



Application Deadline: **SEPTEMBER 28, 2026**

Contact: Lisa Higgins, Director

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 folk artists to keep Missouri's artistic heritage alive and well. The **Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program-Intensive Learning Gatherings** will fund teams of artistically excellent artists who are committed to sustaining their traditions and cultural heritage. Teams will develop work plans for the project to meet intensively with a lead artist and **up to four team members** to achieve goals. Priority is given to teams who share the same cultural community. Priority may also be given to living traditional arts with fewer 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.

Lead 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.

II. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. The lead artist and each team member must complete the application forms below. SECTION B is for lead artist; SECTION C is for each team member; and SECTION D is for all. Design the work plan to occur between November 9, 2026 - May 1, 2027.
2. Lead artist and team members must submit work samples with their application, or it is incomplete. Contact the Director to coordinate delivery via online storage, email, or postal service.

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

Please note the requirements for work samples.

- **Visual Art/Crafts/Foodways** teams should provide 10-15 digital images (JPEG, PNG) representative of work by the Lead Artist and group members. Short descriptions for each image should include a title and date.
- **Music/Storytelling/Verbal Traditions/Dance** teams should provide 3-5 minutes per proposed team member 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 Director Lisa Higgins 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. Email at mofolkarts@missouri.edu

IV. ELIGIBILITY

- The lead artist must be a citizen or legal resident of the U.S.
- Each proposed team member must be a legal resident of Missouri.
- Team members under the age of 18 require guardian permission to participate.
- Awarded team members 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 Lead Artist must demonstrate artistic excellence, cultural knowledge, and teaching ability.
- Additional team members (up to 4) must demonstrate experience in and commitment to the traditional art.
- The work plan must be appropriate to the project, the traditional art form, and the team's goals.
- Priority is given to teams 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 intensive gathering teams. The Director will notify the Lead Artist of the panel's decision in early November 2026.

B

LEAD ARTIST APPLICATION

I. Name of Lead Artist _____
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 share during an intensive gathering/s.
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 members of the team? Have you worked together previously on this traditional art?
7. Why do you wish to organize an intensive learning gathering?

III. I am willing to take the Lead Artist role as described in the Work Plan. If selected, I agree the gathering/s will be documented in collaboration with the Missouri Folk Arts Program via audio/video recording and photographs for the purpose of encouraging and sustaining Missouri's folk and traditional arts.

Signed _____ Date _____

C

TEAM MEMBER APPLICATION

COPY FOR EACH TEAM MEMBER (UP TO FOUR)

I. Team Member _____
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. 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?
2. How long have you been practicing your traditional art? How much skill do you presently have in this traditional art?
3. 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?

III. I am willing to work with the Lead Artist and proposed team members as described in this application. If selected, I agree the gathering/s will be documented in collaboration with the Missouri Folk Arts Program via audio/video recording and photographs for the purpose of encouraging and sustaining Missouri's folk and 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. INTENSIVE LEARNING GATHERING 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 gathering. What do you want the team members to know about this traditional art?
2. What specific skills, techniques, or projects would your intensive learning gathering team like to learn and accomplish?
3. What goals does the team hope to meet? Be specific.
4. What kind of materials and location are required to ensure a successful intensive learning gathering?
5. Describe the framework of your gathering. Your team has the opportunity to meet intensively over the course of one or more days, such as weekends. How much time is anticipated for the project? Where will you meet for the gathering?

II. INTENSIVE LEARNING GATHERING BUDGET

An intensive learning gathering is allotted \$5,000 total for a Lead Artist and up to four additional Team Members. The allocated funds should be used for artist stipends and supplies. Please outline your budget on the additional pages following your Work Plan. Be as specific as possible.