

## Stecoah Valley Center Receives \$100,000 Outdoor Arts-based Exhibit

In 2015, CDAC worked with the Stecoah Valley Center in Stecoah, NC to improve their 10 acre site. The Center was originally the Stecoah Union School, which was built in 1926. It closed in 1994 and was converted into a community center.

The center serves the community as a place for after school arts programs, performance space, an art gallery, an event space, and a museum for Cherokee history.

CDAC worked with the community to develop a conceptual master plan to enhance the cultural and environmental quality of the grounds. The design included plant materials significant to Cherokee heritage, Appalachian and Cherokee interpretive stations, and a courtyard deck area featuring sculptures related to Cherokee heritage. CDAC's services were provided through a \$16,000 NC Forest Service grant to help Appalachian communities in NC develop conceptual plans to conserve, protect, and enhance community natural resources.

Site Design Studio out of Asheville later designed the courtyard area in more detail.

The Stecoah Valley Arts Center was recently awarded \$100,000 by the John William Pope Foundation for an outdoor Cherokee art project. "The Courtyard is an outdoor arts-based exhibit that authentically represents the seven clans of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI). The Courtyard project will provide awareness of the EBCI's role in the Stecoah community and experiential learning opportunities for students and visitors in the area. The courtyard of the Cherokee Project is part of a long-term plan to enhance the Center's ten-acre property."<sup>1</sup>

To view final conceptual designs for the Stecoah project, visit:  
<http://www.cdac.arch.vt.edu/Stecoah.html>

To review the final project report, visit:  
<https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/handle/10919/71434>

To learn more about the Stecoah Valley Center, visit:  
<https://www.stecoahvalleycenter.com/>

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<sup>1</sup> Beth Fields, Stecoah Valley Center Executive Director