



VISITCHEROKEENATION®

Cultural Tourism Report

March 2024

Reporting Period: Oct. 2023-Jan. 2024

7 Museums

Cherokee National History Museum
Saline Courthouse Museum
Cherokee Nation Supreme Courthouse Museum
John Ross Museum
Sequoyah's Cabin Museum
Cherokee National Prison Museum
Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch

3 Cultural Sites

Cherokee National Peace Pavilion
Cherokee Cultural Pathway
Cherokee National Research Center

2 Gift Shops

Cherokee Nation Gift Shop - Tahlequah
Cherokee Gift Shop - Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa

1 Welcome Center

Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell
Cultural & Welcome Center

Operations

- ↑ 14,220 Guests
- 52 Group Tours
- ↑ \$479k Retail Revenue

Cherokee History Course

- 1 Community
- 72 Participants

Guests Served

- ↓ 419 Genealogy Requests
- 13 Programs/Events

Artist Impact

- \$714k Artist Recovery Act Spend
- 302 Artists Participating in Programs

News & Reviews

- 4.5-5.0 on Trip Advisor – 6 Locations
- *Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural & Welcome Center* named Tribal Destination of the Year by American Indian Alaskan Native Tourism Association

Social



Followers: 116.9K
Key Demographic: 35 – 44 female



Followers: 11K
Key Demographic: 55 – 64 female



Web

Pageviews: 110,402
New Visitors: 44,713
Returning Visitors: 3,309
Top Page Visited: Home
Primary Demographic: 18-24 Female



Look Ahead - 3 Month

Active Projects

John Ross Museum
On schedule – Complete Mar. 2024
Structural Repairs

Cherokee Heritage Center
Master site planning in progress. Currently finalizing master plan concepts.

Supreme Court Museum
Complete March 2024
New stormwater drainage, gutters and windows

Carlisle Cabin
Complete June 2024
Relocation of the Tahlonteskee Cabin to Sequoyah's Cabin Museum property. Cabin to be repaired as needed and adding electrical for lighting.

Beck Mill
Master site plan in progress focused on mill restoration and additional site amenities.

Dwight Mission
Master site planning underway.
Two-phase approach with site improvements and renovations to existing structures as a priority.

Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch
Master Plan Complete Mar. 2024
Structural repairs on 2-story home, barn, and caretaker's house.

Programs & Events

Cherokee Nation Scavenger Hunt
Mar. 19th – 23rd, 10am-4pm
All Museums
Scavenger hunt that can be downloaded from visitcherokeenation.com or on FB.

Spring Break Make & Take
Mar. 21st, 10am-4pm
All museums and Welcome Center
Make and Take Activities are provided

Culture Class: Wild Onion Gathering
Mar. 28th, 10am-2pm
Saline Courthouse
Join us in learning more about identifying the plant, using sustainable gathering practices, and the uses of wild onions.

Trail of Tears Art Show: Reception
April 5, 6pm-8pm
Cherokee Springs Art Gallery

Trail of Tears Art Show
April 6th – May 11th 10am – 4pm
Cherokee Springs Art Gallery

Yoga on the Lawn
April 13th 11am – 12pm
Cherokee Nation Capitol Square
1 hour of yoga on the lawn.

Watercress Fest
April 29th 10am – 4pm
Saline Courthouse Museum
A Environmental themed festival meant to be both education, inspirational, and fun for all.

Cultural Class - Painting
Apr. 24th 11am – 1pm
Anna Mitchell Cultural and Welcome Center
Traci Rabbit- Feather painting

Red Fern Festival
Apr. 26th 12pm – 3pm, 27th 11am-2pm
Cherokee National History Museum
Tradition games and crafts.

Native Games
May. 18th, 10am – 2pm
Sequoyah's Cabin Museum
Join us for a day of festivities in conjunction with the Native Games. Food truck onsite and make and take crafts.

Look Ahead - 3 Month

Exhibitions

Roy Boney Jr.: Notes from the Storyteller's Sketchbook
 Aug. 31-April 2024
 Cherokee Cultural Pathway, Tahlequah

Cherokee Delegate: An Unalterable Promise
 Sept. 2, 2023-June 1, 2024
 Cherokee National History Museum, Tahlequah

Weynema Smith: To Live a Cherokee Life
 Jan. 9 – May 11, 2024
 Saline Courthouse Museum

Cherokee Heritage Center: A Legacy of Culture
 Ongoing
 Cherokee National Research Center

Bill Rabbit: Variations on a Rainbow
 Nov. 17- May 12, 2024
 Anna Mitchell Cultural and Welcome Center

Cherokee History Course

Vian-District 5
 Tuesdays Feb. 22 –Mar. 21 6p-8p
 Vian Community Foundation
 1110 N. Thornton St.

South Coffeyville-District 11
 Thursdays May 9 – Jun. 6 6p-8p
 Native American Fellowship
 215 Oklahoma Street

Tahlequah-District 11/2/3
 Tues. & Thur., July. 16 –July 30 6p-8p
 Tri-Community (W.E.B) Association
 17914 S. 580 Rd.

Jay-District 10
 Tuesdays July 23 – August 20 6p – 8pm
 Jay Community Building
 429 South 9th St.

Tulsa – District 13 and At-Large
 Tuesdays Sept. 10 – Oct. 8 6pm – 8p
 Helmerich Center for American Research at
 Gilcrease Museum
 1400 North Gilcrease Museum Road

Lunch and Learn
 Mar. 26th 12pm – 1pm
 Tahlequah Armory Municipal Center
 100 N Water Ave.
 Tahlequah, OK 74464

Lunch and Learn
 Apr. 9th 12pm – 1pm
 Tahlequah Armory Municipal Center
 100 N Water Ave.
 Tahlequah, OK 74464

Lunch and Learn
 May 14th 12pm – 1pm
 Tahlequah Armory Municipal Center
 100 N Water Ave.
 Tahlequah, OK 74464



The following report covers the activities of the CCO staff for the month of February 2024.



Community Organization Training & Technical Assistance

**Number Community Organization receiving
technical assistance in February**

40

Community Organizations receiving assistance in February

Adair County Health Coalition (D7&8)	Kansas Cherokee Community Org (D9)
Adair County Historical & Genealogical Assoc (D7&8)	Kansas City Cherokee (AL)
Association of Ottawa County Cherokees (D10)	Longshadows Ranch (D1)
Brushy Community Org (D7)	Lower Illinois Cherokee Connection (D2)
Cherokee Cemetary Restoration Org (D1)	Marble City Activiy Org (D3,5,6,7)
Cherokee Citizens of Sperry (D13)*	Muldrow Cherokee Community Org (D6)
Cherokee Community of Central CA (AL)	Native American Fellowship, Inc (D11)
Cherokee Community of North Texas (AL)	No We Ta Cherokee Comm Found (D12)
Cherokee Elder Council (D15)	North Tulsa Cherokee Comm Org (13,14)
Cherokee of the Northern Central Valley (AL)	Oaks Family Support Center (d2,9)
Cherokees of the Greater Central Valley (AL)	Oaks Senior Community Center D2,9)
Fairfield Community Org (D8)	Old Saline Cherokee Association (D5)
Four Corners Community Building (D15)	People's Community Center
Gadugi Cherokee	Remember the Removal Legacy Asso (D1)
Georgia Cherokee Alliance (AL)	Tailholt Community Org (D3)
Greasy Community Fellowship Org (D7)	United Cherokee Alliance
Greater Wichita Area Cherokee Comm (AL)	Victory Cherokee Org (D13,14,15)
Hulbert Cherokee Community Org (D1)	Washington County Cherokee Asso (D12)
Illinois River Community Org (D2)	Watts Community Building Org (D7,8)
Jay Cherokee Community Org (D9,10)	Willamette TsaLaGi Comm (AL)

*New Organization (D##) Council District Served

In February CCO Staff a Leadership Training for our Cherokee community organizations. This learning event was in conjunction with Mission Karisma and Dr. Daniel Billingsley, a leader in non-profit governance. The event was held at the Hulbert Cherokee Community Organization facilities on Saturday, February 24th.



**Number of technical assistance hours
provided in February**

300

CCO staff began connecting Sister Communities this month. Staff assist 5 At Large groups in adopting 5 local community groups in February.

**Number of technical assistance hours
provided in February**

5

CO

Cultural Outreach & At-Large Communities

Cherokee Nation hosted with the Cherokees of Central Florida At-Large community February 10th. The event took place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lake Mirror Auditorium in Lakeland, Fla., Attending this event were Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr., Deputy Chief Bryan Warner and at-large councilors Julia Coates and Johnny Kidwell. Tribal Registration was also on site for photo IDs and citizenship applications. Education Services and Cherokee Vote also were in attendance to assist citizens.

**Attendance at the Cherokees of
Central Florida annual meeting**

425

February 17th Cultural Outreach staff traveled to Englewood, CO to assist the Colorado Cherokee Circle with a presentation on Creating Cherokee Medicine Bags. Our ancestors honored the spirit of the animals they killed by not wasting any part of the body. Hides, sinew, bones and teeth were all used for some purpose. The participants learned how to sew up the edge of the bag as well as do picot beading around that bag edge. On a snowy day, there were 54 present for the live class while 71 participated through the ZOOM connection. Each in-person participant was able to complete their own medicine bag, and staff left the organization 33 kits to use for those watching remotely and any other class they may wish to host in the future.



Volunteer Program

In February, Volunteer Program staff completed four projects for our elders. This included two handicap ramps for citizens needing improved access to the own homes. Volunteer Program staff also provided fire wood for home heating to our elders.

Communities with February Volunteer Program Projects

<u>Bunch</u>
<u>Fort Giibson</u>
<u>Hulbert</u>

Number of Volunteer projects in February

4

Volunteer Program staff also worked on scheduling projects for March's Spring Break groups. They also began design and construction of an outdoor classroom for visiting groups for meals and cultural presentations.



**THE ASSOCIATION OF
MILITARY
OSTEOPATHIC
PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS**

On the evening of February 29th Volunteer Program staff worked with the organizers of the Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons Annual Meeting in Tulsa. To provide a volunteer opportunity for the Association's meeting participants. Fifty meeting attendees provided labor on a community building in the northern part of Tulsa County.

**Number of Volunteer from the AMOPS
Annual Meeting**

50

**Number hours of service Volunteer from by
the AMOPS Annual Meeting volunteer**

150

Cemetery Maintenance

CCO staff began accepting Applications for the Cemetery Preservation and Restoration program in February. In FY 2023 the total number of Cemetery Applications was 81. We look forward to meeting that number again this year.

**Number of Cemetery maintenance
applications processed in so far in 2023**

81

CWY 50hA0J Dh0R0Y

Language Department

0ZFW January - 05F February 2024

Executive Director: Howard Paden

Phone: 918-207-7133

Email: howard-paden@cherokee.org

Cherokee Language Programs

14th Generation Institute (14 Gen)

- Sequoyah Schools after-school Cherokee language program, Cherokee language immersion tutoring

Cherokee Nation Institute of Excellence (IOE)

- Cherokee speaker bridge program

Cherokee Teacher Bridge Program (TB)

- Cherokee Language teacher development, linguistic training

Cherokee Language Teacher Training Scholarship

- Cherokee language scholarship

Community Language

- Online classes, community language classes, and at-large community classes.

Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program (CLMAP)

- Adult Cherokee immersion and language teacher training

Community Voice, Cherokee Sounds

- Weekly Cherokee language radio show

Language Technology

- Cherokee language technology and outreach

Native Language Community Coordination (NLCC)

- Cherokee language curriculum development, language board and teacher certification

Translation

- Cherokee translations, presentations, community outreach

Cherokee Speaker Services

- Emergency housing needs service team

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	REPORTING PERIOD	YEAR-TO-DATE
# of staff presentations/classes	7	12
# of participants-Outreach	427	658
# of on-site classes	0	3

# of participants in on-line class	Not in Session. Spring session starts in March	2679
# CLMAP participants	28	44
# 14 th Generation students	25	FY2022-29, FY2023-25
# contract community classes	0 (spring session will begin April)	11
# language translations (internal)	7,804	43,788
# language translations (external)	1703	6,113
# teacher certifications/proficiency	Proficiency-0 Certification-0	Proficiency- 1 Certification-0
# language technology inquire/assistance	316	631
# language posters printed	610	1,371
# USB drives handed out	500	1964
#Teacher Bridge Program participants	12	12
# Teacher Bridge documents translated	5	32
#Teacher Bridge lesson plans translated	0	40
# IOE Contracts with speakers	6	6

Institute of Excellence (IOE)

Highlights:

- The IOE has documented over 300 hours of audio from speakers throughout the communities who are of an average age of 60 years old or older. The speakers in these areas speak at a distinguished level and use words not often heard in everyday conversation. The topics range from traditional stories, current events, oral history, and traditional medicines/methods.
- The dialectical demographic spans from Salina, Vian, Belfonte, Nightcut, Marble City, Stilwell, Bell, Rocky Mountain, Cherry Tree, Cookson, Briggs Flat, Gore, Chewey, Locust Grove, Kenwood, Rose, and Jay with more to come.
- The new cohort began in November 2023 with a new group of distinguished speakers from around the 14-county reservation. We have five new Cherokee speakers we are visiting for six months and then we will start the selection process again.

- The historical documents are being processed and the archivist is working on cataloging them for future pedagogy material. Future generations will have access to identified endangered Cherokee words.
- The IOE compile notes and are developing a portfolio of the progress. We are acquiring material for curricula development. This material will be reviewed by the program and will contain hundreds of words and sentences for advanced students to learn from.

Cherokee Teacher Bridge Program (TB)

Highlights:

- TB welcomed 10 new participants to the program in January.
- TB has two participants in the Cohort 1 group. They are in their Spring practicum placements at the Immersion School, CLMAP, and NSU Cherokee language classes. They are in Cherokee language classrooms teaching or observing for most of the day M-F.
- Our Cherokee speakers are working with new cohort members to develop their Cherokee language for specific pedagogical purposes in the classrooms in which they are teaching.
- Our translators continue to work on documents that can be used for teaching in Cherokee language classrooms.

Community Language (Dictionary/archive, community classes, online classes, public events)

Highlights:

- The Digital Language Archive project successfully acquired and installed Preservica and Archivera programs. These programs will form the backbone architecture of the digital archive and storage retrieval system for all Cherokee language documents.
- The spring community language classes will begin in April. To schedule a class, please contact language@cherokee.org or call 918-207-4901.
- JP Johnson & John Wofford have been conducting classes with at large communities as part of the At Large Language Program. They recently wrapped up classes for the Los Angeles and San Diego Cherokee at large communities. To schedule classes with the at large communities, contact Kevin Stretch at kevin-stretch@cherokee.org.
- Saving the Voices project recorded 46 interviews between January 1 and February 29th.

Cherokee Teacher Training Scholarship

Highlights:

- Paid out 11 scholarships for scholarship recipients at NSU. They are all pursuing their teaching certificates for Cherokee language.
- Hired Sarah Oosahwee as the Cherokee language scholarship advisor.

Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program

Highlights:

- Received 51 applications for the Spring 2024 CLMAP Cohort. 8 new learners will begin the program March 11, 2024. Fall Cohort applications will be available late Spring for a September placement. Applications will be in person and on the program's website.
- On February 23, five CLMAP participants graduated from the program. These individuals were a part of a pilot cohort made up of state certified teachers whose focus was language learning and heritage language pedagogy in preparation of entering a certified teaching position at one of the Cherokee Language Immersion Schools upon completion of the program.
- CLMAP is partnering with Public Health and Education Services to provide language support for the 2024 Know Your Nation Youth Summit.

- CLMAP welcomed newly recognized Cherokee National Treasure Steve Daugherty for an arrow making class. The class was conducted in Cherokee.
- CLMAP hosted guests from the Menominee Nation, Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Institute and Cheyenne Arapaho Nation to provide support in areas of language immersion, Master/Apprentice, and language curriculum development.

Language Technology (Cherokee language software, design, media, outreach)

Highlights:

- Attended training sessions with VoiceQ software to prepare staff for Amazon Cherokee language dubbing project.
- Jeff Edwards did a presentation for the University of Illinois for their Indigenous Technologies class on the importance of technology for Cherokee Language revitalization.
- Working with Presidio Software to develop back up solutions for Cherokee translation staff computers.
- Roy Boney served as a panelist on the Cherokee Journalism and Printing celebration hosted by Cherokee Cultural Tourism. He covered the topic of Cherokee syllabary being adapted to all forms of writing technology since the 19th century.

Translation(Translations, presentations, community outreach)

Highlights:

- Translation staff Anna Sixkiller, Dennis Sixkiller, Sammy Still, David Crawler, and Phyllis Edwards traveled to Cherokee, NC to meet and attend the Eastern Band's ribbon cutting of their Cherokee Speaker Center.
- Translation hosted the monthly Cherokee Speakers Bureau Lunches for the months of January and February. Over 200 Cherokee speakers were served and provided free health screenings from Health Services staff.

Cherokee Speaker Services

Highlights:

- Speaker services has placed 5 emergency trailer homes and 2 modular homes on the past 2 months
- 7 home rehabs completed
- Collaborating with behavior health Telehealth office on substance abuse issues for speaker population
- Adding to our Speaker Services administrative staff

Cherokee National Treasures Advisory Committee Report March 2024

Cherokee National Treasures are featured at the Saline Courthouse Museum on a three month rotating basis. The following Treasures and their work will be featured in the upcoming months:

-Weynema Smith (Language) Her exhibit, "To Live a Cherokee Life" began on January 9th, 2024 and will run through May 11th, 2024.

As part of their exhibit each artist has the opportunity to host an artist talk and/or demonstration held at the museum. The National Treasures exhibit calendar for 2024 is currently in the works for the Saline Courthouse Museum.

Cherokee National Treasures Mentorship Program is open for Fiscal Year 2024. Each year the program budgets for 10 Cherokee National Treasures to host class sessions for two or more students at a time. The following Treasures are hosting classes: Troy Jackson (Pottery) and Lena Stick (Basketry).

Several Cherokee National Treasures along with other Cherokee artists have their artwork featured in a new exhibit, "To Take Shape and Meaning: Form and Design in Contemporary American Indian Art." The Treasures are Martha Berry, Vivian Cottrell, Bill Glass, Jr., Jane Osti and Lisa Rutherford. The exhibit will be displayed at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, North Carolina, from March 2 to July 28, 2024. Featuring works by 75 Indigenous artists from over 50 tribes across the United States and Canada, this exhibition is a testament to the enduring elements of form and design in American Indian art. In an exhibition composed exclusively of 3D artworks, each piece reflects both traditional American Indian craftsmanship and contemporary culture. For more information about the exhibit or community day events, please visit ncartmuseum.org.



Seven women artists are highlighted in "Lighting Pathways: Matriarchs of Oklahoma Native Art" who overcame significant challenges to forge success in the fine art world, while carrying forward their diverse tribal cultures. One of the seven artists is Cherokee National Treasure Jane Osti. This exhibition honors these artists, acknowledging their pivotal role in paving the way for future generations of Oklahoma Native women artists. Visit the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum to view this unique exhibit in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from February 16 - April 28, 2024.

Postings for the 2024 Cherokee National Treasures nominations will open in April. The deadline for submissions is June 7, 2024. As in years past, there will be ads placed in the Cherokee Phoenix. The nomination form will also be linked on the Cherokee.org and Anadisgoi.com websites.

It is with deepest sympathy that we report the passing of two Cherokee National Treasures:

Crosslin Smith - Language. Services for Crosslin were held on March 1st in Sallisaw, OK. He was 94 years old.

Ruth England - Traditional Clothing. Services for Ruth were held on March 7th in Stilwell, OK. She was 84 years old.

They will be greatly missed.

