



# TRADITIONAL ARTS INDIANA

TAI Indiana Heritage Fellowship Awards  
**Nomination Deadline: October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

The Indiana Heritage Fellowship Award recognizes a traditional artist who has made outstanding contributions to their artistic tradition and to their community. The award honors an individual's long-term achievement within an art form that is rooted in community life here in Indiana.

## What are Folk or Traditional Arts?

Our program is modeled after the National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Fellowships, and we use the NEA definition of folk and traditional arts for this program:

*“The folk and traditional arts, which include crafts, dance, music, oral traditions, visual arts, and others, are those that are learned as part of the cultural life of a community whose members share a common ethnic heritage, cultural mores, language, religion, occupation, or geographic region. These traditions are shaped by the aesthetics and values of a shared culture and are passed from generation to generation, most often within family and community through observation, conversation, and practice.”*

## Traditional Arts Indiana

TAI was established in 1998 as a partnership between Indiana University Bloomington (IU) and the Indiana Arts Commission (IAC). Traditional Arts Indiana and its programming are currently funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). TAI was based at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures from 2015 to 2020, and in summer 2020, TAI was relocated to IU's historic Maxwell Hall.

TAI is dedicated to expanding public awareness of Indiana's traditional practices and nurturing a sense of pride among Indiana's traditional artists. TAI identifies, documents, and seeks to understand more fully the many ways in which cultural values are embedded and expressed in daily life. It calls attention to neglected aesthetic forms that firmly ground and deeply connect individuals to their communities—from the spoken text to the hand-made object to customary behavior. TAI's overarching goal is to integrate and connect cultural practices to educational activities, cultural conservation, arts, and community development at the local, state, and national levels.

## Adjudication Process

Nominations, work samples, and letters of support will be reviewed by a panel of traditional arts and community specialists. Competitive nominations will be able to address the role of the nominee in their community as well as in their craft. Nominees should demonstrate excellence in their artistic tradition through the supporting materials provided.

**Eligible applicants must be residents of Indiana at the time of application.**

**Funding Support**

This project is made possible through funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) with administrative support from Indiana University Bloomington. This program is contingent upon continuation of funds from both the NEA and the IAC.

**Accessibility**

TAI intends this program to be available to all. Please let us know if there are any specific needs for translation or application assistance.

**I. IHFA NOMINEE CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

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

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

Phone (Day): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Evening): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Website (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_ IN House District: \_\_\_\_\_

IN Senate District: \_\_\_\_\_ (Find Here) <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>

**II. NOMINATOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

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

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

Phone (Day): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Evening): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Nominator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions?** Contact TAI Director Dr. Jon Kay: [jkay@indiana.edu](mailto:jkay@indiana.edu) or (812) 855-0418. For assistance, please contact TAI and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

**IV. LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

Please provide the contact information for each person who has written a letter of support for the nominee. Label each letter of support with the nominee's name as well as the number that corresponds with the list below. A nomination should have at least two letters of support with a maximum of five.

**Letter One**

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

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

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

Phone (Day): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Evening): \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Letter Two**

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

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

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

Phone (Day): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Evening): \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Letter Three**

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

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

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

Phone (Day): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Evening): \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Letter Four**

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

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

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

Phone (Day): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Evening): \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Letter Five**

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

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

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

Phone (Day): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Evening): \_\_\_\_\_

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

**V. SUPPORT MATERIALS LIST**

Please list the support materials included in this nomination. Provide the date the item was published, released, recorded, etc. Provide a brief description of the content. For images, provide the location and date taken and names of people in the image and relevance to the nomination. For audio or video materials (CDs, DVDs, flashdrives, YouTube links, etc.), indicate the track number(s) or timestamp of the portions you want reviewed. Applications should have a minimum of four support materials and a maximum of ten.

**Support Material One**

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

Description:

**Support Material Two**

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

Description:

**Support Material Three**

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

Description:

**Support Material Four**

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

Description:

**Support Material Five**

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

Description:

**Support Material Six**

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

Description:

**Support Material Seven**

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

Description:

**Support Material Eight**

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

Description:

**Support Material Nine**

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

Description:

**Support Material Ten**

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

Description:

**Handling Support Materials**

Please select one of the following options for handling your support materials after review is complete. TAI will retain the support materials of nominees who receive an award. Please do not mail original artwork. Check one:

- Retain this application for future consideration (2024 applications will be destroyed after the 2026 selection.)
- Mail my support materials back to me (if chosen, please include an enclosed, stamped, self-addressed envelope.)

## VI. NARRATIVE

In a separate document, provide a brief biography about the artist being nominated (it should center on their life as a traditional artist). Also, include a statement that outlines the reasons why the nominee should receive an Indiana Heritage Fellowship. Describe the nominee's contributions to their artistic tradition and explain why they deserve statewide recognition. The narrative should be between 1-4 pages in length.

Your essay should include:

- 1) How the nominee learned their art form
- 2) How the nominee's work is relevant to their community
- 3) Any work the nominee has done to pass on their skill and knowledge to the next generation
- 4) Any evidence of the nominee's artistic excellence (i.e., participation in relevant festivals, exhibitions, events, or awards). Your entire narrative can be up to four pages in length.

## VII. NOMINATION CHECKLIST

The following items should be included in your application

- Nomination Form
- Narrative (up to 4 typed pages)
- All Letters of Support
- All Support Materials

### Before You Submit

We strongly encourage you to consult with Traditional Arts Indiana staff about your application before preparing your application. Call Jon Kay at (812) 855-0418 or email [tradarts@iu.edu](mailto:tradarts@iu.edu).

### Submit Complete Nomination Package To:

Jon Kay  
Traditional Arts Indiana  
Maxwell Hall  
750 E. Kirkwood Ave.  
Bloomington, 47405

Or email: [tradarts@iu.edu](mailto:tradarts@iu.edu)

*Traditional Arts Indiana is an independent component of Indiana University's Arts and Humanities Council. Located in IU's Cook Center for Public Arts and Humanities, Traditional Arts Indiana receives support from the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.*



## TRADITIONAL ARTS INDIANA

### Additional Support from:

*IU Arts & Humanities Council  
IU Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President  
IU College of Arts and Sciences*

**NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT** for the **ARTS**  
[arts.gov](http://arts.gov)

