



Cultural Tourism

Council of the Cherokee Nation Cultural Committee Report January 2022

Key Highlights Summary

- Cherokee Heritage Center (CHC) transition update:
 - Finalized the inventory of the CHC Collection and Archives for the formal transfer of assets of CNHS 1963 to Cherokee Nation.
 - The Cherokee National Research Center is now open to the public and includes the following:
 - 5,000 sq. ft fire-proof, storm resistant vault with proper environmental controls.
 - Two collection research rooms to provide better access to the collections and archives to artists, scholars and community members.
 - Genealogy center with access to research materials, genealogy staff and research space.
 - Hours of operation and research requests can be found @ www.visitchokeenation.com/attractions/chokeee-national-research-center
 - The Cherokee Heritage Center Strategic Plan has been formally adopted by the Cherokee National Historical Society and provides strategic direction for future site and program planning.
 - As part of the planning process, the condition of the existing facility was analyzed and noted as follows:
 - The current museum and facilities are in a state of disrepair and are not adequate to fulfill the renewed vision for a world class cultural center.
 - The Cherokee Female Seminary Columns must be preserved and will be a fixture of a renewed museum campus.
 - The Cherokee Nation's collections and archives are being housed temporarily at the new Cherokee National Research Center but will return to the CHC as part of the cultural center campus.

- The plan makes three key recommendations targeted at creating a state of the art Cherokee cultural destination with national appeal and a Cherokee community focus.
 - I. Further study the Cherokee National Female Seminary location in order to protect and preserve the site for future generations.
 - II. Remove or remediate facilities that are no longer adequate to support the future vision due to structural integrity, deficient infrastructure or prohibitive costs of repair while preserving intellectual and physical materials for future use and incorporation in a new state of the art facility.
 - III. Plan and construct a new Cherokee Heritage Center campus that is deeply rooted and informed by the legacy of the CHC's founders, members and employees. The new campus will include expansive galleries, living history, cultural demonstration space, community gathering space, performing arts, cultural collections and program space.
- As a next step, master site and architectural development planning will begin and will be fully informed by the new strategic plan. These plans will focus on fully developing a renewed Cherokee Heritage Center on scale with other tribal and regional facilities with an estimated square footage between 80k-120k and a targeted groundbreaking of 2023 with an anticipated grand opening in 2024.
- The 51st Annual Trail of Tears Art Show and Sale will run April 2nd -30th both virtually and in-person at the Cherokee National Research Center. The application period will open Feb 4, 2022. There is no entry fee associated with this year's show and sale. Individuals looking to enter artwork must be a citizen of a federally recognized Native American tribe and complete all submission requirements at www.visitchokeenation.com/trail-of-tears-art-show no later than 5 p.m. CST on Feb 25, 2022. TOTAS will also resume running in conjunction with the Cherokee Art Market Youth Competition this year. For youth entries, contact cherokeeartmarket@cnent.com.
- Cherokee Freedman Research Project
 - The Cherokee Freedman History Project was established in 2021 and is supported by a group of community advisors that has been called together to provide a better understanding of Cherokee Freedmen history and enhance how those voices are represented within the Cherokee story. The Cherokee Freedman History Project Steering Committee is formally organized by the Cherokee Nation Advisory Committee for History and Culture.

- To better understand the Cherokee Freedman story from a community perspective, the steering committee put out a public call for stories, objects and memorabilia in November 2021. Cherokee Nation will utilize the assessment of the committee to identify gaps in its representation and storytelling and develop new content that shares the Freedman perspective throughout tribal history.
- Cherokee Freedman History Project Steering Committee is also seeking artist submissions to help interpret the complex stories of Cherokee Freedman, their families and their communities. The call for art proposals was distributed in December and closes on January 28, 2022.
- Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural and Welcome Center
 - Located at I-44/ Rt. 66 in Vinita, the site is being developed as a Cherokee Nation gateway. Development will serve as a mixed-use welcome center, gift shop, gallery and cultural programming space and is nearing completion. Project completion has been delayed due to labor and supply issues and will open in Spring of 2022.
- Downtown Tahlequah Cultural Pathway
 - Cultural pathway to connect Cherokee Nation’s downtown cultural resources from the Cherokee National History Museum/Capitol Square to the Cherokee National Prison Museum.
 - While the construction phase is now complete, we’re still working hard on plans to enhance the space, including temporary outdoor exhibits featuring Cherokee artists and permanent art installations.
 - The first outdoor exhibition will debut this spring featuring Cherokee National Treasure Traci Rabbit. Her work will be displayed on large scale outdoor graphic panels showcasing the strength of Cherokee women with a connection to ancient cultural symbols.
 - A call for outdoor public art was posted in December seeking proposals for temporary or permanent installations, including mixed media, sculptures, etc. Art will be continually added to the pathway to create an ever-changing destination for public art.

Active Projects

- Cherokee Heritage Center (CHC) transition – details above
- Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural and Welcome Center – details above
- Downtown Tahlequah Cultural Pathway – details above

- Dwight Mission:
 - Request for Qualifications are currently out to bid for a qualified firm to provide architectural and master planning services targeted at creating a camp and conference center that will serve as a national destination with a community focus with the goal to develop a state-of-the-art campus that will serve youth camps, professional retreats, conferences, community gatherings, showcase Cherokee cultural lifeways and help interpret the historic legacy of the existing site.

Operations

- Tours
 - Group tours of more than 10 visitors are currently suspended due to ongoing COVID 19 protocols. Tours are being tentatively booked for late 2022.

- Retail
 - Cherokee Nation Gift shops have new collegiate merchandise available in store and at www.CherokeeGiftShop.com

Museum Programs and Exhibitions

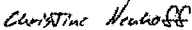
- Museum programming is being hosted virtually through spring of 2022. Programming includes exhibits to engage the public in Cherokee history and culture through video series, including artist showcases, virtual tours, and crafts at home.
- Cherokee Heritage Center: A Legacy of Culture exhibit is now on display at the Cherokee National Research Center through 2022. This exhibit provides a photo retrospective of the development of the Cherokee Heritage Center and informs the public of the Cherokee Heritage Center Act of 2020. The exhibit also provides an opportunity for visitors and community members to share their connection, vision and memories of the Cherokee Heritage Center for consideration as part of the master site planning efforts.
- Al Herrin: The Bow Maker's Calling exhibit is on display at the Saline Courthouse Museum and runs through March 26.

CHEROKEE NATIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY CORPORATION

Resolution 2021 - 01

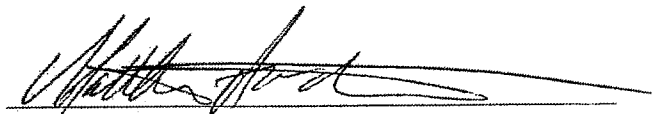
On this 17th Day of December, 2021, the Board of Directors of the Cherokee National Historical Society Corporation ("Board") intending to honor the legacy of its founders, members and employees and having met at a scheduled meeting of the Board, hereby adopt the attached Cherokee Heritage Center Strategic Plan for approval by the Principal Chief, following a review and comment period by the Council of the Cherokee Nation.

DocuSigned by:



1/5/2022 | 9:55 PST

~~202055D006EFC45E~~
Christine Neuhoff, Chairperson
Board of Directors
Cherokee National Historical Society Corporation



Matthew Anderson, Secretary,
Board of Directors
Cherokee National Historical Society Corporation



Cherokee Heritage Center
Strategic Plan Executive
Summary
DECEMBER 2021



OUR VISION

Cherokee Heritage Center (CHC) staff and Cherokee National Historical Society (CNHS) Board members have expressed ambitious hopes for the CHC's future. They want to see it become a **"TOP CULTURAL DESTINATION"** for heritage tourists and the "crown jewel" and "flagship property" of the Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism (CNCT) program. Looking ahead, they envision **"STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES"** that are "modern," "breathtaking," and "world-renowned."

Those who love the CHC are right to dream big. To thrive in the 21st century, it needs to deliver **WORLD-CLASS EXPERIENCES** and serve a variety of audiences.

For the Community:

- provide a gathering place for Cherokee people to celebrate their cultural heritage
- provide spaces where they can strengthen community ties and **CONNECT THEIR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**

For Visitors:

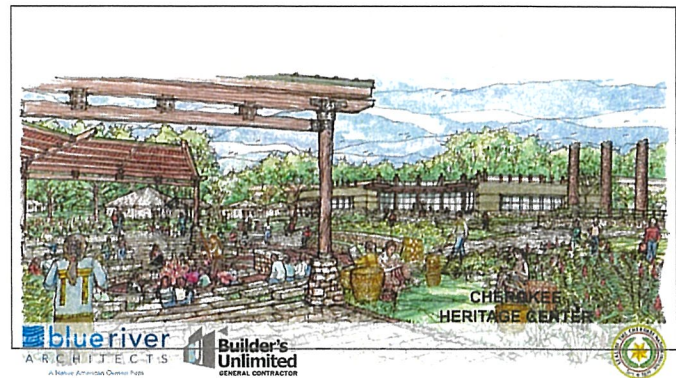
- offer tourists an **AUTHENTIC**, memorable heritage experience
- deepen visitors' understanding of Cherokee history, culture, and people
- communicate messages and foster relationships to strengthen the Nation's position in the state, region, and beyond as part of the CNCT program

For Everyone:

- express who the Cherokee people are and celebrate all they have accomplished
- provide the range of amenities and experiences that will make everyone want to **RETURN AGAIN AND AGAIN**

To fulfill this vision, the CHC should boldly transform into an expansive, forward-thinking, comprehensive cultural center for the Cherokee Nation. As one staff member said, it should become **"A LIVING, LEARNING, INTERACTIVE BEACON OF CHEROKEE CULTURE"** for the Nation's citizens and their neighbors as well as for tourists.

The CHC has been a beloved touchstone for the Nation's citizens and a vital educational force in the region. Generations of Cherokee families have made lasting memories there. There is a need, however, for substantial updates and changes, as well as protection of the significant historical and archaeological resources on the site. The CHC's founders were visionary for their time, but the Nation's circumstances, community needs, and the landscape of tribal cultural tourism have changed dramatically. It is time for something new that **BUILDS ON THE BEST OF THE PAST** and **LOOKS TO THE FUTURE**. This new vision will be deeply rooted and informed by the legacy of the CHC's founders, members and employees.



GOAL HIGHLIGHTS

Operational Goals

- The Cherokee Heritage Center will be trusted, accessible, authentic, world-class, and integrated within the CNCT program.
- The CHC will represent Cherokee people to the world, through their own voices and from their own perspectives, as the hub of a cohesive cultural tourism experience in the Cherokee Nation capital.

Visitor Experience Goal for Cherokee Nation Citizens

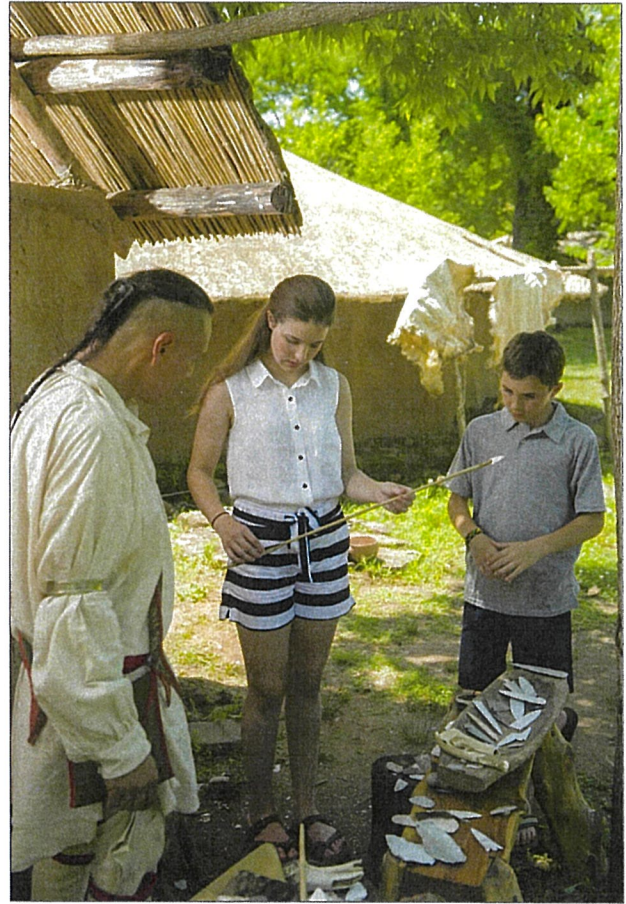
Cherokee Nation citizens will connect with their people's history and culture, including their own family history.

Visitor Experience Goal for General Visitors

General visitors will learn the Cherokee Nation's true history and feel immersed in authentic Cherokee culture.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

- The current museum and facilities are in a state of disrepair and are not adequate to fulfill the renewed vision for a world class cultural center.
- The Cherokee Female Seminary Columns must be preserved and will be a fixture of a renewed museum campus.
- The Cherokee Nation's collections and archives are being housed temporarily at the new Cherokee National Research Center but will return to the CHC as part of the cultural center campus.



A Diligwa interpreter demonstrates traditional flintknapping to visitors.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Create a state of the art Cherokee cultural destination with national appeal and a Cherokee community focus

1. Further study the Cherokee National Female Seminary in order to protect and preserve the site for future generations.
2. Remove or remediate facilities that are no longer adequate to support the future vision due to structural integrity, deficient infrastructure or prohibitive costs of repair while preserving intellectual and physical materials for future use and incorporation in a new state of the art facility.
3. Plan and construct a new Cherokee Heritage Center campus that is deeply rooted and informed by the legacy of the CHC's founders, members and employees. The new campus will include expansive galleries, living history, cultural demonstration space, community gathering space, performing arts, cultural collections and program space.

A Cultural Tourism Hub—A Place that Feels like Home

An expansive campus will provide multiple experiences across the site, each with its own distinctive identity. Take a walk with a friend along one of the many trails, stop by the play area with your grandchildren, talk with an artist, listen to a story, or grab a bite to eat.

Female Seminary

The seminary archaeology site is preserved, and the surviving seminary columns provide a focus for a gathering place.

Cherokee National Treasures

Elders teach ancient traditions in flexible classroom and studio spaces where they share Cherokee culture with the community and other visitors.

Artists and Artisans

Artists gather under the towering black walnuts to share their work with visitors from around the world.



Items provided by the CHC for cultural programming in area schools

Tours and Play

A Cherokee tour guide shares the game of stickball in an accurate and authentic historical Cherokee village.

Theater

Visitors gather in the evening to hear a world-class theater performance showcasing the history of the Cherokee people.

Galleries

Expansive galleries share the collective story and culture of the Cherokee people highlighted with collections of the Cherokee Nation.

Food and Hospitality

Share a picnic in the grounds, stop by for a cup of coffee with a friend, or stay for a leisurely meal prepared by Cherokee chefs based on traditional Cherokee foods and recipes.

COST AND COMPARATIVES

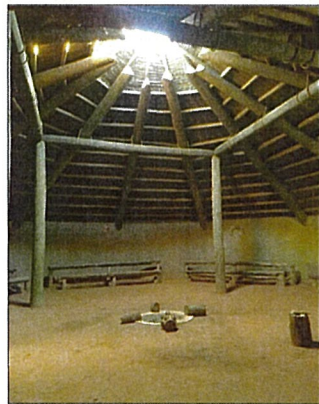
A new building or buildings with the recommended functions, features, and capacity would require roughly 80,000 to 120,000 sq. ft. of indoor and outdoor spaces. This would enable the CHC to become a world-class institution that rivals other tribal cultural centers in the region. The estimated construction cost of \$40-76 million also is on par with regional competitors.

TIMELINE OVERVIEW

Planning is well underway. Next steps require delving into greater details on design, programming, archaeological work, site preparation, and finally the implementation of new buildings, spaces, trails, and landscaping. In 2022, master planning and design development will continue with groundbreaking in 2023 and a grand opening in 2024. It takes a while to make the dream a reality – but it'll be worth the wait.



Wozupi Tribal Gardens Shakopee
Mdewakanton Sioux Community, MN



Diligwa Council House

Group: □□□ □□□□□□ □□□□□□ **Language Department**

Month: □□□□ November / □□□□ December 2021

Executive Director: □□□□□□ **Howard Paden** Phone: 918-207-7133

email: howard-paden@cherokee.org

Language Program Manager: □□□ **Roy Boney** Phone: 918-453-5487

email: roy-boney@cherokee.org

□□□ □□□□□□ □□□□□□□ **Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program (CLMAP) Manager:**

□□ □□□□□ **Ryan Mackey** Phone: 918-822-5453

email: ryan-mackey@cherokee.org

□□□□ November / □□□□ December 2021

CHEROKEE LANGUAGE PROGRAMS - CULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT
- Community Language/Language Technology/Translation/Cherokee Teacher Scholarship -

Community Language (Community classes, Online Classes, Public Events)

Activity □□□□ November / □□□□ December 2021 Year To Date (FY22)

# of staff presentations/classes	8	8
# of participants-Outreach	0	0
# of on-site classes	0 (in-person events canceled)	0
# of participants in on-line class	0 (out of session)	1,300
# contract community classes	0 (canceled til further notice)	0

Highlights:

1. Ed Fields Fall Online language classes ended November 18 at learn.cherokee.org
2. Nearly 200 certificates of completion for the online language classes were issued to students for Cherokee I, II, and III.
3. Cherokee language department staff members Sammy Still, Roy Boney, and Wade Blevins helped judge the Cherokee JOM student art competition and provided guidance on cultural and language accuracy.
4. Cherokee Language Department formed a partnership with Jay and Kansas public schools to help partially fund a Cherokee language teacher that will be shared between the two schools beginning January 2022. Each school district pays ¼ of the salary and the Language Department funds the remaining half.

- Cherokee Language Department filed for and received an extension on the Living Languages Grant. The grant is funding production of a new Cherokee III course with RSU TV which will consist of 48 new episodes for a total of 144 fifty-minute episodes of Cherokee language content. The grant also funds concurrent enrollment scholarships for CN citizens who take Cherokee I and II online courses at RSU. RSU & Cherokee Language department have submitted a request to the Oklahoma State Regents to expand concurrent enrollment eligibility to include freshmen and sophomores to enroll in Cherokee I & II at RSU. Current state guidelines restrict concurrent enrollment to juniors and seniors in high school. Pending approval by the regents, this would go into effect for the fall 2022 academic year.
- Cherokee Language staff finalized the review of the revised state Cherokee Language Teacher Certification test in December. Pending final sign off from the state department of education, the new test will be in place for the 2022 fall academic year.

Language Technology (Cherokee Language Software, Design, Media, Outreach)

Highlights:

- Answered 205 inquiries and calls for technical assistance for Language related items, including online class questions, schools looking for language technology, CN staff needing help with installing syllabary on their devices, and the general public.
- Fulfilled and printed 207 Cherokee language posters requests. These posters go to schools and other educational organizations such as museums and universities.
- Mailed out 200 Cherokee language USB drives. These drives contain all the materials found on the language.cherokee.org site as well as recordings.
- Language Technology Staff members did a virtual presentation on the digital evolution of the Cherokee syllabary for the Asheville Art Museum in NC as part of the 200th anniversary of the syllabary.
- Edited video content for the United Nations Decade of Indigenous Languages Celebration kick off event hosted by Cherokee Nation
- Made revisions to the Cherokee Sa-quu card game the Language Department helped Cherokee speaker Dione Byrd develop. One of the cards had a production error. The card decks are now ready to be distributed to Cherokee Language Department programs and to the public. A public plan for distribution will be finalized by Dione & Ramona Byrd. The Cherokee Language Department will have 250 decks and Dione & Ramona will have 250 decks. Plans to manufacture more are pending.

Translation (Translation, Presentations, Community Outreach)

Activity □□□□ November / □□□□ December 2021 Year To Date (FY22)

# of internal requests completed	4,490	18,490
# of external requests completed	54	254
# tested for Certification/Proficiency	0-Proficiency 0-Cerification	0-Proficiency 0-Cerification

Highlights:

- Dennis Sixkiller continues weekly production of the Cherokee Voices, Cherokee Sounds radio show. He also continues editing the audiobook recording of Cherokee New Testament in Cherokee language as read by Russell Feeling.

2. Cherokee Language Department is contracting with Compass Technical Resources, LLC to expand the existing Cherokee Church Manual app to include the Cherokee New Testament audio recordings to accompany the text along with Cherokee language hymns. Roy Boney & Jeff Edwards have been reviewing and advising the contractor on the content and process.
3. The department is contracting with Dr. Christian Koops, a linguist from the University of New Mexico, to help develop the new Cherokee Language Dictionary app. Wyman Kirk, Ryan Mackey, David Crawler, Roy Boney & Howard Paden are serving as linguistic and technical advisers on the project.
4. Anna Sixkiller helped with Cherokee language script & subtitling for public service announcements for CN Child Support Services to announce new online services for the program.
5. David Crawler, Anna Sixkiller, Sammy Still, and Dennis Sixkiller continue proofreading the recently Cherokee Hymn Book published by the Global Bible Society. The hymn book features Cherokee hymns in syllabary with musical notation together for the first time.
6. The Global Bible Society also proposed a community based project that would oversee the complete translation of the Old Testament in Cherokee language. Representatives want Translation staff to participate. Further meetings will determine final details and logistics.
7. Phyllis Sixkiller and Margaret Leuthje, contract translators, are translating content from the Yale University Beinecke archives which includes stories from Willie Jumper and early Keetoowah Society minutes and church minutes.
8. Translation staff have been recording videos for CN social media featuring seasonal greetings and related vocabulary.

□□□□ November / □□□□ December 2021

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- **Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program/□□□□ Teacher Bridge/□□□□□ □□□□□□ In-**
stitute of Excellence/Native language Community Coordination (NLCC) ANA Grant -

□□□ □□□□□ □□□□□□□ **Cherokee Language Master/Apprentice Program** □□□□ Kristen Thomas, Supervisor

CLMAP Participants: 28 # CLMAP Graduates: N/A # participants/Outreach: 200 # staff presentations: 2

The Cherokee Language Master/Apprentice Program has reached its final phase of expansion, serving four progressive cohorts through two years of language immersion. The expectation of restructuring CLMAP into four 6 month phases was to increase the language experience for program participants and increase the number of participants from 10 to 32. Though the program has yet to complete a full 6 month cycle of four cohorts, the language learners are growing at a notable rate, despite the constant strain of the Covid-19 pandemic. Language sessions continue in-person and learners are progressing at a healthy rate. CLMAP is preparing for its next graduation of 7 new second language speakers, while also getting ready for the next cohort to join CLMAP March 1. Applications for the Fall 2022 CLMAP cohort will be available at language.cherokee.org in June.

□□□□ **Teacher Bridge Program** Persons reporting: Sarah Holcomb, Lauren Hummingbird & Wynema Bush

Number of Meetings: 10 Number of documents evaluated- 3

November 9, 2021- Jennifer Morrison, Wynema Bush, Lauren Hummingbird, and Sarah Holcomb discussed Chapter 3 (Age and Acquisition) from Principles of Language Learning and Teaching by Brown.

November 10th, 2021- Jennifer Morrison, Wynema Bush, Lauren Hummingbird, and Sarah Holcomb discussed Teacher Bridge and goals of the program.

November 15, 2021- Jennifer Morrison, Wynema Bush, Lauren Hummingbird, and Sarah Holcomb discussed possible classroom schedule for when students are brought in.

November 17, 2021- Jennifer Morrison, Wynema Bush, Lauren Hummingbird, and Sarah Holcomb met and discussed further planning of Teacher Bridge class.

November 23, 2021- Ryan Mackey, Jennifer Morrison, Lauren Hummingbird, Wynema Bush, and Sarah Holcomb met and discussed Chapter 4 from Principles of Language Learning and Teaching by Brown. Goal is to take reviewed documents and change language so they can be translated.

December 1st, 2021- Ryan Mackey, Lauren Hummingbird, Sarah Holcomb and Jennifer Morrison discussed the rest of chapter 4 of Brown textbook.

December 14th, 2021- Ryan Mackey, Lauren Hummingbird, Sarah Holcomb and Wynema Bush met to discuss TB budget and decided on what to buy for the classroom

December 16, 2021- Ryan Mackey, Wynema Bush, Lauren Hummingbird, and Sarah Holcomb met to discuss Teacher Bridge budget.

December 17, 2021- Wynema Bush, Jennifer Morrison, Lauren Hummingbird, Sarah Holcomb and Ryan Mackey started review of Principles of Language Learning and Teaching Chapter 5. By Brown. Goal is to take reviewed documents and change language so they can be translated.

December 21, 2021- Jennifer Morrison, Ryan Mackey, Wynema Bush, Lauren Hummingbird and Sarah Holcomb reviewed chapter 5 from Principles of Language Learning and Teaching by Brown. Goal is to take reviewed documents and change language so they can be translated.

Institute of Excellence □□□□ Doris Shell, Supervisor; □□□ Larry Carney Reporting

The group assisted the CLMAP and Cherokee Adult singers with a traditional meal and songs for the at-large community at Sequoyah's Cabin Museum in Sallisaw on November, 9th. 50 participants.

Delivered turkeys to our contracted distinguished speakers gifted by the administration as gratitude for their work in language revitalization on November 18th. The final payment was issued to two of our contracted speakers Weynema Smith and Nancy Fields that finished out their contribution to our program.

Started the interview process for the two positions and visited speakers from Salina, Salem, Sugar Mountain, and Cherry Tree communities conducted both November and December. We have twenty-two new recordings from the new participants and contracted speakers.

Conducted an interview on November 19th for a potential employee to fill the vacant Advanced Speaker position and look forward to having future applicants apply.

The group continues to listen to audio recordings and improve on their language skills throughout the communities visiting with elders and gaining the courage to use our language.

Native Languages Community Coordination □□□□ Kristen Thomas, Curriculum Designer

In November, NLCC staff received positive feedback after participating in a panel during the Native Language Summit, November 18-19, under the theme of Native Communities Leading and Taking Control of their Native Languages. Outside of the daily curriculum development, NLCC team continues to focus on the completion of the grant objectives as the grant project comes to an end. Curriculum development continues to focus of digitization and audio collection for the use of young adult and adult language learners. During this reporting cycle, the team has worked closely with language leaders from the Kiowa, Sun'aq, Aaniiih and Yurok communities to discuss best practices in the areas of language

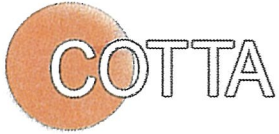
assessment and teacher certification. Additionally, the team has started to prepare for the last round of a Community Language Readiness Assessment to be conducted as a secondary grant requirement.



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Community & Cultural Outreach

Community Report for **December 2021** Kevin Stretch – Director

The following report covers the activities of the CCO staff for the month of December 2021.



Community Organization Training & Technical Assistance

**Number of Community Organization Capacity
assisted in December**

26

**Number of Technical Assistance Hours
community leaders received in
December**

52

Cherokee Organizations receiving technical assistance in December

Capital City Cherokees (AL)	Cherokees of Northern Central Valley (AL)
Central OK Cherokee Alliance (AL)	Cherokees of Orange County (AL)
Central Texas Cherokee Township (AL)	Colorado Cherokee Circle
Cherokee Citizens League of SE Texas (AL)	Desert Cherokees (AL)
Cherokee Community of Central CA (AL)	Georgia Cherokee Community Alliance
Cherokee Community of North Texas (AL)	Greater Wichita Area Cherokee Comm (AL)
Cherokee Community of Puget Sound (AL)	Kansas City Cherokees (AL)
Cherokee Comm of the Inland Empire (AL)	Mt. Hood Cherokees (AL)
Cherokee Gadugi (AL))	New Mexico Cherokee Community (AL)
Cherokee of the Greater Central Valley (AL)	San Diego Cherokee Community (AL)
Cherokee Soc of the Greater Bay Area (AL)	Tsa-La-Gi AL (AL)
Cherokee Township of San Antonio (AL)	Valley of the Sun Cherokees (AL)
Cherokees of Central Florida (AL)	Willamette Tsa-La-Gi Community (AL)

[D = Council Dist, * = new organization to the COTTA program]

The benefits of our digital presence on YouTube is evident. December saw 12 visitors to our Capacity Building on-line training.

Number of Capacity Training views in December

12



Cultural Outreach & At-Large Communities

In December Cultural Outreach staff provided two virtual presentations. The first was on the 2nd and was presented to the Oregon Indian Child Welfare agency. The second was on the 3rd and was given to the people at an elementary school in San Diego, CA.

YouTube Views of the Cultural presentations in December

251

OsiyoTV Host and Executive Producer Jennifer Loren will hosted this December's event: Cherokee Spirituality Edition, on the 18th. Since time immemorial, our spiritual practices have helped us understand our place in the world, appreciate balance, and maintain healthy relationships with each other and all beings. We see our spirituality reflected in our stories, our medicines, and our traditions. This virtual event discussed all this and more, covering both ancient and modern spiritual practices. This event also feature remarks from Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr., Deputy Principal Chief Bryan Warner.

Views of the CWY: Cherokee Spirituality Edition

5282



Volunteer Program

The Volunteer Program staff completed 10 projects in December as well as delivering 2 loads of wood for heating our elder's homes. Project we completed in Belfonte, Bell, Bunch, Kenwood, Greasy, Salina, Marble City, Muldrow, Peggs, Jay, Lost City, Gideon, Stilwell, Nicut, Wickliffe and Pine Ridge. The projects assisted our elder with easier access with the eight handicap access ramps installed this month. Crews also assisted in making the homes more energy efficient with repairs to doors, windows and siding. Additionally, three new satellite internet connections were established. We wish to express our appreciation to the Language Department, Building & Trades and Veterans Affairs in partnering with us in this important work.

Projects completed in December

24



Sustainable Communities Initiative

CCO's part of the Housing, Jobs and Sustainable Communities Act of 2019 is specifically Sustainability funds, so you will hear our staff call it as such. Those funds, as mentioned above, are set to expire at the end of calendar year 2022.



CCO is working with the Administration regarding utilizing federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to assist wherever possible.

The pandemic slowdown also created some capital project bids to expire and new bids were considerably higher due to high demand and low availability of materials and equipment, than the pre-pandemic period.