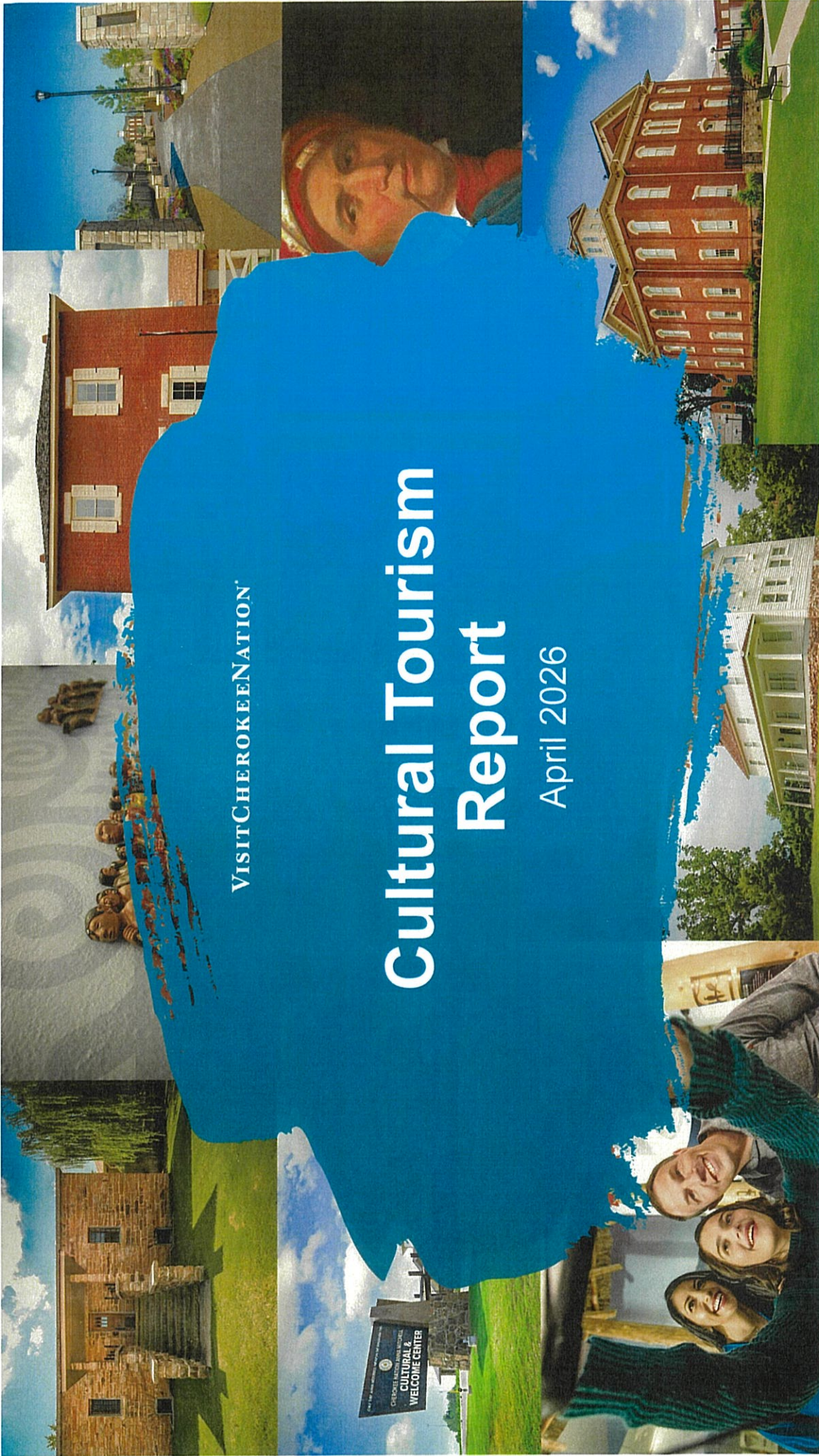


CULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT

Cultural Tourism – Molly Jarvis



VISITCHEROKEENATION

Cultural Tourism Report

April 2026

Reporting Period:
October 2025 –February 2026

7 Museums

Cherokee National History Museum
Saline Courthouse Museum
Cherokee Nation Supreme Court Museum
John Ross Museum
Sequoyah's Cabin Museum
Cherokee National Prison Museum
Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch

3 Cultural Sites

Cherokee National Peace Pavilion
Cherokee Cultural Pathway
Cherokee National Research Center

2 Gift Shops

Cherokee Nation Gift Shop - Tahlequah
Cherokee Gift Shop - Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa

1 Welcome Center

Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell
Cultural & Welcome Center

Operations

- ↑ 18.1K Guests
- 40 Group Tours
- ↑ \$529.1K Retail Revenue

Cherokee History Course/Lunch and Learn

- 8 Communities
- 354 Participants

Guests Served

- ↑ 509 Genealogy Requests
- 7 Programs/Events

Artist Impact

- \$148.7K Artist Recovery Act Spend
- 433 Artists Participating in Programs

Social



Followers: 237.7K
Key Demographic: 65+ Female



Followers: 12.7K
Key Demographic: 65+ Female

Web



↑ Pageviews: 84.9K
New Visitors: 38.2K
↑ Returning Visitors: 4.6K

Top Page Visited: Home

Primary Demographic: 18-24 Female

Look Ahead - 3 Month

Exhibitions

Cherokee Heritage Center: A Legacy of Culture
Ongoing
Cherokee National Research Center

We Are Cherokee: Cherokee Freedmen and the Right to Citizenship
Now - April 26, 2026
Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural & Welcome Center

Tonia Hogner Weavel: Threads of Tradition

Now – May 16, 2026
Saline Courthouse Museum

Since the First Fire: The Living Legacy of Cherokee Art
Now – May 23, 2026
Cherokee National History Museum

Bringing Our Story Home: Repatriation of the Cherokee Advocate Printing Press
Now – July 11, 2026
Cherokee National Supreme Court Museum

Keili Gonzales: Drawn to Culture
Now – October 4, 2026
Cherokee Cultural Pathway

Cherokee Nation: A History of a People
Now – November 2026
Cherokee Nation Community and Cultural Outreach At-Large Meetings – traveling

Wilson Rawls: The Red Fern Legacy
April 6, 2026 – April 29, 2026
Cherokee National History Museum

Path of Resilience: A Century of Route 66 in Cherokee Nation
May 14, 2026 – February 7, 2027
Cherokee Nation Anna Mitchell Cultural and Welcome Center

Victoria Vazquez (Cherokee National Treasure exhibit- Title TBD)
May 19, 2026 – September 12, 2026
Saline Courthouse Museum

Declarations of Sovereignty: The Cherokee Response to Revolution
June 4, 2026 – February 6, 2027
Cherokee National History Museum

Active Projects

Cherokee Heritage Center
Architectural development continues with exhibit design currently in progress. Work will continue through FY 26.

Foreman Cabin (Carlisle Cabin)
Relocation and restoration of the historic cabin to Sequoyah's Cabin Museum property has been completed. Exhibits are in production and planned for installation this spring..

Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch

Restoration of historic home is well underway and will be complete this summer. Scope of work to include new caretaker home and restoration of the historic home.

Ani Arts Center

Renovations of former Stilwell PPE plant are underway and will include cultural art storage, classroom space and an art gallery. This work is being supported by the Cherokee Artist Recovery Act and expected to be completed in mid-2026.

Look Ahead - 3 Month

Cherokee History Course

District 1 Community Class

March 30 – April 27, 2026

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Hulbert Cherokee Community Building

405 S. Rogers Avenue

Hulbert, OK 74441

Lunch and Learn Lecture Series

1829 Georgia Gold Rush and Land Lottery

Presenter LeeAnn Dreadfulwater

March 25, 2026

12:00pm – 1:00pm

NSU Jazz Lab

315 N. Muskogee Avenue

Tahlequah, Ok 74464

Land Language and Women: A Cherokee and American Educational History

Author Book Signing to follow

Presenter Dr. Julie Reed

April 15, 2026

12:00pm – 1:00pm

NSU Jazz Lab

315 N. Muskogee Avenue

Tahlequah, OK 74464

Programs & Events

Trail of Tears Art Show and Sale

Reception

April 10, 2026, 6:00pm - 8:30pm

The Gallery at Cherokee Springs Plaza

Tahlequah, OK

Trail of Tears Art Show and Sale

April 11- May 16, 2026

Tuesday – Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm

The Gallery at Cherokee Springs Plaza

Tahlequah, OK

Watercross Fest

April 18, 2026

10:00am - 4:00pm

The Saline Courthouse

Rose, OK

Mothers Day Pop-up Market

May 8, 2026

10:00am - 4:00pm

Cherokee Nation Cultural Pathway

Tahlequah, OK

Cultural Class: Round Reed Basket

Instructor: Anna Sixkiller

May 15, 2026

10:00am - 2:00pm

Saline Courthouse Museum

Rose, OK

Traditional Games

June 5, 2026

11:00am - 1:00pm

Cherokee National History Museum

Tahlequah, OK, Sequoyah's Cabin Museum

Sallisaw, OK and Saline Courthouse

Museum Rose, OK

Stories on the Square

June 3, 10, 17, & 24, 2026

10:00am - 11:30am

Cherokee Nation Peace Pavilion

Tahlequah, OK

CULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT

CN Language Program – Howard Paden

CWY 50hA00J Dh0Ro0Y

Language Department

D000 March 2026

Executive Director: Howard Paden
Phone: 918-207-7133
Email: howard-paden@cherokee.org

Deputy Executive Director: Julie Mackey
Phone: 918-931-5640
Email: julie-mackey@cherokee.org

Cherokee Language Programs

14th Generation Institute (14 Gen)

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

Cherokee Nation Teacher Institute of Excellence (TIE)

- Cherokee speaker bridge program

Cherokee Language Teacher Training Scholarship

- Cherokee language scholarship

Community Language

- Online classes, community language classes, and at-large community classes.

Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program (CLMAP)

- Adult Cherokee immersion and language teacher training

Cherokee Language Curriculum Development Program

- Cherokee language and cultural curriculum development for Immersion Schools

Community Voice, Cherokee Sounds

- Weekly Cherokee language radio show

Language Technology

- Cherokee language technology and outreach

Translation

- Cherokee translations, presentations, community outreach

Cherokee Speaker Services

- Emergency housing needs service team

Saving the Voices/Dictionary Program

- Recordings of Cherokee speakers and Dictionary application program

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	REPORTING PERIOD	YEAR-TO-DATE
# of staff presentations/classes	0	0

# of on-site classes	0	2
# of participants in on-line class current sessions	0	0
# of at-large courses	2	3
# of at-large course attendees	107	140
# CLMAP participants current session	41	55
# 14 th Generation students	18 – 25 (depending on other school activities)	FY2024-20, FY2025-20
# contract community classes current session	10	18
# language translations	8,800	13,058
Cherokee Speakers recorded	2	5
# teacher certifications/proficiency	Proficiency-0 Certification-0	Proficiency-1 Certification-0
# language technology inquire/assistance	53	153
# language posters printed	103	240
# USB drives handed out	320	1119
# of books/classroom materials printed in house	20	31
# Teacher Institute of Excellence Program (TIE) participants current session	4	4
# TIE Contracts with speakers	0	1
# Professional Development presentations for Immersion School Teachers	1	1
# Attendees for Professional Development presentations	42	42

# of classroom material developed		100
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Teacher Institute of Excellence (TIE)

Highlights:

- Finalizing summer professional development in collaboration with Immersion School Administration. The summer sessions will be held for Immersion Schoolteachers and invited Cherokee language teachers from public schools.
- Hosted a Gardening Workshop centered on specialized terminology and practical usage. We had 40+ attendees from the Immersion School, Cultural Curriculum, and Teacher Institute of Excellence.
- Completed cultural immersion trips to Sequoyah's Cabin, Five Tribes Museum, and Woolaroc Museum for cultural field research.

Community Language (Archive, community classes, online classes, public events)

Highlights:

- Currently 10 reservation-based community classes with approximately 100 participants
Course information and updates are maintained strictly at:
<https://language.cherokee.org/chokeee-language-classes/community-chokeee-classes/>
- At-large courses held for Cherokees of Northern Central Valley in Sacramento, CA as well as Oklahoma City
- Online courses are currently ongoing for the following Cherokee language levels:
 - 1 (258 enrolled)
 - 2 (93 enrolled)
 - 3 (50 enrolled)
 - 4 (41 enrolled)

Cherokee Teacher Training Scholarship

Highlights:

- The participants are halfway through the Spring Semester. We have a couple of individuals who are working on their application for the Fall Semester.

Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program (CLMAP)

Highlights:

- March 6th - Third Semester class took a trip to Stillwell/ Greasy flea market to utilize Cherokee word versions for buying and selling.
- March 12th - First Semester took a trip to The Botanical Garden in Tulsa to utilize Cherokee word versions involving outdoor subjects and activities.
- March 12th - Third Semester took a trip to Down to Earth Pottery in Tahlequah and spent the day doing pottery striving to utilize only the Cherokee language.
- March 13th - Third Semester went to The Cherokee National Research Center in Tahlequah. There they were able to view and read historical documents written in the Cherokee Language.
- March 13th - Kenwood First Semester took a field trip to The Original Egg in Tahlequah where they spent time visiting in that Cherokee witty and humorous way. They practiced utilizing Cherokee word versions for "passing" and other food-related words. They went to the Cherokee Nation Gift Shop and Down To Earth Pottery, were they discussed the cost of things, various words for painting (like painting a picture versus painting a wall), used words involving colors and for various painting related objects as well as forms of 'using' and 'choosing'. They stopped at The Cort Mall to browse while using word variations for 'liking' and 'buying'. They were able to view Keli Gonzales' art installation and talked about the titles of her pieces, which are written in syllabary.

- March 16th - 20th CLMAP instructors participated in a staff development. We reviewed classroom management, best practices, how to prepare the classrooms for new cohorts and discussed the most efficient methods for shifting classes to their new semester.
- March 20th - graduation for the 14th cohort was held
- March 23rd – Third and Fourth Semesters went to Kenwood to spend the day with the Immersion School and help pick wild onions
- March 24th – Third and Fourth Semesters went to Greasy to spend the day with the Immersion School and help pick wild onions
- March 23rd - 24th welcomed the 18th cohort into the Tahlequah CLMAP and held orientation for that new group
- March 25th - all Semesters will be going to the garden to spend the morning with the Immersion School and help get the garden ready to plant corn

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We Use This to Teach Them the Right Way
(Cultural Curriculum Program)

Highlights:

- Team completed the cultural book, Oratory and Storytelling for use at the Immersion School (50 pages written in syllabary and English).
- The team attended a curriculum training with Jennifer Morrison at Camp Sevenstar in Park Hill, to learn standards for writing in depth cultural curriculum that integrates Cherokee stories, cultural practices and also national standards. Work has begun to utilize this method.
- Collaboration with the CNB Animation team continues with weekly meetings. Thirty-three 'deliverable' films will be completed by September 30, 2026. The films, entirely in the Cherokee language, will be shown in Immersion School classrooms.
- Team members attend a weekly meeting to assist the Immersion School in their effort to create and develop a new year long calendar.
- The Curriculum Team co-hosted a professional development training for Immersion School teachers on March 13th. There were 42 in attendance.
- The team continues to assist the immersion teachers with translations, classroom material and other requests.

Community Voices, Cherokee Sounds

Highlights:

- New episodes were aired on March 1st, 9th, 18th, 23rd

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

Highlights:

- Completed working with Google on a Cherokee Dictionary app based on Durbin Feeling's 1975 Cherokee Dictionary. The app is currently only for iOS/Apple devices and can be found on the app store searching Cherokee_Dictionary. At this time the dictionary is in the beta phase of testing and has been released to Durbin Feeling Language Center employees/students, but the public can also download. The app has the ability to record the user/fluent speakers and allows for user to reference their recorded material at any time. It will sort the parts of grammar, generate daily words and tracks achievements.
- Printed 90 small 3D turtle shells for the 3 and 4 year old Immersion students/staff. They will be doing a lesson on how to make a set of shackles. The students will fill the shells with shaker material, braid them and use them at the Immersion School for cultural studies.
- Continue to work with Google on an app/web-based program called the Morphologizer. This program will allow the user to choose a Cherokee word using the stem and gives them ability to change the prefix and suffix of the word to learn different parts of speech.
- Took 70 school pictures of Immersion students and staff then edited them down to size for parents and the yearbook.

Translation (Translations, presentations, community outreach)

Highlights:

- The Cherokee Speaker Memorial Bell was rung 8 times this month.
- 6 new additions to the Cherokee Speaker Roll/Book
- Successful Speakers Bureau gathering was held on March 12th
- Translators have produced translations for new construction projects, Immersion curriculum animated stories and dubbing projects.
- Presentation on March 19th - traditional stone marble making and game with students on spring break

Cherokee Saving the Voices and Dictionary project

Highlights:

- 6 interviews have been completed, 4 in English and 2 in syllabary
- 4 interviews are currently being translated into English
- Reviews of completed transcripts are being accomplished to include checking grammar and punctuation
- Two new interviews have also been recorded
- New Testament of the bible project: all 39 hours of recorded audio have been fully timestamped and handed over to the app developer
- Continued research and building of a proto-type Cherokee See 'N say is underway for Baby Immersion and other infant language programs. Working in collaboration with an app developer to research and build the best version of software tools for transcribing and time stamping during this project.
- Continuing to schedule Speakers' recordings and adding the scheduling of gospel hymn recording from the Cherokee hymn book. Some of the hymns do not include a melody with the words, so we are tasked to get Speakers who routinely record gospel hymns to help put melody to the words.

Cherokee Speaker Services

Highlights:

- Speaker Services has assisted with 18 utility and rental payments. These bills included:
 - Electric
 - Water
 - Propane
 - Ricks of Wood
 - Rent

# Active projects	38
# Up & coming projects	10
# Completed projects	41

- "Active projects" represents the number of jobs our contractors currently have a purchase order to allow them to begin working.
- "Up & coming projects" represent the jobs SS is working on obtaining a Purchase Orders to begin.
- "Completed projects" represents the number of projects SS have completed in the past month. These are all related to providing safe housing to fluent speakers.

CULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT

Community & Cultural Outreach – Savannah Smith



The following report covers the activities of the CCO staff for the month of March 2026.

COTTA Community Organization Training & Technical Assistance

COTTA staff hosted a training on Saturday **March 28th** in Dewey. This training was presented by our friends at the Oklahoma Center For Non-Profits. The focus was on Sessions focused on: Project Management Strategic Planning

Cherokee Community Organizations that received assistance in March

Association of Ottawa County Cherokees (D10)	Noweta Cherokee Comm Found (D5)
Cherokee Citizens of Sperry (D5&12)	Oaks Senior Citizens Center (D8)
Cherokee Cultural Community (Dewey) (D12)	Okay Cherokee Comm Org
Cherokee Elders Council D13,14,15)	Rogers County Cherokee Asso (D11,13,14,15)
Family Support Center of Oaks (D8)	Tailh Tailholt Comm Organization (D8)olt
Goi Tsunvdatlisodi (Greasy Gathering PL) (D7)	Talbot Library & Museum (D9&10)
Indian Women’s Pocahontas Club D13,14,15)	Victory Cherokee Association
Native American Fellowship Inc (D1)	Washington County Cherokee Asso (D11&12)
North Tulsa Cherokee Comm Org (D12)	

New Org * (D#) Council Dist





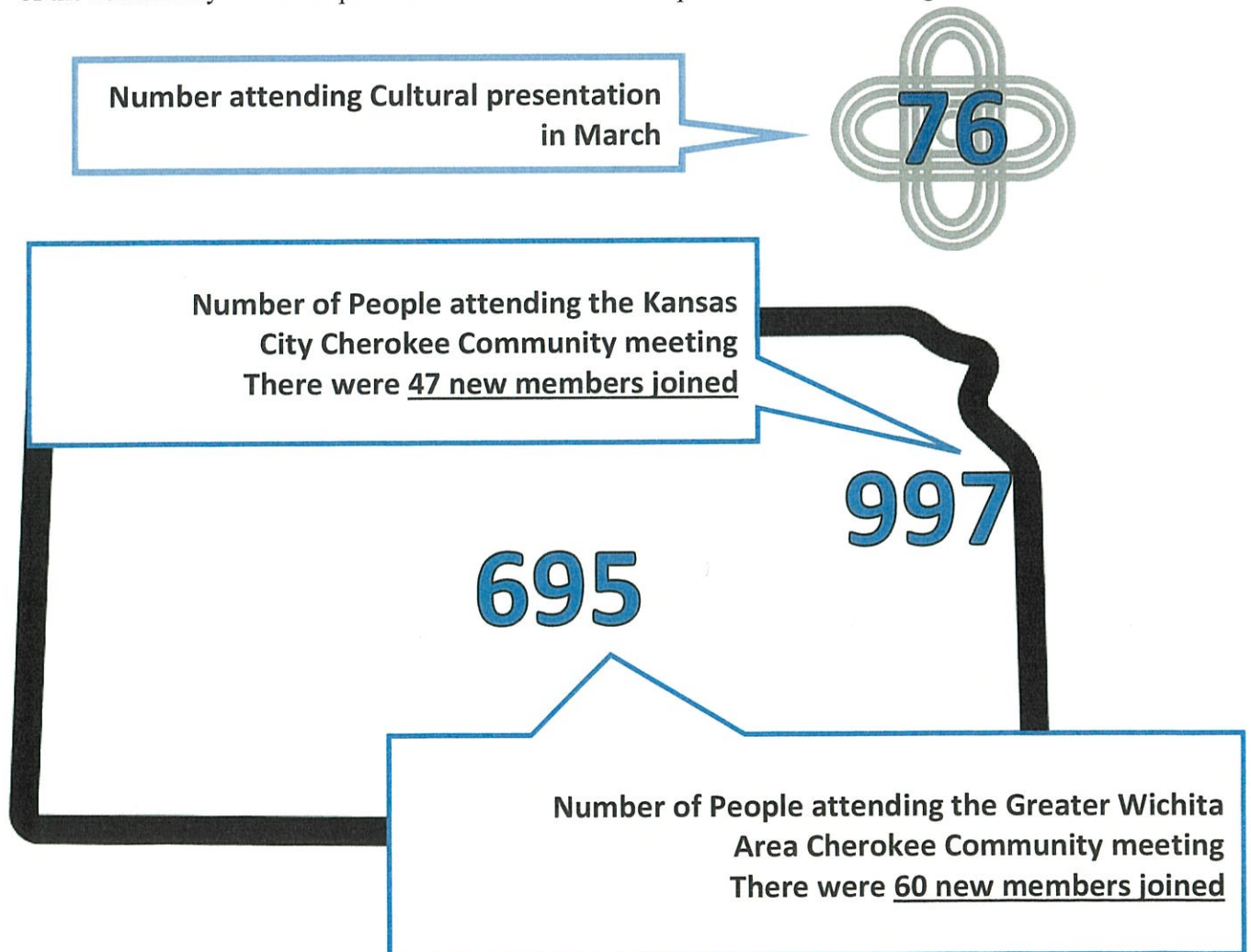
Cultural Outreach & At-Large Communities

On **March 3rd** Cultural Outreach Staff traveled to Gadugi Cherokee Community to demonstrate Cultural games to Ft Worth area for 10 members.

March 23rd, staff returned to the MetroPlex to provide a basket making class for the Cherokee Community of North Texas for 8 members

March 28th had staff traveling to Eugene, OR to assist the Willamette Tsa-La-Gi with a Bead Embroidery/ Small Cherokee Purse workshop with 26 in attendance. They seemed to enjoy the workshop and took home supplies and step by step instructions to help other community members make their projects.

Also on March 28th, Cultural Outreach staff facilitated our National Treasure, Babara Adair in providing a Twinning Workshop for the Cherokees of Orange County. There were 32 members of the community members present and several discussed plans for more twinning in their future.



The Kansas Communities held their Annual Meetings in March with the **Kansas City Cherokee Community** holding theirs on **March 14th** at the Shawnee Mission South High School Cafeteria 5800 W 107th St in Overland Park, KS. There were **977** attendees at the event. Of those **245** received their photo IDs and **155** new applications for citizenship were received. The Community Organization welcomed **47** new members as well.

In March 15th, CCO staff traveled down the Kansas Turnpike for the Annual Meeting of the Greater Wichita Area Cherokee Community. It was held at Mid-America All Indian Museum 650 N. Seneca Wichita, KS. 695 people attended the event and 220 received their new Photo IDs and turned in 90 new citizen applications. The Community Organization reported welcoming 60 new community members.



Community Building Assistance Program

The Community Building Assistance Program provides assistance to our Community Organizations having issues with the community centers they operate. Most simple issues the CBA can rectify with our own expertise. If the issue is beyond our abilities, we outsource the work with outside contractors.

Staff provided keys for the Southern Cherokee Helpers' new community center in Warner, where they hosted their first community meeting on February 10th, Emergency Services staff presented Emergency Management for your Home and Community.

Communities requesting assistance in March

Adair Cnty Hist & Genealo Asso	Loyal Shawnee
Cherry Tree	Lyons Switch
Chewey	Marble City Activity
Evening Shade	Nowata
Greasy	Vian Community

Community Organizations Buildings receiving assistance in March

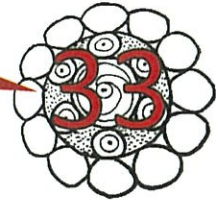
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This month's assistance included assessing and repairing kitchen appliances -freezers, refrigerators and ice machines as well as restrooms and lighting. Staff also assisted with the Alternative Spring Break students visiting our Nation.

PHW Health & Wellness Grant Activities

Public Health and Wellness CCO Wellness Grant began this year and closed out the year serving 19 On-Reservation organizations and 14 At-Large community organizations. Grants to both types of organizations totaled \$738,274.

Total Number of Cherokee Community Organizations receiving Grants with 19 "on reservation and 14 At-Large



\$434,248

"On Reservation organization received

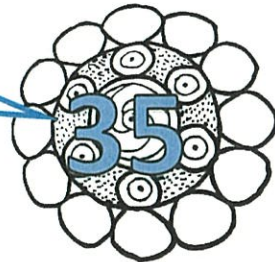
At-Large organization received

\$304,025

HaWiYa Food Sovereignty Program.

There were 35 Community Organizations participated in the Haiwya SNAP Distribution in March

Community Organizations Participating in HFS program in February



In March we were introduced to a Non-Profit with headquarters in Jenks, OK, Bridging Hunger. They head about the work our Community Organization are doing feeding our citizens. On March 26th they had received two shipping pallets of baby formula and asked if our communities would help them distribute this for them. The COTTA program staff had already scheduled a community leader's training for the 28th. Staff was able to get the donation and deliver it to the



Bridging Hunger

training cite. The result being several Cherokee children being able to be fed from this generous organization

CCO Staff wants to publicly say WaDo to Melissa McQuay of Bridging Hunger and we look forward to working together in the future to

alleviate hunger on our reservation and Northeast Oklahoma.



CCO Staff handing off Baby Formula donation to Community Organizations



Volunteer Program

Volunteer Program staff welcomed students from Grand Valey State University, University of Connecticut and Kansas State University spent their spring break here on the Cherokee Nation Reservation, volunteering and helping our Cherokee elders. A total of 23 Volunteers came from these three Universities.

The UConn students stayed in South Coffeyville, on the northern part of the reservation, building a ramp for an elder in need and cleaning up yards, while the Kansas State students stayed in Stilwell and volunteered at a housing addition in the Cherokee community of Cherry Tree. Both groups visited the Community and Cultural Outreach HQ in Tahlequah on Tuesday for an evening of fellowship, food and crafting traditional pinch pots.

These students truly demonstrate our deeply held Cherokee community value of GaDugGi, and we're grateful they decided to volunteer their time to our elders.

Communities receiving Volunteer Program assistance in March

Briggs	Stilwell
Cherry Tree	South Coffeerville
Rocky Mountain	Tahlequah



Number of Volunteer projects in March

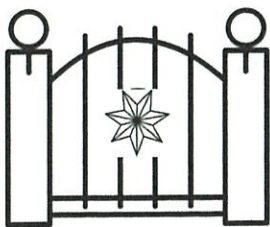
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Number of Volunteer Hours student provided

736

Value labor provided as calculated from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics

\$11,150



Cemetery Preservation/Restoration Assistance Program

The 2026 Cemetery Preservation/Restoration Assistance grant application became available in February. As of this report 92 Applications have been requested by groups representing our cemeteries. Fifteen applications have been processed One Grant has been completed.

Number of Cemetery Applications processed in March

15

CULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT

Cherokee National Treasures Advisory Committee – Jane Osti

Cherokee National Treasures Advisory Committee Report April 2026

Cherokee National Treasures may now begin signing up for the Mentorship Program for fiscal year 2026. Each year the program budgets for 10 Cherokee National Treasures to host class sessions.

Submissions for 2026 Cherokee National Treasures nominations are now open as of April 1, 2026. Submissions will be accepted until the deadline on June 12, 2026. Print ads have been placed in the Cherokee Phoenix. The nomination form is linked on the Anadisgoi.com website or you can request a form by emailing cherokeernationaltreasures@cnbglobal.com.

Last chance to see exhibit featuring Cherokee National Treasures. Since the First Fire: Cherokee Art exhibit opened at the Cherokee National History Museum on August 19, 2025. Twenty-one Cherokee National Treasures, both living and passed, have contributed to the exhibit in some form whether artwork, quotes, photos or provided Cherokee language translation along with work from other Cherokee artists. The exhibit explores the endurance of Cherokee artistic creations illustrating art's evolution through the generations. The exhibit will close on May 23, 2026.

Cherokee National Treasures are featured at the Saline Courthouse Museum on a four month rotating basis. The following Treasure's story and their work will be featured in the upcoming months:

-Tonia Hogner-Weavel (Textiles) Her exhibit, "Tonia Hogner-Weavel: Threads of Tradition" will end on May 16, 2026. The exhibit explores the work of the Cherokee National Treasure and her design and clothing helping define Cherokee Fashion and culture.

Coming up after Tonia will be National Treasure Victoria Vazquez and a look at her work in pottery. Victoria's exhibit will open on Monday, May 19, 2026.



CHEROKEE

NATIONAL TREASURES

The Historic Cane Hill Museum in Cane Hill, Arkansas is hosting an exhibit for Cherokee National Treasure Troy Jackson. The exhibit will feature Troy's work that explores cultural identity, history, and the intersection of traditional and modern worlds through clay and metal work. The exhibit will be open from May 9 -August 1, 2026. An opening reception will be held on May 7 at 6 p.m.

On Tuesday, March 17, Museum of the Cherokee People, Cherokee, N.C., opened 'Unrelenting: Cherokee People and the American Revolution,' a first-of-its-kind exhibition centering Native voices, perspectives, and creativity in response to the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. On view through December 30, 2026, the exhibition features historic objects in conversation with works by Cherokee artists, merging cultural heritage, military history, and contemporary art for a nuanced examination of a pivotal moment in Cherokee and American history. The exhibit features work from artists from the Cherokee Nation and Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, among these artists are two Cherokee National Treasures Martha Berry and Robert Lewis.

Be sure to check out the latest Siyo from the Rez podcast. The last episode of the season features Cherokee National Treasure Dennis Sixkiller. In the episode, Dennis talks about hosting his Cherokee Language radio show for 20+ years, his traditional upbringing in Jay, his passion for marbles, and why he's dedicated to keeping our language alive for future generations. Listen on Apple Podcasts and Spotify or watch on YouTube.

The Cherokee National Treasures Advisory Committee meets each month on the third Thursday at 2:00pm at the Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism office.



CHEROKEE

NATIONAL TREASURES

