



Heritage Arts Apprenticeship Program 2021-2022

Guidelines

Important Dates:

Application Open Online: February 2, 2021

Application Closed: May 17, 2021

Notification of award: early June 2021

For apprenticeships taking place July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

Contact:

Langston Collin Wilkins, PhD

Director, Center for Washington Cultural Traditions

langston@humanities.org

713-446-3764

Application available through www.waculture.org/apprenticeship-program/



Folk and traditional arts are the bedrock of artistic and cultural communities, and Humanities Washington and ArtsWA are pleased to co-sponsor the Center for Washington Cultural Traditions and its Heritage Arts Apprenticeship Program, with significant support from the Washington State Legislature.

Washington State is home to a rich collection of cultural traditions carried on by members of its many communities—from the Indigenous peoples in whose homelands this program takes place, to its most recent immigrants. Practitioners of these traditions enliven and enrich the cultural heritage of both their specific communities and Washington State in general.

Folk and traditional arts and practices provide meaningful ways for individuals to connect with their past, and to build bridges to others and their surroundings, in the present. Yet, because these practices are often learned informally in a one-on-one setting, many traditions are at risk of being lost.

The Heritage Arts Apprenticeships Program (HAAP) supports individuals seeking to preserve traditional practices important to their community, heritage, and identity. These may include music, dance, visual arts, language practices, verbal arts, traditional skills, foodways, occupational arts, storytelling and much more, and are learned within communities that share family, ethnic, tribal, regional, occupational, or religious identity. The program provides a supportive mentoring environment, networking opportunities, as well as important professional and leadership skills. To date, 38 Master/Apprentice pairs have participated in the program

How does the program work?

Over the course of one year, skilled and experienced Master Artists or other Tradition Bearers will mentor one Apprentice each, teaching skills related to a tradition in their community, to preserve and cultivate it for future generations. Pairs commit to:

- Spending at least 100 hours of one-on-one time together during the program year (July – June) where the Master teaches the tradition to the Apprentice;
- Attending two workshop-style events with the cohort of current pairs for professional and leadership development, and networking;
- Participate in at least one public event in the fourth quarter of the program.

What do participants gain?

The Heritage Arts Apprenticeship Program helps to maintain important cultural traditions and practices in the state of Washington. Apprentices may also gain expertise in collaboration, creative thinking, and organization—helpful skills for building careers in a variety of sectors.

Is there financial compensation?

Yes. Master Artists receive a \$4000 honorarium for their work and Apprentices receive \$1000 (half of funds are distributed at the beginning of the program year upon receipt of a signed contract, and the remainder is distributed at the end, upon successful completion of the submitted work plan, site visit by Center staff, and submission of evaluation. Funds are also

available on a case-by-case basis to masters for materials if a need is shown through a budget that is included with the application materials. All funds provided will be subject to federal taxation. Travel expenses to program workshops and public events will be covered by the CWCT.

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?

Who is considered a 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 does not need to have received formal training but should have the acknowledgement and respect of their peers and community members related to tradition outlined in their application. "Artist" may be broadly defined, to include masters of:

- Foodways and culinary arts (examples- traditional Mexican cuisine, traditional Chinese cooking, canning and preservation)
- domestic arts (examples- foraging, plant dyeing, horticulture, weaving, quilting)
- occupational arts (examples- blacksmithing, stone carving, woodworking, leather work, boatbuilding, furniture making, sign painting, dress making)
- Rare and endangered languages
- visual arts (examples- classical Indian painting, tribal carving, Mexican folk painting, folk sculpture)
- performing arts (music, dance, storytelling, spoken word and more)

The tradition should be a form of expression related to and rooted in community identity and heritage.

Who is considered an Apprentice?

An Apprentice is an individual that will learn a 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.

Participant Responsibilities

- Participants are expected to meet in-person regularly over the course of one year and according to the Plan of Work submitted as part of their 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.

- 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).
- Apprenticeship Program participants will be required to take part in a two-part leadership workshop facilitated by the Washington State Arts Commission. This workshop is designed to help you build the leadership skills necessary to create transformative change in your creative and cultural communities.
- Participants are also expected to take part in one public event at the end of the Apprenticeship Program year (in spring 2022). This event will showcase the work each Master/Apprentice pair completed. 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, and appropriateness of the Apprentice
- ✓ 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 Assistance and Draft Review

The Center for Washington Cultural Traditions can aid in completing the application, offer feedback on a completed application draft, and answer questions. Contact Langston Collin Wilkins at langston@humanities.org or call 713-446-3764. Drafts for review must be sent by April 1, 2021.
