vision, attractiveness, and capabilities and doing so in an iterative way. For this reason, we suggest the GOCVB consider incorporating the O! so surprising Omaha! branding in the following ways. Not all of these are cost-intensive, and those that are can often be underwritten by a sponsoring business or costs can be shared by another interested agency, e.g., the Chamber of Commerce, Old Market Business Association, etc.

- O! sculptural artist competition, public sculpture to be displayed throughout metro
- O! 24/7 projection on certain structures with large windowless areas within the downtown and Old Market areas as well as the Cuming Street area targeted for renewal
- O! on taxis and buses on taxis, could be sculptural rooftop spinners
- O! Duratrans at bus shelters, painted at bus stop benches without enclosures
- O! interactive kiosks located in the airport, Old Market, Qwest Center, major malls
- O! street banners near airport, Qwest Center, downtown. Old Market
- O! top-notch goodie bags, containing enamel O! lapel pins, O! yo-yos, O! mugs, O! multimedia CD-ROMs, O! decals/window clings, O! bumper stickers, O! maps, etc., along with coupons/gifts from Omaha GOCVB partners/businesses (Omaha Steaks, One Pacific Place, Upstream Brewing, Saddle Creek Records, M's Pub/Vivace, Gadgeteer, Nebraska Furniture Mart, etc.). Goodie bags are given to visiting press, convention & meeting planners, and so on, and would be available at a cost-only fee for conventions to give out to attendees. Goodie bags themselves would be designed with O! logo and branding theme, as would the inserted tissue paper.
- O! artist-created tiles embedded in sidewalks throughout the downtown/Old Market area,

- possibly in some mall areas, Dundee, Benson, 13th Street antiques corridor, airport, etc.
- O! caps, t-shirts, polo shirts, golf gloves
- O! pin-backs for all airport skycaps, taxi drivers, bus drivers, downtown retailers, downtown service staff (i.e., hotel staff, wait staff at restaurants, etc.) to wear.
- O! brochure dumps at the airport, Qwest Center, major mall information desks, some retailers and restaurants.
- O! wrappers for all trash receptacles in the Qwest
 Center, airport, downtown and Old Market areas.

In addition, the O! so surprising Omaha! logotype should be extended to all marketing elements: the website, visitors guide, group tour mailings, press kits, e-newsletter, letterheads, business cards, banners and Duratrans for trade shows, and so on.

We would strongly recommend that marketing efforts—i.e., advertising, postcards, and brochures—be widely disseminated to the audiences targeted by the GOCVB: tourists and casual visitors, tour groups, and meetings and convention planners. Subject areas for these pieces should include: golf and sports, dining, the arts, shopping (including antiques), spas and health clubs, children-friendly attractions, family reunions, hotels, holidays, meetings and conventions, neighborhoods of Omaha, and, finally, a general piece on attractions and special events.

O! branding concept one



Our first branding concept utilizes the iterated circle form of the O from the logotype as well as the first letter of the city's name. In advertising and marketing materials, images would be comprised of circular images from nature and man-made objects.

The circle form suggests completeness and solidity without being static, since it also suggests movement. It is that wholeness and liveliness that we want to convey with this

branding scheme, since those are aspects of Omaha's character as well.

This concept allows for a certain flexibility for the designers of marketing materials; when a local image that conveys the circle is not at hand, it's easy enough to find a stock image that does. Perhaps one of the bigger challenges faced by designers for the GOCVB is a paucity of fresh and creative local photographs. This concept neatly steps around that obstacle.

examples of usage / branding concept one



Brochures would incorporate vivid colors and each would also have a die-cut circle revealing a circular image from the inside of the brochure.

golf brochure (front, above; inside, right)





kids brochure (front, above; inside, right)



examples of usage / branding concept one (cont.)



Yippie-i-0!

Yes, Omaha is a sophisticitated metropolitan area of nearly a half-million people, with Fortune 500 companies and other dynamic businesses, a renowned medical community, great restaurants and shopping, and more. But we've newer forgotten our roots. Our River City Roundup is a rip-reserin', broncsmortin' colebration with a rodeo, music, food and festivities every Labor Day weekend.

For more information, go to www.visitomeha.com or contact the Greater Omana Convention & Visitors



O!-la-la!

Forgive us if we preen and strut, but it's a fact: Omaha has one of the ration's greatest zoos. In fact, Henry Doorly Zoo was named the Best Zoo in America according to Mender's Digest. The zoo is home to the world's largest indoor rainforest, desert, nocturnal exhibit and indoor swamp, a world-class aquarium, a brand new state-of-the-art gorilla complex, IMAX theater and more.

For more information, go to www.visitomaha.com or contact the Greater Omaha Convention & Visitors



0! YES!

When it comes to golf, you oughts come to Omaha! With more than 50 golf courses in the metro area—including two PGA sanctioned courses—Omaha is a golfer's dream. We have courses to challenge the pros, as well as courses even the most casual golfer will find fun. Omaha effers up an unforgettable golfing experience, so don't forget to pack your clubs!

For more information, go to www.visitomaha.com or contact the Greater Omaha Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-80/-YES-OMAN4



Past, present & future meet

Advertising and postcards would

incorporate images

bright colors, and the

O! logotype in a bright

with circle theme,

red color.

We're as close to our past in Omaha as we are to our present and future. The Durham Western Heritage Misseum, Joshyn Musseum and Nebraska and the Deuglas Country Historical Society have hupe repositories of art and artifacts illuminating America's past. The Bernis and Jestyn's art collections feature the best of looksy's working artists. And our Strategic Air and Space Museum give us a look at the present and future. It's all right nere in Omaha!

OI o! se surprising Ornaha!
For more information, po to www.violtomaha.com
or contact the Greater Omaha Convention & Visitors



Reel easy, omaha is one of the film world's secret weapons. We have a place in cinematic his-tory; actors Martino Brands, Henry Fonds, Ford Astalie, Nick Notle, and Montgomery Citit, screenwitters Nichokas Sparks and Alexander Psync, among others, were born here. Filmmakers and producers are finding that Omaha is a particularly film-friendly, easy place to work. The Groater Comaha Film Commission helps them with all the logis-

For more information, go to www.visitomaha.com or contact the Greater Crasha Convention & Visitors forms at 1-0-0-756-0MAMA



Let's shop!

Sure, Omaha has all the best well-known shops: Pottery Barn, J. Jill, Williams-Sonoma, Von Maur, Banna Republic, Nebraska Furnihare Mart and so many more. But we've also got such fabelous jewels as Borsheim's, hot shoes at Deniz, home accessories at Royal Deoor, exotic stuff from the Soud, the hippest fashion from Novvelle Eve, state-of-the-art stuff from The Gadgeteer, high-design furnihare at Room, great style from She-La, and on and on. Shop til you drop!

examples of usage / branding concept one (cont.)





O! so surprising Omaha!

Examples of vertical-style ads or postcards.

Street banners incorporate keylines of circular images on bright color field with O! logo reversed out.

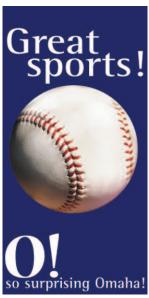
0! so surprising Omaha!

and lazz, blues, and rock bands music lovers across the nation revere.

For more information, go to www.visitomaha.com or contact the Greater Omaha Convention & Vis

dance and opera. See what everyone's raving about in









O!

branding concept two



Branding concept two capitalizes on the "surprising" aspect of the slogan "O! so surprising Omaha!" Using photos of people expressing delighted surprise adds an element of humor and whimsy to the marketing campaign.

We propose using images of well-known people, e.g., Bob Gibson, Warren Buffett, Eric Crouch, Karrin Allyson, etc. to bring added recognition and a stronger sense of community and identity. Well-known personalities are not, however, essential to this branding concept; unknown people, thus enabling the use of stock images, would do nearly as well.

In either instance, these portraits would be placed in front of images of Omaha. The GOCVB's stock of Omaha images is somewhat limited and many of those images are somewhat overused and even static. Use of the people images in front will give them new life and liveliness.

In addition, this concept incorporates the use of words with the letter "O", e.g., wonder, look, awesome, sports, etc. The "O" in each word is then replaced by the O! logotype, reinforcing the brand profile and recognition.

examples of usage / branding concept two

Brochures would incorporate images of people in front of Omaha places. Additional images would be culled from stock of local photos.



Whether your taste runs to Noel Coward or John Guare, Tchaikovsky o Musselwhite, Ives or Cursive, Balanchine or Tharp, Titian or Motherwell, Omaha's got you covered.

a renowned symphony

orchestra, dance, terrific art museums and galleries, opera and rock bands music lovers across is raving about in O! so surprising

We have 20 theatre companies,

cultural events in Omaha, visit our





Nebraska Wind Symphony Various Incations



Omaha Civic Auditorium/Arena/Musi

arts brochure (front, above; inside, left)





and more than 70 miles of hiking and biking trails



Parks, Gardens, Trails & Mor-Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, 1111 N. Bellevue Blvd., Bellevue





spas

brochure

(front, above; inside, right)

logotype. As demonstrated, brochures could follow a different format.

In addition, brochures would use headlines of one or two words with the letter O in

them, the letter O being replaced by the O!





examples of usage / branding concept two (cont.)



Advertising and postcards would incorporate images with delighted and surprised people, keylined in front of an Omaha image, if possible, and featuring the O! logo in the headline word. In most cases, use of the logo and type would be reversed out.

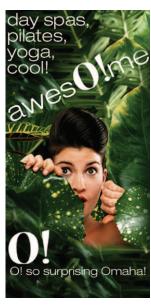


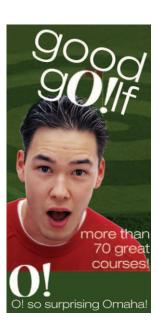
new horizons in

examples of usage / branding concept two (cont.)

Street banners incorporate similar usage of delighted and surprised individuals with either background image or keylined vignette images.









O!

branding concept three



The third branding concept incorporates sleek images of Omaha and its attractions, aimed at attracting a sophisticated audience. While the overall effect of this concept is somewhat more quiet than the previous two concepts, the subtle image manipulation of the overlying O logo within the images gives this concept a more high-tech, hip feel. The reiteration of the O logo again adds to the logo's recognition and profile.

In general, this concept incorporates deeper,

more jewel-toned colors. The typeface used for this concept is highly readable, but a classic serif face, evoking tradition and solidity. However, the copy for this concept is intended to be clever and sophisticated, with an element of humor.

This concept casts a decidedly different spotlight on Omaha—one of a desirable, hip and sophisticated destination for both tourists and for business groups.

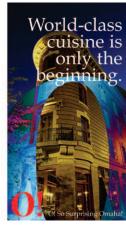
examples of usage / branding concept three

Brochures would incorporate images of Omaha collaged with O logo. Interiors would include elaborate montages of many Omaha images.



13th Street Coffee Company Big Fred's Pizza Garden 519 S 13th St 110th St

Here are just a few of Ornaha's great restaurants. For more and for further information, please visit our website: www.visitomaha.com or call us at 1-866-YES-OMAHA. Gorat's 4917 Center St Grover Street Food & Sp 3650 5 72nd St House of Hunan 2405 S 132nd St Howard's Charro Co 4443 5 13th St



Omaha has more restaurant per capita than any other city in the country.

restaurant brochure (front, above; inside, left)

Whatever your meeting needs, Omaha can accommodate you!

Charlie's Seafood & Grill 3321 S 72nd St

Charlie's Scafood and Grill 3604 Twin Creek Drive

Day Rheinland Restaurant 2533 S. 174th Plaza

Dary Maze

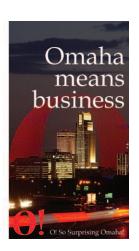
Our new 194,000-square-foot convention center is only

one of dozens of meeting venues.

Qwest (

Figby's Restaurant & Le 3346 N 108th St

and our sales staff your RFP and we will respon a timely manner with hotels and other facilities at fit your specific needs. Or visit our website to and us an e-mail with your needs.



Meetings & conventions brochure (front, above; inside, left)

examples of usage / branding concept three (cont.)



Families find new horizons in Omaha.

From the nationally-acelaimed Henry Doorly Zoo to the wizardry of the Omaha Children's Maseum, with field trips to the amesone Pentenelle Forest and Strategic Air and Space Museum, you'll find Omaha is just the kind of place kida—and families—adore! Omaha offers you new orizons.

Visit our website for more information: www.visitomaha.com or call the Greater Omaha Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-866-YES-OMAHA

Advertising and postcards would incorporate images with sophisticated use of large photos of Omaha places overlaid with the O logo, and also using smaller images of Omaha places in a montage. Type is traditional serif, but copy is sophisticated, hip, and alluring. All type and logos reverse out.





examples of usage / branding concept three (cont.)

Street banners incorporate O logo overlaid on an image from Omaha.

Typeface is serif, and copy is informative and sophisticated.



