Meeting started at 10:05am.

In attendance: Candessa Tehee, Mickel Yantz, Tonia Hogner, Gina Burnett, Cheryl Parrish, Robert Lewis, Bobby Martin, Roger Cain, Karen Cooper, Verna Bates, Jane Osti, Gina Olaya, Corey Still, Josiah Hewey, Cindy Witherspoon, Lisa Rutherford, Roy Boney.

Candessa Tehee, Executive Director of CHC discussed the purpose of the meeting to be a listening conference for making the shows a win-win. Artist meetings will be quarterly and the next one is scheduled for June 14, a Saturday and will be as a pot luck. This meeting is about the future of our shows and talk about what needs to happen to move forward.

Introductions were done by all in attendance.

Tonia explained that CHC is a 501c3 that is run by a Board of Trustees. Our partnership with the Cherokee Nation assists us in funding the payroll portion of our budget which is 2/3rds of our annual budget. All programs, exhibits, utilities and anything non-payroll expenses must be raised by CHC separately and the art shows are one of our major fund raisers.

The discussion pertains to the Trail of Tears Art Show and Sale.

1. Deadlines
   Mickel discussed the rationale for the deadlines that have been used for shows in the past. Having a picture of the finished artwork in advance is to give CHC the time to get the photographs ready for the jurying process and preparing the photographs for the online galleries. We are limited on staff and every day between the photograph deadline and reception is used to create the online galleries, programs, labels and hanging the show for the judging and reception. Each show has around 160-200 entries and the temporary gallery holds around 150. The jurying process typically removes 20-30% of entered artwork. The online galleries garner publicity for the artists, CHC and we do have a few sales. Another reason for the early deadline is to get the labels and program ready for print.

   Artists asked why established artists, including National Treasures, are required to submit a photograph of their completed work to be entered. Other shows included Santa Fe, SWAIA, CAM and Eiteljord do not and rely on the experience/merits of the artist. It was suggested to just have a sampling of work submitted by artists to be juried into the shows. Artists have multiple projects going at once and need all the time they can get to complete their piece. Many things can happen between the time of the photograph and deadline and the drop off date two weeks afterwards.

   There was a discussion on whether there needs to be an online gallery. Some artists were fine trading a later deadline date and not having their pieces for sale online and others did. CHC has received sales from the online galleries but due to them not being as well advertised it has only been around 3-5 pieces per show. Another option discussed was having the gallery posted a week after the reception.

   There was also discussion of being tenured into a show if you are a Treasure or have been in the show for over a certain number of years. The idea of setting criteria to qualify as tenured was brought up but not fully discussed.

   Roger Cain and Gina Olaya offered their services or staff to photograph images.

2. Categories
   CHC staff suggested that the Trail of Tears Category be changed to an award. Some of the new categories suggested: Dolls, Traditional, Beadwork, and Emerging Artists
Gina Olaya offered for CNE to financially support an Emerging Artists Awards that would go to anyone that has not participated in a show in the past to encourage new artists. This would include a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place that would be awarded in addition to any other award. Discussion of the eligible standards were discussed including 3 years or less participation and not being eligible if they have won the previous year. Emerging Artists entries would also be eligible for category winners, Trail of Tears Award (if changed), judges choice and grand prize.

The Trail of Tears Category would become just a single award that would be in addition to another award that best represents the depiction of any indigenous removal.

3. Money
There is no reserving or lay away of artwork. The sold stickers will only be placed on the art piece when definite payment has been secured. Artwork must be paid for immediately or the sold sticker will be removed. The only exception to this rule is Cherokee Nation and Cherokee Nation Entertainment who have policies in place to not pay for anything until they are picked up. CNE has done a great job getting the payment to CHC right when the show ends and Artist payments are sent quickly afterwards.

CHC worked out ways to insure money can be processed immediately during the reception and art show. CNE offered using their credit card machine in the store. A delay would occur to receive payments but verification would occur. The Square was mentioned to take payments but due to the concrete construction of CHC there is not a strong enough signal to use one. Gina Olaya also offered CNE Community Impact volunteers to help with the receptions.

A suggestion from an email that CHC contact the artist when artwork is sold via email and let them know if payment will be delayed to it being purchased by CN or CNE. This will be initiated this year. The option to include the buyers name will be optional based on the buyer themselves.

4. Judging
For the past 10 years there have been 3 different judges for each show with only two expectations. The three judges are selected by experience and knowledge of artwork. There is always an attempt to bring in experts in diverse fields. Currently judges are paid an honorarium and a meal for their services. Travel has not been covered due to budgetary constraints.

A suggestion to cover the expense of traveling judges is to have an entry fee. The entry fees would go to cover air fare, car, per diem and other expenses to bring in judges from out of the state. Out of state and in state judges would both be used. The suggested amount was $10 per entry. The exception would be for Cherokee National Treasures and members of the Cherokee National Historical Society in good standing.

Some artists have already emailed suggestions for judges but more can be emailed to Mickel.

5. Other
Political artwork is accepted into all shows. What is not accepted is campaigning.

Early withdrawal of artwork from any CHC show will be punished by a ban of the artist from future shows. Dimensions of the miniature and sculpture categories were discussed and no changes were suggested.

Discussion of sharing an artist statement to go along with artwork was mentioned. Suggested to limit to a word number (100 or 150) but not decided at this time. This statement would be limited to 100 words. This would not be a requirement but an option and these would be shared with the judges.

There was discussion of an annual Cherokee National Treasures Show starting in 2015. Items could be offered for sale but it would not a requirement. There would be no jurying or judging. This is a way for CHC to honor those artists annually and let them share their work. Details to be determined.
Invitations are available to artists to mail send to their buyers list. A suggestion of an electronic invitation was made and CHC staff feels that can be easily achieved. A pdf and jpg version of the invitation will also be created for artists to send to their buyers.

Ms. Tehee reminded the attendees that all suggestions and comments would be taken under advisement and no decisions would be made during the meeting. It was also noted that the CHC reserves the right to make decisions contrary to the rules when the action is in the best interest of the artist and the CHC.

Meeting ended 12:43PM

Footnotes:
Interest was expressed to have an award to honor a National Treasure. If there is an individual or organization that is willing to sponsor prize money and possibly the cost of a ribbon, CHC would be willing to host it. There has not been a minimum requirement for prize money set.

The jurying of artwork in the past has typically been done in house by three not participating artists in the show but not the Curator. There is always an attempt to have a National Treasure included. The jury focuses on ensuring the artwork follows the rules and overall quality based on the photographs submitted. This jury rotates with every show. There is discussion to bring in outside assistance for this process.