

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
MUSEUM

*Michigan
Traditional
Arts
Apprenticeship
Program*

MICHIGAN TRADITIONAL ARTS

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM



Would you like to study with a traditional craftsman, musician, singer, dancer, or storyteller? Or perhaps you are a traditional artist who would like to teach your skills and knowledge. The Michigan Traditional Arts Program may be able to help with an apprenticeship award.

Apprenticeship awards of \$2,000.00 are made to qualified master artists and apprentices. You must complete an application explaining your backgrounds, why you qualify for this support, and why you wish to work together. A panel reviews the applications and selects the awardees.

Both master artist, who takes the role of teacher, and apprentice, who is the student, should be residents of Michigan. Apprentices should have some experience in the tradition they wish to study and must be willing to make a commitment to learn it well. Master artists should be among the finest practitioners of the tradition in their communities. Although crosscultural study is possible, we give preference to qualified apprentices who wish to study traditions within their own culture group. We encourage apprentices to study with master artists within their own neighborhoods, families, ethnic and social groups whenever possible. For example, a Hmong needleworker might learn advanced applique and embroidery techniques from a senior Hmong. A quinceanera cake decorator in one city might teach her planning, baking, and decorating skills of this celebratory food to- a Mexican -American woman who recognizes a need for such a specialist in her region. A woman otherwise experienced with textiles might wish to learn to make traditional braided rugs attributed to a respected local master artist. An Qjibway might wish to learn quillwork from one of the foremost masters in her/his area. We also encourage applications from couples who are already working together informally, if our support will help them to continue.

We welcome applications for apprenticeships in all forms of Michigan tradition--from old-time fiddling to playing Laotian mouth organ, from trapping skills to beekeeping, from musical instrument making to sauna building, from Ukrainian embroidery to African -Arnerican quilting, and from polka to gospel.

The deadline for applications is December 1. An application form with instructions is attached. The master artist and apprentice must complete the application together. If you have questions or want additional information, contact the **Michigan Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program**, Michigan State University Museum, East Lansing, Michigan, 48824 (517 - 353-9678 or 355-2370).

This program is supported with funds from the Folk Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts and from the michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Application Form

Please type or print in black ink! Please read the instructions. Use additional pages as necessary

Part 1 (to be completed by the Master Artist)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Date and Place of birth: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Tell us something about yourself -- ethnicity, birthplace, residence, schooling, hobbies, occupation, etc.

Explain about your background and experience in this tradition. How, where, when, and from whom did you learn? have you taught others? Have you performed this tradition continuously since you learned? When and for whom do you do this tradition?

How is this tradition regarded in your community?

Tell us about the proposed apprenticeship. What techniques will you teach? How often, when, and where will you and the apprentice meet? How long will the apprenticeship last? What do you plan to accomplish?

Part 2 (to be completed by the Apprentice)

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Telephone: _____
Date and Place of birth: _____
Social Security Number: _____

Tell us something about yourself -- ethnicity, birthplace, residence, education, hobbies, occupation, etc.

How much experience do you have with the tradition to be studied? Have you and the master worked together before?

Tell us why you want to learn this tradition?

What do you hope to accomplish during an apprenticeship? What are your future plans with the tradition?

Master Artist's Signature

I am willing to take _____
as an apprentice according to the plans
outlined in this application.
Signature and Date:

Apprentice's Signature

I am willing to work with _____
as his/her apprentice according to the plans
outlined in this application.
Signature and Date:

INSTRUCTIONS

Before you complete this application, it is important for the two of you, master artist/teacher and apprentice, to meet with one another and talk about your ideas for the apprenticeship. Without a clear, shared understanding of what is to take place and why, many problems can result, not only in the application, but in the apprenticeship itself. In order to complete the application to your best advantage, please read the following instructions.

Panelists will evaluate your application according to the following criteria:

The master artist must excel in the tradition in question, be recognized in her/his respective community as an excellent performer of the tradition, and be actively practicing the tradition.

The apprentice should be of the same culture as the master, and the apprentice's commitment to the tradition unquestionable.

The tradition must be "folk" and not simply "ethnic." It should be viable in the community, shared actively or passively at some level by other community members, and learned informally.

The commitment of the individuals to the apprenticeship.

The commitment of the individuals to continue after the apprenticeship.

The feasibility of the work plan.

The impact of the apprenticeship on the vitality of the tradition in the community as a whole.

The overall proposed apprenticeship.

The following instructions apply to the questions to be answered on the enclosed form. It is important that you be specific; use additional pages as necessary. Your information will be reviewed by panelists, who will select the awardees based on the information in these answers.

To the Master Artist

1. Fill out Part 1 of the application and sign at the bottom of the other side of the form.
2. In Part 1, tell us something about yourself (your age, ethnicity, occupation, marital status, children, etc.). Include information about when, where, and from whom you learned your traditional skills; why you learned this; where do you carry on this tradition; whether you have taught others.

We must know something about the apprentice from your perspective:

- (a) How long have you known each other?
Have you worked together with this tradition before?
- (b) In your opinion, how much does the apprentice already know about this tradition?
What knowledge and skills still need to be learned?
- (c) How will you help the apprentice learn those new skills?
When, where, and how often will you meet?
What will you do at those meetings?
What will the apprentice be expected to do between meetings?

Will the apprentice be able to help you in your own activities with this tradition?
(d) What materials and supplies will you need?

3. If selected you will receive an honorarium of \$2,000.00. It is up to you how to use this money. In the past some masters have used some of their award to pay for their apprentice's mileage and materials. You may have to pay taxes on the amount you receive. It is your responsibility to look into this possibility and to pay any taxes due.

To the Apprentice

1. Complete Part 2 of the application form. Be specific and thorough; use additional paper as necessary. Panelists will select awardees on the basis of the information in the answers. You should tell us something about yourself (age, ethnicity, marital status, children, education, occupation), the previous experience you have had with this tradition, and why you want to learn this tradition.
2. Sign and date the form at the bottom of the page.

To the Master and Apprentice

1. You both must include support materials as evidence of your abilities. For material traditions, include eight to twelve photographs or slides of each person's work, or better yet, send pieces of your work. For oral performance (music, song, storytelling, jokes) include ten minutes of each person's performance on audio cassette or 1/2" video, whichever is most appropriate to the tradition. If you wish, we will return these materials to you once the applications have been reviewed. We will make copies for our files. If you have any questions about this requirement, contact the program coordinator.
2. The deadline for applications is December 1. All applications and support materials must be postmarked by this date. A panel of five to ten subject specialists will meet sometime in January to review the applications. This meeting is open to the public and we will send more information when the details are confirmed. Before the panel meeting, we may contact you for additional information.
3. We will notify you in writing about the panel's decision on your application. If you are selected, we will contact you to arrange for payment of the honorarium and a time to visit the two of you at work. Apprenticeships are approximately seven months; they must be completed by August 30.
4. When your apprenticeship is completed, both of you must send us a written final report describing the apprenticeship experience. We will send a form for this purpose.

If you have any questions about the application or if you need assistance to complete it, please contact the coordinator of the Michigan Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program, Michigan State University Museum, East Lansing, Michigan 48824 (517-353-9678 or 355-2370).

Michigan State University Museum
East Lansing Michigan, 48824



The Michigan Traditional Arts Program is supported in part by funds from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs