

TRADITIONAL ARTS APPRENTICESHIP

Preserving Cultural Heritage through Collaboration



The Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program provides support for master artists to work with apprentices to build understanding and proficiency in folk and traditional art forms. By pairing exemplary practitioners of traditional art forms with dedicated apprentices, this program allows for concentrated study and cultural transmission. Traditional Arts Apprenticeship awards support the teaching and sharing of important cultural traditions and enrich the lives of people throughout the state.

GRANT AWARDS: Master artists may request up to \$4,000 to work with one, and if appropriate, two, apprentices. At least 50 percent of the request must be used for master artist honoraria. No match is required.

ELIGIBILITY: Applications are submitted by the master artist. Master artists *may* live in another state if there is no suitable artist in Ohio. Apprentices *must* live in Ohio and should demonstrate interest and competency in the traditional art form prior to the apprenticeship. Both masters and apprentices must be U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens and must have lived in the country for at least eight months prior to the deadline.

Applicants are eligible for only one award per year. Applications are accepted for apprenticeships in all forms of traditional arts, including traditional music and instrument making, sacred and secular crafts, occupational traditions, folk and ethnic dance, and traditional arts associated with annual celebrations.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS: Traditional arts are part of the cultural heritage of a group of people whose members share a common ethnic heritage, language, religion, occupation, or geographic region. Master artists and apprentices apply together to this program. As the OAC does not have the authority to require criminal background checks of master artists participating in TAA projects, in the event that an apprentice is a minor, apprentices' parents or guardians should conduct such checks; master artists must then submit to a criminal background check in order to participate in this program. Master artists should have achieved a high level of skill in a particular traditional art form, be regarded as masters by their peers, and have learned and developed their skills within a traditional context. Apprentices should demonstrate strong motivation to learn the nuances of the tradition, and a commitment to carry the tradition on in the future.

The Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program supports study and collaboration between qualified apprentices and master artists. The program pairs a master artist with a dedicated apprentice in an intensive, yearlong, learning experience. Apprentices learn directly by observing, imitating, and refining their artistic work based on the critique of the master artist. Skills are typically learned directly through observation and imitation, rather than through classes, books, or other means of instruction. The sharing of the cultural importance and history of the tradition is also important to a successful apprenticeship.

An apprenticeship work plan should allow for in-depth learning that encompasses the context of the culture, the development of a mentoring relationship, and the acquisition of both techniques and artistry. The master artist is responsible for monitoring the apprentice's progress as outlined in the application work plan. The apprenticeship must include a minimum of 50 hours of direct, one-on-one instruction, provided via a number of sessions (typically bi-weekly or monthly), conducted over the course of a year. During the yearlong apprenticeship period, a site visit may be made by OAC staff or a folklorist to document the teaching/learning process. Photographs of the session may be taken and recorded interviews may be conducted. In addition, the

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 15
(annually)

STAFF CONTACT

Chaz O'Neil

Individual Artist/Percent for Art Program
Coordinator and Traditional Arts
Apprenticeships Program Coordinator
chaz.oneil@oac.ohio.gov
614-728-4421

master artist and apprentice are expected to give a joint community presentation near the end of the apprenticeship period (e.g., performing at a public event, offering a master class, holding an open studio session, or exhibiting at a local library or gallery), which must occur in Ohio.

Activities that Traditional Arts Apprenticeship funds cannot be used for include apprentice stipends, apprentice travel (either in state or out of state), master out of state travel, and ongoing class or educational expenses. Please refer to the [Introduction and Overview](#) for a full list of activities the OAC cannot fund.

HOW TO APPLY: Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program applications and support materials must be submitted via the [ARTIE](#) system. Please refer to [ARTIE: Individual Artist Grant Applications](#) for a description of the process.

EVALUATION AND SCORING: A panel of folklorists, arts professionals, traditional artists, and other community members meet to evaluate and score applications. Panel meetings are open to the public and audio-streamed online. Applicants are encouraged to attend or listen online. Visit the calendar on the OAC's [Grants](#) page for meeting details and instructions for participating.

At the panel meeting, panelists discuss how well each application satisfies the program's evaluation criteria. Panelists highlight strengths and weaknesses, discussing all aspects of the application and its support materials. Following the public discussion, each panelist enters a final score for each application. Later, OAC staff use averages of these scores to determine funding award recommendations. The OAC Board is the only body authorized to make final funding decisions and must approve grant awards. The review process is competitive, and not all applications are funded.

SUPPORT MATERIALS: Support materials are uploaded electronically into the ARTIE system, and are a critical part of each Traditional Arts Apprenticeship application. Applications that do not include support materials will not be accepted. All support materials must represent the selected folk/traditional art form. All work must have been completed within the last five years, and should include:

1. **Master artist support.** Up to three letters of support written by community members who are knowledgeable about the traditional art form and the master's artistic contribution to the community.
2. **Apprentice support.** Up to three letters of support written by community members who are knowledgeable about the traditional art form and the apprentice's experience with the art form.
3. **Digital work samples.** For both the master artist and the apprentice, demonstrating artistic quality and technical ability.

Digital examples of brochures, newspaper or magazine articles, exhibition catalogs, and programs may also be uploaded as support materials; materials available online may also be hyperlinked from within the application narrative in ARTIE.

Discipline-Specific Support Materials:

1. **Traditional craft:** applicants must submit 5-10 digital images of the work of the master artist and the apprentice.
2. **Music/verbal arts:** applicants must submit one sample of a sound recording of the master artist and the apprentice, with information describing the performers, instruments, and material being presented. Artists also should describe the typical audience and venue for this music/verbal art form where noted in ARTIE. If there are multiple work samples represented, indicate the appropriate track(s) to be reviewed.

3. **Traditional dance:** applicants must submit one sample of a video sample of both the master artist and the apprentice that best demonstrates the quality of their work, with information describing the performers and material being presented. Artists also should describe the dance form, or the typical venue. If there are multiple work samples represented, indicate the appropriate track(s) to be reviewed.

REVIEW CRITERIA: Criteria are divided into four categories: Artistic Quality, Community Engagement, Defining and Measuring Success, and Resource Management. Evidence of meeting the criteria may be found in any portion of an application or associated support materials. Each criterion is worth up to five points, for a maximum of 60 points.

Artistic Quality (15 points)

- Master artist has achieved a sufficiently high level of expertise in the tradition to be recognized as a master artist by his/her peers
- Master artist has learned skills from their particular ethnic, occupational, or regional group, or from community or family traditions, and faithfully represents the art form or tradition
- Apprentice demonstrates competency in the tradition and shows commitment to further learning

Community Engagement (15 points)

- Master artist engages members of the general public in his/her tradition
- Apprentice actively engages in the art form and shares with the general public
- Apprentice describes their plan for carrying on artistic traditions in the community

Defining and Measuring Success (20 points)

- Apprenticeship has been thoughtfully planned and includes a detailed work plan with clear benchmarks
- Skills to be successfully mastered during the apprenticeship are clearly defined
- Master artist and apprentice are well-matched for both the tradition and content to be mastered
- Apprenticeship will include individual study, cultural significance, and practice of appropriate complexity

Resource Management (10 points)

- Application budget is accurate and sufficient for the implementation of apprenticeship as described
- Application budget supports the narrative with all expenditures noted

TIMELINE: The following timeline outlines the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grant lifecycle. Any deadline falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, is extended until the next business day.

Fiscal Year 2022 Applications

YEAR	DATE	TASK/DEADLINE
2020	November 1	Application Available in ARTIE
2021	March 15	Application Deadline
	May	Panel Meeting
	July	Grant Award Announcement
	August 30	Grant Agreement Deadline
2022	July 30	Final Report Deadline

Fiscal Year 2023 Applications

YEAR	DATE	TASK/DEADLINE
2021	November 1	Application Available in ARTIE
2022	March 15	Application Deadline
	May	Panel Meeting

	July	Grant Award Announcement
	August 30	Grant Agreement Deadline
2023	July 30	Final Report Deadline