The American-Scandinavian Foundation (ASF) provides support to nurture and perpetuate the practice of Scandinavian folk arts and cultural traditions in the Upper Midwest (North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan).

Broadly defined, folk arts are expressions of community identity and values. They are cultivated informally among individuals by word of mouth or example. Whether practicing a traditional craft, art, technical or occupational skill; performing music or dance; or marking important moments of life or the year with special foods or customs, folk arts are deeply rooted in community life. They foster human creativity and transmit cultural values that affirm community ties.

The American-Scandinavian Foundation is committed to celebrating and preserving Nordic (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sápmi, Sweden) cultures throughout the United States. By supporting folk arts and traditional cultures in the Upper Midwest, in particular, ASF recognizes and celebrates the mastery of individual artists or practitioners, facilitates the cultivation of skills and understanding among younger generations, brings greater visibility to Scandinavian arts and traditions, and highlights the centrality of cultural expression to all of our lives.

Two kinds of awards are available — fellowships for artists and practitioners of traditional skills and grants for public programs and community projects. All of our grants encourage both the practice of folk arts and cultures and the presentation of these arts to public audiences.
FELLOWSHIPS FOR ARTISTS

1) **Fellowships for artists deepen the skills of master artists.**

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES¹

- Master artists – individuals who are among the finest practitioners of a tradition in their community and who are held in high regard by their peers for their skill, knowledge, and cultural practice – might apply for a fellowship to advance their skills. These projects could include study trips and/or artist residencies within the Upper Midwest or in Scandinavia.

2) **Fellowships for artists foster relationships among masters of artistic and technical skills and their apprentices, thereby encouraging the development of traditional skills as well as the perpetuation of skills from generation to generation.**

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES¹

- Masters and apprentices could apply for support to continue their learning and teaching relationship.

- Masters and apprentices could travel to Scandinavia to gain inspiration from historical records of traditional skills or from contemporary art influenced by the traditions. They could study with artists and/or participate in artist residencies or folk school programs; take part in workshops or festivals; and/or visit museums and collections of traditional art, outdoor folklife museums, installations of historic living and working environments where traditional skills are perpetuated as part of cultural programming.

**APPLY FOR FELLOWSHIPS FOR ARTISTS**

¹ All of the sample activities listed are offered as examples of the kinds of projects that the Foundation may support. The examples are meant to be suggestive and should not limit your thinking about the kinds of projects for which you might request support.
GRANTS FOR PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Grants for public programs and community projects are awarded to nonprofit (501(c)3) organizations.

1) Grants for public programs encourage the perpetuation of Scandinavian cultural traditions through the support of community events such as festivals, celebrations, and heritage events as well as workshops, performances, classes, and demonstrations.

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

• A local arts organization could bring tradition-bearers together in a festive setting for a public celebration of their work. The artists (e.g. wood carvers, rag rug weavers, braided rag rug makers, knitters, embroiderers, and lace makers) may demonstrate and exhibit their crafts, and musicians and dancers lead workshops before and after a traditional lunch.

• A regional group could organize a ‘folk arts trail,’ a daylong event during which the public may visit folk artists in their homes to see them at work and learn about their traditions.

• A museum could develop plans for an exhibition to feature the traditional arts and cultures of the Upper Midwest. The exhibition might eventually travel to all Upper Midwest states and artists from Scandinavia could be invited to participate in a series of week-long programs complementing the exhibition to demonstrate comparable traditions.

2) Grants for public programs heighten the visibility of Scandinavian folk traditions by creating innovative community projects with wide visibility and public appeal.

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

• A non-profit organization (e.g. a local community center, civic group, museum, or school) could collaborate with a master practitioner to create an artwork or other traditional construction for the community (e.g. a mural). This could involve the construction of new expressions that are grounded in traditional heritage.

• A ‘red list’ of endangered traditional skills could be created to build awareness of these traditions, highlight living master artists who are unrecognized, and devise ways for both documenting the skills and encouraging their perpetuation.

• Culture-sharing events involving traditional arts, food preparation and cooking traditions, music and/or dance could occur between traditional groups (e.g., a local indigenous community and Sami groups) to encourage inter-cultural dialogue and discussion.

APPLY FOR FELLOWSHIPS FOR PUBLIC PROGRAM GRANTS
Fellowships for individuals range from $3,000 to $10,000
Grants for public programs and community projects range from $5,000 to $50,000.

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<th>GRANT DEADLINE</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 15, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT</td>
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<td>December 2019</td>
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<td>PROJECT START DATE</td>
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WHEN WILL THE PROJECTS TAKE PLACE?
Projects for the 2019 deadline may take place between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020. The American-Scandinavian Foundation does not offer retroactive funding.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

FELLOWSHIPS are available for individual artists/practitioners who live and work in the Upper Midwest (defined as North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan).

GRANTS FOR PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS are available for Upper Midwest nonprofit organizations only. Proof of an organization’s nonprofit status (as a 501(c)3 or equivalent) is required.

Apply for Scandinavian Folk Arts and Cultural Traditions Fellowships here.

Apply for Public Programs and Community Projects here.

Questions? Please contact grants@amscan.org

Nisswa-stämma, Nisswa, MN. Photograph by Mia Swindoll
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

FELLOWSHIPS FOR ARTISTS

I. PROJECT SUMMARY

Summarize your project briefly (maximum 200 words) with reference to one of the three main objectives of the program. Fellowships supported by Scandinavian Folk Arts and Cultural Traditions in the Upper Midwest should:

- Deepen the skills of master artists
- Perpetuate traditional skills
- Encourage a broad public awareness of folk cultures and traditions

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Describe your project in detail, outlining the activities that will take place during the fellowship period (maximum 1200 words)

- Who will be involved?
- What will they do?
- How will they contribute to the goals of the project?
- Discuss who will benefit from the project and how they will benefit. For example, what skills or knowledge will be learned?
- How will you determine the outcome of the project?
- Include a proposed work schedule or project timeline.

For **masters:**

- Describe your background and experience in relation to the traditional form you will be working in. Include how, when, from whom, and why you learned the traditional art/skill.
- If you are working on a project that will deepen your skills, describe how and why.
- Describe how your community recognizes your work.
- Include letters of support that demonstrate that you have earned recognition from your cultural community for advanced technical skill and accomplishment in your art form.

For **apprentices working with masters:**

- Describe your background and experience in relation to the traditional art form or skill you wish to study. Describe your previous experience working with the master and how you will benefit from additional time working with him/her.

Include biographical information about the master artist or practitioner involved in the project.

**For all applicants, please attach a recent resume or curriculum vitae.**

Please submit a sample of your work, either images or a link to a website. Musicians and dancers may submit mp3s or links to videos.
III. PROJECT BUDGET

Please provide a budget for the project, detailing the project's costs and reflecting any other sources of support that the project may have. Please specify the amount requested from ASF and provide detail for any budget item of $500 or over.

IV. WORK SAMPLES

Photographs, music, videos, or other documentation of the artist's work should be submitted with the application. You may include links to websites with images or music.

V. LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Master artists should append at least one letter of support that demonstrates that their work is recognized by their community.

Apprentices who will be working with master artists/practitioners should include a letter from the master artist stating that he/she is aware of the project and willing to participate.

GRANTS FOR PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS

I. PROJECT SUMMARY

Please provide a brief project summary (no more than 200 words) with reference to the objectives of the grant program. Public Programs and Community Projects for Scandinavian Folk Arts and Cultural Traditions in the Upper Midwest should:

- Perpetuate an interest in and understanding of traditional arts and/or skills
- Encourage a broad public awareness of folk cultures and traditions

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Describe your project in detail, outlining the activities that will take place during the project period (maximum 1200 words).

- Who will be involved?
- What will they do?
- Who will benefit from the project and how will they benefit?

Please include a timeline for the project.

III. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Please provide biographical background information of the scholars, artists, and producers involved in the project.
IV. AUDIENCE

Describe the audience for the project.

- How will you reach the audience to promote the program?
- How large do you expect the audience to be?
- How will the audience benefit from the project? For example, what skills or knowledge will they learn and what will they experience?

V. PROJECT BUDGET

Please provide a budget for the project, detailing the project costs and reflecting any other sources of support that the project may have. Please specify the amount requested from ASF and provide detail for any budget item of $500 or over.

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Photographs, music, videos, or other documentation of the artist's work should be submitted with the application. You may include links to websites with images or music.
- Please include a brief history or background of the organization or institution presenting the proposal. Describe the organization's experience in presenting similar projects.
- Demonstrate that the organization is aware of and will observe relevant U.S. visa obligations, if the project involves bringing Scandinavian citizens to the U.S.
- Upload a letter from the IRS certifying the applicant organization's nonprofit status.

For further questions or additional information, please contact grants@amscan.org.