

21st Annual Cherokee National Holiday Art Show 2026
Awarding \$12,205 in Prize Money
OPEN TO ARTISTS OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES



Contact Info:

Spider Gallery
Phone: 918.453.5728
Email: artscenter@cherokee.org

Andria Hummingbird
Phone: 918.316-0074
Email: andria-hummingbird@cherokee.org

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, July 14th - All **applications with pictures of artwork** must be received by **5:00 pm**.

Friday, July 17th –If not previously notified of acceptance call Spider Gallery 918.453.5728

Tuesday, Aug 25th – Any **SHIPPED ARTWORK** must be received by 5:00 pm. **No exceptions**

Shipping address: UPS/ FEDEX – **DO NOT send artwork thru regular mail!!!**

Cherokee Nation – Child Care & Development
Holiday Art Show Attn: Andria Hummingbird
22361 S. Bald Hill Road
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Monday, Aug 31st (10:00 am - 7:00 pm) **HAND DELIVERED ARTWORK** (must be READY TO SHOW OR HANG) delivered to the **Chota Room /Casino, 3307 S. Seven Clans Ave.**, Tahlequah.
DO NOT drop artwork off at this location before this date!!! NO EXCEPTIONS will be made!

Show hours are:

Friday, September 4th

12:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Artist can pick up award over weekend, or it will be mailed to artist if they can't pick it up – monetary awards / prize money will be issued as a check.

Saturday, September 5th

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday, September 6th

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Artists may pick up artwork between 3 to 7 pm at the Chota Conference Center.

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Tuesday, September 8th

9:00 am to 5:30 pm– Artists may pick up art at the Spider Art Gallery, 215 S. Muskogee Ave. You must pick up your art during these times. **No exceptions.**

Friday, September 11th

Artwork left becomes the property of the Cherokee National Holiday.

SECTION 1: Artwork & Material

Only two original artworks, objects or items produced by the applicant Native American / Alaskan Native, may be displayed or sold.

- In order to fully comply with the Cherokee Nation’s “Truth in Advertising for Native Art” Act – any artist participating must be a citizen of a federally recognized Native American / Alaskan Tribes. State-recognized groups do not meet the definition of “Indian” as defined in the Cherokee Nation legislation and will not be permitted to enter. For us to act consistently with this legislation we require proof of citizenship with every entry form.
- Pieces of art submitted to the 2026 Cherokee National Holiday Art Show must have been made in the last twelve months.
- No objects made from commercial kits, molds or mass-produced products including machine-printed T-shirts will be accepted. Simple display stands and dress forms will be allowed. The Art Show will not provide them, nor will we be responsible for them. We reserve the right to reject any stand or dress form if they are deemed too invasive.
- Possession and sale of migratory bird feathers or parts is prohibited by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Eagle Feathers may be possessed, used, & displayed by Native Americans with a permit issued by the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service, but **may not** be sold, traded, or bartered.
- Authentic items containing material from Polar bear, Porpoise, Sea Otter, Seal, Sea-lion, Walrus, Whale and other species protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act, are allowed to be possessed, purchased, or sold only if created by Native Artists and only if the restricted material has been significantly altered in a manner consistent with traditional Native American Indian arts.
- No Dealers, traders or agents may submit art to the Cherokee National Holiday Art Show.
- Artist must sign the Cherokee National Holiday Art Show Waiver/Release Statement.
- Artists must provide complete application.

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- The artist's checks will be created by Cherokee Nation's accounting department. The accounting department requires that a W-9 be completed to receive your check if your artwork should be sold.
- **Your artwork MUST HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AFTER SEPT 1, 2025, to enter this show.**
- **Do not send a check for return of artwork!! You must provide a pre-paid package slip from Fed-Ex or UPS so we can return your artwork if it needs to be mailed.**
- **Proper identification must be attached firmly to the back of each entry with the following:** Artist's name, title, price and medium. Identification on the artwork must be done in addition to the entry form. Pieces will not be accepted where there is uncertainty about the price, title, medium, and identity of artist.
- ALL HANGING ARTWORK MUST BE READY TO HANG with a frame or wrapped canvas and needs to be **suspended with wire on the back about a third of the way down for the picture to hang properly**. This is the only way we have of hanging pictures. They **must have wire** on the back, or they will NOT be judged and displayed. JEWELRY & TEXTILES– ARTIST MUST PROVIDE A SHOW CASE / STAND TO DISPLAY JEWELRY. For Clothing Textiles: Please provide a hanger or a “mannequin” stand to display your clothing.

SECTION 2: Prize Money & Shipping

Prize Money:

\$12,205 in prize money will be awarded. It will be divided as follows:

Adult Awards

- Best in Show: \$900
- Judges' Choice Awards: \$150 (for a total of 3)
- Chief's Choice Award: \$150 (only 1)
- First Lady's Choice Award: \$150 (only 1)
- Deputy Chief's Choice: \$150 (only 1)
- Speaker's Choice Award: \$150 (only 1)
- First Place for a Category: \$550 (only 1 per category for a total of 9)
- Second Place for a Category: \$275 (only 1 per category for a total of 9)
- Honorable Mention for a Category: \$150 (1 per category for a total of 9)
- People's Choice Award: \$145 (only 1)

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Youth Awards

- Youth categories are ages 1-8, ages 9-13 and ages 14-17
- First Place: \$140 (one for each of 3 age categories)
- Second Place: \$90 (one for each of 3 age categories)
- Honorable Mention: \$70 (one for each of 3 age categories)
- Chief's Choice Award: \$55 (only 1 for all Youth)
- First Lady's Choice Award: \$55 (only 1 for all Youth)
- Deputy Chief's Choice Award: \$55 (only 1 for all Youth)
- Speaker's Choice Award: \$55 (only 1 for all Youth)
- Judges Choice Awards: \$55 (one for each judge - 3)
- People's Choice Award: \$50 (only 1 for all Youth)

The staff of the Cherokee National Holiday Art Show will select judges. Judges will be selected based on their knowledge of American Indian Art.

Percentage of sales:

Please remember when pricing an item, the Cherokee National Holiday Art Show will retain 20% of the sales price of each item. All sales checks will be made payable to the artist and mailed approximately 45 days after the sale of the artwork. The Cherokee National Holiday Art Show reserves the right to sell any artwork submitted to the show as long as it remains in our possession. The Cherokee National Holiday Art Show has the right to collect commission on any artwork submitted to us and sold while in our possession. **Price accordingly*.

Shipping Fees:

Artists are responsible for all shipping costs. The artist is expected to either deliver entries or ship them prepaid. Any artist that wishes to have their artwork shipped back to them must provide a **Pre-paid package slip from FED-EX or UPS.** **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHECKS.**

Packaging:

Entries must be shipped in a reinforced corrugated carton or wooden box. Masking tape should be used on an entry under glass. Note: Frequent cases of unsatisfactory insurance settlements have been encountered on works damaged in transit. All insurance settlements will be treated as sales with the Cherokee National Holiday Art Show retaining its normal commission.

Return of Artwork:

Artwork not picked up, shipped back to artist or sold which remains in the possession of the Cherokee National Holiday Art Show after **September 11th, 2026** becomes the property of Cherokee National Holiday. Art work may be picked up in the Chota Room/Cherokee Casino at 3307 S. Seven Clans Ave. in Tahlequah on Sunday September 6th, between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 pm or Tuesday, September 8th between 9:00 am and 5:30 pm at the Spider Gallery, 215 S Muskogee Ave., Tahlequah, OK 74464. Cherokee Nation and the volunteers are not responsible for any artwork left overnight in the locked Spider Gallery or Chota Room of the Casino.

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Shipping return:

Please note we will make every effort to return your work in the packaging in which it was shipped to us. We will not guarantee this but again will make every effort to do so. Please label boxes well and use materials which may be used to reship.

SIGNATURE WILL BE REQUIRED THE DAY YOUR ARTWORK IS PICKED UP – AFTER THE SHOW. SIGNATURE WILL BE REQUIRED EITHER BY THE ARTIST OR THEIR APPROVED PICK-UP SUBSTITUTE. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Denial of Participation

Cherokee Nation Holiday staff reserve the right to deny participation in its Native Artist Shows and Markets if the artist fails to comply with the Native Artist Policy and Standards as outlined above or fails to complete any of the information asked for above or if the piece is denied for any other reason.

Cherokee Nation Holiday staff reserves the right to move an art piece from one category to another.

Please mail any requests for appeal to Cherokee Nation, Department of Commerce, National Holiday Staff, and P.O. Box 948, Tahlequah, OK 74465. All appeals must be made in writing.

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SECTION 3: Categories & Standards

CATEGORY 1 – Pottery:

This category consists of wheel thrown or hand-built pieces using traditional or contemporary methods such as clay preparation, construction, commercial clay, glazes and temper; including kiln fired and/or double fired pottery.

1. Slip mold, greenware, and commercial pottery pieces are not allowed.
2. Kiln-fired and/or double fired pottery are allowed with disclosure.

CATEGORY 2 – Paintings:

1. Original works in oils, watercolors, acrylics, gouache, tempera etc., and related mixed mediums, such as ink and acrylic.
2. All paintings must be framed and ready to hang. Stretched canvas must have finished sides.
3. Entries must be painted on a standard surface, such as canvas, paper, Masonite, hardboard, leather- hide or plywood.
4. Entries cannot be painted on leaves, feathers, or saw blades.

CATEGORY 3 – Drawings and Graphics:

1. Hand-pulled prints or digitally generated in a numbered and signed edition (not to exceed 50 with a certificate of authenticity from the printer) including lithography, gicl'ee etchings and block prints.
2. Graphics and Drawings- original works in ink, pencil, charcoal, pastels, scrimshaw, etc.
3. No photomechanical reproduction, including note cards, posters, and T-Shirts will be accepted.

CATEGORY 4 – Photography:

1. Original (unaltered – not enhanced by the computer) works in film or digital photography. No image manipulation.
2. Cropping is allowable.
3. Images can be black and white or color.
4. All works must be signed and numbered in an edition of no more than 50.
5. No offset photography, Iris or other digital photographic reproduction/ prints will be accepted

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CATEGORY 5 – Sculpture:

Original works in stone, wood, clay, metal, bone and other natural materials. Size limit is: 6 feet tall.

Artists are completely responsible for moving their sculptures.

1. Hand-wrought materials are allowable. IE: stone, wood, metal, ceramic, paper, etc.
2. Items in this category must be carved, molded, constructed, or shaped by the artist - not formed by nature.
3. Cast bronze is allowable in numbered editions of no more than 20. All must be signed, numbered and marked by the foundry. Please provide a certificate of authenticity. May not be greater than 6 feet high. Artist is responsible for shipping.
4. Hand-blown and fabricated glass is allowable.
5. The type of wood must be disclosed, and any termite bored or aged wood must be non-infectious and disclosed. Staff reserves the right to examine and refuse.
6. Decorative stands that are hand-wrought and are an integral element to the original sculpture are allowable. The stand must not dominate the work.
7. No cast resins or cast miniature sculptures will be allowed.
8. Unfired clay will not be accepted because of its fragile nature.
9. Images submitted in one medium may not be resubmitted in another medium. IE: a woodcarving may not be entered as a bronze in the same year or later years.

CATEGORY 6 – Basketry:

1. Traditional Materials are acceptable
2. Items may be of commercial material and commercial dyes are permitted.
3. No Plastic beads or other plastic parts are permitted.

CATEGORY 7 – Textiles & Weaving

1. Weaving- Traditional tribal techniques must be employed in creation of the weaving; all types of dye and natural yarns are acceptable. Rugs and Blankets must be handmade on native looms. Includes hand woven clothing of natural yarns.
2. All attached materials including buttons, collar tabs, beads, feathers, leather and tin-tinklers must be properly identified and may not comprise more than 20% of the piece.
3. Textiles – Handmade items such as ribbon shirts and traditional clothing, ceremonial wear, shawls, etc. is acceptable (sewing machine work is acceptable).
4. No plastic beads, buttons, iron-on or liquid embellishments are allowable.

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CATEGORY 8 – Diverse Arts:

This category includes anything that does not fit into the other categories. The category is open to crafts such as toys, masks, musical instruments, cooking utensils; stick ball sticks, knives with carved bone handles, etc. Traditional weapons – blowguns, bow and arrows, war clubs, points, etc. are included here.

1. Commercially produced objects that are transformed into a work of art by the hand application of beadwork or quillwork are allowable with disclosure.
2. The category includes non-jewelry Beadwork.
3. Purchased glass beads, nickel and brass beads that are not made by the artist are allowable.
4. Commercially manufactured hides and rawhide are allowable with disclosure.
5. Nothing from a “kit” or anything produced from a plan or drafting NOT of your own design will be allowable.
6. Plastic anything is not allowed.

CATEGORY 9 – Jewelry:

1. Allowable items include organic & stone materials (such as bone, wood, horn, shell, clay) natural stones (turquoise, coral, lapis, etc), natural pearls, finished stones & gemstones in cabochon and faceted shapes set in metal settings.
2. All non-plated metals such as silver, copper, & gold (10K or higher) are allowed and must be clearly identified.
3. Findings may not comprise more than 10% of the artwork (IE: Jump rings, earring backs, clasps, hooks and eyes, etc.)
4. Jewelry may incorporate use of native material such as flint, agate, petrified wood, jasper, horn, bone, shell and bird or animal parts. Materials protected under federal law will not be allowed.

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ALLOWABLE WITH DISCLOSURE:

1. Turquoise; natural or stabilized from North or South America with disclosure.
2. Color enhanced by wax treatment or heat-treated natural stones must be disclosed.
3. Commercially available coral from temporary strands must be natural no dyes.
4. Commercially available beads can only be used in combination with a handmade piece and may not comprise more than 10% (in addition to the 10% finding allowance) of the piece (Otherwise see diverse arts category for beadwork and design). Exception to this is seed bead items.
5. Cast Jewelry: The mold must be handmade and/or hand carved by the artist. The cast piece must be hand poured by the artist. Traditional materials allowable are tufa, cuttle fish, sandstone, sand and clay. Allowable with disclosure are rubber, wax and lost wax casting provided the casting was carved, molded and poured by the artist. Cast pieces must have the artist's hallmark on them and be numbered. We will only take pieces which are limited to 25 reproductions.
**Please note: A company employing Indians to cast jewelry IS NON-ALLOWABLE. The work MUST be ALL the artists!
6. Fabricated laminated pattern sheet metals may be used but must be disclosed to the customer and may not comprise more than 10% of the piece.
7. Precious Metal Clay is allowable with disclosure.

NON-ALLOWABLE:

1. Imported non-American Indian stones, shell beads and fetishes.
2. Imported and/or color treated nuggets or tumbled chips of any material.
3. Laboratory grown, plastic or synthetic block reconstituted or compressed materials, such as lapis, coral, turquoise etc.
4. All color-treated, dyed stones/materials such as blue onyx, blue topaz, coral, etc.
5. Items assembled from or using manufactured components, such as:
 - a. Machine made or die-struck components or purchased cast blanks, such as rings, bracelets, bezel cups, leaves, bolo tips, etc.
 - b. Pre-made silver beads will be considered with findings and may comprise no more than 10% of the piece including ALL findings.
6. Machine made "liquid" silver or gold, or plated materials: gold under 10Kt.
7. Safety pin beadwork is prohibited.
8. Materials protected under federal law will not be allowed.

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CATEGORY 11 – YOUTH ages 1-8

- 1) The artist MUST not have turned 9 years old by **August 29, 2025**
- 2) The submissions must be in one of the above categories and meet all standards listed.
- 3) Must follow all rules and requirements.
- 4) If a submission is judged in this category, IT WILL NOT be judged in another category.

All YOUTH applications need to be marked as YOUTH on the application page and specified in Section 2 with the description of the submission (s).

CATEGORY 12 – YOUTH ages 9-13

- 1) The artist MUST not have turned 14 years old by **August 29, 2025**
- 2) The submissions must be in one of the above categories and meet all Standards listed.
- 3) Must follow all rules and requirements.
- 4) If a submission is judged in this category, IT WILL NOT be judged in another Category.

CATEGORY 13 – YOUTH ages 14-18

- 1) The artist MUST not have turned 19 years old by **August 29, 2025**.
- 2) The submissions must be in one of the above categories and meet all standards listed.
- 3) Must follow all rules and requirements.
- 4) If a submission is judged in this category, IT WILL NOT be judged in another category.