



Application Deadline: **SEPTEMBER 28, 2026**

Contact: Deb Bailey, Folk Arts Specialist: (573) 882-3653

Email: mofolkarts@missouri.edu

Website: <http://mofolkarts.missouri.edu>

THE PROJECT

Since 1984, the **Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program** (TAAP) has worked with some of the state's finest mentor/master folk artists to keep Missouri's artistic heritage alive and well. The **Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program** funds teams of artistically excellent mentoring master artists and apprentices who are committed to sustaining their artistic traditions and cultural heritage. Teams develop work plans for the upcoming project year, meeting regularly to achieve their project goals. Priority is given to teams who share the same cultural community. Priority may also be given to living traditional arts with few practitioners left in the local community. Missouri Folk Arts staff continue to seek new TAAP applicants each year to better represent the spectrum of cultural communities across the state.

Missouri's **Traditional Apprenticeship Program** (TAAP), funded by the National Endowment for the Arts since inception, is coordinated by the Missouri Folk Arts Program with support from the Missouri Arts Council, a division of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, and the Museum of Art and Archaeology at the University of Missouri.

KEY DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please read carefully before filling out the application.

I. KEY DEFINITIONS

Traditional arts: Rooted in and reflective of the cultural life of a community, folk and traditional arts are constantly evolving, shaped by values and standards of excellence passed from generation to generation, most often within family and community, through demonstration, conversation, and practice. Genres in folk and traditional arts include but are not limited to music, dance, crafts, foodways, dress/adornment, occupation, ceremony, and oral expression, including stories, poetry, and language. [*per the National Endowment for the Arts*]

Cultural community: A group sharing a wide range of commonalities, including ethnic heritage, cultural mores, language, religion, occupation, and/or geographic regions. Such groups share customs, heritage, and artistic expressions, which include the traditional arts.

Mentor, or master, artist: A traditional artist who is regarded by their cultural community and peers as a highly skilled and deeply knowledgeable practitioner and teacher of that group's traditional arts.

Apprentice: A talented traditional artist who possesses intermediate experience in the tradition (or a related art form), a strong desire to advance knowledge and skills in the art form, and a commitment to its continuity.

II. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. The mentor and apprentice must complete the application forms below. SECTION B is for mentor; SECTION C is for apprentice; and SECTION D is for both. Design the work plan to occur between November 9, 2026 - May 1, 2027.
2. Both mentor and apprentice must submit work samples with their application, or it is incomplete. Contact the Folk Arts Specialist to coordinate delivery via online storage, email, or postal service.

Please note the requirements for work samples.

- **Visual Art/Crafts/Foodways** teams should provide 5-8 digital images (JPEG, PNG) by each artist with short descriptions, including title and date. Include 1-2 images that show detail.
- **Music/Storytelling/Verbal Traditions/Dance** teams should provide up to 5 minutes each of audio/video recording (in common formats like mp3, wav, mp4, mov, or mpeg4). Links to videos from YouTube or Vimeo are acceptable. Team should provide recording descriptions and time cues with application.

III. APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

Applicants should contact Folk Arts Specialist Deb Bailey to discuss their proposals, work samples, and questions. She is available through September 14, 2026 to advise teams and to help coordinate delivery of materials through the September 28, 2026 due date. Call (573) 882-3653 or email at mofolkarts@missouri.edu

IV. ELIGIBILITY

- Mentors who have participated for two consecutive cycles should pause one year before re-applying.
- The mentor artist must be a citizen or legal resident of the U.S.
- The apprentice must be a legal resident of Missouri.
- Apprentices under the age of 18 require guardian permission to participate.
- Awarded mentors and apprentices will be paid as suppliers of the University of Missouri and must meet full terms and conditions to receive artistic fees.

V. REVIEW CRITERIA

- The art to be learned must be a traditional art as defined above.
- The mentor must demonstrate artistic excellence, cultural knowledge, and teaching ability.
- The apprentice must demonstrate intermediate experience and commitment.
- The work plan must be appropriate to the project, the traditional art form, and the team's goals.
- Priority is given to mentors and apprentices who share cultural communities.
- Priority is given to living traditional art forms with fewer practitioners.

VI. REVIEW PANEL AND NOTIFICATION

A rotating independent panel of traditional arts specialists convenes to review applications and choose apprenticeship teams. The Folk Arts Specialist will notify mentors of the panel's decision in early November 2026.

THIS APPLICATION MAY BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY OR BY POST WITH A POSTMARK ON OR BEFORE September 28, 2026 TO THE FOLLOWING:

MAIL: Missouri Folk Arts Program, 520 S. 9th St. Room 1
Ellis Library, Columbia, MO 65211
EMAIL: mofolkarts@missouri.edu

B

MENTOR/MASTER ARTIST APPLICATION

I. Name of Mentor _____
FIRST MI LAST

Mailing address _____ City _____

Zip Code _____ County _____ Phone _____

Email _____

**PLEASE REFER TO THE KEY DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
(SECTION A) WHILE ANSWERING QUESTIONS.**

**II. PLEASE TYPE OR NEATLY PRINT YOUR ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING PROMPTS ON SEPARATE
PAGES, NOT IN THE SPACES BELOW.**

1. Describe the traditional art form you practice and wish to teach.
2. What are your background and experiences in this traditional art form? When did you start and how long have you been practicing your traditional art?
3. How, when, and where did you learn this traditional art? Who are the people you observed, imitated, and interacted with? Who influenced you in this traditional art form?
4. What is the role and importance of this traditional art in your cultural community? Who else participates with you and/or comes to listen to or watch you?
5. Have you ever taught and/or helped someone learn this traditional art? If so, describe the circumstances.
6. How long have you known your proposed apprentice? Have you worked together previously on this traditional art?
7. Why do you wish to work with this proposed apprentice?

**III. I am willing to take _____ as an apprentice as described in the work plan of
this application. If selected, I will allow this apprenticeship to be documented by the Missouri Folk Arts Program via
via audio/video recording and photographs for the purpose of encouraging and sustaining Missouri's folk and
traditional arts.**

Signed _____ Date _____

C

APPRENTICE APPLICATION

I. Name of Apprentice _____
FIRST MI LAST

Mailing address _____ City _____

Zip Code _____ County _____ Phone _____

Email _____

**PLEASE REFER TO THE KEY DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
(SECTION A) WHILE ANSWERING QUESTIONS.**

**II. PLEASE TYPE OR NEATLY PRINT YOUR ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING PROMPTS ON SEPARATE
PAGES, NOT IN THE SPACES BELOW.**

1. Describe the traditional art form you wish to learn.
2. How, when, and where did you start to learn this traditional art form? Who are the people you observed, imitated, and interacted with? Who influenced you in this traditional art form?
3. How long have you been practicing your traditional art? How much skill do you presently have in this traditional art?
4. What is the role and importance of this traditional art in your cultural community? Who else participates with you and/or comes to listen to or watch you?
5. Why have you chosen to work with this mentor? What do you hope to accomplish?
6. What are your plans for working with this traditional art form after the apprenticeship is finished?
7. What cultural communities do you share with the mentor? Some possibilities might include, but aren't limited to ethnic heritage, cultural mores, language, religion, occupation, and/or geographic regions.

**III. I am willing to work as an apprentice with master artist _____
as described in this application. If selected, I will allow this apprenticeship to be documented by the Missouri Folk
Arts Program via audio/video recording and photographs for the purpose of encouraging and sustaining Missouri's
traditional arts.**

Signed _____ Date _____

NOTE: If the apprentice is under the age of 18, a parent's or legal guardian's signature is required.

Parent's/Legal Guardian's signature _____ Date _____

D

PROPOSED WORKPLAN

I. APPRENTICESHIP WORK PLAN

PLEASE TYPE OR NEATLY PRINT YOUR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS 1-4 ON SEPARATE PAGES, NOT IN THE SPACES BELOW.

1. Describe exactly what will be taught during the apprenticeship. What do you want the apprentice to know about this traditional art?
2. What specific skills and/or techniques do you want the apprentice to learn?
3. What goals do you want the apprentice to meet (tunes learned, objects made, techniques practiced)? Be specific.
4. What kinds of materials are required to ensure a successful apprenticeship?
5. Describe the framework of your apprenticeship. How many times will you meet? How long will each meeting be? Where will you meet for lessons?

II. APPRENTICESHIP BUDGET

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| a. Mentor/master artist's honorarium (fixed amount) | \$4,000.00 |
| b. Apprentice's honorarium (fixed amount) | \$ 400.00 |
| c. Total request (fixed amount) | \$4,400.00 |