



Cultural Tourism  
Cherokee Nation Tribal Council Cultural Committee Report  
January 2018

**Key Project Summary**

**Capital Projects**

- Cherokee National Capitol Update:
  - Architectural development and exhibit planning for the interior of the building continues. This work focuses on developing the building as a museum devoted to showcasing Cherokee history and culture from time immemorial to present day. The museum is currently in schematic design. Interior restoration work should begin early 2018
- Water Avenue Pavilion
  - Construction for the new Pavilion structure that will be located on the vacant lot on the east side of the Cherokee National Capitol began in November and will be complete Spring 2018.
- Downtown Tahlequah Cultural Pathway
  - Currently working on the design of a cultural pathway to connect Cherokee Nation's downtown cultural resources.
    - Design work will be complete early 2018
- Saline Courthouse:
  - Currently working on architectural documents for interior courthouse restoration.
  - Design work will be complete early 2018.

**Retail**

- New winter apparel is currently available at Cherokee Nation Gift Shops
- New collegiate OU and OSU is currently in store

**Museum Promotions**

- Cherokee Nation Museums have launched a 2018 schedule of cultural classes, lecture series and events with activities for children and families. Check [www.VisitCherokeeNation.com](http://www.VisitCherokeeNation.com) for event info.

## Tours & Events

- YTD tour activity
  - 55 Tours – Includes Motor coach, community, elder and education tours
- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cherokee Days at the National Museum of the American Indian is scheduled for April 13-15, 2018 and will feature Cherokee National Treasures, cultural demonstrations, lectures, performances and special exhibits.
  - Cherokee Days will feature a new banner exhibit for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual event featuring Cherokee Nation, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.
  - National Museum of the American Indian's new long term exhibit, *Americans* opens January 18-19, 2018
    - "Americans highlights the ways in which American Indians have been part of the nation's identity since before the country began. It will surround visitors with images, delve into the three stories, and invite them to begin a conversation about why this phenomenon exists."
  - Cultural Tourism has been working with NMAI to develop a supplemental exhibit to the Trail of Tears portion of *Americans*
    - This exhibit will showcase Cherokee Nation's story beyond the Trail of Tears and will be located on the second floor of the National Museum of the American Indian. The exhibit runs April 13- December 31, 2018.
    - The exhibit will reopen as a banner exhibition from April 2019-October 2019 in conjunction with the Treaty of New Echota display within NMAI's Treaties exhibit.
- Spring education tour grant program has begun, offering tours for school groups with expected attendance near 2,400.
- West to East tour is scheduled June 10- 16, 2018 to Cherokee, NC. Full event details @ <http://visitcherokeemuseum.com/events/Pages/West-to-East-Tour>

Group: Education Services

Month: 00LST November / 10DYJ December

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**CHEROKEE LANGUAGE PROGRAM - CULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**- Community Language/Language Technology/Translation -**

**Community Language (Community classes, Online Classes, Public Events)**

Activity                                      00LST November / 10DYJ December                                      YTD

# of staff presentations/classes	2	4
# of participants-Outreach	69	2008
# of on-site classes	2	3
# of participants in on-line class	4816	4816
# contract community classes	Classes Ended	New Schedule Being Made

**Accomplishments:**

1. Staff Ed Fields, Lula Elk, and Sarah Hawk assisted with monthly Cherokee Speakers Bureau meeting
2. Lula Elk continues teaching a class at Murrow Indian home in Muskogee and started teaching a Cherokee language class in South Coffeyville.
3. Fall Community Language classes wrapped up with 15 classes being held in the 14 county area. New schedule for 2018 being made now.
4. Online Cherokee language classes wrapped up for calendar year 2017. Next round of classes will begin in Spring.
5. Cherokee Language Teacher Training Scholarship students Cody Vann, Raily Cox, and Larry Carney have been working and learning together under the guidance of Lawrence Panther. Will be adding Tony Owens, a recent of the Master Apprentice Program, to the scholarship program.
6. Wade Blevins has been investigating the potential for holding a second IGNITE conference for language instructors after the success of the conference from last summer.
7. Wade also met with the Native Language Community Coordination Demonstration grant (NLCC) committee to talk about Cherokee teacher certification at the Oklahoma State Level.

**Future Plans/New Initiatives:**

1. Add a new online class to the schedule so there will be an online class available to anyone all year long.
2. Plans for holding the second annual IGNITE language conference summer 2018

**Language Technology (Cherokee Language Software, Design, Media, Outreach)**

**Accomplishments:**

1. Continue biweekly conference call with Microsoft Windows and Office teams to update the Cherokee language project scope and deadline schedules

2. SOS Hoskin signed off on the annual Memorandum of Agreement between Cherokee Nation and Microsoft to continue our language projects with them.
3. Finalized the digitization of the the Cherokee English dictionary by Durbin Feeling to facilitate easier reproduction for future editions, including e-books
4. Answered 38 inquiries at the [language@cherokee.org](mailto:language@cherokee.org) email address.
5. Assisted with the monthly Cherokee Speakers Bureau
6. Worked with Dr. Brian Hudson, a Cherokee Nation citizen and computer programmer based in Albuquerque, to develop a synthesized Cherokee pronunciation guide on the computer. Early beta project.
7. Working with Google on refining the Cherokee syllabary optical character recognition software that will allow us to scan historic documents written Cherokee and convert them to digital, editable text.
8. Met with Microsoft localization team to discuss new software to be used for Cherokee translation projects starting in 2018 for all Microsoft products.
9. By request from the schools, assisted Grove, Cave Springs, Grandview, Stillwell, Westville, and Colcord schools with installation of Cherokee language support on their school computers.
10. Worked with Tahlequah Printing to get their services to properly support the Cherokee syllabary in regards to printing services for Cherokee Nation.
11. Assisted Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program with editing of graduation videos.
12. Been exploring the language possibilities of the myON software program.

#### **Future Plans/New Initiatives:**

1. Develop new activity books for 2018 and make new Cherokee language animation and media content.

#### **Translation (Translation, Presentations, Community Outreach)**

Activity	OvLST November / loDY.6 December	YTD
# of internal requests completed	10,156	16,089
# of external requests completed	1684	1822
# tested for Certification/Proficiency	0-Proficiency 0-Cerification	0-Proficiency 0-Cerification

#### **Accomplishments:**

1. Assisted with monthly Speakers Bureau meetings.
2. John Ross, Anna Sixkiller, Phyllis Edwards, and David Crawler participated in the Medicine Keepers research project with Pat Gwin and Dr. Clint Carroll
3. Staff continues translation of technology terms for Microsoft and Google.
4. Dennis Sixkiller participated in community outreach at Salina and Chewey public schools to do language lessons and demonstrate Cherokee marbles.
5. Will begin proofreading for the next print revision of the Cherokee English dictionary.
6. Looking into possibility of publishing Durbin Feeling's latest book on Cherokee verb structures (co-authored with Charles Van Tuyl).
7. David Crawler selected as the voice for Osiyo TV's fourth season of Cherokee language lessons.

#### **Future Plans/New Initiatives:**

1. Looking into viability of hosting the Cherokee Speakers Bureau at locations outside of Tahlequah starting in the spring.
2. Discussion of community survey project to determine the number of speakers left in Oklahoma.

**CHEROKEE HERITAGE CENTER**  
**JANUARY REPORT TO THE COUNCIL**

**Dr. Charles Gourd, Executive Director**

1. All staff strategic planning for 2018.
  - a. We held an all-day session to define goals and objectives for each program and activity at the Heritage Center that support the Mission: to Preserve, Promote and Teach Cherokee history and culture. The staff was totally engaged and we created a document that each program will now define and schedule all activities for 2018 that will lead to support the mission. Included in these will be a fiscal report that outlines the anticipated cost and revenue projections so we can arrive at a viable business plan.
  - b. The total finished plan is to be submitted by January 20 so it can be prepared and submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval at their annual retreat scheduled for February 17th.
  - c. Once the final Strategic Plan for 2018 is completed it will be submitted to the Administration and to the Council. I look forward to that submission so we can work together to make 2018 the best year possible for the Heritage Center as a World Class facility and experience for all who come.
2. USDA – working to establish a broad range of funding opportunities and partnerships:
  - a. Forest Resources Inventory. In the initial stages of coordinating the EBCI plan (with the Southern Regional Office out of Atlanta); and the Forest Resources outdoor permanent events education centers modeled after Lied Lodge in Nebraska City, NB.
  - b. Essential Community Facilities- met with the Regional Director, David Toney, Essential Community Facilities; and,
  - c. Phillip Dawson, Director of Rural Development for USDA on economic development of funding for revenue generating activities and programs to become self-sufficient
  - d. Met with Alicia Bell-Sheetter and Chris Koepel of the Office of Tribal Relations, USDA Forest Service on how to coordinate discretionary funding with different USDA programs.
3. National Park Service
  - a. Visited with Aaron Mahr Yanez, Superintendent, National Trails Intermountain Region on a schedule to begin to upgrade and improve the Trail of Tears Exhibit.
  - b. I am requesting a listing of names and volunteers to help in this process. It is an essential function as the final outcome and production will be the exhibit for the foreseeable future. The current one has been up for 20+ years. So, think about those who have a TOTAL COMMITMENT.
  - c. Including groups such as: Troy Wayne Poteete, National Trail of Tears Association;

4. Crystal Bridges. Working to establish a three entity MOU that includes the CHC; NSU and Crystal Bridges. Scholarships for Cherokee artists and both paid and unpaid internships in museum work
5. Met with Molly Jarvis and CNB Cultural Tourism staff to plan and coordinate 2018 advertising and promotions activities and to better coordinate and take advantage of the opportunities in group tours and shared resources and staff.
6. Ron Cambiano appointed me to accept a position on the Northeast Oklahoma Regional Alliance Leadership class for 2018.
7. The Family Genealogy Center is planning the Five Tribes Ancestry Conference to be held at the Chickasaw Culture Center in Sulphur in June. Here is Gene and Ashley to present the concept and plan.
8. Renovations: we are replacing the floor of the display area carpet with laminate flooring; fixing lights; new treatment on the main floor in the entrance area; a whole list of "deferred maintenance" items to get the facilities in top shape.