

# Request for Proposals Mural Project Downtown Claremore, Oklahoma

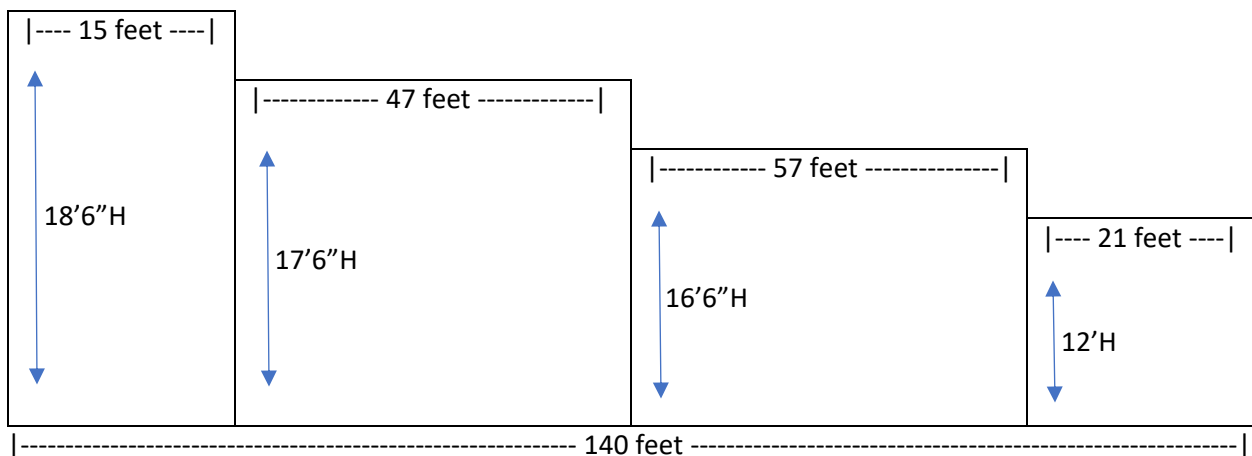
## Summary

The community of Claremore, in partnership with Cherokee Nation Businesses (CNB), is accepting proposals for a mural to be painted in Claremore's downtown historic district. The community seeks submissions that help illustrate the story of Cherokee Nation within the Claremore area beyond the historic legacy of Will Rogers. Artists' submission should reflect the Cherokee Nation's unique story within the Cooweescoowee district (see attachment).

## Description

Artist proposals should include a sketch of the mural concept and design, images of previous completed works, and a breakdown of mural pricing.

The available space for the mural is shown below, along with a diagram of dimensions:



CNB reserves the right to retain original sketches and to use images of the mural in future projects, where applicable.

**Bid Information**

Deadline to submit a proposal is Monday, August 17 at 5:00 pm.

Please address proposals to Cassie Cash, CNE Buyer, at 777 W. Cherokee St., Catoosa, OK 74015.

Proposals can also be submitted digitally by emailing [cassie.cash@cnent.com](mailto:cassie.cash@cnent.com). The same deadline applies for both mailed and emailed submissions.

\*\*\*\*\*Must be a Cherokee Nation citizen to submit. Please provide a copy of Cherokee Nation blue card or photo ID.\*\*\*\*\*

## **Cherokee Nation history in Rogers County:**

In the early 1800s some Cherokees migrated west, resulting in Cherokee settlements in Indian Territory prior to the Trail of Tears. Known today as “Old Settlers”, they established their own government in the west. When the first Cherokees arrived in the west, they settled on Osage hunting grounds but the Osage considered the Cherokee intruders. In 1818, the Osage invaded Cherokee territory. The Cherokees retaliated by charging the town of Pasuga in what is known today as the Battle of Strawberry Moon or Claremore Mound.

In 1835 an unauthorized delegation of Cherokees signed the Treaty of New Echota, disposing of all eastern homelands in exchange for lands in the West. In 1838, nearly 16,000 Cherokees were forced to travel over land and water, at times on foot, for the 800-mile journey west to Indian Territory. It is estimated that some 4,000 perished along the journey.

The final detachments of Cherokees reached their new home in Indian Territory in 1839 and faced the challenge of rebuilding their government. New Cherokee tribal lands were held communally and initially divided into eight districts: Delaware, Saline, Tahlequah, Goingsnake, Flint, Illinois, Canadian, and Skin Bayou (later renamed Sequoyah). In 1856 a ninth district, Cooweescoowee, was created using lands from Saline District. The district was named in honor of then Principal Chief John Ross’s Cherokee name, guwisguwi.

In April 1861, the American Civil War began and war raged across Indian Territory. Thousands of lives were lost during the war and devastation could be seen across much of Cherokee Nation, including the Cooweescoowee District. In 1866, a treaty was signed between Cherokee Nation and the United States. In addition to reestablishing peace in Indian Territory, the treaty granted rights of way to railroads going through Cherokee lands. The Missouri, Pacific, and Texas Railway became the first of many railroads to bring change to this area in 1870. Access to open prairies, fertile soil, and plentiful water encouraged farming and ranching and by 1880 the Cooweescoowee district grew to more than 3,000 Cherokee citizens.

By the late 1800s a strategy of forced assimilation was adopted by the United States government, resulting in the passage of both the Dawes Act of 1887 and the Curtis Act of 1898. These acts systematically dismantled Cherokee Nation government. The final merger of Oklahoma and Indian Territories into the state of Oklahoma took place on November 16, 1907. Cooweescoowee District became the counties of Washington, Rogers, Nowata, Craig, and parts of Tulsa and Mayes counties in the state of Oklahoma.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Cherokee Nation citizen and Rogers County resident Jesse Bartley Milam as Principal Chief. Milam worked tirelessly, pursuing land claims against the federal government, convening a Cherokee Nation assembly, improving roads throughout Cherokee Nation and establishing Cherokee language classes before passing away while in office in 1949. President Harry S. Truman appointed Washington County resident and Cherokee Nation citizen, William W. (Bill) Keeler, to succeed Milam in office. Keeler served as appointed Principal Chief from 1949-1971. During his tenure, Keeler continued rebuilding Cherokee Nation by developing the modern Cherokee government. On August 14, 1971, Keeler was sworn in as Cherokee Nation’s first elected Principal Chief in nearly 70 years.

Over the years, Claremore has been home to a number of influential Cherokees: Lynn Riggs, a playwright and author of *Green Grow the Lilacs*, of which the musical *Oklahoma!* is based; Andy Payne, famed foot racer and Oklahoma Supreme Court Clerk; Admiral Joseph James “Jocko” Clark, an admiral in the US Navy and the Naval Academy’s first Native American graduate; and Maggie Culver Fry, the 10<sup>th</sup> Poet Laureate for the state of Oklahoma.