



Cultural Tourism
Council of the Cherokee Nation, Cultural Committee Report
January 2020

Key Project Summary

Capital Projects

- Downtown Tahlequah Cultural Pathway
 - Continuing to work on the design of a cultural pathway to connect Cherokee Nation's downtown cultural resources from the Cherokee National History Museum/Capitol Square to the Cherokee National Prison Museum.
- Saline Courthouse Restoration:
 - The restoration of the courthouse and caretakers' home is complete with the exception of punch list items.
 - Exhibit design is in progress and will be complete in early 2020. The renovated site will include two temporary galleries, a small video presentation room, public programming space, and public restrooms.

Retail

- New winter apparel is currently in store and online
- New CherokeeGiftshop.com website is currently active

Museum Promotions and Exhibitions

- Full details can be found at www.VisitCherokeeNation.com
- **Cecil Dick: Father of Cherokee Art**
Cherokee National History Museum
August 8- January 31, 2020
- **Ownership Regained, Legacy Preserved exhibit**
Cherokee National Prison Museum
July 12, 2019- January 31, 2020
- **End of the Trail: The Founding of Park Hill exhibit**
John Ross Museum
May 3, 2019- January 1, 2020

- **Where Has Your Flag Flown exhibit**
Cherokee National Supreme Court Museum
June 14, 2019- January 1, 2020
- **Old Settler Capital at Tahlonteeskee Exhibit**
Sequoyah's Cabin Museum
August 2, 2019- January 31, 2020

Tours & Events

- **Education tours**
 - Spring education tour grant program will begin accepting applications in February, offering free or reduced tours for school groups
- **Cherokee Days** at the National Museum of the American Indian is scheduled April 3-5, 2019.
 - Event will feature live performances, cultural demonstrations by Cherokee National Treasures, and a special banner exhibit highlighting the history of Cherokee delegations



Council of the Cherokee Nation Cultural Committee Report January 2020

Cherokee National Treasures Program Overview:

The Living National Treasures Master Craftsman resolution was passed in 1988 and amended in 2009

CNB assumed financial and administrative management of the National Treasures program in October 2015. Prior to this it was managed by Cherokee Nation's Education department

CNB manages the budget and administration of the program while the committee is managed by a 5-person National Treasures Advisory Committee

The advisory committee meets monthly and is currently focused on

- Management of the mentor program
- Annual Christmas Luncheon
- Annual selection of new Treasures
- Monthly communication to all Treasures via newsletter

Cherokee National Treasures Advisory Committee members:
Betty Frogg, Eddie Morrison, Jane Osti, Vivian Cottrell and Vyril Keeter





CHEROKEE

NATIONAL TREASURES

Cherokee National Treasures Program Overview:

Advisory committee hosted the Cherokee National Treasures Christmas luncheon on December 12, 2019.

FY 20 Cherokee National Treasures Mentor program began in October and currently has seven treasures actively mentoring students

Advisory committee will host strategic planning session on January 16 to review processes, bylaws, and policies of the program.

Summary of legislation regarding program:

Resolution 74-88 passed August 15, 1988

The Living National Treasures-Master Craftsman designation will this objective by official acknowledgment and recognition of the best individual examples of the Cherokee culture

Recognizing those individual persons who have made major a lifetime commitment to perpetuating Cherokee culture

Cherokee National Historical Society is cooperating with the Cherokee Nation with plans to house the documentation of this activity in the National archives

Resolution 68-09 passed June 15, 2009

Up to 3 National Treasures will be recognized each year based upon recommendations from an Advisory Committee to the Principal Chief

National Treasures must be Cherokee citizens

One individual designated per year must be a traditional artist/craftsperson and at least one per year must be from the 14-county area



Resolution 74-88 passed August 15, 1988

No other residency restriction other than above

CNHS is continuing its partnership with the Cherokee Nation to house the documentation of this activity in the National Archives

Program renames Cherokee National Treasures program

National Treasure program shall be instituted as a sanctioned activity of the Cherokee Nation

A 5-member Advisory Committee for the National Treasure program shall be created to provide guidance on activities and services which enhance and preserve Cherokee culture

Committee members shall be nominated and confirmed according to Legislative Act 40-4

Principal Chief or designee is authorized to develop policies and procedures effectuating this program

Chosen National Treasures shall be bestowed the honor and official national designation and recognized during the Cherokee National Holiday and in a Tribal Council meeting

Legislative Act 30-04

All appointments be consistently applied

Appointed by Principal Chief and confirmed by Tribal Council
Program renames Cherokee National Treasures program

Terms, number of members and all other requirements of entities are not affected by this Act



Legislative Act 09-17 amends 30-04

Number of members and all there requirements of entities are not affected by this ACT

Terms of members are all created by the entities who have these commissioners, board members or committee members

Holdover Clause: If a term expires or there is a resignation or death of any appointed commissioners, board members, committee members, those in trust authority, reappointments or new replacements are pending, there will be a limited hold over of six months for continued authorized activity of those individuals and at the end of six months, if no reappointment or new appointments have been confirmed, that seat becomes vacant



Group: Education Services

Month: ☐☐☐☐ November / ☐☐☐☐ December / ☐☐☐☐ January

Executive Director: Ron Etheridge
Language Program Manager: Roy Boney

Phone: 918-453-5340 email: ron-etheridge@cherokee.org
Phone: 918-453-5487 email: roy-boney@cherokee.org

☐☐☐☐ November / ☐☐☐☐ December / ☐☐☐☐ January
CHEROKEE LANGUAGE PROGRAM - CULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT
- Community Language/Language Technology/Translation -

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

Activity ☐☐☐☐ November / ☐☐☐☐ December / ☐☐☐☐ January Year To Date

# of staff presentations/classes	4	26
# of participants-Outreach	714	2601
# of on-site classes	2	14
# of participants in on-line class	0 (out of session)	5,806
# contract community classes	2 (winter session)	42

Accomplishments:

1. Staff assisted with monthly Cherokee Speakers Bureau meetings.
2. RSU TV Cherokee Language tele course begins broadcast January 13; 48 fifty minute episodes will be available on TV and online. Quizzes for each episode will be put at learn.cherokee.org where viewers can track their progress. If they pass the course with an 80% or higher they will receive a certificate of completion. The course was developed by Wade Blevins and includes video content of first language speakers Melvina Shotpouch, Kathy Sierra, and Phyllis Sixkiller.
3. Sammy Still has been doing storytelling/language presentations at public schools: Claremore, Chelsea, & Lincoln; Mr. Still available for culture and language presentations for schools and communities
4. Roy Boney met with the Intertribal Council Language Workgroup to begin planning for the 2020 Intertribal Language Summit to be held in July in Ada with Chickasaw Nation hosting. Dates TBD.
5. The Intertribal Language Workgroup also submitted to the ITC Cultural Committee a request to draft a resolution in support of the UN's recently announced initiative to declare in 2022 the Decade of Indigenous Languages Celebration
6. December 11 Railey Eastwood graduated from NSU with her degree in Cherokee Language Education. Ms. Eastwood was a recipient of the Cherokee Language Program's Cherokee Language Teacher Training Scholarship program. She will begin the Master Apprentice Program in February

Future Plans/New Initiatives:

1. Online language classes for Spring 2020 session will begin registration in March at learn.cherokee.org

2. Explore possibility of expanding the length of the community courses from 10 weeks to 20 weeks and increasing the amount the contract instructors are paid

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

Accomplishments:

1. Answered 27 inquiries at the language@cherokee.org email address.
2. Meetings between Language Staff and FireThief Productions continue discussion ideas for a potential Cherokee language animated series.
3. Zachary Barnes recorded audio of Translators reading translated articles for the Cherokee Phoenix.
4. Developed a booklet for the Medicine Keepers group of vocabulary for going into the woods. Will be distributed to Cherokee learners
5. Language Technology staff helped update Oklahoma Department of Education computers with Cherokee fonts and keyboard inputs so test takers can type in Cherokee for the Cherokee Language certification examinations
6. Wade Blevins developed the online quiz platform to go along with the RSU TV Cherokee Language course at learn.cherokee.org
7. Roy Boney attended the Language Technology for All Conference in Paris, France hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. It was an invitation only conference. He received a travel grant from UNESCO to attend the event and did a short presentation about the Cherokee Nation's use of technology in language revitalization. It was part of the United Nation's 2019 Year of Indigenous Languages Celebration.

Future Plans/New Initiatives:

1. Gather data and create digital graphics assets for Cherokee language app and video game projects

Translation (Translation, Presentations, Community Outreach)

Activity

□□□□ November / □□□□ December / □□□□□ January

Year To Date

# of internal requests completed	16,641	134,686
# of external requests completed	363	2,094
# tested for Certification/Proficiency	0-Proficiency 1-Cerification	1-Proficiency 1-Cerification

Accomplishments:

1. Staff assisted with monthly Cherokee speakers bureau meeting.
2. November Consortium meeting of only Cherokee Nation membership to discuss ideas for language programming
3. Translation Program and Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program continues recording Cherokee speakers reading the New Testament after taking a short break between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Dennis Sixkiller is overseeing the recording process and is acting as producer for the program.
4. Staff member David Crawler was a featured speaker for CCO in the Arizona at large meetings
5. Members of the Cherokee Language Program staff, Immersion staff, and Master Apprentice staff attended the second committee review for the Oklahoma State Department of Education Cherokee Language Teacher

Certification Test. The meeting was in Tahlequah and Cherokee speakers began revising the Cherokee Language certification test. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April in Tahlequah

6. Translation staff has begun translating the Cherokee Language documents that have been collected from various museums, universities, and other institutions. The documents will eventually be placed on a new website so the public can view the original documents, transcriptions, and translations of the content. This will be used to develop a Cherokee language terminology database for learners.

Future Plans/New Initiatives:

Develop plans for a Cherokee Translator Apprentice Program



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Community & Cultural Outreach

December 2019

Kevin Stretch – Interim Director

The following report covers the activities of the CCO; COTTA, Community Work, Cultural Outreach, History Preservation, Volunteer Program and Cherokee Language Master/Apprentice Programs staff for the month of December 2019.



Community Organization Training & Technical Assistance

Capacity Building in December

The Capacity Building Grant applications consumed the staff time in December. Funding recommendation have been made.

COTTA staff also assisted Project A with their Agricultural Outreach Meeting. The meeting was held December 2nd at the Chota Conference Center. Representatives from Langston University, USDA NRCS and USDA FSA presented information for the community [MP1].



**Number of
Community
Organizations
assisted.**



**Total hours of technical
assistance provided to
community organizations**

Community Organizations Receiving Technical Assistance

Belfonte Comm Org	Muldrow Cherokee Comm Org
Bell Comm	N Cherokee County Comm Boosters
CC Camp Comm Org	Native American Fellowship
Cherokee Black Indian History Preservation	Native American Fellowship Ketchum
Cherokee Elders Council	Neighborhood Association of Chewey
Christie Community Building	NoWeTa Cherokee
Evening Shae Comm Org	Proctor Community
Four Corners	Project A
Greasy Community	Rocky Mtn Cherokee Comm Org
Hulbert Cherokee Comm Org	Senior Citizens Center -Oaks
Illinois River Area Community Org	Spavinaw Comm Building
Jeremiah 29 Foundation	Tailholt Comm
Lyons Comm Assoc	Tri Community WEB
Marble City Activity Org	Vian Peace Center
Marble City Food Pantry	Victory Cherokee Org
McIntosh Home Foundation	Washington County Cherokee assoc
Mid County Comm Org	White Oak Comm Org

* - New organization, (D#) –Council District

VP

Volunteer Program

Volunteer Program staff hosted an Alternative Break group from Ohio State University in December. This group of 10 students worked in the Brushy area. During their stay they painted a building and built a handicap access ramp for one of our citizens.



Number of volunteers

10

Number of Hours
Provided

240

Projects Completed

2



Sustainable Communities Initiative

On December 12th, CCO staff rolled out the Chief's Sustainable Community Initiative at the Chota Center. This initiative is designed to provide out communities with infrastructure that will assist them in reducing energy cost as well as improve the connectivity of our communities. Funding for this initiative has been provided by our Cherokee owned businesses. Communities wishing to participate may submit applications at any time for projects as big as installing alternative energy generating technology to their building or as simple as improving the efficiency of their appliances.

There were 31 community organizations represented by 91 community leaders attending the roll out.

31

**Organizations attending
the Sustainable
Community Initiative
Rollout**

91

**Community leaders
attending the Sustainable
Community Initiative
Rollout**



Cherokee Language Master Apprentice Program

CWY SƆhAƆJ DƆRƆY

On December 14th, CLMAP graduated our 6th cohort of students. All the students tested out at-or-above the Intermediate Mid Fluency Level, or Level 5. One of the students tested out at the Advanced

Low Fluency Level of Level 7. LƆLƆPƆRE to these fine Cherokee.



Cherokee Heritage Center

January 2020 Directors Report

Brenda Partain- Interim Executive Director

The Cherokee National Historical Society has named its new Board of Trustees and Officers for 2020.

President- Brenda Lawrence Partain

Vice President-Honor Keeler

Secretary-Ron Cambiano

Treasurer-Susan Chapman Plumb

Members

Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. –ex officio

Deputy Principal Chief Bryan Warner- ex officio

Paul Westbrook

Winnie Perdue

The board voted to make some changes to the function and planning for the CHC and have currently placed me as the Interim Director till we begin to look for a new Executive Director. Priority list in my first two weeks is to do a complete evaluation of the grounds, staff, infrastructure, collections, archives, programs, and overall presentation of this beautiful and sacred place. The staff has been welcoming and are pleased with this direct attention by the board. As I access everything and prepare reports to our board of trustees here are the notable things:

1. Making a priority list of infrastructure needs. This is an extensive list that will probably create a fundraising plan for it.
2. Painting, repairs, and new visual pieces for the public access are a priority while we are closed till Feb. 3. The focus is: what do our guests experience and see when they step foot on our grounds and into our buildings. The Atrium will have some new and inviting things for our guests this spring.
3. Summer and fall exhibits for 2020.

Summer May 9 – Aug 3: ***Protected Treasures: 50 Years of Preserving Cherokee Culture***

View rarely displayed art, artifacts, and records from the Cherokee Heritage Center's Permanent Collections and Archives.

Fall Sept. 26 – Mar 27: ***Sustaining Life: Cherokee Foodways***

Cherokee agricultural practices and their relationships to Cherokee culture through time.

4. Education has created a new project that's innovative and highly anticipated by the public called Cherokee Power weekend. April 24-26, July 17-19, and October 23-25. This will be a three day intensive training on our grounds. Curriculum will include historical lessons of Cherokee life with cultural training. They will live and breathe our culture for 50+ hours straight. Limited space available.
5. American Indians in Major League Baseball exhibit will end March 28. This exhibit will be traveling and displayed all over the United States.
6. Collections and Archives: Priority for the board. We are completing our physical inventory and updating our software and records for appraisals and insurance. Several appraisers are donating their time to finish this process. We will be bringing in professional conservators to access our needs for repair or restoration.
7. Membership: New plan for personal contact to past members and donors. Rebuilding this piece of our funding by our Executive Director will encompass direct contact and follow-up plan.
8. Updating and adding to our annual fundraising campaign.
9. Calendar of Events for 2020- attached

**Cherokee Heritage Center
2020 Calendar of Events
Board Approved December 7, 2019**

2020 Exhibit Schedule

Natives in Baseball: The First 50 Years Ends March 28, 2020
49th Annual Trail of Tears Art Show and Sale April 4 – May 2
Protected Treasures: 50 Years of Preserving May 9– August 8
Cherokee Culture View rarely displayed art, artifacts, and records from the Cherokee Heritage Center's Permanent Collections and Archives.
25th Annual Cherokee Homecoming Art Show and Sale August 15 - September 19
It will be the Homecoming show's Quadra centennial or 'Silver Jubilee'.
Sustaining Life: Cherokee Foodways September 26 - March 27, 2021
Cherokee agricultural practices and their relationships to Cherokee culture through time.

Education

Cherokee Humanities Course January – April 2019
(TBD by NSU schedule) August – December 2019

Cherokee Power Weekends

New Program to combine Cherokee history and culture in an intensive 20 hour instructionally based weekend on campus.
April 24-26
July 17-19
October 23-25

Cultural Class Series

Round Reed Basketry March 7
Pottery April 4
Moccasins May 2
Blowguns June 6
Flat Reed Basketry August 1
Skirt Making with SE Icons September 12
Loom Weaving October 3

Education Days

Indian Territory Days March 26 & 27
Ancient Cherokee Days October 1 & 2
Cherokee Heritage Days November 5 & 6

Cherokee Family Research Center

Cherokee Research Spring Workshop March 21
Cherokee Facts & Snacks April 25
First Families Reunion September 6
Five Tribes Ancestry Conference September 18-20 (tentative)
Cherokee Facts & Snacks October 17
Cherokee Research Fall Workshop November 14
Genealogy Classes First Saturday each month (Except January and September)

Other Events

Seven Star Gala
Outreach Program
Gospel Sing
Cherokee Holiday
Fall Harvest
A Cherokee Christmas

November 7
Year round
May 16
Sept 3-5
October 31
December 5