



TEXAS FOLKLIFE

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

**2021 APPRENTICESHIPS IN THE FOLK ARTS PROGRAM
GUIDELINES & APPLICATION**

POSTMARK DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1, 2020

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Texas Folklife's Apprenticeship Program fosters the continuity of traditional arts in Texas by providing awards for artist mentors to train apprentices. Each award supports intensive, one-on-one training* for individuals who demonstrate an established skill for and dedicated commitment to a specific traditional art or cultural practice. If selected, the artist mentor and apprentice (the "artist team") will implement the self-designed and directed work plan proposed in the application. Over the course of the program, Texas Folklife will work with the artist team to document its apprenticeship while offering assistance and support. Each artist team will share the results of its apprenticeship in a final public presentation organized in consultation with Texas Folklife.

***NOTE:**

1. The one-on-one, mentor-apprentice model may not fit within the framework of certain artistic traditions such as ensemble-based art forms. In these cases, group apprenticeship proposals will be considered. Please contact Texas Folklife if you have questions about the compatibility of your art form with the Apprenticeships in the Folk Arts Program.

WHAT ARE THE FOLK AND TRADITIONAL ARTS?

Folk and traditional arts are transmitted, engaged, and reinvigorated within communities whose members often share a common heritage, language, religion, occupation, or region. The folk and traditional arts not only are rooted in and reflective of but actively shape a community's values, aesthetic ideals, and life experiences. Expressing this common ethos, these artistic traditions are typically passed on from one generation to the next, or from one community member to another, through extended periods of observation, demonstration, conversation, and practice.

An **artist mentor** is someone who is recognized by their community and peers for expertise in a particular traditional art form. As someone who studies under an artist mentor, an **apprentice** demonstrates an intention to enhance their established skills and cultural understanding of the art form as well as a long-term commitment to carrying the tradition forward.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Texas Folklife welcomes applications from all folk art traditions that have been brought to, taken root in, or are indigenous to Texas. From conjunto accordion, horse saddlery, and chair caning to Micronesian stick dance, West African dance, and Native American healing arts, the Apprenticeship Program has awarded apprenticeships to a diverse selection of cultural practices. For examples of past applications, visit www.texasfolklife.org/apprenticeships.html.

AWARD AMOUNT

Typical apprenticeship awards range from \$2,500 to \$3,000. The award covers artist mentor fees, supplies/materials, and travel; specified amounts may also be used to support apprentice supplies/materials and travel costs. The amount of each award will vary depending on the number of training sessions, the amount of supplies needed, and whether or not travel is necessary for the artist mentor or apprentice to reach the site of the training sessions. A formula is included in the application to help applicants calculate the amount they are requesting.

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HOW TO APPLY

Interested artist mentors and apprentices apply as a team. **Only applications submitted through this form will be considered.** Before completing the application, artist teams should meet to discuss their ideas for the apprenticeship. Both the artist mentor and apprentice will need to agree on the following points: what material will be covered, where and how the sessions will be held, and how long the apprenticeship will last. Further, we hope that both the artist mentor and apprentice will discuss why participation in the apprenticeship program is valuable to each of them individually and their shared community more broadly.

The artist mentor and apprentice must complete the application. The artist mentor must answer the questions listed under “Artist Mentor Information” (See Section C, Questions 1-3), and the apprentice must respond to the questions listed under “Apprentice Information” (See Section D, Questions 1-3). Both applicants should complete the rest of the application together. Applications can be handwritten. Please contact Texas Folklife for any application assistance.

EVALUATION CRITERIA/ELIGIBILITY

A panel of folk and traditional arts specialists as well as past program participants will review completed applications and make recommendations for approval according to the following criteria:

- Artistic strength of the artist mentor’s work according to the standards of the traditional community
- Role of the artist and significance of the tradition in community life
- Established skill and demonstrated commitment of the apprentice
- Feasibility of the proposed work plan and likelihood of successful collaboration between the artist mentor and apprentice
- Potential impact of apprenticeship on the continuity of the tradition

This program will **not** fund:

- Recreations of historic artifacts or staged productions of village folk traditions that attempt to reenact lifestyles from the distant past
- Contemporary and individual studio art projects
- Artist mentors who are university students or teachers actively participating full time in a degree or certificate-granting program directly related to their art form
- Ongoing classes where an artist mentor instructs in a classroom situation
- International apprenticeships
- 2019-2020 Texas Folklife Apprenticeship Program Participants

Apprentices must reside in Texas; artist mentors may reside in Texas or the four surrounding states (LA, NM, OK, or AK). There are no age requirements for an artist mentor or apprentice to apply. 2019-2020 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 a variety of factors:

- Traditional art form being taught
- Goals of the apprenticeship
- Frequency with which the artist mentor and apprentice meet
- Length of each session

Apprenticeships funded through Texas Folklife must total between six to eight months in length and should include 12-16 hours of instruction per month. Apprenticeships may begin at any time after successful applicants have been notified.

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PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Artist teams **MUST** organize a public presentation* to share the results of their apprenticeship with their communities. Applicants are required to describe plans for a proposed presentation detailing items such as its location, potential dates, ideas for promotion, and how the presentation will engage their cultural communities. Selected artist teams **MUST** provide photo and/or video documentation of the event at the end of their apprenticeship.

APPRENTICESHIP DOCUMENTATION

Near the midpoint of the apprenticeship period, Texas Folklife will contact participants to schedule the required **site visit/interview**. These meetings typically last between one to two hours and can be thought of as a conversation in which participants discuss their experience with the tradition, its significance to their community, and demonstrate skills, techniques, or lessons learned through the apprenticeship. Texas Folklife will document the site visit/interview through video recording and photography.

At the end of the apprenticeship period, prior to receiving the final payment, the artist teams will complete and submit a final **written report** documenting and reflecting on their experiences. Texas Folklife will provide the final report form.

*NOTE:

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

IMPORTANT DATES*

October 12, 2020	2021 Program Application Available
December 1, 2020	Postmark Deadline for Applications
December 2020	Review Panel Meets to Evaluate Applications
January 2021	Applicants Notified of Awards
January - February 2021	First Payments Made to Artist Teams
March - August 2021	Site Visits/Interviews for Apprenticeship Documentation
August 30, 2021	Final Reports Due and Final Payments Made to Artist Teams

* Dates subject to change.



TEXAS FOLK LIFE

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Name of Master Artist

Address

City State ZIP County

Cell Phone Other Phone Email

Name of Apprentice

Address

City State ZIP County

Cell Phone Other Phone Email

A. NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF TRADITIONAL ART FORM

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B. APPRENTICESHIP DESCRIPTION

To be filled out by ARTIST MENTOR and APPRENTICE together. Responses must fit within the space provided.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Texas Folklife encourages applicants to develop flexible work plans and will support apprenticeships that include remote/virtual meetings, training, and engagement.

1. Describe the ways in which you both share the same cultural community. (For example: Do you share ties of family, heritage, ethnicity, tribe, language, religion, occupation, or region? How do you define your cultural community?)

2. Describe in detail the skills, techniques, and subject matter you plan to cover during the apprenticeship.

3. Time frame for the apprenticeship

Start date: / /

End date: / /

Approximate number of learning lessons:

Length of each session:

Total hours of proposed apprenticeship:

Meeting place:

4. Public Presentation Proposal

Each artist team **MUST** organize a public presentation in order to share the results of its apprenticeship. Propose a plan for a public presentation by outlining its content, location, potential dates, ideas for promotion, and how it might engage your cultural community. (Note: Presentations may take a variety of forms beyond face-to-face performances, demonstrations, or workshops such as blogs, YouTube videos, livestream events, or other social media formats.)

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C. ARTIST MENTOR INFORMATION

To be filled out by ARTIST MENTOR. Responses must fit within the space provided.

1. Please describe your background and experience in your traditional art form. (For example: How long have you been practicing it? How or from whom did you learn? What role does this traditional art play in your life?)

2. Why is this artistic tradition - as practiced by you - important to your cultural community?

3. How long have you known your apprentice? Why did you select this apprentice? Have you worked together previously in this tradition?

D. APPRENTICE INFORMATION

To be filled out by APPRENTICE. Responses must fit within the space provided.

1. Please describe your background and experience in the traditional art form you wish to study. (For example: How long have you been involved in the art form? How or from whom have you been learning? How would you describe your current skill level? What role does this traditional art play in your life?)

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

3. What are your plans for continuing to practice the traditional art form? How do you plan to continue sharing what you have learned with your cultural community?

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F. SUPPORTING MATERIALS - REQUIRED

In addition to this application form, please provide the following supporting materials - label each item with your name. Please limit supporting materials to a total of 10 items, including letters of support. Supporting materials are very important to the application and serve as an opportunity to demonstrate artistic ability, commitment to the art form, and significance of the tradition to the cultural community. If you are unable to submit supporting materials, please contact Texas Folklife to discuss alternatives.

1. Work Samples and Documentation

Work samples that give evidence of the artist mentor's and apprentice's artistic ability **MUST** accompany the application. **Applications without work samples for both the artist mentor and the apprentice will not be eligible for consideration.** Be sure to send examples that best demonstrate skills, details of the work, and, importantly, speak to the potential of the artist team to accomplish the goals outlined in their work plan. These materials may include photographs, video recordings, audio files, prose/poetry samples, among others. In addition to work samples, applicants may also submit documentation such as newspaper articles, brochures/booklets, or other types of press.

Please provide a brief description of your audio, video, or photo work samples. Include information such as dates, name/title and details of pieces, total time duration of sample(s), and context of documentation. You may use and attach a separate sheet of paper if necessary (this will not count towards the 10-item limit).

Submit work samples electronically: Work samples may be submitted electronically. All web-based work samples, including links to websites, YouTube, audio files, etc., should be sent with descriptions and viewing instructions to apprenticeships@texasfolklife.org. Please make sure the links are active, formatted correctly, and do not require a password to access. In your email subject line, please indicate the names of the artist mentor and apprentice.

Submit work samples by mail: Work samples may be submitted by mail. Do not send original or irreplaceable materials. If you would like your supporting materials returned to you, please include a self-addressed shipping container and required postage. Work samples will otherwise not be returned.

2. Letters of Support

Up to THREE letters of support are required from people who can speak to qualifications of the artist mentor and apprentice and the apprenticeship's impact on the cultural community.

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APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Application

- Traditional Art Form Description
- Description of the Proposed Apprenticeship
- Artist Mentor Information
- Apprentice Information
- Apprenticeship Budget

Supporting Materials

- Documentation
- Letters of Support

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

Paper clips and binder clips are acceptable.

Submit APPLICATION and SUPPORTING MATERIALS electronically:

Email or upload the application form and supporting materials online to a cloud-based file transfer platform (such as Dropbox, WeTransfer, or Google Drive) and share with apprenticeships@texasfolklife.org.

OR

Submit APPLICATION and SUPPORTING MATERIALS by mail:

Texas Folklife
Apprenticeship Program
1708 Houston St
Austin, TX 78756

For more information about the Apprenticeship Program, please contact Texas Folklife by calling the Texas Folklife office at (512) 441-9255. You may also contact Apprenticeship Program Director Pete Breithaupt directly by calling (269) 599-8873 or emailing apprenticeships@texasfolklife.org.

ABOUT TEXAS FOLKLIFE

Texas Folklife is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion, presentation, and continuation of the diverse cultures and living heritage of the Lone Star State. Since 1984, Texas Folklife has honored the cultural traditions passed down within communities across Texas and explored their importance in contemporary society.

This program is made possible in part by the board and members of Texas Folklife, and from a State Partnership award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art, in partnership with the Texas Commission on the Arts. Additional support provided by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division, believing an investment in the Arts is an investment in Austin's future.

