



Guidelines and Application Questions for the

Washington State Heritage Arts Apprenticeship Program

2018-2019

Presented by the Center for Washington Cultural Traditions, a program of Humanities Washington presented in partnership with ArtsWA/The Washington State Arts Commission, with generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Important Dates:

Application Open Online: January 17, 2018

Application Closed: April 20, 2018

For apprenticeships taking place July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

Contact:

Kristin Sullivan

Director, Center for Washington Cultural Traditions and Grants

kristin@humanities.org

(206) 682-1770 ext. 107



The Center for Washington Cultural Traditions (CWCT)--a program of Humanities Washington presented in partnership with ArtsWA/the Washington State Arts Commission--seeks applications for one-on-one apprenticeships in all forms of expressive culture traditional to communities in Washington.

The **Washington State Heritage Arts Apprenticeship Program** is designed to encourage individuals to learn a trade, craft, or skill that will conserve and carry on cultural traditions important to their community, heritage, and identity. These may include traditional skills and techniques, occupational arts, storytelling and other verbal arts, dance, culinary traditions, music, and much more. The Apprenticeship Program will not only support the transmission of cultural knowledge, but also teach important job skills, and act, in part, as an economic development tool.

Over the course of one year, skilled and experienced Master Artists or other Tradition Bearers (see below) will work with and mentor one Apprentice each, teaching skills related to some tradition in their community, in an effort to conserve that tradition and allow it to thrive in future generations.

What is the purpose of the Apprenticeship Program?

Washington State is home to a rich diversity of cultural traditions carried on by members of its many communities—from the indigenous peoples of this region to its most recent immigrants. Practitioners of these traditions enliven and enrich the cultural heritage not only of their communities, but of all of Washington State. Heritage arts, or folk and traditional arts and practices, broadly understood, provide meaningful ways for individuals to connect with their past, and to build bridges to others and their surroundings, in the present. The Heritage Arts Apprenticeship Program helps to perpetuate these traditions and practices. Apprentices may also gain expertise in collaboration, creative thinking, and organization—helpful skills for building careers in the traditional arts, which may also lead them to jobs as a teacher, scholar, ethnographer, curator, arts administrator, heritage or historic preservation consultant, and more.

Who May Apply

All current residents of Washington State are eligible and encouraged to apply. Master Artists and Apprentices must apply as existing pairs; that is, the CWCT will not pair masters and apprentices. Who is considered a Master Artist or Apprentice?

Master Artist

A Master Artist is a person steeped in, and expert in a tradition, craft, or technique. They are a “tradition bearer” or “culture keeper” endowed with the right to carry and pass on a tradition or skill, by acknowledgement from their community. A Master Artist doesn’t need to have attended special schools or received formal training, but should have the acknowledgement and respect of their peers and community members related to the skill or tradition outlined in their application. "Artist" may be broadly defined, to include masters of

culinary, domestic, and occupational arts, as well as the visual and performing arts--so long as the art form is a form of expression related to and rooted in community identity and heritage.

Apprentice

An Apprentice is an individual that will learn a particular skill or tradition from a Master Artist. The Apprentice must be a resident of Washington State, and make a commitment to learning the skill or tradition outlined in their application, and to carrying it on after the Apprenticeship Program time period. The Apprentice may be novice, or may have some previous training but is now seeking additional, one-on-one training from a Master Artist.

Award Amount

\$3,000 for Master Artists; \$500 for Apprentices (half to be distributed at the beginning of the Program, and half at the end). These funds are to be used for materials, travel, and other expenses related to the Apprenticeship Program. Additional funds will be made available to Master/Apprentice teams traveling for Apprenticeship Program workshops and for inclusion in the Apprenticeship Program culmination event (see responsibilities, below).

Recipient Responsibilities

Successful applicants will be expected to meet regularly over the course of one year, and according to the Plan of Work submitted as part of the Apprenticeship Program application. During the year, the CWCT Director will periodically document progress, at mutually agreeable times for all involved. Documentation may include digital photography, recorded interviews, and working with participants to create blog posts or other online content to interpret, or explain, each tradition. Participants will be asked to sign release forms to record informed consent to be documented, and may opt out of aspects of documentation if necessary (for example, if recordings should not be created of certain practices due to their religious or spiritual significance).

In addition to the above, Apprenticeship Program participants will be required to take part in a transferable skills-building workshop. Participants are also expected to take part in one public event at the end of the Apprenticeship Program year. This event will be a culmination of the Program, showcasing the work each Master/Apprentice pair completed. Participants may engage in demonstrations, a round-table discussion, and interaction with the public. Funding will be provided for travel to the event. Program participants may be invited to take part in additional events or opportunities as well.

Finally, participants will be required to fill out a brief evaluation form, to assess progress made, skills learned, and value of the Program.

Review Criteria

Reviewers will judge applications on the following criteria:

- ✓ Relevance and importance of the tradition to the cultural history of a community/communities in Washington State. Note that the tradition does NOT need to have originated in Washington.

- ✓ Expertise of the Master Artist
- ✓ Demonstrated level of commitment by the Master Artist and the Apprentice to the apprenticeship
- ✓ Potential impact of the apprenticeship on the continued vitality of the tradition, and/or the vitality of the community from which it comes
- ✓ Feasibility of the Plan of Work

Application and Notification

Application open: January 17, 2018 via <https://waculture.org/apprenticeship-program/>

Application closed: April 20, 2018

Notification of award: early June 2018

About the Center for Washington Cultural Traditions

Launched in 2017, the Center for Washington Cultural Traditions (CWCT) is Washington's new, statewide cultural heritage and traditional arts (aka "folklife") program. It is housed at Humanities Washington and presented in partnership with ArtsWA. The mission of the CWCT is to recognize, sustain, advance, and celebrate the living cultural heritage of Washington State. The vision of the CWCT is that the many, different cultural communities of Washington State better understand, respect, and appreciate one another.

About ArtsWA

ArtsWA is the Washington State Arts Commission, a state government agency established in 1961. Its mission is to be a catalyst for the arts, advancing the role of the arts in the lives of individuals and communities throughout the state.

About Humanities Washington

Humanities Washington is the state's flagship humanities nonprofit, and its designated humanities council. The mission of Humanities Washington is to spark conversation and critical thinking using story as a catalyst, nurturing thoughtful and engaged communities across our state.

Please visit waculture.org or email kristin@humanities.org for more information.

Washington State Heritage Arts Apprenticeship Program Application

Open: January 17, 2018 via waculture.org
Closed: April 20, 2018
Notification: Early June 2018
Program: July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

The following questions are provided for reference only. Please submit all answers online through the [online grant portal](#). If you have any questions or concerns about the application process, contact Kristin Sullivan at kristin@humanities.org or 206-682-1770 ext 107.

Project Title: Please provide a title for your proposed Apprenticeship Program project

Project Summary: Please provide a brief description of the tradition/art form on which you will plan to focus. Please note that this description may be used to promote your program in ArtsWA and Humanities Washington materials.

Project Narrative

To be answered by the Master Artist/Tradition Bearer

1. Briefly describe the significance of this tradition in your culture or community. How does your community use or interact with this tradition? Why is it important in your community? What is its history?
2. Where, when, from whom, and how did you learn this tradition?
3. Do you have experience teaching this tradition? If so, please briefly describe.
4. Briefly describe your relationship with the apprentice. Why did you choose this particular apprentice for training? Have you worked with them before?
5. What do you hope to accomplish by taking on this apprentice?
6. How will teaching this tradition contribute to the vitality of your community?

To be answered by the Apprentice:

1. What is your current level of skill related to this tradition?
2. Why do you want to learn this tradition, and at this time?
3. Why did you choose to work under this particular master artist or tradition bearer?
4. What do you hope to learn from this experience?
5. How do you plan to continue this tradition, or carry it forward after the Apprenticeship Program?

Plan of Work

To be answered jointly:

1. Please briefly describe your work plan: Where, and roughly how often, do you plan to meet? Will you meet a certain number of hours/days in total, or on a regular schedule?
2. What are the specific skills or techniques to be taught?

Additional Required Materials

- Work Samples: Please submit up to two work samples that showcase your experience(s) in this tradition (photographs, audio or video files, etc.).
- Support Letters: Please submit one, and no more than two, letters of support from individuals familiar with the Master Artist/Tradition Bearer's work in this tradition.

Optional Additional Materials

The following may strengthen your application, but are not required:

- Letter of support for the apprentice
- List or example of honors and awards