North Carolina Arts Council

*In These Mountains* Appalachian Folklife Apprenticeship

2020 Grant Guidelines and Application

**About the Apprenticeship Program**

The North Carolina *In These Mountains* Appalachian Folklife Apprenticeship program supports 12-month apprenticeships in the folk and traditional arts of the many cultural communities within North Carolina’s Appalachian Regional Commission counties. In 2019, 2020, and 2021, the apprenticeship program application will focus on the traditional folk arts and culture of North Carolina’s Appalachian communities as part of the three-year *In These Mountains* project sponsored by South Arts. Applications will be reviewed by a panel, and two mentor/apprentice pairings will be selected each year.

Applicants must be 18 years or older.

Mentor artists will receive a grant award of $7,000. Apprentices will receive a grant award of $3,000. Applicants will describe who is responsible for any supply costs. Typically, the apprentice is expected to cover the cost of supplies. Alternative distributions of funding may be considered upon request.

Applications are due on **March 2, 2020**. Selected pairs will be announced in April. Apprenticeships will take place from July 2020 to July 2021.

**About Folklife and Traditional Arts**

Folklife is the expressive arts, practices, and lifeways that emerge from within a community. Folklife that is passed through generations becomes the traditional arts of that community. Traditional arts are often deeply rooted in a geographic location and its religious, ethnic and occupational groups, or they are carried with immigrant and migrant communities as they establish themselves in new homes. Folklife and Traditional Arts are the arts and practices of the people, and are typically taught through one-on-one training in a community setting.

Such practices include traditional music, crafts, visual arts, dances, foodways, calendar or life-cycle customs, verbal arts, healing arts, and occupational skills.

**What is a Mentor Artist and an Apprentice?**

A *mentor artist* is a tradition bearer committed to the perpetuation of a traditional art form or practice of his or her cultural heritage. Mentor artists are recognized by fellow artists and their own community members as skilled and dedicated practitioners. Applying mentor artists should demonstrate expertise, teaching experience, long engagement with their art form or practice, and deep knowledge of their tradition.

An *apprentice* is a dedicated student who has been chosen by a mentor artist for a sustained period of study in the mentor’s art form or practice. The apprentice should have some past experience with the mentor’s tradition before beginning an apprenticeship, so that the time together will help develop the apprentice on their own path to mastery. Apprentices and mentors may be family members, and apprentices may have studied under the mentor artist previously. The strongest pairings will share a common community or religious, ethnic, or occupational group. The strongest applicants for apprenticeships will also have the intention to continue the transmission of their art form by training others in the future. Teams of two or three apprentices are eligible to study with one mentor artist if such a learning style is preferable within the tradition.

**Eligibility: Who May Apply?**

The Appalachian Folklife Apprenticeship program is designed to encourage the continued transmission, practice, and development of the region’s many folklife traditions, especially those that face endangerment. For application cycles in 2019, 2020, and 2021, only apprenticeship pairs within Appalachian Regional Commission counties are eligible to apply. In North Carolina, these counties are: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Davie, Forsyth, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, McDowell, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey Counties.

Ineligible art forms and activities include the work of contemporary studio craft artists, professional teachers, and revivals by mentor artists from outside of the activity’s originating cultural community. While mentors must represent a tradition known and practiced within their North Carolina community, apprentices may come from different backgrounds or cultural communities.

**Requirements**

* Mentors must represent a tradition known and practiced within their NC community. Please consult with Folklife Program staff about eligibility of art forms and activities before applying.
* Master and apprentice must both reside in a North Carolina ARC county, and be able to provide proof of US and NC residency.
* Pairs must submit a workplan as part of their application that sets clear and achievable goals that can be completed within the 9-month period.
* Pairs should meet on a regularly scheduled basis. Most pairs meet weekly.
* Pairs must track their meetings and progress through either written evaluations, a photographic record, audio recordings, or video clips. Folklife Program staff are available to discuss appropriate tracking forms.
* All pairs must share their accomplishments in a public presentation within their community at the end of the apprenticeship. Presentations may take the form of performances, exhibits, demonstrations, web and social media presentations, or other formats appropriate to the tradition. Folklife staff will assist in preparations for such presentations.
* Apprentices must be 18 years of age or older.
* Receipt of NC Arts Council grant funding requires no overdue tax debt, or a letter from the IRS or a lawyer that steps are being taken to resolve overdue tax debt.
* Additional grant requirements can be found at <https://www.ncarts.org/resources/grants/grantee-requirements>

**How To Apply**

The mentor and apprentice must submit all materials as a single application. Part A is to be completed by the mentor, part B is to be completed by the apprentice, and part C is to be completed by the mentor and apprentice together.

Please type or hand-write in clear, legible print. You may use extra sheets of paper if needed.

To request that a hard-copy of the application be mailed to you, contact Folklife Specialist Zoe van Buren at[**zoe.vanburen@ncdcr.gov**](mailto:zoe.vanburen@ncdcr.gov) or 919-814-6518

If submitting electronically, please email the application and all support materials to **zoe.vanburen@ncdcr.gov**

If sending through US Postal Service, please mail application and support materials to:

**NC Arts Council**

**Attn: Zoe van Buren**

**4632 Mail Service Center**

**Raleigh, NC 27699-4600**

If sending through FedEx or UPS or for hand delivery, please mail to:

**NC Arts Council**

**Attn: Zoe van Buren**

**109 E. Jones Street**

**Raleigh, NC 27601**

Applications must be received in our office by 5 pm on March 2, 2020.

**Sending Support Materials**

Both mentor and apprentice must submit work samples with the application. Use the Work Samples page of the application to describe each attached sample or how web materials may be accessed online. Links to videos on YouTube, Vimeo, or a similar accessible website may be submitted as work samples.

For Musical or Verbal Traditions

* At least two (2) audio or video samples from each artist, submitted as either a hard copy or online. Please limit total time of work samples to 10 minutes for each artist. Check with NCAC Folklife staff if you are having problems with work samples.

For Crafts, Material Culture, and Foodways

* At least five (5) images from each artist, and no more than ten (10), submitted as either a hard copy or online. Optional: Up to two (2) video samples from each artist, submitted as either a hard copy or online. Please limit total time of video work samples to ten (10) minutes for each artist. Check with NCAC Folklife staff if you are having problems with work samples.

For Dance, Folk Theater, Calendar or Life-Cycle Customs

* At least two (2) video samples from each artist, submitted as either a hard copy or online. Please limit total time of work samples to ten (10) minutes for each artist. Five (5) to ten (10) images from each artist submitted as either a hard copy or online. Check with NCAC Folklife staff if you are having problems with work samples.

North Carolina Arts Council

Folklife Apprenticeship

2020

**Mentor Application**

Name of Master:

Mailing Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone (cell) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. What is the traditional practice or art form that you will be teaching?
2. Has this tradition been well known in your community?
3. For how long have you practiced this tradition, and how did you first learn?
4. Tell us about any previous teaching experience.
5. Tell us about your relationship with the applying apprentice.

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**Apprentice Application**

Name of Apprentice:

Mailing Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone (cell) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Birth date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the traditional practice or art form that you will be learning?
2. Please describe your current skill level in this tradition.
3. What does this tradition mean to you personally? What role does it play in your life or the life of your community?
4. Why do you want to work with this mentor artist in particular?
5. In which ways do you plan to continue working in this tradition in the future?

**Work Plan**

*Please fill out this section* ***together****. Attach extra sheets of paper if needed.*

1. List the skills and techniques that will be taught during the apprenticeship (for example, which tunes, forms, concepts, or styles do you want the apprentice(s) to learn, which objects do you want them to make?)
2. What will the apprentice be expected to do between sessions? Please be specific.
3. What will the finished product of the apprenticeship be? (For example: build three ceramic pieces; make one finished quilt; develop a repertory of twenty songs or tunes; learn three complete dances)
4. How often will you meet, where will you meet, and for how long will each session last?
5. What supplies and tools will be required for the apprenticeship, and who will be responsible for providing them?
6. How will you track your experience together? (Examples: Photo log, video or audio recordings, blog, social media, written chart or log book) Documentation will help communicate the success of your partnership.
7. Describe your ideas for 1 – 2 possible public presentations that you would like to offer at the end of the apprenticeship, and where they might take place in your own town, city, county, or region. (Examples: exhibit, demonstration, performance, web presentation) Please contact Folklife staff for help with this question if needed.

I agree to the proposed work plan above and understand the stated expectations. I will allow this apprenticeship to be documented for the purpose of supporting the impact of the Folklife Apprenticeship program.

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Mentor Artist Date Apprentice Date

**Work Samples**

*Please see guidelines for work sample requirements.*

Use this space to describe each sample submitted, including titles of work, artist’s name, date of work, and location for event video submissions. If video submissions total more than ten (10) minutes per artist, please indicate which portion of each video the panel should review.

Mentor’s Work Samples

Apprentice’s Work Samples

**Hard Copy Work Sample Return Options**

*Please select only ONE option for your submitted physical work samples.*

*If all work samples are digital, you may skip this page*

Mentor Artist

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Please return all physical work samples to me. I have enclosed a self-addressed envelope with postage for their return.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ By signing this form, I give my permission for my work samples to be kept by the North Carolina Arts Council and stored in the Folklife Archives. I understand that these archives are for educational and research use only. Any commercial use must be approved in advance by me on a case-by-case basis.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Do not return my work samples. I authorize their disposal.

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Mentor Artist Signature Date

Apprentice

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Please return all physical work samples to me. I have enclosed a self-addressed envelope with postage for their return.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ By signing this form, I give my permission for my work samples to be kept by the North Carolina Arts Council and stored in the Folklife Archives. I understand that these archives are for educational and research use only. Any commercial use must be approved in advance by me on a case-by-case basis.

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Apprentice Signature Date