

MSAC FY2026 Folklife Apprenticeship

Application Scoring Rubric

Criterion 1: Traditional nature of the proposed form of folklife			
Application questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Name and briefly describe the form of folklife this apprenticeship would focus on. ● Describe the cultural history and culture of origin of the form of folklife this apprenticeship would focus on. ● Describe the current community participating in the form of folklife this apprenticeship would focus on. 			
Excellent (17-20 points)	Good (13-16 points)	Fair (9-12 points)	Poor (8 or fewer points)
Form of folklife clearly demonstrates a strong connection with an easily identifiable cultural community over a generational period of practice	Form of folklife demonstrates a connection with a cultural community over a moderate period of practice	Form of folklife demonstrates a partial connection with an ambiguously-defined cultural community over a limited or unclear period of practice	Form of folklife's connection to culture, community, and past practice are negligible or not present

Criterion 2: Expertise of the mentor artist			
Application questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is your experience participating in this form of folklife? ● Describe your skill set with this form of folklife. ● Describe any official or unofficial recognitions you have received for participating in this form of folklife. 			
Excellent (17-20 points)	Good (13-16 points)	Fair (9-12 points)	Poor (8 or fewer points)
Mentor artist's expertise is demonstrated through an extensive skill set and strong public and community recognition as a notable tradition bearer	Mentor artist's expertise is demonstrated through a complete skill set and clear public and community recognition as a notable tradition bearer	Mentor artist's expertise is demonstrated through a somewhat clear skill set and some public and community recognition as a notable tradition bearer	Mentor artist's expertise is negligible or not demonstrated

Criterion 3: Preparedness of the apprentice artist			
Application questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What is your experience participating in this form of folklife? ● Describe your skill set with this form of folklife. ● Describe any official or unofficial recognitions you have received for participating in this form of folklife. 			
Excellent (17-20 points)	Good (13-16 points)	Fair (9-12 points)	Poor (8 or fewer points)
Apprentice artist's preparedness is demonstrated through a strong, progressive trajectory of past accomplishments	Apprentice artist's preparedness is demonstrated through a clear trajectory of past accomplishments	Apprentice artist's preparedness is demonstrated through some indication of past accomplishments	Apprentice artist's preparedness is negligible or not demonstrated

Criterion 4: Potential impact of the apprenticeship on the continued vitality of the tradition

Application question

- How would this apprenticeship contribute to the cultural, practical, and artistic value of this form of folklife?

Excellent (17-20 points)	Good (13-16 points)	Fair (9-12 points)	Poor (8 or fewer points)
Apprenticeship is poised to provide strong cultural, practical, and artistic value to the tradition at large	Apprenticeship is poised to provide clear cultural, practical, and artistic value to the tradition at large	Apprenticeship is poised to provide some cultural, practical, and artistic value to the tradition at large	Apprenticeship's value to the tradition at large is negligible or not clear

Criterion 5: Feasibility of the work plan

Application questions

- Describe the work plan for this apprenticeship, with details on the type of activities taught, materials needed and dates and locations of training.
- Briefly describe the expenses associated with this apprenticeship.

Excellent (17-20 points)	Good (13-16 points)	Fair (9-12 points)	Poor (8 or fewer points)
Work plan is exceptionally clear and organized; scope is ideal given the stated time commitments	Work plan is clear and organized; scope is reasonable given the stated time commitments	Work plan is somewhat clear and organized; scope and time commitments are considered somewhat reasonable	Work plan is unclear, incomplete, or not present