

2025-2026

FOLK & TRADITIONAL ARTS APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATION GUIDELINES

DUE DATE:

Apprenticeships in Traditional Arts Application: April 14, 2025, 5 p.m. EST

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED

GRANT ACTIVITY PERIOD: September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026



Agency Mission

To strengthen the cultural, educational, and economic vitality of Pennsylvania's communities through the arts.

Overarching Value:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Promote equitable access for all Pennsylvanians to participate fully in a creative life and in the diverse forms of arts and culture in the commonwealth.

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Definition

Folk and Traditional Arts are defined as those artistic traditions characteristic of ethnic, religious, linguistic, occupational, or regional groups. These arts are shaped and shared within families, neighborhoods, and communities. They are passed down from one generation to another and learned through ongoing participation in community-based activities, and through observation, practice, or apprenticeships with elders and masters, rather than through classes, books, or other means of institutional instruction.

Description

Apprenticeships are grants from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) that support the learning of folk and traditional arts.

Each grant award provides funding over a one-year period to a partnership between a master artist and a qualified apprentice, enabling them to work together for in-depth learning that encompasses the acquisition of techniques and artistry as well as the context of the culture. Apprenticeships are offered annually in both performing and craft traditions. The program makes awards of up to \$4,000. Apprenticeships may receive a maximum of four grant awards.

Eligibility

The master artist and the apprentice must apply together, with the master artist being the applicant (if the master artist is a Pennsylvania resident).

Apprenticeships only fund living artistic traditions that are shaped and shared within families, neighborhoods, and communities. The art form must be part of the current life of citizens residing in Pennsylvania.

The program does not fund the following activities:

- Staged productions or representations of historical folk arts;
- Reproductions of historic objects that are no longer in use;
- Ongoing classes where a master artist instructs in a classroom situation;
- Production or marketing of crafts and other forms that are not part of the living heritage of particular communities.

A Master Artist must:

- Demonstrate excellence within his or her artistic tradition;
- Be held in high regard for his or her skill, knowledge, and cultural practice by his or her community through formal or informal recognition.

An Apprentice must:

- Demonstrate interest and basic competency in the art form (generally at least one year of relevant experience);
- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Demonstrate a commitment to learning and maintaining the nuances of the tradition;
- Demonstrate a commitment to preserving the art form beyond the end of the apprenticeship period.

Pennsylvania Residency Requirement

Apprentices must be domiciled (living at a permanent legal residence) in Pennsylvania for at least two years prior to the application deadline. Master artists may be from outside Pennsylvania if there is no suitable master living in the Commonwealth. In such an event, the apprentice will be the applicant.

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2025-2026 Apprenticeship Timeline

February 2025	Guidelines Published
February-April 2025	Grant workshops/Technical Assistance activities provided by Folk Arts Partners
April 14, 2025	Application Deadline (via email or postmarked)
June 2025	Application Review Panel
July 2025	Action on Panel Recommendations by PCA Council
August 2025	Applicants Notified
September 1, 2025	Apprenticeship program period begins (pending state budget approval)
August 31, 2026	Apprenticeship program period ends
September 30, 2026	Apprenticeship Final Report Deadline

Review Criteria

The review panel uses the criteria below to assess applications. Evidence of meeting the criteria must be found in the application narrative, apprenticeship work plan, budget information, and support materials.

Master Artist(s)	Cultural background, training, technical ability, and knowledge of the art form. (25 points)
Apprentice Artist(s)	Cultural background, basic competency in the art form, and commitment to maintaining the art form. (25 points)
Quality of Work Plan	Including appropriateness of proposed goals, learning approach, appropriate budget, and schedule. (25 points)
Prospective Impact	Of the apprenticeship on the preservation and development of the art form within the cultural community as defined by the applicants. (25 points)

NOTE: Applications for second or subsequent-year apprenticeships must demonstrate what the apprentice learned in the first or prior year(s), as well as clearly define what new skills or repertoire will be learned in the second or subsequent year.

Preference is given to apprenticeships with a Pennsylvania master artist, but master artists from outside the state may be sought if no suitable master artist in the tradition is available within Pennsylvania. Applications for apprenticeships in folk and traditional arts that have only a few remaining master artists are especially encouraged.

How to Apply

Before completing the application, the master artist and apprentice must talk through their ideas for the apprenticeship and arrive at a clear understanding of what is to take place and why. The application form and required attachments are essential in guiding your discussion.

The application must be completed and signed by the apprentice and master artist together. Funds will be awarded to the master artist unless he or she does not reside in Pennsylvania, in which case, the apprentice artist will receive the funds.

The master artist and apprentice will each answer questions about their artistic traditions and communities including the project's impact on the community, provide a detailed apprenticeship workplan, complete the application budget detailing project expenses related to amount requested; and supply relevant work samples from each artist (see below). A complete application provides evidence of the master artist's and apprentice's skills. Failure to include any of these materials may result in the application being rejected.

Work Sample Requirements

For both Master Artist and Apprentice: Applicants are urged to submit work examples of the most recent date and highest quality available, that present the work to its best advantage for evaluation by the panel.

Work Sample Descriptions

Please clearly identify the artist(s). Information about each work sample must be provided in the format listed below and must identify whether the sample is from the master artist or the apprentice artist.

When possible, please submit your work samples electronically. This may be done as an email attachment or as a link to an online site such as YouTube, Vimeo, a personal website, or a link to a cloud-sharing site such as DropBox or Google Drive. Generally, work should have been completed within the past five years.

Audio or Video Work Samples:

- Individual samples should not exceed 5 minutes;
- Media format: online links, CD/DVD track number, etc.;
- If sending in a physical CD or DVD, submit two copies of the same disc.

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- Assign a number [1, 2, 3...] to each sample. Make certain it matches the order indicated on the work sample list;
- Artist name;
- Master/Apprentice (indicate which artist is represented);
- Title of work(s);
- Length of work(s) and where the panel should start reviewing;
- Additional information about the work, including the artist's role in the development of work, location(s) and date(s) recorded, artistic style, form, content, and/or process. Please include any contextual information that will help the review panel understand your work.

Image Work Samples:

- Please submit up to 10 images per individual;
- Assign a number [1, 2, 3...] to each sample. Make certain it matches the order indicated on said media.
- Include a description of the work, including context, materials, size date completed, and any additional information about the work necessary for the review panel to understand the work.

Draft Review

If you would like feedback on your application prior to submission, please contact your Regional Folk Arts Partner by **April 7, 2025**, to review your draft.

Appeals Process

Information on the Appeals Process is available on the PCA's website:
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/coa.html>, under 'Folk and Traditional Arts.'

Reporting

- Apprenticeship award recipients must submit a final report by **September 30, 2026**;
- Documentation of your apprenticeship (photos, recordings, etc.) will enhance your final report; All final report materials will be included in the Pennsylvania Folk Arts Archive;
- An acknowledgment of funding support must be given to the PCA in all promotional materials pertaining to work produced with the support of the award. The PCA logo is available at arts.pa.gov.

Required Documents & Attachments for All Applicants

Application Packet

- General Information (A), Master Artist Information, and Master Artist Questions/Statement (B)
- Apprentice Artist Information and Apprentice Artist Questions/Statement (C)
- Master Artist & Apprentice Signatures (Page 2)
- Budget (D)
- Apprenticeship Work Plan (E)
- Description of Work Samples (F)
- Work Samples – Master Artist and Apprentice Artist (F)
- Archive Permission Form (Page 5)

Note: The application form must be signed by **both the** master artist and apprentice(s).

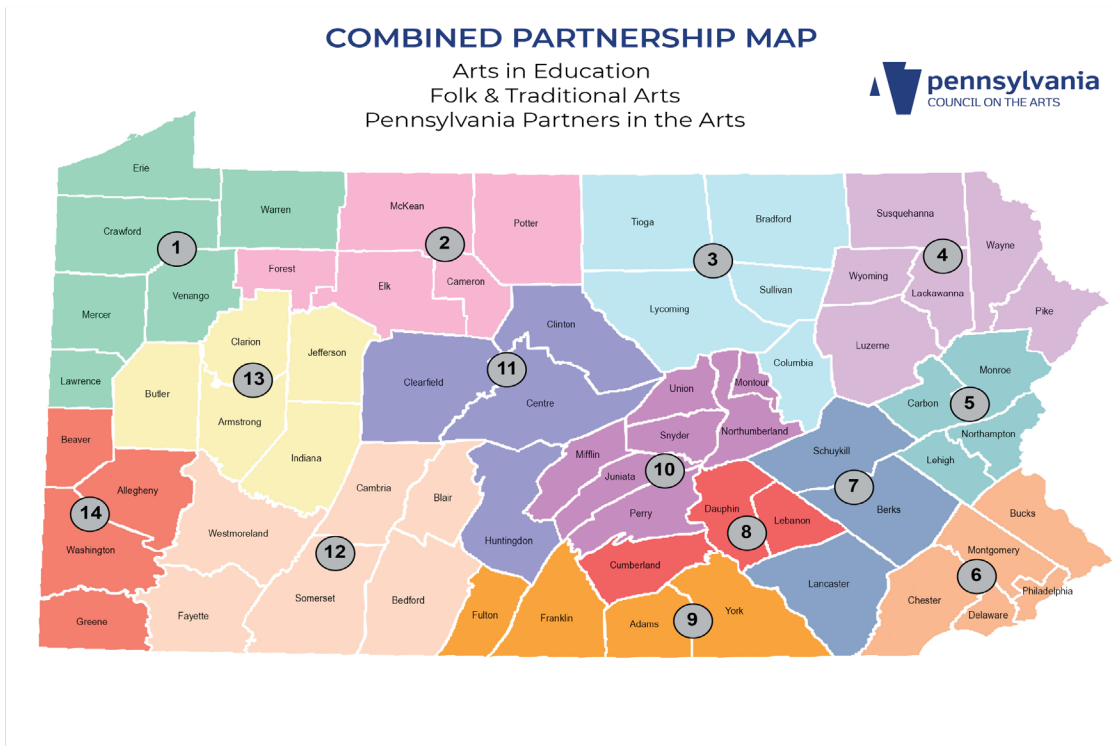
Application Deadline - April 14, 2025, 5 p.m. EST

Electronic submission of applications is recommended. Submit your full application via email to danpayne@pa.gov

To submit a hard copy application with supporting materials by mail (**postmarked by April 14, 2025**), use the address below and notify Dana Payne via email (danpayne@pa.gov) or telephone (717-525-5544).

Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
FOLK & TRADITIONAL ARTS APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM
Room 216, Finance Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Regional Folk Arts Partner organizations provide technical assistance for artists interested in the Apprenticeship grant program. Please contact the partner organization that serves your community for assistance. Contact info can be found on the following page.



Folk and Traditional Arts (FTA) Regional Partners

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REGION 1

Serves: Crawford, Erie, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren

FTA: Erie Arts & Culture

Web: erieartsandculture.org

Contact: Kelly Armor - kelly@erieartsandculture.org | 814-452-3427

REGION 2

Serves: Cameron, Elk, Forest, McKean, Potter

FTA: TBD

Contact: Dana Payne – danpayne@pa.gov | 717-525-5544 or
Jenna Winton – c-jwinton@pa.gov | 717-710-2551

REGION 3

Serves: Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Sullivan, Tioga

FTA: TBD

Contact: Dana Payne – danpayne@pa.gov | 717-525-5544 or
Jenna Winton – c-jwinton@pa.gov | 717-710-2551

REGION 4

Serves: Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming

FTA: The Everhart Museum

Web: everhart-museum.org/

Contact: Camille Dantone - camille@everhart-museum.org | (570)346 -7186 ext. 516

REGION 5

Serves: Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton

FTA: TBD

Contact: Dana Payne – danpayne@pa.gov | 717-525-5544 or
Jenna Winton – c-jwinton@pa.gov | 717-710-2551

REGION 6

Serves: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia

FTA: Philadelphia Folklore Project

Web: folkloreproject.org

Contact: Mia Kang - mia@folkloreproject.org | 215-726-1106

REGION 7

Serves: Berks, Lancaster, Schuylkill

FTA: Walk In Art Center

Web: walkinartcenter.org

Contact: Jacquie Engel – J.Engel@WalkInArtCenter.com | 570-732-3728

REGION 8

Serves: Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon

FTA: Susquehanna Folk Music Society

Web: sfmsfolk.org

Contact: Amy Skillman – amyskillman@gmail.com | 717-745-6577

REGION 9

Serves: Adams, Franklin, Fulton, York

FTA: TBD

Contact: Dana Payne – danpayne@pa.gov | 717-525-5544 or
Jenna Winton – c-jwinton@pa.gov | 717-710-2551

REGION 10

Serves: Juniata, Mifflin, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder, Union

FTA: Community Partnerships RC&D

Web: cpartnerships.com

Contact: Sam Price – sprice@cpartnerships.com | 717-248-4901

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REGION 11

Serves: Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Huntingdon

FTA: 3 Dots Downtown

Web: 3dotsdowntown.com

Contact: Nicole Gargiulo - nico@3dotsdowntown.com | 814-954-8938

REGION 12

Serves: Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fayette, Somerset, Westmoreland

FTA: Bottle Works Arts on 3rd Avenue

Web: bottleworks.org

Contact: Rayna Noel - rnoel@bottleworks.org | 814-535-2020

REGION 13

Serves: Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Indiana, Jefferson

FTA: Pennsylvania Rural Arts Alliance

Web: www.praa.net

Contact: Rebecca B. Catelinet - director@praa.net | 724-840-5688

REGION 14

Serves: Allegheny, Beaver, Greene, Washington

FTA: Rivers of Steel

Web: riversofsteel.com

Contact: Jon Engel - jengel@riversofsteel.com | 412-464-4020