



Cultural Tourism

Council of the Cherokee Nation Cultural Committee Report September 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 Homecoming Art Show and Sale. The show runs through September 25 both virtually and in person. The show can be viewed at Cherokee Springs Plaza or online at [Cherokee Homecoming Art Show & Sale | Visit Cherokee Nation](#)

- Currently working on a complete inventory of the CHC Collection and Archives to finalize the formal transfer of assets of CNHS 1963 to Cherokee Nation. Inventory should complete September 2021.
- The Cherokee National Research Center is currently under construction and will open this fall. 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 current state of the physical plant is being assessed as part of the strategic plan. The plan will be complete in September and will focus on future programming for the Cherokee Heritage Center and needs to support that programming, facility improvements and organizational planning.
 - CHC will likely remain closed through 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:
 - Continue to work with Oklahoma Historical Society on the acquisition. 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 this fall.

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.
- Bessie Russell: Weaving a Tradition is now open at the Saline Courthouse Museum and runs through October 30.

CWY SᵂhAᵂᵂJ DᵂRᵂᵂY
Language Department
JᵂVᵂh July / Sᵂh August 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

ioᵂYᵂ December / ᵂZᵂWᵂh January

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	REPORTING PERIOD	YEAR-TO-DATE
# of staff presentations/classes	2	15

# of participants-Outreach	50	332
# of on-site classes	n/a	n/a
# of participants in on-line class	2,150	7,369
# CLMAP participants	22	22
# 14 th Generation students	14 (summer camp)	55
# contract community classes	0 (canceled til further notice)	0
# language translations (internal)	14,032	67,693
# language translations (external)	200	1,096
# teacher certifications/proficiency	Proficiency-0 Certification-0	Proficiency- 0 Certification-0
# language technology inquire/assistance	319	1,621
# CLMAP graduates	n/a (Feb 2022)	3
# Language teacher Scholarship Students	4	4

LANGUAGE CLASSES:

Ed Fields Summer Online language classes went well and wrapped up until the fall. Fall session opened August 30. Classes begin September 13 at learn.cherokee.org. Wade Blevins continues filming the RSU TV Cherokee 2 classes. Production on 48 new episodes are completed in time for the Fall 21 semester. Episodes will air on RSU TV, as well as be included in an online course at RSU.

Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program is preparing for the fourth and final addition will complete the programs expansion September 2021. Seventy-one applications were received for the Fall 2021 cohort. The expansion and program updates have proven to a positive shift in second language learner growth for CLMAP participants. CLMAP learners continue to show strong advancements in their language acquisition.

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.

Translation staff completed the translation of stories for the third 2021 all-Cherokee language issue of the Cherokee Phoenix to be released during Cherokee Holiday. Translation specialist John Ross translated the Sequoyah Day Proclamation into syllabary as part of the syllabary bicentennial celebration. This text will be printed on a printing press using a special commemorative Cherokee syllabary typeset that was commissioned by the tribe for the bicentennial.

Translation office provided translations for several video features as part of the bicentennial celebration, including a documentary on the Cherokee Speaker Roll Book project; upcoming episodes of the new season of Osiyo TV; and several short Cherokee Nation videos for Cherokee Holiday. Dennis Sixkiller continues production for the Cherokee Voices, Cherokee Sounds radio show and recently celebrated completion of the 1,000th episode. Translation staff continues working with University of New Mexico researchers on transcribing the Cherokee Language interviews from the Cherokee Voices, Cherokee Sounds radio program. Sammy Still & Dennis Sixkiller partnered with JOM to perform Cherokee marbles demonstrations and language lessons for US Army soldiers part of the construction crew building veterans homes for Cherokee Nation. Still was also featured on a Visit Cherokee Nation social media video highlighting his work as a traditional marble maker. It was one of their most popular videos with over 29,000 views.

Cherokee speaker Dione Byrd was awarded the Seven Feathers Award for language by the Cherokee Phoenix. He designed a playing card game based on solitaire called Saquu ᵂᵂ that utilizes Cherokee syllabary. He brought the handmade prototype to the Language Department, and the department helped him design a professional level card deck for manufacturing. The department paid for production of five hundred card decks to be split between Dione Byrd and the Cherokee Language Department.

Language tech staff have been working with Apple's font design team to update the Cherokee Syllabary font used on Apple's products. Fulfilled and printed 261 Cherokee language posters requests. These posters go to schools and other educational organizations such as museums and universities. Mailed out 30 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 as they prepare for the Fall 2021 semester.

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. Applications for the Cherokee Language Department's Concurrent enrollment scholarship for RSU Cherokee Language classes are available at language.cherokee.org. Eligibility is open to all CN citizens who are juniors and seniors in high school regardless of residency. 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 "Creating Effective Language Material" virtual workshop. In September, the NLCC team will (virtually) host the Semi-Annual Meeting of

Grantees. Host responsibilities will include a “How to Create a Master/Apprentice Language Program.”

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 Snowbird Community to share lessons learned as they prepare for adult language immersion program in the fall. 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 collaborates with the Native Language Community Coordination grant to identify and sort language teaching methodology. The Cherokee Master Speaker position was filled during this reporting period.

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 to be released to app stores.

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

In preparation for the 69th Cherokee National Holiday, Language Technology helped CN administration with gathering details on Don Lionetti of Microsoft, Peter Lofting of Apple, and Craig Cornelius of Google for their assistance to the Cherokee Language Department over the years. Each of them was awarded the 2021 Samuel Worcester Award for their work with Cherokee language.

The Cherokee Language Master/Apprentice Program created original content to be showcased during the CNH Drive-in. TŌT Inage’i episodes 102 and 103 were also showcased during the Cherokee Night of the Drive-in.

Additionally, the department has assisted CNB staff and Osiyo TV to create a new animated character that will be featured in the language lessons segment of Osiyo TV. The Mantra Lingua interactive Cherokee language books have been received. These interactive books use a stylus and bluetooth speaker system to allow children to interact with the books and have stories read to them in Cherokee language. The books are being utilized at the Cherokee Immersion school.

After school Cherokee language programs have been developed in conjunction with Jay and Kansas public schools. A joint partnership between Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program, the Community Language Program, and Jay and Kansas public schools. Similarly, Language Program staff have been

meeting with the Choctaw Nation Language School to explore their distance learning program which provides Choctaw language classes to over 40 school districts in their reservation area. Cherokee Nation is studying ways to develop a similar program to reach schools in the Cherokee Nation reservation.

CHEROKEE SPEAKER REGISTRY:

In July, the Cherokee Speaker Roll Book visited the EBCI for the Kituwah Celebration. Remaining signatures of Cherokee speakers from the Snowbird Community were collecting during the visit. During the CNH Cherokee Drive-in Night, the Osiyo TV documentary documenting the Cherokee Speaker Roll Book project premiered.

During the 2021 calendar year, 92 Cherokee speakers have passed.

Cherokee National Treasures Advisory Committee Report September 2021

- The committee recommended the following three Cherokee artists to be designated 2021 Cherokee National Treasures:

- Cathy Abercrombie, Textiles: Loom Weaving
- Danny McCarter, Traditional Weapons: Blow Guns/Blow Darts
- Harry Oosahwee, Sculpture

Each artist was confirmed during the Cherokee National Holiday Honor and Awards virtual ceremony on September 2nd.

- 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:

Bessie Russell (Basketry) - September/October

Dorothy Ice (Loom Weaving) - November/December

Beginning January 2022, each National Treasure exhibit showcase will be extended to a three month time frame.

- Due to the rise of Covid-19 cases, the Cherokee National Treasures Student Art Show was canceled along with the other in-person events for this year's Cherokee National Holiday. The Cherokee National Treasures Mentorship Program ended the fiscal year with six (6) National Treasure Mentors and a total of 26 students.

- It is with deepest sympathy that we report the passing of Cherokee National Treasure Lorene Drywater (Textiles). Services for Lorene were held on August 3rd in Tahlequah, OK.





Community Report for July 2021

Kevin Stretch – Director

The following report covers the activities of the CCO staff for the month of July 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 July

CCO staff also provided our communities with a capacity building training title “Clear It Up: Transparency in Non-Profit Organizations”.

Number of Cherokee citizens viewing the “Clearing It Up” training live in July



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



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



Community Organization Assisted in July

Capital City Cherokee Community (AL)	Illinois River Area Cherokee Org (D2)
Central Texas Cherokee Township (AL)	Indian Women's Pocahontas Club (D10,14,15)
Cherokee Citizens League of Southeast Texas (AL)	Kansas City Cherokee Community (AL)
Cherokee Community of Central California (AL)	N. Cherokee Cnty Booster Club
Cherokee Community of Puget Sound (AL)	Native American Fellowship, Inc (D11)
Cherokee Elders Council (D9,15)	One Fire - Kenwood/Wickliffe (D9)
Cherokee Gadugi	Project A Assoc (D4)
Cherokee Society of the Greater Bay Area (AL)	Rocky Mountain Cherokee Community (D7)
Cherokees Black Indian History Preservation (D1)	Rogers County Cherokee Asso (D12,14,15)
Cherokees of Central Florida (AL)	Southern Cherokee Helpers (D4)
Cherokees of Northern Central Valley (AL)	Tailholt Community Org (D3)
Cherokees of the Greater Central Valley (AL)	The learning Curve Group*
Colorado Cherokee Circle (AL)	Tsa La Gi LA (AL)
Desert Cherokees (AL)	Valley of the Sun Cherokees (AL)
Fairfield (D7&8)	Victory Cherokee (D15)
Family Support Center of Oaks (D2,8,9)	Washington County Cherokee Asso (D12)
Gadugi Cherokee of North Texas (AL)	White Oak Community Center (D11)
Georgia Cherokee Community Alliance (AL)	Willamette Tsa La Gi Community (AL)
Hulbert Cherokee Comm Org (D1)	



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).

CCO in conjunction with Finance has made a concerted effort to present funding for many new and upgrading projects in the last month, including solar.



Cultural Outreach & At-Large Communities

Cultural Outreach staff presented 3 lectures in July. The first was on June 30th and was Healing Through Culture. On July 1st Cherokee Storytelling was presented by Choogie Kingfisher. CCO staff member Brad Wagnon presented Cherokee Spirituality on July 8th.

Views of Cherokee all cultural
presentations in July

1080



Volunteer Program

In July, Volunteer Program staff completed 15 projects. Projects were completed in the Tahlequah, Belfonte, Brushy, Salina, Stilwell and Welling areas. These included handicap accessibility, floor repair and insulation of homes.

Number of projects completed by
program staff in July

15

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

As the end of the year approaches, the number of requests for funding from the Cemetery Preservation and Restoration program begins to slow down. This month saw seven new requests for funding from five different council Districts.



Number of new cemetery applications in July



Total number of cemetery applications in FY21



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 3,312 views as of 4 June, 2021. Event #2 was a full update on our COVID response, and currently stands at 2,792. The next event the Outdoors edition, #3 in the series, was broadcast June 12, and views currently are 4,193. Event #4, the most successful event thus far, focused on many powerful Cherokee Women currently employed or elected who discussed the inspiration behind their ambition and success. Views of this event stand at 3,629.