



Apprenticeships in the Folk and Traditional Arts

Program Overview

2024



TEXAS
FOLKLIFE

ABOUT TEXAS FOLKLIFE

Texas Folklife is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and presenting the diverse cultures and living heritage of the Lone Star State.

Founded in 1984, we cultivate and document the state's rich cultural legacy through a vibrant mix of performances, exhibitions, education programs, multimedia projects, fiscal sponsorships, capacity building, archival holdings, and more.

With a 37 year history conducting folk and traditional arts programming and outreach, we benefit from a strong reputation among regional and national peers and colleagues in the arts.

We have been invited by the **American Folklife Center** in Washington D.C. on numerous occasions to present Texas artists at the **Library of Congress and Kennedy Center** in their "Home Grown: The Music of the Americas" series, and Texas Folklife programs have been consistently **funded by the NEA**, including *Stories from Deep in the Heart* (since 2008) and *Foodways: A Place at the Table*.

An annual, flagship offering, our **Apprenticeships in the Folk and Traditional Arts Program** is key to ensuring a far-reaching and inclusive folk arts infrastructure statewide, with a long-lasting impact.

This is well complimented by Texas Folklife's spearheading of the **Folklife Network of Texas**, a statewide group of folk & traditional art stakeholders established in 2019.



Mentor Dan Shores



Mentor Aboubacar Sylla from Austin, TX
West African Folk Percussion

Austin

7301 Ranch Road 620 N
Suite 155 #329
Austin, Texas 78726



Dallas

14001 Goldmark Drive
#225-A
Dallas, TX 75240

The Apprenticeship Program



Texas Folklife's Apprenticeship in the Folk & Traditional Arts Program proudly supports art forms and traditions that might otherwise might be lost, preserving and celebrating the diversity of cultural communities across Texas.

Whether it is an art form that is uniquely Texan or is something that is practiced in an international culture in diaspora, we support the artistic production of any culture, as long as it is practiced in Texas.

The annual program provide awards up to \$3,000 to approximately eight artist mentors, ensuring the opportunity for them to equitably offer one-on-one training in art, cultural, or heritage practices to dedicated apprentices for six to eight months.

By refining artist mentors' approaches to their crafts, broadening apprentices' skills, and encouraging the transmission of knowledge within and between cultural communities, the Apprenticeship Program fosters the continuity of Texas's folk and traditional arts.



BY THE NUMBERS



Apprentice Milton Holbrook

Past Apprenticeship Projects

Indigenous
Storytelling
Artisanal Fishing
Lures
Cartoneria
Texan Swing Guitar
Indian Classical
Dance
Flamenco
Qawwali
Conjunto
Accordion
Hindustani Sitar
Boot Making
Trail Riding

Since 1987 Launch

- Supported 403 artist mentors and apprentices
- Represented 98 cities and towns
- Championed over 70 traditional art forms
- Involved 3 NEA National Heritage Fellows and 1 Grammy Award winner

Since 2015 Re-launch

- Awarded over \$135,000 directly to artists
- Reached over 40,000 members of the public

Our interactive map shows participants since 2015, with successive growth, extending from the cities of Austin, Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Amarillo to more rural regions throughout the state.



Mentor Priya Vadhana Raja (left) and Apprentice Shruti Sathish practice the art of Bharatanatyam, an Indian classical dance.

The Role of TCA Support

The Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) has been a supporter of many of Texas Folklife's programs since the organization's founding, through a variety of grantmaking channels. Additionally, the TCA has undertaken broad-based promotional efforts by sharing our statewide contact database of arts organizations and contacts from our cultural districts initiative, while qualified TCA staff will continue to serve on Texas Folklife's Apprenticeship Program application review panel. As the Apprenticeship Program continues to grow, TCA will assist Texas Folklife in establishing relationships with several designated cultural districts across the state to help identify and strengthen the folk and traditional arts in underserved regions.

Diversity and Inclusion

At Texas Folklife we respect and celebrate everyone! We do not tolerate intolerance. If, for any reason, we find that an Apprenticeship Program participant does not follow this code of ethics, they will not be allowed to participate in the Apprenticeship Program any longer and further funding will be terminated.



Apprentice Keli Rosa Cabunoc (left) and ***Mentor Chayito Champion*** masterfully blend the art of Flamenco and Son Jarocho



Apprentice Bill Bailey shows off his unique fishing lures.

Application Information

Both the mentor and apprentice can be of any age, providing flexibility in participant selection. However, there are specific criteria for eligibility:

Residency: The apprentice must be a Texas resident, ensuring that the program benefits individuals within the state. On the other hand, the mentor can either be a Texas resident or from a surrounding state, allowing for a broader pool of experienced individuals to participate.

Skill Level: The apprentice should have a moderate level of skill and knowledge in the relevant field. They should not be a complete beginner but also should not be an expert. This requirement aims to tailor the program to individuals who have some experience but are looking to refine their skills further.

Program Goal: The primary objective of this program is skill enhancement. It is designed to sharpen the abilities of apprentices who are already well-acquainted with the field, enabling them to reach a higher level of proficiency.

Financial Information: If accepted into the program, participants are required to provide a W-9 tax form and their bank account information. This information is essential for direct deposit and to ensure the smooth disbursement of any financial benefits associated with the program.

These application details and requirements are put in place to create a conducive learning environment while ensuring financial and administrative efficiency. Applicants meeting these criteria will have the opportunity to benefit from the program's resources and mentorship.

Contact

For any questions or inquiries about the Texas Folklife Apprenticeship Program, including information in Spanish, please contact the program coordinator **Marco Guarino** at apprenticeships@texasfolklife.org