

# Chickasaw Cultural Center Fact Sheet

## The Mission of the Chickasaw Cultural Center is:

- To capture the essence of Chickasaw culture;
- To revitalize and share Chickasaw culture and traditions through cultural demonstrations, and community outreach activities;
- To preserve, protect, and add to Chickasaw history through archives, collections, and research;
- To provide educational opportunities to the Chickasaw people; and
- To share our unique culture with the world.

## CCC Logo



**The Spiral.** The spiral symbolizes the wind, which depicts life's journey from birth to the afterlife; like the wind, we are reminded of the many journeys of our people and our tribe



**The Sacred Eye.** This symbol represents the eye of God (Aabiniili') or the all-seeing eye; the eye also signifies the Chickasaw worldview through which we observe the world



**The Sun.** The sun is an ancient symbol that signifies rebirth or renewal; it also represents the giver of light and the heavenly realm

## *Campus Facts*

- The Chickasaw Cultural Center (CCC) campus is located on 109 acres of land adjacent to the Chickasaw National Recreation Area near Sulphur, Oklahoma
- Campus buildings include more than 96,000 square feet of indoor space
- Outdoor spaces include an amphitheater, sky terrace, water pavilion, honor garden, and café porch
- The Traditional Village buildings include replicas of a council house, summer house, winter house, corn crib, ceremonial mound, and stockade fence
- The council house in the Traditional Village covers 3,000 sq. feet and towers nearly three stories tall
- The large format Anoli' Theater includes a 60-foot high, 2,400 square-foot screen and seats 350 people
- The 20,000 square foot Holisso Research Center features state-of-the-art cold storage, artifact storage, an intake/decontamination room, a library reading room, and a rare book collection

## Construction

- More than 300 miles of reinforcing steel weighing over one million pounds was used in the construction of the CCC
- Campus facilities include enough copper wiring to stretch from Sulphur to Tupelo, Miss., and back

- There are approximately 1,000 lighting fixtures on campus and nearly 60 miles of audio/visual cabling
- Construction required 14,000 cubic yards of concrete—enough to build 200 three-bedroom homes
- 430 two-foot diameter piers buried 70 feet into the ground anchor the structures
- Wooden beams made of Douglas Fir grown in Oregon and milled in Florida adorn building exteriors
- Stone quarried in Arkansas was used on building exteriors
- The re-creation of an eighteenth century Council House in the Chikasha Poya Exhibit Center includes more than 600 feet of timber that totals five tons
- The Council House timbers were prepared by Florida-based ThemeWorks Inc., whose portfolio includes Universal Studios and Sea World
- Tile was imported from Scoula Mosaicisti Del Friuli in Spilimbergo, Italy
- Landscaping throughout the campus features trees and plants that are indigenous to Oklahoma, as well as traditional Chickasaw homelands of the Southeast

## **Technology**

- Campus facilities include more than 940 miles of copper wiring
- There are nearly 60 miles of audio/visual cabling on campus
- Language Learning Stations (LLS) in the Chikasha Poya Exhibit Center feature interactive touch-screen technology
- On each LLS, a visitor can touch the picture of an object, which triggers the computer to say the Chickasaw word aloud; the visitor repeats that word into a microphone, and the computer plays back the recording so the visitor can hear themselves saying the word
- The Spirit Forest contains native plants and animals, running water, and interactive sights and sounds reminiscent of our Southeastern homelands
- There are 60 sensors and 176 theatrical lights in the Spirit Forest
- Lighting in the Spirit Forest changes from “day” to “night” in a matter of minutes
- Sound and lighting effects in the Spirit Forest effectively mimic thunder and lightning
- The Removal corridor tells the story of our terrible journey from our southeastern homelands through multimedia experiences, paintings, and statues
- A special screen in the Removal ceiling simulates clouds moving across the sky
- Strategically placed speakers project voices whispering thoughts about removal
- The large format theater features a 2,400 square foot screen
- High definition film capability includes a 35/70 mm projector and a 15/70 mm projector
- Theater sound is delivered through a 22,000 watt speaker system
- Headphones will be available to translate films into eight languages
- The 20,000 square foot Holisso Research Center features state-of-the-art cold storage, artifact storage, and a decontamination room

## **Language**

- As much as possible, all signs, and even the buildings themselves, are named in Chickasaw
- Many of the Café menu items incorporate Chickasaw words, such as the “Akanka' (Chicken) Sandwich”
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## ***CCC Building Features***

### **Retail and Administration Building**

- The Souvenir Gift Shop will sell pens, pencils, post cards, and stationary; mugs and cups; t-shirts, blankets, and apparel; posters and maps; toys and puzzles; music CDs; Bedré chocolate; books; and jewelry
- The Administration building will house offices for CCC staff

### **Chikasha Poya Exhibit Center**

- Inside the Exhibit Center, guests will gather in a waiting room that features mosaic tiles, running water, and a domed ceiling with lighting effects
- An eighteenth century, 1,200 sq. foot Council House serves as an orientation theater; after a 20-minute HD film, the screen rises and visitors walk beneath a rock ledge and over a stream into the Spirit Forest
- The Spirit Forest contains native plants and animals, running water, and interactive sights and sounds reminiscent of our Southeastern homelands
- There are 60 sensors and 176 theatrical lights in the Spirit Forest; the lighting changes so that “day” turns to “night”
- The Removal corridor tells the story of our terrible journey from our southeastern homelands through multimedia experiences, paintings, and statues
- There is a special screen in the Removal ceiling that simulates clouds moving across the sky; additionally, voices are heard in the background, whispering thoughts about removal
- Exhibit areas feature “Indian country,” the period of settlement after removal, the Dawes Commission, Chickasaw governors, ancient Chickasaws, and Chickasaws today
- A Stomp Dance Gallery features holograms and a glowing campfire that simulate our sacred, centuries-old stomp dances

### **Holisso Research Center**

- The Holisso Center, 20,000 sq. feet in all, is designed to be a research Mecca for not only Chickasaw scholarship, but Southeastern tribes, and Native Americans as a whole
- The Holisso Center features genealogy and oral history workshops, educational spotlights, digitization events, lecture series, conferences/roundtables, and book signings
- Climate and light controlled, the artifact storage room will protect genealogy collections, photo archives, and historic documents

## **Anoli' Theater and Aaimpa' Café**

### **• Theater**

- With a 2,400 square-foot screen and the ability to seat 350 people, the theater will offer large-format entertainment that previously was only found in Oklahoma City or Dallas
- The theater features a 22,000-watt speaker system, a 35/70 mm projector, and a 15/70 mm projector
- Headphones will be available to translate films into eight languages
- The theater can show digital films in High-Definition (HD) with incredible detail; the movie *Pearl* was filmed in HD, so the Anoli' Theater can present the picture the way it was meant to be shown
- Large-format films envelop your senses—the screen fills your eyes with colors and vivid images, and combined with surround-sound speakers, gives the patron a sense of being a part of the film
- Ever-changing programming includes film and art festivals, script-writing workshops, film-making workshops, and question and answer sessions with producers and directors of films

### **• Café**

- The café menu features appetizers, entrées, salads, sandwiches, soups, lunch specials, children's meals, and desserts
- Traditional Chickasaw fare will include grape dumplings, Indian fry bread, burgers and chili made from buffalo meat, and pishofa
- Seasonal items such as possum grapes, wild onions, and wild greens will be used—the café will also incorporate other native recipes and selections such as rice, beans, and some flours
- Home-grown vegetables and herbs, actually grown in the CCC greenhouse and the onsite Demonstration Garden, will be used in recipes
- The Interior dining area is capable of seating more than 200 people; there is also an outdoor eating area, a multi-purpose room, and a catering kitchen

## **Aachompa' Gallery Gift Shop**

- The Gallery Gift Shop will feature, for example, the following items created by Chickasaw artists: paintings, sculptures, carvings, books, jewelry, beaded items, and traditional dress

## **Kochcha' Aabinili' Amphitheater**

- The amphitheater can seat approximately 320 people
- The open-air amphitheater will host intertribal dances, living history performances, star stories, concerts, storytelling, and cultural presentations

## **Aba' Aanowa' Sky Terrace**

- Extending from the Exhibit Center, the Sky Terrace overlooks the traditional village and stands 40 feet above grade, which equates to 4 stories tall

## **Chikasha Inchokka' Traditional Village**

- The Traditional Village is comprised of a council house, two summer houses, two winter houses, a corn crib, a replica mound, and a stockade fence
- The large council house structure is 3,000 sq. ft. and stands nearly three stories tall
- Two summer houses, approximately 300 sq. feet each, feature vented eaves to promote circulation of air

- Two round winter houses have a circular entrance, which is designed like a snail's shell to retain heat
- A raised corn crib stands four feet off the ground to protect stores from moisture and intruders
- The Village also features a replica mound about 20 feet tall, and the whole village is surrounded by a stockade fence
- Programming for the Village includes stomp dancing, storytelling, spirit lessons, language/cultural demonstrations, cultural classes, featured cultural instructors, food festivals, stickball tournaments, and stomp dances

#### **Honor Garden**

- The Honor Garden is a quiet, reflective place, located next to the pond and across from the water pavilion
- With traditional landscaping elements and swirling walls, this peaceful area features laser cut photos of all Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame inductees
- The Honor Garden also features DMX lighting that has 1,600 different lighting combinations

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