



Cultural Tourism
Cultural Committee Report
January 2023

Active Projects

- Cherokee Heritage Center (CHC) transition update:
 - 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.
 - Cultural resource and interpretive planning have begun. This process will help inform the future site development.
 - Master site planning will begin soon 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.

- Will Rogers Birthplace Museum:
 - Currently working with Cherokee Nation and the state of Oklahoma on the acquisition of Will Rogers Birthplace. The acquisition should be finalized in early 2023, pending final contract revisions.

- Dwight Mission:
 - Beginning architectural and master planning services targeted at creating a camp and conference center that will serve as a national destination. Plans centered with a community focus and goal to develop a state-of-the-art campus that will serve youth camps, professional retreats, conferences, community gatherings and showcase Cherokee cultural lifeways and help interpret the historic legacy of the existing site.

- Cherokee Nation Gift Shop- Cherokee Springs Plaza
 - The new 5,400 SQFT shop opened November 28, 2022 and includes 2,500 SQFT of retail space, a 560 SQFT gallery and more than 2,000 SQFT of warehouse space to support cultural retail operations and ecommerce.

- Tahlonteeskee
 - Tahlonteeskee was the Old Settler capital of the Cherokee Nation, located near present day Gore, OK. In an effort to preserve this history, the state developed the Tahlonteeskee site within a few miles of the original site. The site was later deeded to the Cherokee Nation and was operated for a number of years.
 - The site includes two non-historic structures, a caretaker home, outbuilding and a historic cabin. The historic cabin is heavily deteriorated and in need of restoration. The cabin will be restored and relocated to Sequoyah's Cabin Museum property in Sallisaw. The two non-historic cabins will be deconstructed and the logs will be stored for other potential projects. The site will be cleared and maintained as a Cherokee Nation owned residence. Work should be complete in early 2023.

Exhibitions (through March 2023):

- Traci Rabbit: An Artists Path
Cherokee Cultural Pathway
Now-2023
The inaugural outdoor art exhibit for the Cherokee Cultural Pathway is now on display. The exhibit features 15 works of art from Cherokee National Treasure Traci Rabbit. The exhibit and cultural pathway were officially dedication with a public ceremony on September 1, 2022.
- Cherokee Heritage Center: A Legacy of Culture
Cherokee National Research Center
The 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.
- Goingsnake Massacre 150th anniversary exhibit
Cherokee National Supreme Court Museum
Now – April 15, 2023
This exhibit looks at the events leading up to and the day of the Goingsnake Massacre of April 15, 1872. That day, eleven men died in a shootout erupting during the trial of Cherokee Nation citizen Ezekial Proctor. Proctor was on trial for murder after he fatally shot Cherokee Nation citizen Polly Hildebrand. Proctor's trial became the centerpiece of

jurisdictional debate between the federal court and sovereign Cherokee Nation court. He was ultimately found not guilty in tribal court.

- **We Are Cherokee: Cherokee Freedmen and the Right to Citizenship**
Cherokee National History Museum
Now- June 3, 2023
The exhibit looks at the history and topic of Cherokee Freedmen and their descendants. Topics include Cherokee slaveholding, the Treaty of 1866, Cherokee Nation V. Nash and changes to the Cherokee Nation Constitution. This exhibit also tells the stories of Cherokee Freedmen through contributions of their descendants participating in this project.
- **Cherokee Feature Artist: Robert Lewis**
Saline Courthouse Museum
January 10- June 3, 2023
The exhibit features the life story and works of Cherokee National Treasure, Robert Lewis.
- **The Life of William Potter Ross**
John Ross Museum
March 7- August 26, 2023
A look at the life of John Ross' nephew, his work as a delegate, newspaper editor and Principal Chief of Cherokee Nation.

Events (through March 2023):

- **Second Saturday Cherokee Artist Showcase**
January 14
Saturday, 10 am-4 pm
Cherokee National History Museum
Join Cherokee National Treasure Vivian Garner Cottrell for this special demonstration and showcase.
- **Collective Wisdom**
January 14-February 25
*Opening Reception: January 14, 2-4 pm
Cherokee Springs Art Gallery, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
A Traveling exhibition coordinated by Billy Hensley and managed by Ashlee Ray. Collaborative works by various Native Artists, predominantly southeastern including 5 Cherokee artists.

- Cherokee Twining Class
 January 21
 Saturday, 10 am-2 pm
 Cherokee National Prison Museum
 Twining class instructed by Artist Betty Frogg. Registration is required for attendance and can be found on VisitCherokeeNation.com

- Anna's Legacy, Special Demonstration
 January 21
 Saturday, 1 pm-4 pm
 Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural and Welcome Center
 As part of the programming for the Anna Legacy pottery exhibition, Jane Osti will be on hand for a special discussion and demonstration.

- Cherokee Pottery Class
 January 25
 Wednesday, 10 am -3 pm
 Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural and Welcome Center
 Pottery class instructed by Carrie Lind. Registration required for attendance and can be found on the VisitCherokeeNaton.com

- We Are Cherokee: Cherokee Freedmen Student Art Show
 February 1-28
 Tuesday- Saturday, 10:00 – 4:00 pm
 *Awards Presentation: February 4, 1 pm-2 pm
 Cherokee National History Museum
 As part of the programming for the We Are Cherokee: Cherokee Freedmen and the Right to Citizenship, the Cherokee Freedmen Student Art Show is open for Cherokee Nation citizens of Freedmen descent.

- Cherokee Twining Class
 February 4, 10 am-3 pm
 Anna Mitchell Cultural and Welcome Center
 Twining class led by Artists Lisa Rutherford. Registration required for attendance and can be found on VistCherokeeNaiton.com

- Cherokee Genealogy Presentation
 February 8, 10 am-11 am
 Cherokee National Research Center
 Genealogist Gene Norris will provide a talk to introduce modern genealogy research techniques.

- Super Bowl Sunday
 February 12, 10 am-3 pm
 Anna Mitchell Cultural and Welcome Center
 Pottery class led by Carrie Lind on Super Bowl Sunday. Light refreshments will be provided.

- Living Story Corner
 February 15, 11 am-12 pm
 John Ross Museum
 Cherokee storyteller Candice Byrd-Boney will be sharing “Why the Cornhusk Doll Has No Face” and “The Race between the Hummingbird and the Crane.” Make and Take Craft to follow.
- Paint and Pass
 February 18
 Cherokee Springs Art Gallery
 Cherokee Artist Kindra Swafford will lead the class in a Paint and Pass class. Class participants will receive a piece of artwork that the class has painted together. Registration required at VisitCherokeeNation.com
- Anna’s Legacy: Cherokee Pottery Demonstration
 February 25, 1 pm-4 pm
 Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural and Welcome Center
 As part of the programming for the Anna’s Legacy pottery exhibition, Cherokee artist, Crystal Hanna, will be on hand for a special discussion and demonstration.
- Ribbon Skirt Class
 March 1 and 8, 10 am-4 pm
 Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural and Welcome Center
 Cherokee artist, Eva Cantrell, will teach participants how to make their own ribbon skirt over two class periods. Registration is required at VisitCherokeeNation.com.
- Second Saturday Cherokee Artist Showcase
 March 11, 10 am-4 pm
 Cherokee National History Museum
 Join Cherokee National Treasures Perry and Kathy Van Buskirk for this special demonstration and showcase.
- Cherokee Nation Museums Spring Break Scavenger Hunt
 March 13-17, 10 am-4 pm
 All Cherokee Nation owned museum locations
 Guests will be able to participate in a Spring Break Scavenger hunt at the Museums.
- Spring Break Make and Takes
 March 16, 10 am-4 pm
 All Cherokee Nation Museum locations
 Make and Take activities will be provided to all the museums for guests to complete during Spring Break.
- Cherokee Finger Weaving
 March 18, 10 am-2 pm
 Cherokee National Prison Museum
 Participants will learn how to finger weave a keychain from Cherokee artist, Lily Drywater. Registration required at VisitCherokeeNation.com

- Anna's Legacy: Cherokee Pottery Demonstration
February 25, 1 pm-4 pm
Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural and Welcome Center
As part of the programming for the Anna Legacy pottery exhibition, Cherokee National Treasure, Bill Glass, will be on hand for a special discussion and demonstration.
- Cherokee Days at the National Museum of the Cherokee Indian
March 31- April 2
National Museum of the American Indian
Event will feature live performances, cultural demonstrations by Cherokee National Treasures, and a special banner exhibition.



The following report covers the activities of the CCO staff for the month of November and December 2022. November and December are filled with holiday spirit and rebuilding/modifying programs and programming for the year ahead. We’re excited to bring community leaders together for the first in-person trainings since the pandemic’s onset.

COTTA Community Organization Training & Technical Assistance

The benefits of our digital presence on YouTube is evident. In October there were 61 viewers of the COTTA organizational capacity building trainings. This increased in November. December was below November, but, was still an increase over October.

We’re excited to announce that 2023 will bring in-person training back to our reservation! We are partnering up with the Oklahoma Center for Non-profits to offer scholarships to our participating organizations. CCO staff will bring together additional trainings slated for face-to-face delivery. We will continue to be mindful of potential COVID and flu influxes and will take immediate action if necessary, based on the recommendation of Cherokee Nation Health and CN Administration.

**Number of Capacity Training views in November
and December**

223

CCO Staff attend the American Evaluation Association’s international conference in New Orleans November 7-12. At this event staff participated in the Indigenous Peoples in Evaluation learning opportunities as well as those open to the entire membership.



CCO staff also attended the Elders Summit on the 17th in Tahlequah and on the 18th in Claremore. Staff enjoyed visiting with our elders and assisting them in their learning of what Cherokee Nation can provide their community.

CCO staff assisted at two Diniyotli Festivals, Sequoyah’s Cabin and Vinita in cooperation with Education Services.

Director Stretch addressed participants at Kingdom Community in Inola regarding services available.

Director Stretch met with CN entities, city officials and the newly formed Kansas Cherokee Community organization regarding lease agreement and customization of the CN facility.

At the end of October, COTTA staff attend a training in Boston, MA from Oct 26th through the 28th. They participated in “Improving Your Project Management Skills: The Basics for Success”. This course helped them build a solid foundation of project management knowledge, techniques and tools one would use during an entire project life cycle.



These trainings are sponsored strictly by federal grants.

CCO receives several inquiries per month for organizations seeking CCO grants and assistance in organizing. CCO requires organizations to have a Cherokee cultural component in order to qualify for our funding. We do however offer them organizational guidance.

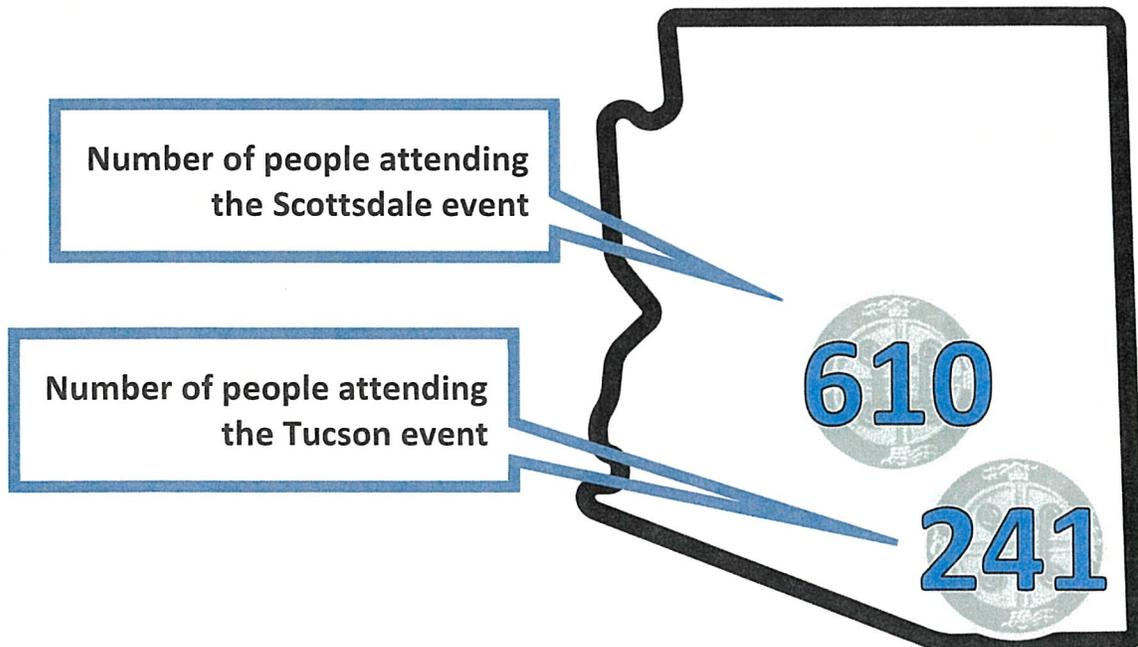


Cultural Outreach & At-Large Communities

At-large events continue to see unprecedented number of attendees. November 19th CCO Staff assisted the Valley of the Sun Cherokees with their annual meeting. It was held at the Indian School Park in Scottsdale, AZ. It was an exciting meeting with cultural presentations and demonstrations as well as addresses from with Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr., Deputy Chief Bryan Warner, and at-large Council members Julia Coates and Johnny Kidwell.

November 20th CCO Staff assisted Desert Cherokees with their annual meeting It was held in Tucson at the Lincoln Park COPA, 8155 E Poinciana Drive, in Tucson. Citizens were able to visit with Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr., Deputy Chief Bryan Warner, and at-large Council members Julia Coates and Johnny Kidwell. Tribal Registration was on site for photo IDs and citizenship applications. Education Services and Cherokee Vote also attended to assist citizens.

The current pandemic climate continues to exhibit higher costs in travel and food. CCO continues to be amazed at the feeling of welcome and excitement from citizens in those locals as they missed that physical connection with their Oklahoma cousins. Without these outreach opportunities our citizens will again feel detached from their tribe, and would lessen their ability to hear firsthand information about program and legislative directions, and tribal affairs.



CWY: Wherever We Are: This valuable, high quality YouTube-based programming continues to be popular among online viewers providing CN and opportunity to tell our lifeways and historical accuracies through our Cherokee perspectives and with our voices.



CWY: Wherever We Are: Cherokee Foods Edition: The food of our people nourishes our bodies and ties us to our culture. Whether we're foraging for wishi or tasting a sweet spoonful of kanuchi, we remain connected to our ancestors through the flavors that define our Cherokee Nation.

Honoring Cherokee foods can be a bittersweet experience. As we taste the same tastes that have united our tribe for years—like frybread—we are reminded of the trauma of colonization and the brutal attempts by white settlers to eradicate our traditional foods. It's important we maintain these traditions to assert our independence and strength, which is why I'm especially excited to share this event with you.

The November 24th conversation about our food was hosted by OsiyoTV Host and Executive Producer Jennifer Loren and will feature insights from Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr., Deputy Chief Bryan Warner, District 10 Tribal Councilor Melvina Shotpouch, Taelor Barton, Bradley Dry, Gary Vann, and Jamey Hothouse.



CWY: Wherever We Are, Cherokee Nation Businesses Edition aired December 17th. With 7,500 employees operating 45 companies across the U.S. and around the globe, and nearly \$2 billion in annual revenue, there's no doubt: Cherokee Nation Businesses is the economic engine of our Nation. Our tribally owned holding company is a staple in the hospitality industry, a leader in federal contracting solutions, and a driver of cultural and economic development.

Executive Producer and Host of OsiyoTV Jennifer Loren hosted the conversation with insights from Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr., Deputy Principal Chief Bryan Warner, Cherokee Nation Businesses CEO Chuck Garrett, CNB Senior Vice President Molly Jarvis, and other distinguished guests.



Volunteer Program

The Volunteer Program staff completed many projects in October as well as leveling the program's work yard. Project were completed in throughout the Reservation. The projects assisted our elder with easier access with the handicap access ramps widening access doors, providing handicap access to showers, ceiling and wall repairs. Weather can sometime hamper our abilities to complete a job a fast as fair weather times, but we work diligently keeping our elders care in mind. Helping them is a top priority to us all.

We continue to work with Speaker Services to assist on additional project that aren't always in this report, but we remain vigilant when the need calls.

Additionally they delivered emergency firewood supplies to several elders to help ensure their comfort and safety.

**Volunteer projects completed in
November and December**

21



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.

In April of this year HJSCA continuance funding allocated another \$7M to continue assisting capital projects for CCO-participating organizations, and includes Language Department designated Cherokee Speaking Language "hubs", churches with a vast majority of speakers whose sermons are held in Cherokee.

CCO is working with the Administration regarding utilizing federal CARES Act funds to assist wherever possible.

CCO is working with Administration and Finance to provide up to \$25K per existing CCO-participating organizations, including at-large, in federal funding for a wide range of uses, designated Community Impact grants (CI). The deadline for the CI grant applications was December 24, 2022.

***Cherokee National Treasures Advisory Committee
Report January 2023***

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:

-Robert Lewis (Storytelling) will start off the 2023 year with his exhibit in January and will be displayed until April 2023.

As part of their exhibit each artist has the opportunity to host an artist talk and/or demonstration held at the museum.

Cherokee National Treasures may now begin signing up for the Mentorship Program for Fiscal Year 2023. There are currently four National Treasures signed up to begin teaching classes.

It is with deepest sympathy that we report the passing of Cherokee National Treasure, Wynona "Chicken" Dreadfulwater - Loom Weaving. Services for Chicken were held on Tuesday, Dec. 6th at the Cherokee Baptist Association Tabernacle in Briggs. OK. She was 78 years old.

