



Cultural Tourism

Council of the Cherokee Nation Cultural Committee Report June 2021

Key Highlights Summary

- Dwight Mission:
 - Cherokee Nation acquired the Dwight Mission property on June 22. Work over the next several months will focus on continued assessment of structures and long-range planning for the future of the site.
- Cherokee Syllabary Bicentennial Celebration:
 - 2021 marks the two hundredth anniversary of the Cherokee syllabary. Bicentennial schedule of events includes:
 - Original exhibits in all CN Museums that highlight Sequoyah and the syllabary. New in June through the end of the year, an exhibit at Sequoyah's Cabin titled Sequoyah's Last Journey which offers a closer look at Cherokee migration in pre-statehood Texas, as well as later attempts by individuals to discover Sequoyah's final resting place. (other Sequoyah/syllabary focused exhibits listed below in programs and exhibitions)
 - Original virtual programming
 - Cherokee Nation special events
 - Social Media highlights
 - Events throughout the year are coordinated with Cherokee Nation departments and staff especially the language department, Roy Boney and Howard Paden
 - Cherokee Syllabary Bicentennial t-shirt is now available in store or at CherokeeGiftShop.com
- Cherokee Heritage Center (CHC) transition:
 - Artwork is now on display for the 50th annual Trail of Tears Art Show and Sale. The show runs July 2-31, both virtually and in person. The show can be viewed at the Cherokee Springs Plaza or online at visitchokeenation.com/trail-of-tears-art-show

- Currently working on a complete inventory of the CHC Collection and Archives to complete the formal transfer of assets of CNHS 1963 to Cherokee Nation. Inventory should be finalized August, 2021.
 - The Cherokee National Research Center is currently under construction and will open late summer. Plans include:
 - New, temporary (3-5 year) storage facility in Tahlequah that will provide a 5,000 sq ft fire-proof, storm resistant vault with proper environmental controls.
 - The space will provide two collection research rooms to provide better access to the collections and archives to artists, scholars and community members.
 - The space will also function as a genealogy center with access to research materials, genealogy staff and research space.
 - The space will open to the public late summer 2021.
 - The current state of the physical plant is being assessed and as part of the new strategic plan. The plan will be complete in July and will focus on the future programming for the Cherokee Heritage Center and needs to support that programming, facility improvements and organizational planning.
 - CHC will likely remain closed through summer 2021 to focus on facility assessments and potential improvements.
- Vinita Cultural Development:
 - This project, located at I-44/ Rt. 66, will be developed as a Cherokee Nation gateway. Development will serve as a mixed-use welcome center, gift shop, gallery and cultural programming space and will be complete by late fall 2021.

Active Projects

- Dwight Mission – details above
- Cherokee Heritage Center (CHC) transition – details above
- Vinita Cultural Development – details above
- Will Rogers Birthplace Museum:
 - Acquisition will be summer 2021. Operations will transfer to CNB after the acquisition is finalized. Currently working on assessments to consider future site improvements.
- 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. Project is currently under construction and expected to be complete by late summer 2021.

- Cecil Dick Mural at Oak Hill Piney:
 - Conservation work is complete. Conserved mural is being assessed for public display. Conserved mural will likely be displayed at the Sam Hider Health Clinic in Jay, OK.

Operations

- Tours
 - All education tours are currently suspended. We will evaluate the return of these for 2022.
 - Group tours are currently suspended and being tentatively booked for 2022
- Retail
 - Cherokee National Holiday T-Shirt is available in store or at www.CherokeeGiftShop.com

Museum Programs and Exhibitions

- Museum programming is being hosted virtually in 2021. Programming includes exhibits to engage the public in Cherokee history and culture through video series, including artist showcases, virtual tours, and crafts at home.
- Sequoyah, An American Icon exhibit at the Cherokee National History Museum runs from March 30- December 31, 2021. The exhibit features details about Sequoyah's life, legacy and his prominence as an American icon.
- Cherokee 101: Cherokee Language Preservation in the Classroom exhibit is currently on display at the John Ross Museum and runs through December 31, 2021.
- From Talking Leaves to Pixels exhibit is a two-part exhibit that is currently on display at the Cherokee National Supreme Court Museum and the Cherokee National Prison Museum and runs through December 31, 2021.
- Sequoyah's Last Journey exhibit is currently on display at Sequoyah's Cabin Museum and runs through December 31, 2021.
- Dorothy Sullivan: Art is in its Meaning is now open at the Saline Courthouse Museum and runs through August 28, 2021.

CWY 50hA00J Dh0R00Y
Language Department
Dh00EJ May / 507M0 June 2021

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CHEROKEE LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

14th Generation Institute

- Sequoyah Schools afterschool Cherokee language program, Cherokee language immersion tutoring

Cherokee Nation Institute of Excellence

- Cherokee speaker bridge program

Cherokee Teacher Bridge Program

- Cherokee Language teacher development, linguistic training

Cherokee Teacher Scholarship

- NSU Cherokee teacher scholarship

Community Language

- Community classes, online classes, public events

Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program

- Adult Cherokee immersion and language teacher training

Community Voice, Cherokee Sounds

- Cherokee language radio show

Language Technology

- Cherokee language software, design, media, outreach

Native Language Community Coordination (NLCC)

- Cherokee language curriculum development, language board and teacher certification

Translation

- Cherokee translations, presentations, community outreach

io0Y0 December / 070W0 January

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	REPORTING PERIOD	YEAR-TO-DATE
# of staff presentations/classes	5	13

# of participants-Outreach	50	282
# of on-site classes	n/a	n/a
# of participants in on-line class	2,581	5,219
# CLMAP participants	22	22
# 14 th Generation students	14 (summer camp)	55
# contract community classes	0 (canceled til further notice)	0
# language translations (internal)	4,357	53,661
# language translations (external)	215	896
# teacher certifications/proficiency	Proficiency-0 Certification-0	Proficiency- 0 Certification-0
# language technology inquire/assistance	285	1,302
# CLMAP graduates	n/a	3
# Language teacher graduates	n/a	1

LANGUAGE CLASSES:

Ed Fields Summer Online language classes opened for registration June 21. Classes begin July 5th at learn.cherokee.org. Wade Blevins continues filming the RSU TV Cherokee 2 classes. Production on 48 new episodes will be complete this summer in time for the Fall 21 semester. As of June 25 there are 34 episodes completed of the 48 needed for the course.

Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program has returned to face-to-face language sessions. The fourth and final addition will complete the programs expansion in the Fall of 2021. Seventy-one applications were received for the Fall 2021 cohort. Applications are under review and all applicants to be contacted via email regarding the status of their application. The expansion and program updates have proven to a positive shift in second language learner growth for CLMAP participants.

LANGUAGE OUTREACH:

Language Department has been attending virtual meetings with the Oklahoma State Department of Education as part of the World Language Standards Writing Committee each Wednesday where he provides input to the state on the needs of Indigenous language teaching in public schools. Cherokee Language staff has been providing Cherokee interpretations services for some federal court cases involving Cherokee citizens.

The Cherokee Language Consortium was asked to prepare a traditional meal for the Tri-Council for the evening of June 16th. Language program staff assisted and the whole group enjoyed great fellowship with Eastern Band and UKB speakers. Translation staff have wrapped up translation of stories for the 2021 all-Cherokee language issue of the Cherokee Phoenix to be released during Cherokee Holiday. Dennis Sixkiller continues production for the Cherokee Voices, Cherokee Sounds radio show. Translation staff continues working with University of New Mexico researchers on transcribing the Cherokee Language interviews from the Cherokee Voices, Cherokee Sounds radio program. Dennis Sixkiller & Sammy Still have been doing storytelling and marbles demonstration for a group of military families each Friday at the Cherokee Heritage Center. CLMAP representatives have provided virtual language presentations at Tulsa Public Schools, IAIA, Tulsa Community College and OSUCOM.

Language tech staff have been working with Apple's font design team to update the Cherokee Syllabary font used on Apple's products. Issues regarding legibility of the some of the characters are being addressed in the Cherokee font and will be fixed in an upcoming software update for all Apple products. Fulfilled and printed 275 Cherokee language posters requests. These posters go to schools and other educational organizations such as museums and universities. Mailed out 10 Cherokee language USB drives. These drives contain all the materials found on the language.cherokee.org site as well as recordings. Assisted Cherokee Immersion School graduation by providing large scale photos of graduates and posters. Updated the Cherokee language phonetic keyboard for Apple Macintosh computers. The old version was no longer compatible with newer computers.

GRANT PROJECTS:

Living Language Grant: Applications for the Cherokee Language Department Concurrent enrollment scholarship for RSU Cherokee Language classes is open and available at language.cherokee.org. The deadline for the applications for the Cherokee Language Department's Concurrent enrollment scholarship for RSU Cherokee Language classes was extended to July 15th. Eligibility was opened to all CN citizens who are juniors and seniors in high school regardless of residency (previously it was limited only to in-state CN citizens). The application is available at language.cherokee.org. Please contact Raven-Bruner@cherokee.org for details.

Native Language Community Coordination: The NLCC Committee continues to meet biweekly with program leaders from language programs to coordinate and develop streamlined language systems throughout the tribe and its language partners. NLCC leadership attended monthly ANA Cohort coaching calls and ANA Grantee meetings for the months of May and June. NLCC leadership attended "How to Plan an Effective Language Program" virtual workshop.

Grant staff continue to develop language curriculum and meet grant benchmarks. This development includes multimedia lessons for adult language learners. Curriculum development will continue to focus on adult second language acquisition throughout the next quarter. CLMAP and NLCC curriculum team hosted program planners from EBCI to share lessons learned as they prepare for adult language immersion programming. The grant team continues to meet biweekly to maintain coordination among CN language efforts.

Cherokee Teacher Bridge Project: This project will work to professionally develop future Cherokee language teachers. The team is currently collected professional language education curriculum from area institutions. The Teacher Bridge project has joined NLCC biweekly meetings.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT:

Virtual Classroom Platform is an online teaching platform developed for the Cherokee Language Immersion School. Translations for the Student and Teacher interfaces were provided to Coda and they have started adding the Cherokee into the platform. In-house training continues through initial rollout.

Cherokee Language Video Game App project is based on the *Inage'i* Cherokee language animated series and will feature the characters in an interactive language-learning environment. The project is completed and awaiting copyright and trademark completion be released to app stores.

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

The Cherokee Language animated series *Inagei TŌT* has been accepted into several film festivals: NMAI Native Cinema Showcase; the OKC Dead Center Film fest nominated for Best Indigenous short film; and the Phoenix Film Festival. Work with CN legal staff to register copyright and trademarks for the *Inage'i* animated series characters is still underway. This will allow the Language Department can release the Cherokee language video game based on the characters.

CHEROKEE SPEAKER REGISTRY:

During the 2021 calendar year, 61 Cherokee speakers have passed.



Community Report for June 2021

Kevin Stretch – Director

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

Principal Chief Hoskin announced a Respond, Recover, and Rebuild initiatives allowing CCO participating local and at-large organizations to receive additional funds allowing for purchases including: products for sanitizing, sterilization and PPE, food support capital expenditures, like walk-in cold storage, food prep, and operating expenses. All organizations were unable to fundraise leaving them unable to pay bills. These initiatives allow for those expenses to be covered.



CCO has teamed with Natural Resources to provide an additional 6 solar projects on the Reservation, increasing the number to 9 total. These projects have been proposed and implemented based on a 12-month utilities requirement as well as previously installed equipment. These solar systems were planned to be monitored and reevaluated after 12 months of operation to assess the needs vs. capacity. Alterations to those systems will be made as necessary.

Community buildings with walk-in refrigeration are also receiving large backup generators to maintain the facilities during power outages, keeping in mind our community buildings are also intended to be emergency shelters as needed.

Community buildings who applied for \$3,000 utilities assistance have received the funds to offset their inability to operate during the pandemic. These facilities are utilized to shore up food insecurities and must remain operational to fulfill those needs.



Community Organization Training & Technical Assistance

Community Organizations Assisted in June

**Total number of Technical Assistance
videos visits in June**



**Number of hours of technical assistance
provided Cherokee community leaders in June**

35

Community Organization Assisted in June

Adair County Historical & Gene Assn (D7&8)	One Fire Association (D9)
Central Texas Cherokee Township (AL)	Rogers County Cherokee Assn (D12,14,15)
Cherokee Comm of the Inland Empire (AL)	Tailholt Community Org (D3)
Cherokee GaDuGi (AL)	Talbot Library & Museum (D9&10)
Cherokee Township of San Antonio (AL)	White Oak Community Center (D11)
Georgia Cherokee Community (AL)	



Sustainable Communities Initiative



The Cherokee Nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic initially slowed CCO's Community Works and Sustainability grant funding but has since funded those organization requesting assistance.

This process was interrupted in the funding decision phase by the COVID-19 pandemic and availability of Federal COVID Relief Funds (CRF). Many of the improvements outlined and approved for Housing, Jobs, and Sustainable Communities Act (HJSCA) funding were then allowed to be funded with CRF, which became part of the Respond Relief Recover Act (RRR). Separating the specific allowable purchases and spending, along with the Cherokee Nation government COVID-19 workplace safety implementation, created longer application-to-funding receipt times, as well additional training, paperwork, and reporting requirements for the organizations, CCO, Administration and CN Finance.

The pandemic slowdown also created some capital project bids to expire and new bids were considerably higher than the pre-pandemic period. CCO has been working with those organizations to assist in differentiating between RRR vs. HJSCA vs. Community Work grants, regarding what is allowable.



Cultural Outreach & At-Large Communities

Cultural Outreach staff presented 4 lectures in June. The first was on June 3rd and was "Healing Through Culture. On June 12th Walking In Balance was presented for Mount Hood Cherokees Organization. Because of the halt in travel the Sister Community program was hobbled. In an effort to jumpstart that effort, staff held a remote gathering of community leaders to encourage them to link with a Sister Community on June 17th. In keeping with what Cherokee communities do when they gather up, June 24th staff member Vince Feeling discussed The Culinary Tradition of the Hog Fry and its Place in Cherokee Culture.

**Views of Cherokee all cultural
presentations in June**

756



Volunteer Program

In June, Volunteer Program staff completed 6 projects. The number of projects completed was down because of the poor weather conditions for building. Projects were completed in the North Tulsa, Tahlequah, Belfonte, Bell and Greasy areas. These included handicap accessibility and storm damage repair.

**Number of projects completed by
program staff in June**

6

Volunteer Program staff would like to thank the Language Department for their financial support. Because of their contribution, Elder Cherokee Speaker were able to have work completed on their homes making them a safer place to be. WaDo

Cemetery Preservation & Restoration Program

June sees the beginning of the slowdown in Cemetery Preservation activity. Most of the applications for assistance are filed before Memorial Day to accommodate most family gatherings. It is expected that June begins the end of the application cycle. However, we would like to highlight the work of the Quinton Family Cemetery group. They have leveraged the resources provided by the Council into refurbishing the entire cemetery. The before and after pictures below document the work and dedication of this group to preserving our Cherokee history.



**Quinton Family Cemetery –
Before work began**



**Quinton Family Cemetery –
After work completed**



**Number of new cemetery
applications in June**



CWY: Wherever We Are

This series hopes to connect to those Cherokees on Reservation and at-large who miss the gatherings, and the access to accurate and thorough information those events revealed. Those events are live-streamed, as well as archived on YouTube at Cherokee Nation Community & Cultural Outreach. Event #1 focused on Young Cherokees, and have had 3,142 views as of 4 June, 2021. Event #2 was a full update on our COVID response, and currently stands at 2,578. The next event the Outdoors edition was broadcast June 12, at noon CT.

Cherokee National Treasures Advisory Committee Report July 2021

- A total of 11 National Treasure nominations were submitted to the committee. At the time of drafting this report, the selection process was still under way. The committee will be making their final selections and the new Treasures should be notified the first week of July. They will receive their official Cherokee National Treasure title during the events of this year's Cherokee National Holiday.
- Cherokee National Treasures are featured at the Saline Courthouse Museum on a rotating basis. The following Treasures and their work will be featured as follows:
 - Dorothy Sullivan (Painting) - July/August
 - Bessie Russell (Basketry) - September/October
 - TBD - November/December
- There are 4 National Treasures currently holding classes in the Mentorship Program for FY21 with a total of 20 students participating. Those classes are: pottery, basket weaving (round reed and rivercane), loom weaving and bow making.

This year, the National Treasures Student Art Show will be held on Saturday, September 4th from 9am-3pm. This will be held in conjunction with the Cherokee Artisan Marketplace to be held on the lawn of the Cherokee National History Museum.



CHEROKEE

NATIONAL TREASURES

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

Kathryn Kelley (Basketry). Services for Kathryn were held on June 12th in Bartlesville, OK.

Jesse Hummingbird (Painting). We received news of Jesse's passing on June 18th, at the time of drafting the report, services were still pending.

