

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Grants support master artists committed to teaching South Dakota's traditional arts and cultures to qualified apprentices. Grants up to \$5,000 support the continuation of time-honored skills that are vital to strengthening cultural communities across the state. Successful applicants demonstrate artistic excellence and commitment to their cultural community.

The master and student artist(s) apply together. The grant provides funding for multiple teaching sessions (long-term), with the bulk of funds paying for the master's time (\$3,500-\$4,000), and the remainder paying for the student's expenses for tools, supplies and travel (\$1,000-\$1,500).

STAFF SUPPORT & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CONTACT: Annie Hatch, SDAC Traditional Arts Program Manager, 605-608-0490, SDTraditionalArts@outlook.com

DRAFT REVIEW DEADLINE: **February 16, 2026**, at 11:59 pm Central. Staff will review your application prior to submission to check for mistakes or omissions that might cause ineligibility and provide feedback ahead of the application deadline. Staff will not provide feedback on wording, spelling, or grammar.

INFORMATIONAL ZOOM Q&As

February 4, 2026 at 11:30 AM C & 10:30AM M

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84973720078?pwd=JH70VEn3muWpghNhJQSNyi1tT0krb3.1>

February 18, 2026 at 2:30 PM C & 1:30 PM M

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85993029673?pwd=ctm92pSoQYktGA2ISeutYe7weeYPBb.1>

DEFINITIONS

Traditional Arts (or Folk Arts): The artistic practices that have endured through several generations and reflect a cultural community's history, heritage or values. The skills are usually learned informally and passed on from one generation to the next by observation and imitation rather than through academic or formal means. Traditional arts are contemporary and change to reflect current events, values and the artists' aesthetic. A few examples include Lakota games and powwow regalia, Mexican American mariachi music and ballet folklórico dance, Scandinavian weaving, Black Hills woodcarving, Hutterite crocheted rugs, family quilts, old-time fiddle tunes, and Ethiopian embroidery and drumming, and more.

Examples that are **not traditional** include: the work of professional teachers or contemporary studio craftworkers, recreations of antiques or past traditions like mountain man crafts, artists not supported by a cultural community, or contemporary interpretations of traditional art forms (for instance, a theater artist who wants to create a performance based on traditional story).

Cultural Community: A distinct group of people that share a history, a geographic location, life experiences, common values, artistic practices and traditions. Typical communities are ethnic, tribal, occupational, regional or religious, but also include family and communities of practice rooted in tradition. The master artist and the apprentice must come from the same or related cultural community.

Apprenticeship: A time-honored system by which skills, techniques, values and artistry are learned under the guidance of a recognized master. An apprenticeship is not the same as private lessons and should include cultural and historical information related to the cultural group.

Master Artist: Someone who is recognized by his or her community and peers as an exemplary practitioner of a traditional art form.

Apprentice: Someone who learns under the guidance of a master artist. Prospective apprentices should have some

Submit application information on pages 3-6 by email to SDTraditionalArts@outlook.com. DUE MARCH 1, 2026

prior experience in the traditional art form they wish to learn and have a serious long-term commitment to the continuity of the art form and its community.

ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS:

- Grants support between 100 and 120 hours of instruction over a 6-to 12-month period.
- Applications **can't include** more than 3 apprentices.
- Apprentice(s) **must live** in South Dakota for at least one year before the grant starts (July 1, 2025) and stay in state until the grant ends on June 30, 2027, or until their project is done and reviewed. The master artist may reside in South Dakota or a nearby state. *(In the case of an out-of-state master artist, all payments will be made to the in-state apprentice, **who is then responsible for paying the master's fee.**)*

INELIGIBLE (CANNOT APPLY):

- Apprentice(s) **must be** at least eighteen.
- Apprentice(s) **can't be** students, including high school, undergraduate, graduate, or professional certificate/degree.
- Master Artist and Apprentice(s) **can't apply** in more than one grant category.
- Members of the SDAC Staff or current Board of Directors **can't apply**.

REVIEW CRITERIA

All grant applications will be reviewed by a panel made up of individuals with knowledge and experience in traditional arts. Each panel consists of in-state and out-of-state professionals and is facilitated by an Arts Council Board member. Service on panels is limited to two years. Members are rotated regularly to ensure new points of view. The public may not attend panel meetings.

Panelists use the following criteria to evaluate the artistic excellence and artistic merit of applications:

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

Artistic excellence is evaluated based on the:

- Quality of the artist's record of work and/or work that the artist wants to do and the relevance to the artist's career.
- Panelists assess the work samples/support materials as they relate to the proposed work to determine artistic excellence.

ARTISTIC MERIT

- Proposed work is relevant to the master artist, apprentice, and shared community.
- What is the impact of the proposed work, for example, how committed both artists are to the continuation of the practice in their shared community.
- How feasible is the work plan and the budget/narrative responses reflect a well-planned scope of work.

APPLICANT ASSURANCES

Before you submit your application, review the entire application, and then save a copy for your records. Once you submit your application, you will not be able to make changes.

APPLICATION - GRANT ARTIST INFORMATION

(May be typed into this form, or on a new document.)

MASTER ARTIST INFORMATION

Master Artist's Name

Master Artist's Mailing Address (including Address, City, State, Zip)

Master Artist's Phone (include home and/or cell if applicable)

Master Artist's Email

Master Artist's Website (if applicable)

APPRENTICE ARTIST INFORMATION (for each apprentice)

Apprentice Artist's Name

Apprentice Artist's Mailing Address (including Address, City, State, Zip)

Apprentice Artist's Phone (include home and/or cell if applicable)

Apprentice Artist's Email

Apprentice Artist's Website (if applicable)

Applications can't include more than 3 apprentices.

APPLICATION - GRANT NARRATIVE SECTION I

To be completed by the Master Artist

(Applicants MAY email or include direct links to video responses to the questions posed in the application rather than written responses)

(May be typed into this form, or on a new document. 2000 characters maximum.)

What traditional art will you teach? What is your experience with this art form? Where, when, and how did you learn the tradition? From whom did you learn? Have you received formal or informal recognition for your work?

(2000 characters maximum.)

Describe your current artistic activities and your connection to the art form's community of origin.

(2000 characters maximum.)

Describe why you have chosen this (or these) apprentice(s) to receive your training? Have you worked together before this project? What do you expect from your apprentice following the project?

APPLICATION - NARRATIVE SECTION II

To be completed by the Apprentice(s)

(Applicants MAY email or include direct links to video responses to the questions posed in the application rather than written responses.)

(2000 characters maximum.)

What traditional art will you learn? When, where, how, and from whom did you first learn this skill?

(2000 characters maximum.)

What are your plans for working in this art form and in the community after the apprenticeship is complete?

APPLICATION - NARRATIVE SECTION III

To be completed by the Master Artist and Apprentice(s)

(Applicants MAY email or include direct links to video responses to the questions posed in the application rather than written responses.)

(2000 characters maximum.)

Please describe your cultural group (see definitions above) and the ways in which you share the same cultural community.

(2000 characters maximum.)

What is the role or importance of this art in your community? How will this apprenticeship benefit the community?

(2000 characters maximum.)

Please describe exactly what will be taught during this apprenticeship. What skills and/or techniques will the apprentice learn? How will cultural information be shared? What do you expect to accomplish during this apprenticeship?

APPLICATION - BUDGET – EXPENSES

All expenses must be related to the grant proposal, take place within the defined grant period (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027), and between \$4500 and \$5000. Your budget must be balanced (Total Expenses must equal Total Income). Funds are for the master's time (\$3,500-\$4,000), and the remainder paying for the students' expenses for tools, supplies and travel (\$1,000-\$1,500).

Grant funds will cover no more than \$1,500 of travel and supply costs. Additional costs over \$1,500 must be provided by the applicants.

A. Master Artist Fee (not to exceed \$4,000)	Cash Expenses	Total Number of Lessons	Total Number of Hours
Master Artist Fees (\$35/hour)			

B. Travel (Project-related)	Cash Expenses
Mileage	
Lodging	
Meals	
Other (*Explain in your NARRATIVE)	

C. Related supplies and equipment (List each item and its cost)	Cash Expenses

H. Total Expenses

APPLICATION - BUDGET – INCOME

All submitted income must be related to the grant proposal and take place within the defined grant period (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025). Your budget must be balanced (Total Expenses must equal Total Income).

A. SDAC Grant Request (*REQUIRED, up to \$5000)

B. Applicant Cash (Can be \$0)

C. Total Income

APPLICATION - ABOUT YOUR WORK

(50% of total score based on both record of work and your work)

When evaluating your work, panelists evaluate your artistic ability, skill, and talent.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Master Artist and Apprentice(s) must each provide 1 – 3 letters of recommendation from cultural community members, former teachers or students, or cultural institutions. Letters should address artistic excellence of the artists, the importance of this apprenticeship to the community and/or the potential success of the project.

WORK SAMPLES

Both the Master Artist and Apprentice(s) MUST provide materials showcasing your previous work. ***If your application does not contain work samples, it will not be reviewed.*** DO NOT EXCEED 10 materials: letters of support, work samples, video, images, documents, links, files, etc.

Applicants will email support materials to SDTraditionalArts@outlook.com.

Keep in mind that panelists will spend an average of 15 minutes reading, watching, and reviewing materials, so selecting appropriate material is important. Preferred format and file types are website links, PDFs, and JPEGs. Links to hosted media are preferred to large media file uploads (MP3s, MP4s, WAV).

We suggest you include:

- Recent work, created within the last 3 – 5 years.
- Examples of work you have done in the past that show you can do the type of work you plan to do.
- Examples of you working alongside the community or audience you will serve.
- Artist statement or resume.
- Press: articles written about you or your work or articles where you are featured or mentioned.
- Reviews: assessments of your work/the work of the organization.
- Audience reactions: social media posts about your work, in-person feedback, emails, letters, etc.
- Process photos and videos: footage/photos taken throughout your process or during an exhibit, performance, or activity to show the context of your work.

Direct Links: You may include direct links within your application; be sure content does not require a password or present other barriers to easy access. Provide a short description of the media followed by the associated hyperlink. Be sure to include <https://> in the links provided.

APPLICATION - WRITTEN STATEMENT from Master Artist/Apprentice(s)

EACH artist (Master and Apprentices) listed must send the following statements by email to SDTraditionalArts@outlook.com stating that you (the artist) read, understand, and agree to the proposal and agree to participate in the work.

Must be emailed to SDTraditionalArts@outlook.com at the time of the application.)

Written Statement from Master Artist/Apprentice(s) from **EACH** artist(s) listed (other than the applicant) stating

I meet the eligibility requirements, have read, understand, and agree to the proposal, and, if funded, agree to participate in the work.

END OF APPLICATION