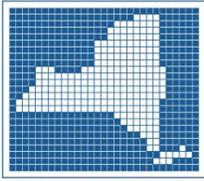


State of the Arts



**NYSCA**

New York State Council on the Arts  
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## **Folk Arts**

Robert Baron, Program Director, [robert.baron@arts.ny.gov](mailto:robert.baron@arts.ny.gov)

The Folk Arts Program is devoted to sustaining New York State's living cultural heritage of folk arts through supporting activities designed to safeguard, present and perpetuate traditions practiced within communities. It also supports programming that enables general audiences to experience the traditional arts.

### Definitions

By definition, folk arts are traditional cultural expressions through which a group maintains and passes on its shared way of life. They are practiced within and among ethnic, regional, occupational, and religious groups as well as other kinds of communities with a common identity. Traditional folk arts express a group's sense of beauty, identity, and values. Folk arts are usually learned informally through performance, by example, or in oral traditions among families, friends, neighbors and co-workers rather than through formal education. The practice of folk arts by traditional artists stems from their birthright, community membership or direct participation in the life of a community. Never static, folk arts change as they are adapted to new circumstances while they maintain their traditional qualities. The best folk artists work within artistic conventions shaped and refined over time while creating innovations recognized by other community members.

### Priorities

- Appropriate compensation to artists, folklorists and arts professionals.
- Dance presentations accompanied by live traditional folk musicians, when possible.
- Development of projects in close consultation and collaboration with the communities and artists whose traditions are to be presented. Support is not available for programming involving artists who appropriate, interpret, or revive the traditions of other communities.
- Presentations grounded in the traditional modes of practicing folk art are encouraged. The Folk Arts Program does not support programming involving choreography, theatricalization, or stylization that substantially alters traditions.

- Strong evidence of interpretive practices which aid appreciation and understanding of a tradition's meaning and contexts, especially for unfamiliar art forms. These may include program booklets or other publications, websites, lecture/demonstrations, spoken introductions to performances, and interpretive signage to aid appreciation and understanding of a tradition's meaning and contexts.
- Professional direction through folklorists, ethnomusicologists or other appropriate staff or consultants for program development, field research to document artists, interpretation and the production of presentations.
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- Field research to identify artists unrecorded or unrecognized outside of their immediate communities. Applicants are also encouraged to document presentations supported through NYSCA funds.
- Collaborative initiatives carried out on a regional or statewide basis among folk arts programs.

The NYSCA grant program strives to make investments of public funds that serve all communities and people that comprise New York State's citizens and visitors. NYSCA strongly supports, values and encourages the sustained and concerted efforts of non-profit art, culture and heritage organizations to be inclusive and have its workforce, artists and programmatic offerings reflect New York State's diversity of people, geography and artistic interests.

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### **Types of Support Available:**

**Applicants may make a total of two requests Council-wide, except in categories exempt from the two-limit request (see below).** Applicants wishing to make two requests in the Folk Arts project categories in FY15 should first speak to Program staff regarding eligibility for General Support.

**General Support** is provided for organizations whose primary mission is folk arts. General Support applicants may not apply in the project categories below, and are limited to one additional request Council-wide.

**Project Support** is provided for applicants in the following categories:

1. Project Support
2. Folk Arts Apprenticeships
3. Regional and County Folk Arts Programs

**Regrants and Partnerships Support** is made by invitation from the Council only, and is *exempt* from the Council-wide two-request limit.

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## **Technical Assistance**

Technical assistance is available to any individual or organization engaged in or planning folk arts programs in New York State. It is provided through the New York Folklore Society's Mentoring and Professional Development Program for Folklore and the Traditional Arts, in partnership with the NYSCA Folk Arts Program. This program encompasses diverse formats for technical assistance, including both short-term and long-term consulting, visits to the consultant's organization to observe activities, and assistance for master folk artists to advise other artists. Support is provided to attend conferences and meetings, observe exemplary programs, and interact with colleagues.

Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Funds are awarded on a non-matching basis up to the following amounts: \$1,800 for ongoing consultations, \$1,200 for short-term consultations, \$800 for quick response consultations, \$300 for travel funding for professional exchange, and \$30/hour plus travel for short-term assistance from artists.

To inquire about possible support from the Mentoring and Professional Development Program, please contact:

New York Folklore Society  
E-mail: [nyfs@folklore.org](mailto:nyfs@folklore.org)  
P.O. Box 764  
Schenectady, NY 12301  
518 346-7008

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## **Eligibility to Apply for other NYSCA Support and Exemptions from the Two-Request Limit:**

Organizations applying for or receiving General Support from NYSCA may also apply for Project Support in one other program. Sponsored applicants and those funded under the following programs are exempt from the two-request limit:

Architecture and Design Program - *Independent Projects category*

Dance Program – *Rehearsal Space and Residencies category*

Electronic Media & Film Program – *Workspace, Art & Technology category*

Facilities Program - *All categories*

Folk Arts Program - *Apprenticeships category*

Folk Arts Program - *Regional and County Folk Arts Programs category*

Individual Artists Program – *All categories*

Literature Program - *Literary Translation category*

Regional Economic Development Program – *All categories*

State and Local Partnership Program - *Decentralization category*

All Programs - *Regrants and Partnerships category*

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### **Evaluative Criteria:**

Grant requests are evaluated in accordance with agency-wide criteria.

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### **FOLK ARTS APPRENTICESHIPS**

Robert Baron, Program Director, [robert.baron@arts.ny.gov](mailto:robert.baron@arts.ny.gov)

Folk arts traditionally are transmitted from elders to younger generations in the same distinctive ethnic, regional, occupational, or religious community. Where the chain of transmission is no longer as strong as it once was, apprenticeships can stimulate the continuity of these traditional arts. Folk Arts Apprenticeships help to ensure the continuation of traditional arts by providing individuals experienced in a folk art with opportunities to study with master folk artists from their own community.

This category is exempt from the Council's two request limit.

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### **Priorities**

- Funding priority is for the master's fee. Support may also be provided for travel, supplies, liability insurance costs and the recording of the skills being taught through audio, video or still photography. Project expenses may also include administrative costs of no more than \$500 if the master or apprentice are not staff members of the applicant organization. Awards for apprenticeships generally do not exceed \$5,000.
  - Priority is given to apprenticeships involving the transmission of traditions no longer widely practiced.
  - Applicants are encouraged to include the master and apprentice in a public presentation following the completion of the apprenticeship.
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### **Eligibility Criteria:**

In order to be eligible to apply for Folk Arts Apprenticeship Support, an applicant organization must meet the following minimum criteria:

- It must be a governmental or quasi-governmental entity, a tribal organization, or duly incorporated non-profit organization, either incorporated in NY State or registered to do business in NY State, with its principal place of business located in NY State; and
  - Unless it is otherwise exempted from prequalification, the nonprofit must be prequalified to do business with NY State by the time of the NYSCA application submission deadline date. For more information about how to Register and Prequalify in the Grants Gateway, click [here](#).
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### **Prerequisites**

- Support in this category is intended for one apprentice to work with one master artist, except in circumstances where the art form is traditionally learned in small groups. In such cases support may be provided for apprenticeships involving more than one apprentice, but generally not exceeding three persons.
  - The master artist and the apprentice are from the community practicing the tradition.
  - Apprentices demonstrate experience in the art form to be taught, or a related traditional art form.
  - Both the master and apprentice have worked together to develop the study plan, which indicates the sequence of lessons, what will be learned in each lesson and the skills to be mastered.
  - Support will not be provided for the same master artist for more than two consecutive years.
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### **Application Instructions:**

To align with New York State's Grants Gateway, the NYSCA application process has changed from years past.

Applicants will now need to submit information in **both** the NYSCA application portal and the Grants Gateway Grant Opportunity Portal

Through the [NYSCA application portal](#)\*, applicants will submit:

1. Organization Profile
2. Organization Budget
3. Registration

#### 4. Program Application

All of the above required submissions are available on the NYSCA website as fillable forms and are accessible to registered NYSCA account holders\*.

Upon submitting the Program Application through the NYSCA portal, applicants will be able to view all four required documents in a single window. This information can then be saved as a pdf.

Copies of the four required documents must then be uploaded to the Grants Gateway Grant Opportunity Portal (See Below).

Through the [Grants Gateway Grant Opportunity Portal](#), applicants will also submit:

1. Project Budget
2. Work Plan
3. [Cultural Data Project NYS Funder Report](#)
4. Mandatory Support Materials (See Below)
5. Copies of the Organization Budget, Organization Profile and Program Application as submitted to the NYSCA application portal.

***Failure to complete any of the requirements will deem applications ineligible. No exceptions will be made to this policy.***

\*New applicants can create a NYSCA account [here](#)

**In the event that an applicant fails to submit one or more of the required materials, the application will not be eligible for review.**

***Also note that you must be prequalified before the Grant Opportunity Portal closes! Please be sure to check your status and clear up any outstanding deficiencies with your document vault before submitting your application!***

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#### **Mandatory Support Materials for Folk Arts Apprenticeship Requests:**

The following Mandatory Support Materials must be submitted by uploading into the Pre-Submission Upload menu in the Grants Gateway Grant Opportunity Portal along with the Online Application.

Acceptable file types are: Adobe Acrobat PDFs, Microsoft Word DOC or DOCX, Microsoft PowerPoint PPT or PPTX. To submit URLs, please create a Word or PDF file with a list of URLs with any notes or description. URLs cannot be password protected and must remain live until December 31, 2014. NYSCA is not responsible for any broken, inactive or password protected links.

**In the event that an applicant fails to submit one or more of the following required materials, the application will not be eligible for review.** For a more detailed description of how to submit your support materials for this application, please click [here](#) for more information.

1. *Up to 10 visual images or up to five minutes of audio or video examples demonstrating the artistic abilities and skills of both the master folk artist and the apprentice.* Examples of musicians or storytellers must be in an audio or video format, and dance examples must be provided through video. Clearly indicate the master and the apprentice in this support material. Upload to the Pre-Submission Upload menu of the Grants Gateway Opportunity Portal application.
  2. *A letter of commitment, signed and dated by the master artist, agreeing to accept the apprentice indicated in the application.* Upload to the Pre-Submission Upload menu of the Grants Gateway Opportunity Portal application.
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## **Application Narrative Questions:**

### ***Artistic/Programmatic***

1. **Master Folk Artist**  
Who is the master folk artist? How long has the master artist practiced this folk art? Where and from whom was it learned? Describe the master artist's experiences in teaching this tradition.
2. **Folk Art Form**  
Describe the folk art form to be taught by the master artist, touching on the ways the art form is currently practiced in the community where the master lives/works. Who else practices this art form in this community?
3. **Apprentice**  
Who is the apprentice and what is his/her experience in practicing this or any related folk art form? How was this apprentice selected? If the apprentice previously worked with this master artist, describe the nature and length of their association.
4. **Project Goals**  
What level of ability/accomplishment can be achieved through the project? Please be as specific as possible, for example, indicate an object to be made, a body of songs to be learned, an instrumental technique or dance style to be taught, building on any prior accomplishments.
5. **Apprentice Responsibilities**  
Will the apprentice have other responsibilities, such as assisting the master with his/her own projects? If so, please describe.

### ***Managerial/Fiscal***

6. Project Development  
How will the apprentice's level of skill affect the work plan for the apprenticeship? How was the study plan developed and by whom?
7. Study Plan  
Provide a session by session outline of the proposed study plan.
8. Administrative Support  
Describe administrative and technical support to be provided by the applicant organization.

### ***Service to the Public***

9. Project Documentation and Products  
Will the sessions be recorded for study purposes and to document the apprenticeship? Who will own any objects created and tools purchased for this apprenticeship? Indicate if any public presentations by the master artist and apprentice will occur, during or after the apprenticeship.
10. Continuity of this Tradition  
How will this apprenticeship contribute to the perpetuation of the folk art form to be taught? Indicate how the apprentice plans to continue to practice this tradition following the completion of the apprenticeship.

**Budget note:** Please specify the master folk artist's fee in the Budget Notes field of the project budget, and itemize other principal expense items.