



Cultural Tourism
Cultural Committee Report
March 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 Spring 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 will be 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.
- Tahlonteskee
 - Tahlonteskee 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 Tahlonteskee 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 Spring 2023.

Exhibitions (through June 2023):

- Traci Rabbit: An Artist's 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 Ezekiel 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
Now- 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 18- September 23, 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 June 2023):

- 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.
- Trail of Tears Art Show and Sale
April 8th- May 7th
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-4pm
Cherokee Springs Art Gallery - Tahlequah
Trail of Tears Art Show and Sale is the longest running Native American Art Show in Oklahoma.
- Trail of Tears Art Show Reception
April 7
6pm-8:30pm
Cherokee Springs Art Gallery - Tahlequah
- Saturday Print Action
April 8
10am-4pm
Cherokee Nation History Museum - Tahlequah
Crystal Walters from the Cherokee Arts Center will be offer live screen printing. Everyone will have a chance to leave with their own screen print.
- Fiddlers on the Porch
April 22
11am -3pm
Saline Courthouse Museum
Music provided by Jerry and Robert Bigfeather. There will also be artist demonstrations and a food truck

- Cultural Class: Basket Weaving
April 22
10am-3pm
Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural and Welcome Center
Join us for a basket making class with Cherokee National Treasure, Lena Stick. She will be teaching how to make both double wall and single wall baskets. Registration is required.
- Cultural Class: Moccasin Making
April, 22
10am-2pm
Cherokee National Prison Museum
Join Carrie Grayson as she teaches a cultural class on moccasin making. Registration is required.
- Cultural Class: A Pottery Effigy
May 6
Friday, 10am-3pm
Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural and Welcome Center. Registration is required.
- Second Saturday Artist Showcase
May 13th
Saturday, 10am-4pm
Cherokee Nation History Museum - Tahlequah
Lena Stick will be demonstrating basket weaving utilizing traditional materials and dyes.
- Ribbon Skirt Fashion Show
May 20
2pm-4pm
Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural and Welcome Center
- Music on the Porch
May 20th
11am-3pm
Saline Courthouse Museum
Mary Kay Henderson and family will be entertaining guests along with artist demonstrations and a food truck.
- Cultural Class: Basket Weaving
May 27
Saturday, 10am-2pm
Cherokee National Prison Museum - Tahlequah

Cherokee National Treasure Barbara Adair will be teaching basket weaving. Registration is required.

- Traditional Games on the Square
Fridays in June
11am – 1pm
Cherokee Nation Capitol Square
Museum staff will be set up on the square from 11am-1pm to demonstrate and play traditional games with visitors.
- Second Saturday Artist Showcase: Cherokee National Treasure Troy Jackson
June 10
10am-4pm
Cherokee Nation History Museum
Cherokee National Treasure Troy Jackson will be demonstrating and providing an artist talk on his various techniques in clay sculpture.
- Music on the Porch
June 17
11am-3pm
Saline Courthouse Museum
Choogie Mackey will perform along with artist demonstrations and a food truck.
- Cultural Demonstration: Flint Knapping
June 17
12pm-2pm
Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural and Welcome Center - Vinita
Cherokee National Treasure Vyril Keeter will demonstrate the practice of traditional Cherokee flint knapping.
- Stories on the Square
June 7, 14, 21, 28
10am-11:30am
Cherokee Nation Peace Pavilion - Tahlequah

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Language Department

D000 March 2023

Executive Director: Howard Paden

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Cherokee Language Programs

14th Generation Institute (14 Gen)

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

Cherokee Nation Institute of Excellence (IOE)

- Cherokee speaker bridge program

Cherokee Teacher Bridge Program (TB)

- Cherokee Language teacher development, linguistic training

Cherokee Teacher Scholarship

- NSU Cherokee teacher scholarship

Community Language

- Community classes, online classes, public events

Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program (CLMAP)

- 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

Cherokee Speaker Services

- Emergency housing needs service team

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	REPORTING PERIOD	YEAR-TO-DATE
# of staff presentations/classes	7	16
# of participants-Outreach	140	661
# of on-site classes	1	4
# of participants in on-line class	Beings March 20th	4,126

# CLMAP participants	28	28
# 14 th Generation students	No report.	FY'22-29, FY'23-27
# contract community classes	All classes begin in March	9
# language translations (internal) (word count)	9,679	25,147
# language translations (external) (word count)	223	4,533
# teacher certifications/proficiency	Proficiency-0 Certification-1	Proficiency- 2 Certification-3
# language technology inquire/assistance	37	329
# language posters printed	15	773
# USB drives handed out	12	1217
#Teacher Bridge Program participants/new hires	0	3
#TB assessments developed	2	3
#TB assessments given	2	2
#TB articles reviewed	1	7
# TB documents translated	1	14
#TB lesson plans translated	5	65
#TB outreach events	1	2
# IOE Contracts with speakers	0	7

4th Generation Institute

Highlights:

- NO REPORT.

Cherokee Immersion Charter School

Highlights:

- Various Immersion Charter School administration and teachers were able to attend the following trainings:
 - Superintendent Training, OKC
 - Classroom Management, OKC
 - National Coalition of Native American Language Schools and Programs (NCALSP), Hilo, HI
 - Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Institute was able to travel to Tahlequah to provide two days of on campus training.

Cherokee Institute of Excellence

Highlights:

- The Institute has documented over 300 hours of audio from speakers throughout the communities with speakers of an average age of 60 years old and older. The speakers in these areas speak at a distinguished level and use words not often heard in everyday conversations. The topics range from traditional stories, current events, oral history, and traditional medicines/ methods.
- The language group has finished our third cohort of distinguished speakers and we took them out for lunch to celebrate the work they did for us and to show our appreciation for their contributions.
- We are in the process of finalizing our fourth cohort of six distinguished speakers.
- We were able to add a new demographic to our dialect mapping project. This demonstrates the importance of programs like ours in language preservation.
- The community of Spavinaw, Ok has only three first-language speakers left and we will be documenting and preserving their conversations in Cherokee.
- The historical documents are being processed and the archivist is working on cataloging them for future pedagogy materials and the future acquisition of endangered Cherokee words.
- The Advanced speakers are listening and compiling notes from the third cohort of speakers having language sessions to help better understand and practice the conduct of the dialogue.
- The distinguished speakers who have completed their contracts continue to compliment the program and express their desire to work with our program again. This will be a possibility after we have contracted with all the speakers that are still waiting to work with us.

Cherokee Teacher Bridge Program

Highlights:

- Weekly program meetings are being held to discuss curriculum, lesson planning, and preparing documents for translation.
- Weekly meetings with Translators to translate class documents
 - Cherokee Cultural Enrichment Guide
- We started a new project to create a series of exercise videos for Language program participants/employees and other Cherokee nation employees
 - Met with sound stage directors in Owasso
 - Decided on settings for 3 videos
 - Working on scripts
- TB instructors continue to create their lesson plans and materials for future classes
- TB participants are spending half a day, 3 days a week, assisting in CLMAP and Cherokee Immersion school classes
- TB participants completed the first unit of study and completed two assessments to determine their growth:

- “Who am I/What have I learned” presentation
- Teaching a lesson that included at least one concept from Unit 1 as well as language they learned in that unit.

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

Highlights:

- The Saving the Voices program is interviewing and recording first language Cherokee speakers onsite at the Durbin Feeling Language Center studio and doing home visits when needed. To schedule interviews please call 918-207-4901 or email mitchell-holcomb@cherokee.org. 31 speakers were recorded during February.
- Registration for online classes with Ed Fields start March 6 at learn.cherokee.org. Classes start March 20th.
- In-person language classes begin in March. The full schedule is included below.
- Cherokee 2 has been airing on RSU TV channel 35.2 Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at 9a with a rerun at 4p each of those days. Cherokee 1 & 2 are offered as online courses at RSU for college credit and for free on YouTube. Cherokee 3 will be launching this fall. Cherokee 4 is currently being filmed with RSU TV studios.
- Language staff have been undergoing online training on how to properly archive items for use in the Cherokee language archive. The archive room in Durbin Feeling Language Center now has archival shelving installed and we are ready to begin intaking Cherokee language documents for preservation from the community.
- Language Staff assisted JOM with developing content for the upcoming Cherokee language and challenge bowls hosted by Cherokee Nation JOM program.
- Dr. Christian Koops has been working with language staff on analysis of Cherokee tone and linguistic morphology as part of the Cherokee language dictionary project.

COMMUNITY LANGUAGE CLASS SCHEDULE – SPRING 2023

Free and Open to the Public!

Questions? Please contact 918-207-4901 or language@cherokee.org

(PLEASE NOTE: Times and Locations subject to change)

Instructor	Location	Start Date	Days	Time
Lawrence Panther	Twin Oaks Baptist Church, Twin Oaks, OK	March 9	Tuesdays/Thursdays	6-8p
Dennis Sixkiller	Anna Mitchell Cultural Center, Vinita, OK	March 13	Mondays	6-8p
Phyllis Sixkiller	Muldrow Cherokee Community Center, Muldrow, OK	March 14	Tuesdays	6-8p
Sarah Oosawhee	Washington County Cherokee Association, Ochelata, OK	March 16	Thursdays	6:30-8:30p
Sandra Turner	Ballou Baptist Church, Locust Grove, OK	March 20	Mondays	6-8p
George Stopp	Westville Public Library, Westville, OK	March 20	Mondays	4-6p
Jessie Hair	Sanctuary Apostolic Church of Muskogee, Muskogee, OK	March 24	Fridays	7-8p
DJ McCarter	Elm Tree Baptist Church	March 27	Mondays/Tuesdays	6:30p-8:30p
Treesa Vann	Kenwood Community Center	March 27	Mondays/Thursdays	6p-8p
Ed Fields	Online at learn.cherokee.org	March 20	Monday-Thursday	9a-8p

Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program

Highlights:

- The program is preparing for the graduation of seven learners.
- CLMAP is in the final steps of placing the twelfth cohort. Eight new learners will begin their language journey March 1, 2023. Applications will be available in May for the Fall 2023 cohort. Applications will be available at www.language.cherokee.org. Interested individuals can apply electronically or can request an application in person. Due to the inconsistency with postal delivery, applicants are encouraged to submit electronically or hand deliver applications.

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

Highlights:

- Language Tech staff have been helping Translation staff with recording content for Cherokee lessons for use in the Memrise app. The lessons will be released this spring and will be available on Apple and Android smart phones and tablets.
- Language Tech hosted visitors from the University of Central Oklahoma and the type foundry Tulsey Type to discuss design of new Cherokee fonts and to update existing Cherokee fonts for use in newer technologies. Collaborating on a Cherokee syllabary font style and usage guide that will help people using Cherokee syllabary in print production and design studios to properly use the syllabary.
- Assisting Language Admin staff with graphics, logos, and promo materials for upcoming Cherokee language speaker community gatherings in the spring.
- Setup shared network drive for the Saving the Voices project so all relevant staff can access the recordings of the Cherokee speaker interviews.
- Met with president of Oklahoma City University Dr. Kenneth Evans to discuss possible Cherokee language app development collaborative project between Language Department and OCU faculty and students.

Translation(Translations, presentations, community outreach)

Highlights:

- Translation staff have completed translations for Human Resources for a new employee engagement app tentatively called the Messenger.
- Translation have completed translations for a new app that lets applicants apply for CN jobs through text messaging called Ali. The app will respond to both Cherokee and English text messages.
- Translation staff have been helping Speaker Services with citizen calls for assistance to verify if the caller is a first language speaker and qualifies for program assistance.
- Translation staff visited the Cherokee National Research Center to view their collection of Cherokee language materials to be used as part of the Cherokee language dictionary.
- Translation staff have reviewed audition videos of speakers speaking Cherokee for Cherokee language voice over projects. A total of 11 people have been selected for an upcoming Cherokee language dubbing project for a cartoon series. More auditions will be held to find more speakers for future roles.

Cherokee Speaker Services

Highlights:

- NO REPORT.



The following report covers the activities of the CCO staff for the month of January 2023

The January 3, 2023 edition of the Cherokee Phoenix featured a story about two of our Cherokee community organizations, Marble City Activity Organization, in Council District 6, and Cherokee of Northern Central Valley, in the Sacramento, CA area. These two organization cemented their relationship October of 2019, when two ladies from Marble City traveled to Sacramento to visit, with the Cherokee living in that area.

Together they worked in the spirit of GaDuGi to clean up a cemetery in Grass Valley, CA. The historical Greenwood Memorial Cemetery is home of the Ridge family plots. Together they learned that 2 of the graves were missing markers, John Randolph Ridge and Tom Moore Ridge, the son and grandson of John Rollin Ridge John Rollin Ridge was the son of John Ridge and the grandson of Major Ridge.

Working together the two communities were able to acquire two marble stones suitable for marks from the Marble City quarry. On May 22, 2022 the communities came together to dedicate the newly placed markers on the historic graves.

Wherever we are, the community value of GaDuGi is alive and well in all our communities.



Community Organization Training & Technical Assistance

The benefits of our digital presence on YouTube is evident. In January, there were 27 visits to our training library.

Number of Capacity Training views in January



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.

Two CCO staff members attended the American Management Association's



**American Management
Association®**

online Training: Management Skills for New Managers. Successful managers get things done and this training was designed to help our staff do just that. They learn the art of management that will set them apart in their future careers with Cherokee Nation. Using extensive guided role plays, self-audits and in-depth skills exercises, they explored motivation, delegation, coaching, communication, performance management and leadership.

Take this course to fill your skill gaps and elevate your team—and your career—to new levels of greatness. Be ready to apply what you learn and return to work with new knowledge, insights and practical methods to help you be a successful and effective new manager.



Cultural Outreach & At-Large Communities

Cultural outreach activities were focused on our YouTube Channel in January. There were 580 views of our trainings during the month.

Views of cultural training on CCO YouTube Channel January

580

CCO staff worked with the Georgia Cherokee Community Alliance to develop a Community Survey. The purpose of the survey is to gain data from the community members about what services they would like to see and how those services are delivered. It is CCO's plan that this survey could be used as a template for other communities that wish to gather data from their community members.



Volunteer Program

Volunteer Program staff completed 14 projects in 11 of our Cherokee communities. These projects included improving access to elders' homes with ramps, stairs and doors and making their homes safer places to live by replacing plumbing and vermin proofing residence.

Communities receiving Vol. Prog. Assistance in January

Bell	Oaks
Chewy	Salina
Chouteau	Tahlequah
Evening Shade	Twin Oaks
Fort Gibson	Woodall
Moody	

Projects completed in January

14



Volunteer Program staff hosted a group from of the Kansas State University the first week of Jan. They also help with building/assisting with the ramps and staining cedar coating on the previous ramp that were built, the worked 3 days and had a cultural day throughout the Cherokee nation.



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 March 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 started off the 2023 year with his exhibit in January and will be displayed until April 8, 2023.

-Anna Sixkiller (Basketry) will follow Robert's exhibit. Her exhibit will begin on April 11 and will displayed until July 8, 2023.

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

There are currently six Cherokee National Treasures committeed to teach in the Cherokee National Treasures Mentorship Program. Each year the program budgets for 10 National Treasures to host class sessions for two or more students at a time. There is still time for a Treasure to sign up if they are interested in hosting classes.

Postings will open for the 2023 Cherokee National Treasures nominations beginning in April with the deadline for submissions on June 9, 2023. As in years past, there will be ads placed in the Cherokee Phoenix. We are currently working on having a link posted to the Cherokee.org website.

After a three year hiatus, the Cherokee Days Festival will return March 31 - April 2, 2023. The festival is held at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. 10 Cherokee National Treasures will be in attendance to share their knowledge of traditional arts. Those Treasures are as follows: Cathy Abercrombie (loom weaving), Vivian Cottrell (basketry), Betty Frogg (basketry/twining), Vyrl Keeter (flint knapping), Robert Lewis (storytelling), Eddie Morrion (sculpture), Jane Osti (pottery), Traci Rabbit (painting), Lisa Rutherford (pottery/textiles) and Tommy Wildcat (flute). For more information or to view live streaming of performances during the festival dates, please visit CherokeeDays.com.

