

Traditional Arts and Folklife Listing

Deadline: Applications are accepted year-round on a rolling basis

The [Traditional Arts & Folklife Listing](#) is a directory of traditional artists, community scholars, and folklorists who are available for performances, demonstrations, workshops, and other community-based presentations in New Hampshire. The Traditional Arts and Folklife Listing is a resource for arts organizations, museums, community groups, schools, and others that want to include traditional arts and artists in their programs and for artists who wish to present their traditions in community settings. The Listing provides information about the artist, their traditional art form, and types of presentations offered.

What are Traditional Arts and Folklife?

Traditional Arts and Folklife are artistic and cultural expressions actively passed down from one generation to the next within communities through observation, conversation, imitation and practice and are an important part of our living cultural heritage. Folklife and traditional arts can include music, dance, crafts, storytelling, foodways, celebrations, architecture, and way of doing things. They represent a sense of beauty, skills, knowledge and community values refined over generations. Communities can be defined in many ways, such as groups that share the same ethnic heritage, language, geographic area, religion, occupation, or way of life.

The State Council on the Arts Heritage and Traditional Arts Program seeks to be responsive to how communities define themselves and their traditions. We place emphasis on supporting tradition bearers that have a direct connection to the community or group from which a tradition emerged.

Who May Apply

- **Traditional artists** active in any artistic or cultural expression that can demonstrate there is a community context for the tradition within New Hampshire may apply to be on the Listing. Traditional artists residing in neighboring states of Vermont, Maine and Massachusetts may apply if they represent a tradition not currently included in the Listing.
- **Cultural specialists and folklorists** who want to work with community-based organizations in the development and implementation of programs focused on folklife and traditional arts.
- **Master traditional artists** who receive a [Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grant](#) are automatically invited to join the Listing.

Application Review Process

State Council on the Arts staff reviews applications for eligibility and completeness. The application is then submitted to a panel of cultural specialists that reviews applications based on the criteria for selection. The recommendations are then presented to the NH State Council on the Arts advisory council.

Criteria for Selection

For traditional artists:

- High level of artistic excellence according to the standards of the community
- Recognition within the community as a tradition bearer representing a community-based tradition

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- Excellent communication skills in presenting traditional culture in a variety of community settings

For community scholars & folklorists:

- For community scholars - at least one year of experience with fieldwork research and/or public program development and implementation in a particular area of cultural heritage and/or some academic background in an aspect of cultural studies
- For folklorists - an academic background as a folklorist and some personal experience with fieldwork research and public program development and implementation
- For all - excellent public communication skills in presenting traditional culture in a variety of community settings

How to Apply

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their plans with the grant coordinator before writing and submitting applications.

Drafts of narrative questions may be **reviewed if submitted by email. Do not submit a draft to the online grant system.** First time applicants are especially encouraged to submit drafts. When emailing a draft, please clearly indicate ***Draft for Review*** on the submission.

If language or disabilities present barriers to understanding or filling out the form, the applicant may ask for assistance as needed. State Council on the Arts staff is available to provide technical assistance prior to application deadlines.

Recording Option

Traditional Arts and Folklife Listing applications include the option of uploading an audio or video recording answering narrative questions. This option is intended to benefit applicants who feel more comfortable relaying information verbally than submitting written materials. Please contact the grant coordinator with any questions.

- Application recordings must be uploaded either as MP3, MP4, MOV, or WAV files. Applicants must state the question and then proceed with their response. The full recording and answering of narrative questions should not exceed 20 minutes in length.
- Applicants are responsible for formatting and producing application recordings in keeping with the technical specifications above; inaccessible or inaudible recordings are considered incomplete and will not be considered.

Required Support Materials

The State Arts Council does not retain support materials on file, so even if you have been funded in the past, it is important to include current support materials for this particular application.

Letters of Support

All applicants should submit at least **2 current letters** of support from community members who can attest to your level of skill within the tradition, your experience sharing the tradition with the community, and why this tradition is important to the community. Letters of support may not come from immediate family members unless they are a fellow tradition bearer or practitioner.

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Work Samples

Visual or audio samples should illustrate the quality of your work and are essential to the review panel's evaluation of your application. Applications without work samples **will not** be reviewed by the panel. See [Preparation of Work Samples](#) for more information.

CRAFTS: Images (up to 20) in JPG, TIFF or PNG format, or link to online media

MUSIC: MP3, WAV, WMA file, or link to online media (10 minutes in total)

DANCE: MP4, MOV or WMV, or link to online media (10 minutes in total)

Only ten (10) files may be uploaded on the online application; images and files should be combined and zipped together as one ZIP file. [Click here](#) for tutorials on how to ZIP and upload files to the online system.

All work samples must be accompanied by a Work Samples Index that lists all work samples being submitted. Index should include: Number assigned to that work sample, format of work sample, artist or art form represented. Work Samples Index should be a PDF or DOC.

Submitting the Application

All required documents can be uploaded to the [online system](#). Please follow instructions [here](#). While paper applications will be allowed, **applicants are encouraged to use the online system**. If submitting a paper application, please submit **one copy** and mail/deliver to: NH State Council on the Arts, 19 Pillsbury Street, 1st Floor, Concord, NH 03301. **Please make a copy for your files.** The Council on the Arts cannot accept applications transmitted by facsimile (FAX) or email and cannot be responsible for applications lost in transit. Errors and omissions may affect a panel's evaluation of the application, so please follow instructions and prepare the application carefully.

Checklist of items to be submitted:

- ☐ Completed Application Form
- ☐ Answers to Narrative Questions (Narrative Questions are found on page 4 of these guidelines)
- ☐ Work Samples
- ☐ Work Samples Index
- ☐ Letters of Support

Notification

Applicants will be notified of their status approximately ten weeks after the completed application has been received.

Questions

Questions about this program? Please contact Kayla Schweitzer, Heritage and Traditional Arts Coordinator, at Kayla.M.Schweitzer@dncr.nh.gov or 603-271-0795.

Questions about the online application system at Submittable?

Submittable Technical Support support@submittable.com
<https://submittable.help/>

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Narrative Questions

The responses to the following narrative questions **should not exceed four typed pages**. Please number and respond to the following questions in the order in which they appear.

For Traditional Artists:

- 1) Please describe the traditional art form/s you specialize in and provide a brief overview of its history.
- 2) How did you learn your tradition and how long have you been active in it?
- 3) Why do you want to preserve this tradition and share it with others?
- 4) What kinds of community activities, performances, lectures, or teaching have you been involved with?
- 5) Please list any recognition, awards, certificates or competitions won related to your tradition. Please attach a resume if you have one.

For Community Scholars and Folklorists:

- 1) Describe the cultural traditions that you specialize in and provide a brief overview of its history.
- 2) If you have experience working in particular ethnic, cultural, or occupational groups, please explain.
- 3) Why do you wish to work with community organizations in the development and implementation of cultural heritage and traditional arts programming?
- 4) Attach a resume that provides information on your education, work experience in cultural heritage, traditional arts and folklife traditions, and any experience you have in public presentations.