

KEY DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please read **carefully** before filling out your application.

I. KEY DEFINITIONS

Traditional arts: Also called **folk arts, traditional arts**

are learned and passed on to the next generation informally by word of mouth, imitation, and observation within cultural communities (family, ethnic, regional, religious, or occupational groups) rather than in formal academic settings. Traditional arts encompass many forms including crafts, music, dance, verbal arts, and foodways.

Cultural community: A group sharing cultural, regional, ethnic, religious, gender, age, and/or occupational bonds. Such groups share customs, heritage, and artistic expressions, which include the traditional arts.

Mentor artists: A traditional artist who is regarded by their cultural community and peers as a highly skilled and knowledgeable practitioner of that groups' traditional arts.

Apprentice: An apprentice is a person who wishes to learn from a particular master traditional artist. An apprentice must have prior experience in the traditional art form (or a related form), a strong desire to advance their knowledge and skills in that art form, and commitment to its continuity.

II. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 The mentor and apprentice must complete the attached application form. SECTION A is for the mentor, SECTION B is for the apprentice, and SECTION C is for both mentor and apprentice. Design your work plan to begin in November 2023 and end in May 2024. **THIS APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL OR MAIL. MAIL SHOULD BE POSTMARKED BY MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023, TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:**

Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts
University of Arkansas Libraries
365 North McIlroy Avenue
Fayetteville, AR 72701-4002

NOTE: Only one application per mentor will be accepted. The mentor artist may teach more than one apprentice. If teaching more than one apprentice, each apprentice must separately fill out Section B.

- 2 Mentors and apprentice(s) are **both** required to submit samples of their work. Label each sample with artist's name. Non-digital samples will be returned after panel review.

Please note the work sample requirements:

- Visual artists and craftspeople **MUST** include **five to ten (5-10)** high quality images of work. Submit images as either:
 - Print images on glossy or matte photo paper (please **NO** photo-copied or scanned images on plain white paper)
 - Digital images via email or CD/DVD
- Musicians and storytellers **MUST** provide **five (5)** minutes of audio recordings each per mentor artist and apprentice on CD, DVD, or in a digital file via email (*please no audio cassettes*).
- Dancers **MUST** provide **five (5)** minutes of video on DVD, or in a digital file via email (*please no video cassette tapes*).

Absence of samples for either mentor or apprentice will result in rejection of application.

III. APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

All applicants should contact AFTA Coordinator, Virginia Siegel, to discuss their proposals and work samples (phone: **479-575-7115**; email: vdsiegel@uark.edu). Application assistance and draft review are available through August 24, 2023.

IV. ELIGIBILITY AND REVIEW CRITERIA

- The art to be learned must be a traditional art as defined in this application.
- The mentor artist must be a resident of the U.S.
- The apprentice must be a resident of Arkansas.
- The mentor artist must demonstrate artistic excellence, cultural knowledge, and teaching ability.
- The apprentice must demonstrate intermediate experience and commitment.
- The budget and study plan should be appropriate to the project and the traditional art form.
- Priority is given to mentors and apprentices who share cultural communities.
- Priority is given to living traditional art forms with few practitioners left in the local community.

Note: Panelists also apply a criteria called "program needs" to ensure that a spectrum of traditional art forms, cultural communities, as well as new and repeat mentors are represented in the final selection of applicants.

V. NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW PANEL

Decisions are not made by AFTA staff. A rotating independent panel of specialists in the traditional arts convenes to choose the apprenticeship teams. A letter informing the mentors of the panel's decision will be mailed by November 5, 2023 at latest.