



## Apprenticeship Program 2021

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Alliance for California Traditional Arts (ACTA) Apprenticeship Program encourages the continuity of the state's traditional arts and cultures by contracting master artists to offer intensive, one-on-one training\* to qualified apprentices.\*\* Each contract will support a period of concentrated learning for apprentices who demonstrate a committed engagement with, and a talent for, a specific folk and traditional art form or practice.

If selected, ACTA enters into a contract with the master artist and apprentice to implement the work plan proposed in the application. The apprenticeship program period may last between **six months to one year**, in which ACTA staff will work closely with the apprenticeship pair to gauge and document progress and offer assistance and support. Upon agreeing to the contract the apprenticeship pair will be required to go through an **orientation**. Near the mid-point of the apprenticeship period, a **site visit** will be scheduled in which ACTA staff documents the apprenticeship sharing through video recording and photography. The resulting materials become part of ACTA's permanent archival collections, which is open to the public for educational purposes. Each apprenticeship team will be required to organize a **public presentation** (performance, exhibit, lecture demonstration, etc.) in consultation with ACTA staff in order to share the results of their intensive learning cycle. As of this year we will be asking that each apprenticeship pair implement a **survey** at their public sharing, which ACTA will provide. Finally, submitting **written evaluations** of the master and apprentice's experiences completes the requirements of the Apprenticeship Program contract.

\* In some artistic traditions, a one-on-one master-apprentice partnership may not fit the framework of the tradition. In specific cases, such as ensemble traditions, other models may be more effective. Please contact us to discuss proposals involving such alternatives before applying.

\*\*Apprentices applying for this program should already have a background in the artistic tradition as a practitioner.

## Guidelines

### CONTRACT AMOUNT & DURATION

Contracts of **\$3,000** will be made with California-based master artists to cover master artist's fees, supplies, and travel. The apprenticeship will begin on or after January 1, 2021, and must be completed by December 31, 2021. The apprenticeship must total at least six months, but may last up to one year, depending on the conditions of the particular mentorship.

### WHO IS A MASTER ARTIST? WHO IS AN APPRENTICE? WHAT ARE FOLK AND TRADITIONAL ARTS?

A master artist is someone who is recognized as an exemplary practitioner of a traditional folk art form by his or her community and peers. An apprentice is someone who learns from a master artist. Prospective apprentices should demonstrate an intention to enhance their established skills and cultural understanding of the art form by working with a master. The master artist and apprentice must apply together with a mutual desire to work with each other.

Folk and traditional arts are those art forms that are transmitted and engaged as part of the cultural life of a group of people whose members share a common heritage, language, religion, occupation, or region. These expressions are deeply rooted in and reflective of a community's shared standards of beauty, values, or life experiences. Folk and traditional arts are often passed on from one generation to the next and express a collective wisdom, rather than an exclusively unique personal aesthetic.

**POSTMARK DEADLINE:**

**October 19, 2020**

Some folk and traditional arts have been brought to California from other countries or regions and have taken root here to become interwoven with the state's cultural landscape and identity, while others have prospered on the more than 130 tribal reservations and rancherias in this state. Cowboy poetry; Hmong reverse appliqué embroidery; Mexican corridos (ballads) and mariachi music; African American quilts; Japanese bonsai; Native American basketry, ceremonial regalia construction and ritual music/dance; South Indian Bharata Natyam dance; Western saddle making; Chinese qin instrumental music; Portuguese fado singing; Native Hawaiian kahiko hula chant and dance; and Pilipino rondalla music ensembles are but a few of the many hundreds of distinctive forms found in this tremendously diverse and culturally rich state.

Information about past ACTA Apprenticeships is available at [actaonline.org/apprenticeships](http://actaonline.org/apprenticeships)

## REVIEW CRITERIA

A panel of traditional arts specialists will review applications and make recommendations for approval by the ACTA Board of Directors, according to the following criteria:

- Traditionality of the art form
- Artistic quality of the master artist's work
- Demonstrated commitment and developed skill of the apprentice
- Shared membership of the master artist and apprentice in a cultural community (family, heritage, occupation, tribe, religion, etc.)
- Feasibility of the proposed work plan and timetable
- Urgency (for endangered art forms)

## INELIGIBLE APPRENTICESHIPS

- Contemporary studio crafts or the reproduction of antiques
- Recreations of historic or village folk traditions that attempt to reenact lifestyles from the distant past
- 2020 Apprenticeship Program participants

## REQUIREMENTS

- Master artist and apprentice must apply together.
- Master artist must be authorized to work in the United States and be able to receive payments directly.
- Both applicants must be California residents.
- Only one application is allowed per master artist and/or apprentice (e.g., master artist is not allowed to submit multiple applications, each with a different apprentice, nor can a person apply as an apprentice in one application and then as a master artist in another).
- Applications must include work samples from both master artist and apprentice to demonstrate quality and traditionality.
- Letters of support are required for both the master artist and apprentice from experts on the art form or from people who know about the applicant's commitment to the cultural community and to the traditional art form.
- Mail materials on or before October 19, 2020. Applications postmarked after October 19 will not be accepted.
- ACTA will not accept applications submitted by fax or email. You may alternately apply online via Submittable. Find the Submittable online application at [actaonline.org](http://actaonline.org).

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Application Postmark Deadline: October 19, 2020**

**Notification to Applicants:**

**Beginning December 31, 2020**

**Apprenticeship Period:**

**January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021**

**(6 months minimum)**

## REQUIRED WORK SAMPLES

Work samples that give evidence of the master artist's and the apprentice's artistic ability must accompany the application. Applications without work samples for both the master artist and the apprentice will not be eligible for consideration. Be sure to send examples that best demonstrate skills and details of work clearly.

**Submit work samples online:** You may submit work samples electronically. All web-based work samples, including links to websites, YouTube, audio files, etc. should be sent with viewing instructions to:

**APworksamples@actaonline.org**

**If not submitting online, all support material should be labeled with applicant's name.** Please use a marker pen to write directly upon disc media rather than using sticky labels. Use the Work Samples section of the application to provide a brief description of what the samples represent.

Please make sure that the links are active, documented correctly, and do not require a password to access. In your email subject line, please indicate the master artist and apprentice names.

When submitting documentation that includes ensemble work or other individuals, be certain that the master and the apprentice are clearly identified. For example, "The master artist is wearing a red shirt and is sitting second from the left," or "The second voice at 0:45 is that of the apprentice," or "The master's basket is the tall one on the left."

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## Craft and Material Artists

Both master artist and apprentice must **each** submit **at least 5, but no more than 12** images of their work (photographs, slides, or jpegs). Please number each item in the order to be viewed, and use the Work Samples section of the application to include an index with a **brief description of each item** (name of artist, date made, dimensions, materials used, title if applicable, contextual information, etc.).

## Performing Artists (musicians, dancers, storytellers, etc.)

Musicians and storytellers must submit **up to 2** audio or video samples, and dancers and other performing artists must submit **up to 2** video samples. Use the Work Samples section of the application to provide a brief description of each selection (date, name(s) of featured performers, total running time, contextual information, etc.). Note that **a maximum of five minutes will be allotted for the panel to review both the master and apprentice's work sample**, so please clearly indicate track/running time of a CD or DVD.

**Do not send original or irreplaceable materials.** If you are selected, ACTA will retain the support materials for publicity and a permanent file. If you are not selected and you would like your support materials returned to you, include a self-addressed shipping container and required postage. Work samples will otherwise not be returned.

In addition to the work samples, applicants may also submit a limited number of additional support materials (newspaper articles, brochures or booklets, etc.). **A maximum of two items in each category will be reviewed by the panel.**

## LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of support are required for **both** the master artist and the apprentice from experts in the art form and from people who know about your commitment to the art form and the cultural community. Provide a maximum of two letters each.

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Cover Sheet
- Application
  - Work Sample Form
  - Apprenticeship Description
  - Master Artist Form
  - Apprentice Form
  - Budget and Legal Responsibilities
- Letters of Support
- Work Samples

**Do not bind or staple copies, or place in report covers.**

Paper clips and binder clips are acceptable.

Submit two signed copies of the application and support materials and a single copy of work samples.

Send to:

Alliance for California Traditional Arts  
Apprenticeship Program  
744 P Street, Suite 307  
Fresno, CA 93721

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Jennifer Joy Jameson, Program Manager  
760.805.8002  
jjameson@actaonline.org

We strongly suggest that you call to discuss your proposal before applying.



*The Alliance for California Traditional Arts is the statewide partner to the California Arts Council in serving the state's folk and traditional arts field.*

*The Apprenticeship Program is a program of the Alliance for California Traditional Arts (ACTA) in partnership with the Walter & Elise Haas Fund, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.*

*Additional support provided by the California Arts Council, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture.*

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# Application Cover Sheet

**POSTMARK DEADLINE:**

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## MASTER ARTIST

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender Pronoun (she, him, they, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Places raised: \_\_\_\_\_

Past Participant of Apprenticeship Program?  yes  no

If yes, which year(s) did you participate?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## APPRENTICE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender Pronoun (she, him, they, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Places raised: \_\_\_\_\_

If a minor, name of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and email of guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Past Participant of Apprenticeship Program?  yes  no

If yes, which year(s) did you participate?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## TRADITIONAL ART FORM

Name of art form: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of art form: \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTACT INFORMATION RELEASE (OPTIONAL)

I give ACTA permission to subscribe me to ACTA's monthly e-newsletter The New Moon, and to include the above contact information in a statewide database of folk & traditional arts that may be made available to the public.

\_\_\_\_\_

Master artist's signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Apprentice's signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or guardian's signature  
(if apprentice is a minor)

# Application

## PART I: WORK SAMPLES

To be filled out by MASTER ARTIST and APPRENTICE. Any mailed material should be labeled with your name. Please use a marker pen to write upon disc media rather than using sticky labels. Please provide a self-addressed shipping container with sufficient postage if you want your work samples returned. Work samples will otherwise not be returned. If you are selected, ACTA will keep your work sample on file. **Submit work samples online:** You may submit work samples electronically. All web-based work samples that include links to websites, YouTube, audio files, etc. should be sent with viewing instructions to: [APworksamples@actaonline.org](mailto:APworksamples@actaonline.org). Please make sure that the links are active, documented correctly, and do not require a password to access. In your email subject line, please indicate the names of the master artist and apprentice.

### Master Artist Work Sample Descriptions

Craft and visual artists submit **5 to 12** images (photographs, slides, or jpeg files).

Musicians and storytellers submit **up to 2** audio or video samples (CD or DVD).

Dancers and other performing artists submit **up to 2** video samples (DVD or VHS).

Check all that apply:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Images, quantity _____        | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper articles (maximum 2 items)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audio samples, quantity _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Brochures or booklets (maximum 2 items) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Video sample, quantity _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                            |

Please provide a brief description of your audio, video or photo work samples. Include information such as dates, name/title and details of pieces, total time duration of sample(s), and context of documentation. Also be sure to identify yourself if in an ensemble and include any other information you deem significant. You may use and attach a separate sheet of paper if necessary. Note that a maximum of five minutes will be allotted for the panel to review both the master and apprentice's work sample.

How does your work sample(s) relate to your proposed apprenticeship?

### Apprentice Work Sample Descriptions

Craft and visual artists submit **5 to 12** images (photographs, slides, or jpeg files).

Musicians and storytellers submit **up to 2** audio or video samples (CD or DVD).

Dancers and other performing artists submit **up to 2** video samples (DVD or VHS).

Check all that apply:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Images, quantity _____        | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper articles (maximum 2 items)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audio samples, quantity _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Brochures or booklets (maximum 2 items) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Video sample, quantity _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                            |

Please provide a brief description of your audio, video or photo work samples. Include information such as dates, name/title and details of pieces, total time duration of sample(s), and context of documentation. Also be sure to identify yourself if in an ensemble and include any other information you deem significant. You may use and attach a separate sheet of paper if necessary. Note that a maximum of five minutes will be allotted for the panel to review both the master and apprentice's work sample.

How does your work sample(s) relate to your proposed apprenticeship?

## PART II: APPRENTICESHIP DESCRIPTION

To be filled out by MASTER ARTIST and APPRENTICE. Please keep responses concise, **answers must fit within the space provided.**

1. Describe the ways that you both share the same cultural community (for example, family, heritage, tribe, religion, occupation, etc.). Please be specific.

2. Describe in detail the goals, techniques, skills, and subject matter to be covered during the apprenticeship. If you will complete a specific project, please describe it.

3. Where will your lessons take place? How frequently? Over what period of time (provide start and end dates)?

4. Estimated total hours of direct one-on-one apprenticeship time between master artist and apprentice? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Estimated total hours apprentice works independently on material covered in apprenticeship? (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

6. What are your plans for sharing your project publicly?

7. If the apprentice has participated in the Apprenticeship Program in the past, please attach an extra page detailing their progress during and since the last apprenticeship. How would the 2021 apprenticeship build upon their progress? How will this apprenticeship deepen their practice in the tradition?





MASTER ARTIST:

APPRENTICE:

## PART IV: APPRENTICE

To be filled out by APPRENTICE. Please keep responses concise, **answers must fit within the space provided.**

1. From whom did you learn your traditional art form? Where did you learn it? When did you start learning it? Describe your skills in this tradition—what level do you see yourself?
2. What role does this traditional art form play in your life? What role does your practice play in your cultural community?
3. Why do you want to work with this master artist? What do you expect to accomplish?
4. What are your plans for continuing work in this traditional art form after the apprenticeship is completed?

