

FLORIDA FOLKLIFE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION

Are you a traditional artist who would like to teach your skills and knowledge? Or would you like to study with a traditional craftsman, musician, storyteller, dancer or other folklife practitioner? The Florida Folklife Apprenticeship Program may be able to help you.

Florida folklife consists of the entire, complex body of traditions practiced by Florida residents. We welcome applications for apprenticeships in all forms of Florida traditional culture—from boatmaking to saltwater fly tying, from old-time fiddling to Afro-Caribbean percussion, from African American gospel steel guitar to Greek bouzouki, from Nicaraguan festival arts to Japanese dance, from steel drum making to Seminole basket making.

The Florida Folklife Apprenticeship Program provides an opportunity for master folk artists to share technical skills and cultural knowledge with apprentices in order to maintain their art as a vital part of their heritage. Master artists should be among the finest practitioners of the tradition in their communities. Apprentices must have some experience in the tradition they wish to study and must make a commitment to learn it thoroughly. The underlying purpose of the Florida Folklife Program is to reinforce traditions within a folk group, therefore preference is given to apprentices who study traditions within their own group.

Florida folklife is "...traditional expressive culture shared within the various groups in Florida: familial, ethnic, occupational, religious, and regional. Expressive culture includes a wide range of creative and symbolic forms such as custom, belief, technical skill, language, literature, art, architecture, music, play, dance, drama, ritual, pageantry, and handicraft, which forms are generally learned orally, by imitation, or in performance, and are maintained or perpetuated without formal instruction or institutional direction." Section 267.021 (6), Florida Statutes

GENERAL INFORMATION

Florida Folklife Apprenticeship awards are available for 8, 6 or 3 month apprenticeships. Qualified master artists will be awarded \$2,000 for 8 months in the program, \$1,500 for 6 months, or \$750 for 3 months. Apprentices selected will receive \$400 for 8 months, \$300 for 6 months, or \$150 for 3 months to cover program expenses including all supplies and transportation. When apprenticeships are awarded to immediate family members (parents, siblings, children) of the master artist, support is limited to materials costs or other program expenses on a reimbursement basis according to State of Florida allowable amounts.

Most apprenticeships will start in September and end by May. If you are selected for an apprenticeship award, we will arrange for payments and for two site visits by the Apprenticeship Program Coordinator. Apprenticeship teams may be asked to demonstrate their skills at the annual Florida Folk Festival. Travel expenses to the festival will be reimbursed by the Apprenticeship Program according to State of Florida allowable amounts. When your apprenticeship is completed, you must send us a log of your meetings and the topics covered in each meeting.

HOW TO APPLY

Eligibility

Interested masters and apprentices must apply as a team by submitting the joint application. Before completing the application, the master artist/teacher and apprentice should discuss their ideas for the apprenticeship. In this way, we hope you will come to a shared understanding of what will take place and why. Prospective apprentices and masters should discuss the potential apprenticeship—including the pre-requisite level of skill, frequency and location of meetings, and goals—and should agree on training expectations. Apprentices must be permanent Florida residents, and it is preferred that masters and apprentices belong to the same folk group.

Completing the Forms

The master and apprentice must complete the attached application form. Part 1 is for the master, Part 2 is for the apprentice, and Part 3 is to be completed by both.

Please answer all questions as thoroughly as possible and use additional pages as needed. Your information will be reviewed by panelists, who will select successful applicants based on the information in the answers. Applications do not have to be typed, but should be legible. If you complete the forms by hand, please print and use black ink.

Support Materials

Both masters and apprentices must include audio-visual and written support materials as evidence of their abilities. They are an important part of the application package and will be presented to a committee for comment. Support materials should be appropriate for the art form you intend to teach. Professional recordings, videos, and slides are not necessary. Media materials of applicants chosen to participate in the program will be submitted to the Florida Folklife Archives. Please refer to the following guidelines:

Audio Visual Materials

Crafts and Occupational Folk Arts - 35mm color slides are preferred. Please submit six or more slides. It is best to show whole objects and examples of detail. Make sure the slides are in focus and not too dark or too light. Please label each slide with your name and indicate "Top." Photographic prints will do, but are more difficult to present to panelists.

Music - An audiocassette tape recording ten (10) minutes long is preferred. For best results, use a high quality, name brand cassette and avoid high-speed dubbing. Include representative examples of your music on the cassette. Recordings of unaccompanied performances are usually preferred.

Dance - A VHS videocassette recording ten (10) minutes long is recommended.

Storytelling and Oral Traditions - Either a VHS videocassette or an audiocassette recording ten (10) minutes long is recommended. If submitting an audiocassette, use a high quality, name brand tape.

Written support materials—Two (2) or more letters of support attesting to the quality and authenticity of the master artist's skills are needed. Letters from community leaders may strengthen an application. Letters of support for the apprentice are also encouraged. Press clippings of articles written about the master artist or apprentice may be included with the application, but cannot be substituted for letters of support.

All applications must be postmarked by May 15, though we encourage you to submit an application before the deadline. Submitting an application before the deadline will ensure that you will have sufficient time to send any necessary materials not included in your original application.

Please send completed applications to:

**Folklife Apprenticeship Program Coordinator
Bureau of Historic Preservation
500 S. Bronough St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250**

If you have any questions about the application or need assistance, please contact the Folklife Apprenticeship Program Coordinator at the above address or at (850) 487-2333 or 1-800-847-PAST.

SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

The Apprenticeship Advisory Committee (AAC), an ad hoc committee of five folklife specialists appointed by the Secretary of State, reviews the applications and advises the Folklife Council and Secretary of State on apprenticeship teams. Minimum and basic qualifications for Apprenticeship Advisory Committee members include an advanced degree in Folklife, or a related field such as Cultural Anthropology or Ethnomusicology, and at least two years of professional experience. The Secretary will attempt to ensure that the AAC members reflect an even geographical distribution as well as balanced coverage of folklife genres and folk groups through members' areas of specialization. The Committee's advice will be reviewed by the Florida Folklife Council, which will then make recommendations on the selection of apprenticeship teams to the Secretary of State. Final decisions should be announced by August and we will notify all applicants shortly thereafter. For further information on the AAC or to express an interest in serving on the AAC, please contact Tina Bucuvalas, Division of Historical Resources, at (850) 245-6333, (800) 847-PAST, or tbucuvalas@dos.state.fl.us.

Review Criteria

Your application will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Expertise of the master artist. Letters of support from community members and cultural specialists, written materials, or other documentation will assist in determining the level of expertise.
- Commitment to the apprenticeship.
- Feasibility of the workplan and the coherence of the overall apprenticeship.
- Impact of the apprenticeship on the vitality of the tradition.
- Relevance of the tradition to the cultural history of Florida.
- Master and apprentice belong to the same folk group.

The Advisory Committee will review each application and make its recommendation as to points awarded on a ten-point scale.

Form #HR3E23
March 20, 2000

Part 1: Master Artist

Name:

Telephone:

Address:

Birth date:

City, State, Zip:

SS#:

Please tell us about yourself—ethnicity, birthplace, schooling, occupation(s), how many years in Florida, etc.

Tell us about your background and experience. How, when where, and from whom did you learn this tradition? Have you taught this tradition to others? When and for whom do you do this tradition? Have you practiced it continually since you learned it? Have you received any fellowships, apprenticeships, or grants?

Tell us about the significance and history of this tradition in your life and that of your family or community.

Tell us about the proposed apprenticeship. How long have you known the apprentice? Have you worked together with this tradition before? How much does the apprentice already know about this tradition? What techniques or forms will you teach? What do you hope to accomplish during the apprenticeship period?

I am willing to work with _____ according to the plan outlined in this application. I will allow this apprenticeship to be documented for the purpose of preserving Florida folklife.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Part 2: Apprentice

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Name: _____ | Birth date: _____ |
| Address: _____ | SS#: _____ |
| City, State, Zip: _____ | Florida resident? _____ US citizen? _____ |
| Telephone(s): _____ | If not, immigration status: _____ |

Please tell us about yourself—ethnicity, birthplace, schooling, occupation(s), how many years in Florida, etc.

How, when, where, and from whom did you learn this tradition? What is the current level of your skill? Have you and the master artist worked together before? How long have you known the master artist? How did you become acquainted with him or her?

Why do you wish to learn this tradition and participate in the Folklife Apprenticeship Program?

What do you hope to accomplish during the apprenticeship? What do you plan to do with the skills you learn? How do you plan to help preserve this tradition?

I am willing to work with _____ according to the plan outlined in this application. I will allow this apprenticeship to be documented for the purpose of preserving Florida folklife.

Signed _____ Date _____

Part 3: Work Plan

1. List the skills and techniques that will be taught during the apprenticeship (e.g., what tunes or styles do you want the apprentice(s) to learn, what objects do you want them to make). What will the apprentice(s) be expected to do between meetings? Please be specific. You may use an extra sheet of paper if needed.
2. State the goals that you expect the apprentice to achieve. Examples: build six wagon wheels from scratch; develop a repertory of twenty tunes; learn two complete dances.
3. How often will you meet, where, and for how long? (A typical schedule might be: once a week, for four hours, at the master's home.)
4. What length of apprenticeship do you prefer? (check one)
_____ 3 months _____ 6 months _____ 8 months
5. List the materials and supplies, including itemized costs, that the apprentice will need to complete the apprenticeship. If you do not know the exact cost, give your most accurate estimate. Funds **are not** available for the purchase of musical instruments, personal clothing, or costumes.

Master Artist

Date

Apprentice

Date

Apprentice

Date

Apprentice

Date