

# ARKANSAS FOLK & TRADITIONAL ARTS

## APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM



ARKANSAS FOLK &  
TRADITIONAL ARTS

## Application and Guidelines

**Application Deadline: AUGUST 31, 2023**  
for apprenticeships held Nov. 2023 through May 2024

**Contact: Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts Phone:**

(479) 575-7115

**Email:** arfolk@uark.edu

**Website:** folklife.uark.edu/apprenticeships

The **Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program** funds teams of mentor artists and apprentices who are committed to sustaining their artistic traditions and cultural heritage. Teams are required to develop a work plan for the upcoming project year, meet with each other regularly over the course of the year, and finally, share their experience with their communities at the culmination of the project.

The Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program prioritizes mentors and apprentices who share cultural communities, living traditional art forms with few practitioners left in the local community, and applicants that help the program better represent the spectrum of cultural communities across the state.



Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts is a program of the University of Arkansas Libraries Division of Special Collections. The Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program is supported by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).

# 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](mailto: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.

# **A**

## **MENTOR APPLICATION**

I. Name of Mentor \_\_\_\_\_  
*FIRST* *MI* *LAST*

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Birthplace (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers/email \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE REFER TO THE KEY DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS WHILE ANSWERING QUESTIONS.**

**II. PLEASE TYPE OR NEATLY PRINT YOUR ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ON SEPARATE PAGES, NOT IN THE SPACES BELOW.**

1. Describe the traditional art form you wish to teach.
2. What are your background and experiences in this traditional art form? When did you start and how long have you been practicing your traditional art?
3. How, when, and where did you learn this traditional art? Who are the people you observed, imitated, and interacted with? Who influenced you in this traditional art form?
4. What is the role and importance of this traditional art in your cultural community? At what times, places, or events do you practice your traditional art? Who else participates with you and/or comes to listen or watch you?
5. Have you ever taught and/or helped someone learn this traditional art? If so, describe the circumstances.
6. How long have you known your apprentice? Have you worked together previously on this traditional art?
7. Why do you wish to work with this particular apprentice in the apprenticeship program?

**III. I am willing to take \_\_\_\_\_ as an apprentice as described in the work plan of this application. I will allow this apprenticeship to be documented by Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts via audio/video recording and photographs for the purposes of encouraging and sustaining Arkansas' traditional arts.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# **B**

## **APPRENTICE APPLICATION**

I. Name of Apprentice \_\_\_\_\_  
*FIRST* *MI* *LAST*

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Birthplace (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers/email \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE REFER TO THE KEY DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS WHILE ANSWERING QUESTIONS.**

**II. PLEASE TYPE OR NEATLY PRINT YOUR ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ON SEPARATE PAGES, NOT IN THE SPACES BELOW.**

1. Describe the traditional art form you wish to learn.
2. How, when, and where did you start to learn this traditional art form? Who are the people you observed, imitated, and interacted with? Who influenced you in this traditional art form?
3. How long have you been practicing your traditional art? How much skill do you presently have in this traditional art?
4. What is the role and importance of this traditional art in your cultural community? At what times, places, or events do you practice your traditional art? Who else participates with you and/or comes to listen or watch you?
5. Why have you chosen to work with this mentor? What do you hope to accomplish?
6. What are your plans for working with this traditional art form after the apprenticeship is finished?
7. What cultural communities do you share with the mentor artist? Some possibilities might include, but are not limited to, family, geographic region, ethnic group, neighborhood, social club, town, occupation, and religion.

**III. I am willing to work as an apprentice with \_\_\_\_\_ as described in this application. I will allow this apprenticeship to be documented by Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts via audio/video recording and photographs for the purposes of encouraging and sustaining Arkansas' traditional arts.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: If the apprentice is under the age of 18, a guardian's signature is required.**

Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# C

## PROPOSED PLAN AND BUDGET

### I. APPRENTICESHIP WORK PLAN

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Due to the lingering realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts recognizes that this project year may require participants to develop a flexible work plan.

**PLEASE TYPE OR NEATLY PRINT YOUR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS 1-8 ON SEPARATE PAGES, NOT IN THE SPACES BELOW.**

1. Describe exactly what will be taught during the course of the apprenticeship. What do you want the apprentice to know about this traditional art?
2. What specific skills and/or techniques do you want the apprentice to learn?
3. What goals do you want the apprentice to meet (tunes learned, objects made, techniques practiced)? Be specific.
4. How many times will you meet to work with the apprentice during the course of the apprenticeship?  
*For Apprenticeship Year 2023-24, meetings may be conducted in-person or remotely (online).*
5. Length of each meeting: \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting place (may include online): \_\_\_\_\_
6. Describe how you will document your progress. Will you keep journals? Record your meetings? Various methods are welcome.
7. How will you share your experience with your wider community at the culmination of your apprenticeship year?
8. For Apprenticeship Year 2023-24: If the State of Arkansas experiences a resurgence of COVID-19 cases, how will you ensure safety for your team?

## II. APPRENTICESHIP BUDGET

**Please read carefully:** We are able to provide **some** funds for **essential** apprenticeship supplies, materials, backup musicians, and limited mileage reimbursement up to a **max of \$500**.

Any materials funding requested will be added to the Mentor's honorarium (\$2,500) and disbursed as part of that same lump sum. This means the total payment to the mentor artist will range from \$2,500 to a maximum of \$3,000, depending on the supplies request. This also means that the mentor artist is responsible for managing the funds, purchasing supplies, and/or disbursing the supplies funds to the apprentice.

- a. Mileage may be requested for mentor or apprentice travel at the current Arkansas state rate of \$0.42 per mile starting AFTER 60 miles of travel round trip per trip.
- b. Requests for supplies or mileage funds are limited to apprenticeship related expenses ONLY.
- c. Supplies should be primarily consumable materials and not used towards the purchase of major equipment investments. *Exception for project year 2023-24 will be given for equipment that aids in facilitating meetings safely.*
- d. **NEW FOR 2023-2024: Total funds will be disbursed to the Mentor artist halfway through the project year (February 2024 at latest).** Plan material/supply expenses accordingly.
- e. Contact Arkansas Folk and Traditional Arts with any questions BEFORE submitting your application budget.

### Budget:

a. Mentor's honorarium (fixed amount) \$2,500.00

b. Materials and miscellaneous expenses: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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c. Mileage: (exceeding 60 miles round trip per trip @ \$0.42 cents/mile)

Total mileage for apprenticeship per round trip: \_\_\_\_\_

Total mileage per round trip, minus 60 miles: \_\_\_\_\_

Reimbursable mileage X \$0.42: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

d. Total request (add a, b, and c, total not to exceed \$3,000)	\$ _____
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e. List any specific supplies, materials, or expenses to be donated (optional)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_