



**TEXAS FOLKLIFE**

# **APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

**2018 APPRENTICESHIP IN THE FOLK ARTS  
PROGRAM GUIDELINES & APPLICATION**

*POSTMARK DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 10, 2017*

## **ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

Texas Folklife's Apprenticeships in the Folk Arts program encourages the continuation of traditional arts in Texas by providing grants to master artists to train apprentices. This grant will compensate the master artist for his or her time and training; a specified amount may also be used to help offset the costs of travel and supplies. Successful applicants will participate in one public presentation of their traditional art form in consultation with Texas Folklife.

The program supports intensive study between individuals who have shown a commitment to and talent for a specific traditional folk art form. The one-on-one apprenticeship may not be applicable to certain art forms (mariachi ensembles, for example) in such situations, group apprenticeships will be considered. Please call our office if you have questions about the compatibility of your art form with the Apprenticeships in the Folk Arts program.

## **WHAT ARE THE TRADITIONAL ARTS? WHO CAN APPLY?**

The traditional arts, commonly referred to as folklife, folklore, traditional culture, or simply tradition, are art forms practiced by a group of people who often share cultural values and/or heritage. The traditional arts are typically learned informally and are passed on from generation to generation.

A **master artist** is someone who is recognized by his or her community as an exceptional practitioner of a particular traditional art form, with an ability to provide evidence of their mastery as well as pass on their knowledge to a student. An **apprentice** is someone who has experience with the traditional art form, and a strong commitment to improve their skills in order to carry on the tradition. The apprentice will study under the master artist.

Texas Folklife welcomes applications from all traditions in the Lone Star State. In the past Texas Folklife has awarded apprenticeships to a diverse selection of practices, including everything from conjunto accordion and horse saddlery to South Indian vocal music and West African dance. To see a list of previous Apprenticeship awardees and their traditions, visit [www.texasfolklife.org/apprenticeships](http://www.texasfolklife.org/apprenticeships).

## **AWARD AMOUNT**

**Typical individual apprenticeships range from about \$2,000 to \$2,500.** The amount of each apprenticeship award will vary depending on the number of sessions, the amount of supplies needed, and whether or not travel is necessary for the master artist or apprentice to get to the site of the sessions. A formula is included in the application to help applicants calculate the amount they are requesting.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Interested master artists and apprentices should apply as a team. Before completing the application, participants should meet to discuss their ideas for the apprenticeship. Both the master artist and apprentice will need to agree on the following issues before completing the application: what material will be covered, how the sessions will be held, and how long the apprenticeship will last. Further, we hope that both participants will discuss why participation in the apprenticeship program is valuable to each of them individually.

The master artist and apprentice must complete the application form. One page of the application is to be filled out by the master artist and a second by the apprentice. Both applicants should complete the rest of the application together. Applications can be handwritten. If needed, please contact Texas Folklife for application assistance.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA/ELIGIBILITY

All completed applications will be reviewed by a panel according to the following criteria:

- Qualifications of the art form;
- Evaluation of master artist's work;
- Apprentice's experience with and ongoing commitment to the art form;
- Urgency, for endangered art forms;
- Feasibility of the proposed apprenticeship;
- Commitment of the individuals to the apprenticeship and to continuing the tradition after the apprenticeship period.

This program will **not** fund:

- Recreations of historic artifacts or village folk traditions that attempt to reenact lifestyles from the distant past;
- Contemporary and individual studio art projects;
- 2016-2017 Texas Folklife Apprenticeship Program participants.

2016 – 2017 Texas Folklife Apprenticeship Program participants must wait a period of one year to apply again.

## PERIOD OF STUDY

The length of each apprenticeship will vary depending on:

- the traditional art form being taught;
- the goals of the apprenticeship;
- the frequency with which the master artist and apprentice meet, and;
- the length of each session.

It is expected that successful applicants will meet at least once a week during the apprenticeship period. Apprenticeships funded through Texas Folklife should include between 12-16 hours of instruction per month. Apprenticeships may begin at any time after successful applicants have been notified.

## PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

### **PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

Apprenticeships **MUST** include a public presentation\* of their work during the apprenticeship period. Applicants are required to describe plans for a proposed presentation such as its location, potential dates, and plan for promotion. Public presentations **MUST** include photo and/or video documentation of the event.

### **APPRENTICESHIP DOCUMENTATION**

**An interview with Texas Folklife personnel about your apprenticeship is required.** These meetings typically last between one to two hours, and can be thought of as a conversation, where the participants discuss their experience with the tradition, its significance, its continuation, and demonstrate what has been learned through the apprenticeship. The interviews will be recorded for use by Texas Folklife, and can also include photo and video recording. Texas Folklife will contact participants to schedule a meeting.

#### **\*NOTE:**

1. *Presentations may take a variety of forms beyond actual face-to-face performances or workshops but they must be accessible to the public. Web-based presentations, blogs, YouTube videos, or other social media formats are acceptable, but applicants should discuss these ideas with Texas Folklife staff prior to submitting an application.*

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## IMPORTANT DATES

September 21, 2017	2018 Program Application Available
November 10, 2017	Postmark Deadline for Applicants
December 2017	Review Panel Meets to Evaluate Applications
January 2018	Applicants Notified of Awards
January - February 2018	Apprenticeships Begin
February - March 2018	First Payment is Made to Master Artist
March - August 2018	Texas Folklife Visit for Apprenticeship Documentation
August 30, 2018	Final Reports Due
September 2018	Final Payment is Made to Master Artist

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Application
  - Traditional art form to be studied
  - Master Artist Information
  - Apprentice Artist Information
  - Description of the Proposed Apprenticeship
  - Budget and Legal Responsibilities
  
- Supporting Materials
  - Documentation
  - Letters of Support

**Do not bind or staple copies, or place in report covers.**

Paper clips and binder clips are acceptable.

Send completed application and supporting materials to:

Texas Folklife  
Apprenticeship Program  
1708 Houston St  
Austin, TX 78756

OR email or share digital application and supporting materials to [apprenticeships@texasfolklife.org](mailto:apprenticeships@texasfolklife.org).

For more information about the Apprenticeship Program, please contact the Texas Folklife offices by calling (512) 441-9255, or email the Program Coordinator at [apprenticeships@texasfolklife.org](mailto:apprenticeships@texasfolklife.org).

## ABOUT TEXAS FOLKLIFE

Texas Folklife a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion, presentation, and continuation of the diverse cultures and living heritage of the Lone Star State. For 33 years, Texas Folklife has honored the cultural traditions passed down within communities across Texas and explored their importance in contemporary society.

The Apprenticeship Program is a program of Texas Folklife in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Texas Commission on the Arts. Additional support provided by The City of Austin Cultural Arts Division.



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**Name of Master Artist**

**Address**

**City State ZIP County**

**Work Phone Home Phone Email**

**Name of Apprentice**

**Address**

**City State ZIP County**

**Work Phone Home Phone Email**

**A. Traditional art form to be studied (explain the art form):**

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### **B. Master Artist Information (to be filled out by the Master):**

**1. Background of master artist. Please describe your background and experience in your art form. How long have you been practicing your art form? How did you learn it? What honors or other evidence can you give of your mastery in the art form?**

**2. Why do you want to participate in the Apprenticeship Program? What do you hope to accomplish from your participation in the program?**

### **C. Apprentice Information (to be filled out by the Apprentice):**

**1. Background of apprentice. Please describe your background and experience in the traditional art form you wish to study (e.g., how long have you been involved in the art form you wish to study? What is your current level of skill in the art form?)**

**2. Why do you want to participate in the Apprenticeship Program? What do you do hope to accomplish from your participation in the program?**

**3. What are your plans for continuing to practice the art form you wish to study?**

# 2018 APPRENTICESHIP IN THE FOLK ARTS PROGRAM GUIDELINES & APPLICATION

POSTMARK DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 10, 2017

## D. Description of the Proposed Apprenticeship (Master Artist and Apprentice should fill out the following sections together).

1. In 250 words or less, please tell us about the skills, techniques and forms you plan to cover during your proposed apprenticeship.

### 2. Time frame for the Proposed Apprenticeship:

a. Starting Date:            /            /

Ending Date:            /            /

b. Approximate number of learning lessons:                      per week                      per month

c. Length of each session:                      hours

d. Total hours of proposed apprenticeship:                      hours

e. Meeting Place:

### 3. Public Presentation Proposal

Apprenticeships **MUST** include a public presentation\* of your work. Applicants may have the opportunity to perform at an Apprenticeship Program Showcase for Summer 2018, and can state their interest below. However, applicants must still provide a description for a proposed presentation such as its location, potential dates, and plan for promotion. (150 words/1000 characters maximum)

Yes, I am interested in participating in the Apprenticeship Program Showcase

No, I am not interested in participating in the Apprenticeship Program Showcase

#### \*NOTE:

1. Presentations may take a variety of forms beyond actual face-to-face performances or workshops but they must be accessible to the public. Web-based presentations, blogs, YouTube videos, or other social media formats are acceptable, but applicants should discuss these ideas with Texas Folklife staff prior to submitting an application.

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POSTMARK DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 10, 2017

## 4. Apprenticeship Budget – (Fees cannot exceed \$2000, Supplies and Materials cannot exceed \$500)

a. Master Artist Fees  
(should be most of the budget) \$

b. Supplies and Materials  
(please itemize; include travel if applicable)

Item:	Amount:
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
Subtotal:	\$

c. Other costs (please specify)

Item:	Amount:
	\$
Subtotal:	\$
TOTAL	\$

## E. Supporting Materials (Required)

Please provide the following supporting materials in addition to this application, label each item with your name. Please limit supporting materials to a total of 10 pages, including letters of support. If you cannot submit supporting materials, contact Texas Folklife to discuss alternatives. Supporting Materials are very important to the application and serve as your opportunity to demonstrate the artistic level of mastery and apprentice's commitment to the art form to the review panel.

- **Documentation and Work Samples:** Work samples that give evidence of the master artist's and the apprentice's artistic ability must accompany the application. Applications without work samples for both the master artist and the apprentice will not be eligible for consideration. Be sure to send examples that best demonstrate skills and details of work clearly. These materials may include photographs, videos, and copies of newspaper articles, or actual samples of your work. Work samples can be mailed, contact Texas Folklife to arrange return. Videos do not need to be professionally produced, but should adequately demonstrate the art form.
- **Letters of Support (3 maximum):** from community members or other people who know you and your work in the traditional arts.

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Submit application and supporting materials to:

Texas Folklife  
Apprenticeship Program  
1708 Houston St.  
Austin, TX 78756

You can also submit the Application and Supporting Materials online by uploading to [www.wetransfer.com](http://www.wetransfer.com), [www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com), or [drive.google.com](http://drive.google.com) and sharing with [apprenticeships@texasfolklife.org](mailto:apprenticeships@texasfolklife.org).

If you have any questions, please call Texas Folklife at 441-9255. You may also email at [apprenticeships@texasfolklife.org](mailto:apprenticeships@texasfolklife.org).