



Cultural Tourism

Council of the Cherokee Nation Cultural Committee
October, 2020

COVID 19

- Museums, gift shops, and welcome centers opened August 5, 2020 after being closed since March.
 - Additional safety procedures such as physical distancing, limited occupancy, and enhanced cleaning and sanitization have been implemented at each site. In addition, guests will be asked to complete a brief health screening and a noninvasive temperature check.
 - All staff and guests are required to wear face masks at this time.
- Museum programs have been postponed or transitioned to an online format at this time
 - Virtual Fall & Winter museum schedule will be announced in late October
- Online retail sales resumed July 13 for www.cherokeegiftshop.com
- Saline Courthouse Museum
 - The renovated site opened in August and includes two temporary galleries, a small video presentation room, public programming space and public restrooms. There will be a ceremonial opening scheduled later in the year.

Projects

- Downtown Tahlequah Cultural Pathway
 - Finalizing 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. Project bid was placed on hold due to COVID 19 but has since resumed.
- Cherokee National Capitol Square master plan
 - Working on plans to improve the square with enhancements such as improved landscape, improved accessibility and connection to potential cultural pathway
- Vinita Cultural Development
 - Working on development plans for the renovation of the former Vinita Country Club to be developed at I-44/ Rt. 66 Cherokee Nation gateway. Development will potentially serve as mixed use welcome center, gift shop, gallery and cultural programming space.

- Cherokee Nation Welcome Center improvements
 - The state of Oklahoma is working on capital improvements at the Cherokee Nation Welcome Centers in Tulsa and Kansas.
 - Kansas: Welcome center is currently closed and will remain closed through December to accommodate complete interior renovation, as well as exterior improvements such as the addition of plaza, enhanced signage and a dog park.
 - Tulsa: Improvements will be focused on the grounds and will include the addition of a plaza, enhanced signage and a dog park. These improvements should not directly impact the Cherokee Nation Tag Office operations within the shared space.

Retail

- Retail operations resumed August 5, 2020
- Cherokee National Holiday weekend sales were less than previous year as a result of COVID 19 and the need for a virtual Cherokee National Holiday.

Tours & Events

- Education tours
 - All education tours after March 16 were cancelled due to COVID 19 and are suspended through 2020.
- Group tours have been cancelled through 2020. Currently re-evaluating tour program to prepare for resumed operations.
- The Cherokee Art Market will be held virtually December 7-21. Participating artists can showcase up to 10 items at the virtual market, with two being eligible for competition. Cash prizes will be awarded by class, including the annual Best of Show award. In addition, the virtual market will feature interactive elements such as live demonstrations.

Museum Programs and Exhibitions

- Most museum programming after March 16 has been postponed or moved to social media. Currently planning more virtual programs and exhibits to engage the public in Cherokee history and culture while museum operations are suspended.
- All Cherokee Nation Museums were 3D scanned to create virtual tours on VisitCherokeeNation.com
- Through the Lens: The Photographic Legacy of Jennie Ross Cobb opens at the Cherokee National History Museum on October 13, 2020. The exhibit will highlight the life of Indian Territory's first female Native American photographer and will include a collection of photographs and artifacts related to her life.

- Vivian Garner Cottrell: From Her Mother's Hands opened at Saline Courthouse Museum. The exhibit will run through October 24.
- Jane Osti: Our People, Our Pottery will open in November at Saline Courthouse Museum and will run through December.
- Cultural Tourism and the JM Davis Museum partnered to create a new Cherokee exhibit highlighting the history of the Cooweescoowee District in the Cherokee Nation. The exhibit opened to the public in September.

CHEROKEE LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Language Department

September 2020

Executive Director: Howard Paden
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August / September / October

CHEROKEE LANGUAGE PROGRAM

- Community Language/Language Technology/Translation/Cherokee Teacher Scholarship -

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

Activity August / September / October Year To Date

# of staff presentations/classes	0 (in person events canceled)	26
# of participants-Outreach	30	2661
# of on-site classes	0	16
# of participants in on-line class	739	6,545
# contract community classes	0 (canceled til further notice)	42

Accomplishments:

1. Ed Fields began teaching a fall session for his online Cherokee Language classes on September 13. Since in-person community classes are not being held for the time being, the online class is serving the needs of the public. Plans are being made to equip our contract language instructors who normally teach in person with technology so they can also begin holding virtual classes.
2. Wade Blevins has begun working with Jay Public schools on Cherokee language programming and will be training on site teachers in language acquisition methodology. This programming is being designed so it can be ported to other schools.
3. Cherokee Language Department is continuing the partnership began under Education Services between Pryor and Salina public schools. The Department is funding half of the salary for Emma Dorman and Pryor and Salina are funding the other half. Dorman is a state certified Cherokee language teacher who is also a first language speaker. She is teaching classes halftime at Salina and halftime at Pryor.
4. The Intertribal Council Language Workgroup held a virtual meeting and held its annual officer elections for the 2021 year. Roy Boney was elected president; Jeremy Fultz (Seminole Nation) vice president; Teresa Workman (Chickasaw Nation) treasurer; Mona Lowe (Muscogee Creek Nation) secretary; Teresa Billy (Choctaw Nation) member at large.
5. Roy Boney attended the October Intertribal Council Cultural Committee virtual meeting and gave a report as president of the ITC Language Workgroup and also provided a report on the Cherokee Language Department to the Intertribal Council.

6. Sammy Still is serving on the Cherokee Health and Wellbeing Project Community Advisory Board, a research project being conducted by CN citizen Dr. Melissa Lewis.
7. Cherokee Language Teacher Program Scholarship coordinator Raven Bruner has been hosting virtual meetings with the scholarship recipients every other Tuesday for the 2021 academic year. The program is funding 3 continuing students from the previous year, with 2 of the students enrolled at NSU's Cherokee Language Program track and 1 being sent through Master Apprenticeship. For 2021 we have a new recipient of the scholarship, CN citizen Carolyn Swepston.

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

Accomplishments:

1. Answered 30 inquiries at the language@cherokee.org email address.
2. Provided technical assistance on ordering equipment needed by the Cherokee Language Department to build a recording studio on site as well as a mobile one; provided recommendations on equipment to order for the Immersion School to better create in class materials such as books, posters, and other related materials.
3. Jeff Edwards and Roy Boney have been assisting Wyman Kirk, Immersion School administrator, on development of a custom made virtual classroom and classroom management system for the Cherokee Immersion School. The goal is to create a virtual platform easy to use for staff and students as well as keeping the whole experience in Cherokee language and syllabary. Department is contracting with software development company Coda Global.
4. Continued assistance with Translators for remotely recording audio of translated stories for the Cherokee Phoenix.
5. Working with Cherokee Nation Health to design and finalize an all Cherokee language recipe book for print and digital distribution for recipes gathered by Cherokee Nation Youth Council members. The project was originally started in March was put on hold due to the pandemic.
6. Jeff Edwards, Howard Paden, Wyman Kirk, and Roy Boney have been meeting with Cherokee Nation IT and Microsoft to develop an online archive of Cherokee language materials. The Language Department has several thousand pages of historic Cherokee language content digitized. Microsoft has a proposal to develop customized software that will allow cross referencing of the items in syllabary and English. It will also be tied to a translation database of Cherokee language terminology.

Translation (Translation, Presentations, Community Outreach)

Activity

SGh August / SᏒᏍᏍ September / ShᏍᏍ October Year To Date

# of internal requests completed	35,568	192,735
# of external requests completed	857	3,451
# tested for Certification/Proficiency	0-Proficiency 0-Cerification	2-Proficiency 1-Cerification

Accomplishments:

1. Cherokee Language Translation Specialist David Crawler was named a Cherokee National Treasure for his contributions to Cherokee language.
2. Translators completed translations for stories in the upcoming issue of the Cherokee Phoenix; Translators continue recording themselves reading the audio of the Cherokee Phoenix Stories from home.
3. Translators has provided translations for CN cultural tourism, the Oklahoma Department of Museums, the Gilcrease Museum for the art exhibition Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists, Cherokee Nation Public Health, CN Transportation, and OSU Medical School, in addition to all our internal language programs.
4. Dennis Sixkiller has been editing audio recordings of the Cherokee New Testament as part of the Bible audiobook project. He also plans to resume the Cherokee Voices, Cherokee Sounds radio show through a virtual format. Working with Cherokee language and Communications staff on how to safely facilitate interviews with speakers.
5. Translators provided translation of the script for the second episode for the all-Cherokee language animated show *Inage'i* being produced by the Cherokee Language Department and Fire Thief Studios. Script for the third episode is currently being written.
6. Translation staff continues working with University of New Mexico researchers on transcribing the Cherokee Language interviews from the Cherokee Voices, Cherokee Sounds radio program.
7. A draft of the Cherokee language bi-monthly newsletter to be sent to Cherokee speakers. It includes news, Cherokee language stories, and artwork. Tentative release date for first issue will be November 2020.

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ᏍᏏᏏᏏᏏᏏ September

Activities:

Beginning, September 2, the program began after school Cherokee language sessions to serve SHS students. These students include Cherokee Language Immersion School graduates and non-graduates. To address the current needs technological language needs, the teachers are working with the online learning platform Prodigy to facilitate a long term delivery for adolescent Cherokee language learners. With the recent merging of language programs, 14th Generation has started a tutoring program for Cherokee Language Immersion School students. For the month of September, forty SHS 8th Graders attended online Cherokee language classes provided through the 14th Generation Institute.

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Activities:

The Native Language Community Coordination Grant project staff has worked diligently to continue to complete project benchmarks for Year 5 of the 5-year project. The team has finalized the Adult/College level Curriculum at the intermediate proficiency for objective 1 for the year 5. Additionally, the team has continued developing Adult/College level Curriculum at the advanced proficiency for objective 1 for year 5. Objective 3 has been returned to the forefront of the project staff's attention and continued with the seating of the Cherokee

Language Community Board. NLCC leadership has attended NLCC Cohort calls and Coaching calls on September 8. NLCC Staff attended the ANA Semi-Annual Training on September 15-18.

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Activities:

Cherokee Master Speakers continue to deliver Cherokee Language sessions Monday through Friday. Three of the four intended Language Cohorts operate fully online. Nineteen participants across three cohorts attend language sessions and work in small learning groups daily. As the program continues its expansion, a third and new cohort began September 2, 2020. CLMAP will reach full capacity with a fourth language cohort in August 2021.

Administrative staff are currently preparing the intake for a new CLMAP cohort that will begin February 2021. The online application will be available before November 1, 2020 and will run through December 18, 2020. The application will be available at language.cherokee.org. Applications will also be accepted via mail or email. Three CLMAP participants will graduate December 2020. That ceremony will be a virtual event and details will be available soon.

Enrollment

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Year To Date

# CLMAP Cohorts in session	3 of 4	3 of 4
# CLMAP Cohort participants	19	21
# CLMAP Graduates	N/A this reporting period	6



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Community & Cultural Outreach

Community Report for **August & September 2020** Kevin Stretch – Director

The following report covers the activities of the CCO staff for the months of August and September 2020. Planning for this year's first virtual CCO Conference, now slated for August 31, 2020, has allotted much time and focus on presentations, presenters, recordings, and the support required to make this conference as successful as the 15 previous in-person events. Now that we are opening to full virtual capacity, including a mobile phone app, we're anticipating 1000 attendees. In past years we have to limit seating, last year totaling approximately 680 unique individuals, including many council members and CN/CNB representatives. This year anyone wishing to attend will be able to access the program.

Additionally, 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.



In summary, July was slower than usual for community interactions, as every month before our annual event, and these new initiatives have a very short deadline, pulling our focus on application intake, processing, consultations and assistance.



Community Organization Training & Technical Assistance

CCO staff assisted elders in Vinita and Grove access the Covid-19 Elder assistance money by manning the sign-up event in those communities.



CCO hosted the first all-digital conference on Monday August 31st. The 16th Annual Conference of Community leaders went live from the Chota Convention Center at 8:30 am with welcomes from Principle Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr and concluded with the awards ceremony at 7:30 pm. Because of the virtual nature of this year's conference, the organizations participating were more diverse than ever before.

The target audience of leaders from our community organizations still led the way in number of organizations participating. All the At-Large organizations participated and an increase was seen in the

number of local organizations attending. There were also 10 organizations that had not used CCO's services previously.

**Number of Cherokee Communities participating
in the Leadership Conference**



In the history of the conference, it has not been unusual for representatives from Northeastern State University and Connors State College to attend. This we institutions from across the country participated as well as public schools within our Reservation. Participants stretched from the City University of New York to the University of California-Berkeley.

**Number of Educational Institutions participating
in the Leadership Conference**



Participation in the conference by other Cherokee Nation departments was down this year. This is also due to the virtual nature of the conference. Past conference have made spaces available to other programs of the nation to highlight their services to our communities. That space was very limited this year. We do, however, want to thank those who did participate this year.

**Number of Cherokee Nation programs
participating in the Leadership Conference**



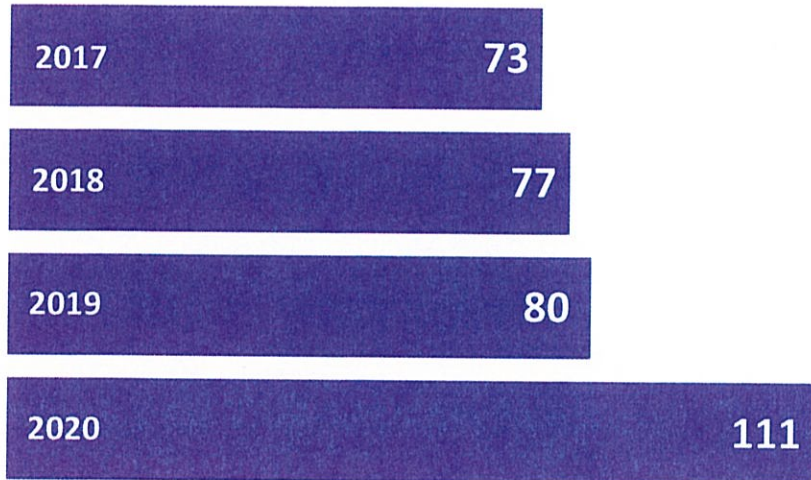
The Conference of Community Leaders has become an important event for many Indigenous Nations. This year representatives from five different nations honored us with their participation. This is the highest number that has ever attended this conference.

**Number of other Indigenous Nations
participating in the Leadership Conference**

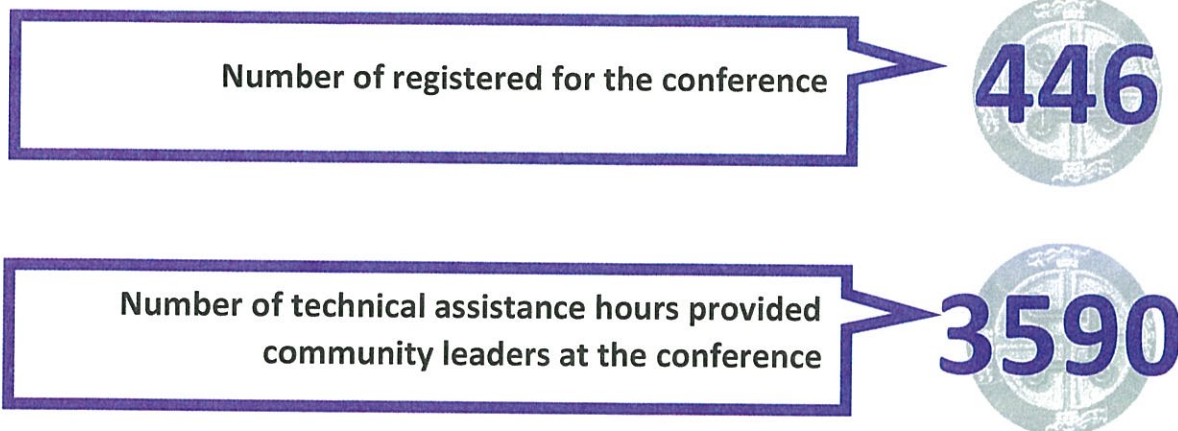


Transitioning the conference to a virtual platform had a positive effect on the number of different groups that were able to participate. Total number of organizations participating increased by 39% from 2019. This is significant increase.

Number of Organizations participating



The all-digital conference was shortened to one day. This alone accounts for the reduction in technical assistance training received by our community leaders at this event. This was a decline of 37% from the average attendance the last 3 years. There was a corresponding decline in the number of technical assistance hours provided because of the reduction in training sessions provided.



Cemetery Program

The Cemetery Program is administered by CCO staff for the Council. The program provides small grants to Cherokee citizens to assist in the maintenance of family sized cemeteries. April, May and June are generally the most active times for requests for funding. In August staff assisted seven groups with funding for their cemetery maintenance projects.





Sustainable Communities Initiative

Volunteer Program staff completed the year-end inventory of tools, equipment and supplies during September. Staff also assisted with building trades projects in Muldrow and Stilwell areas rehabilitating porch steps and providing handicap ramp access to our elder's homes.

Projects completed

2



Sustainable Communities Initiative

The Cherokee Nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic including focusing on potential future financing without the casino revenues, which brought many programs, including CCO's Community Works and Sustainability grant funding to near standstill. We've been assured by the administration everything is back underway and funding has been processed and many programs are receiving the approved funding



Cultural Outreach & At-Large Communities

Staff is hard at work preparing conference presentations, answering questions, emails, phone calls regarding spirituality during the pandemic.

Cherokee National Treasures Advisory Committee Report October 2020

- Advisory Committee was able to contribute to living Treasures a one-time \$350 gift card to offset financial hardships. This was supported within the FY 20 CNB Cherokee National Treasures budget while still closing yearend with a positive budget variance.
- 8 Cherokee National Treasures have inquired to participate in the FY21 Mentorship Program. The committee will review all forms of those interested during the Oct. 15 advisory committee meeting.
- In efforts to protect our Treasures during this time of pandemic the annual Nation Treasures Holiday Luncheon has been canceled this year.
- Cherokee National Treasures will be featured at the newly opened Saline Courthouse Museum on a rotating basis. The following Treasures and their work will be featured as follows:
 - Vivian Cottrell - currently on exhibit
 - Jane Osti - November/December
 - Clesta Manley - January/February
 - Eddie Morrison - March/April
- Vyrl Keeter and Vivian Cottrell were reappointed to serve on the Advisory Committee for a second term of 3 more years.
- It is with deepest sympathy that we report the passing of Cherokee National Treasure Jim Buckhorn (Bow Maker.) Services for Jim were held, Oct. 5, 2020.

