

## **Lona Barrick**

Lona A. Barrick is the Executive Officer of the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities in the Department of Culture and Humanities.

Since the division's beginnings in 2003, she has created and developed departments for arts in education, graphic arts and design, humanities and literary arts, performing arts and related special projects including the annual Southeastern Art Show and Market (SEASAM), the annual Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Conference and Forum and oversight of the Chickasaw Clemente Humanities courses at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma and at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Oklahoma.

Highlights include creation of the Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy; oversight of the first book published by the Chickasaw Press, *Unconquered & Unconquerable*; world premiere production of *TE ATA*, a play, by JudyLee Oliva, about famous Chickasaw entertainer and storyteller Mary TeAta Fisher; also, *Chickasaw Elders I and II*, a series of forty-eight paintings by Chickasaw artist Mike Larsen; launch of CD recording of composer Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate's original works, performed by the San Francisco Symphony and the SFS Chorus. She provided script consultation for the Chickasaw Nation's first full-length film, "Pearl", and served as a producer for the premiere of "Lowak Shoppala – Fire and Light", a full-length classical theatrical production featuring music by Jerod I. Tate, script by Chickasaw Pulitzer finalist Linda Hogan and set and costumes by Chickasaw textile artist, Margaret Roach Wheeler.

Lona serves on numerous boards, councils and committees including the Oklahoma Arts Council, CreativeOk World Creative Forum, the Oklahoma Humanities Council, Meredith Indigenous Humanities Council and the Chickasaw Nation Head Start Advisory Board. She has served on the Native American Advisory Group to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Oklahoma Travel Industry Association, Arts District of Ada steering committee and others dedicated to culture, arts, humanities and education.

She has worked for the Chickasaw Nation since 1987 and has served as the director for the Office of Public Information and the Department of Tourism. She, also, served as the Area Director for the Chickasaw Nation's Purcell Office. A graduate of Lindsay High School in Lindsay, Ok, she earned a bachelor's degree from East Central University in Ada, Ok and completed graduate course work in theatre at the University of Oklahoma.