



NORTH HOUSE FOLK SCHOOL

Program Announcement:

Artisan Development Program - 2018-2019 Cohort

Updated - July 7, 2017

North House is a unique educational nonprofit committed to enriching lives and building community through the teaching of traditional northern crafts in a student-centered learning environment that inspires the hands, the heart and the mind. Staff members work in cooperation with both volunteers and instructors to ensure that every student experience at North House is of the highest possible quality. The ideals of cooperation, teamwork, dedication and creativity are central to the success of the organization.

Program Overview:

The Artisan Development Program is intended to foster the growth of the next generation of traditional craft artisans. The program offers professional development including mentorship, education practice, studio space and time for artisans committed to pursuing craft education as a professional pathway. Artisan Development Program participants build in-depth experience in their craft, while enhancing the vitality of North House Folk School. Participants cultivate meaningful relationships, develop craft and teaching skills for future leadership, and forge connections with regional, national and international institutions and artisans.

Openings:

2018-2019 Cohort (2 positions): January 10, 2018 through December 14, 2019.

Current possible core craft areas for focus include: fibers (felting, spinning, knitting), basketry, leatherwork, wood (turning, timber framing, boat building, carving, building), and foods. Other areas of emerging interest to the Folk School may be proposed, provided that they have a strong connection to traditional Northern craft.

Program Work Structure:

- Program participants are guided in setting goals and vision for their two year development program by the Program Director and Executive Director.
- Program details, logistics, and direct supervision are provided by Program Manager for Emerging Artisans.
- Participants are expected to work an average of 40 hours per week with work times and days varying alongside projects and duties. Participants will work with Program Manager to keep track of work time and manage time allocation to position duties.

Desired Qualifications of Applicants:

- Four plus years work in an area of traditional Northern craft
- Experience teaching craft in experiential settings to groups of a range of ages and backgrounds
- Prior participation in public showing of work through galleries, exhibits, or public sales
- Prior experience in craft/craft education as an intern, apprentice, artist in residence or equivalent preferred
- Strong communication skills, including comfort speaking with the public
- Confidence developing strong and positive working relationships with instructors, staff and volunteers
- Documented success managing independent projects and engaging project planning. Ability to work independently and self-motivate towards long and short term goals

Applicant Requirements:

- Valid driver's license
- Valid US Passport and ability to travel abroad independently
- Possession of necessary equipment and tools to pursue their chosen area of craft
- Physical requirements: Ability to walk up and down stairs, lift and carry equipment and tools related to craft study area, work occasionally immersed in dust.
- Willingness to relocate and live in Grand Marais, MN for duration of program

Inquiry & Application Timeline:

Info packets available: July 15, 2017. Closing date: September 18th, 2017 at 5pm. Interviews take place during the two-three weeks following the closing date.

Equal Opportunity:

North House Folk School is an equal opportunity employer and does not unlawfully discriminate against employees or applicants for employment on the basis of an individual's race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status, veteran status, familial status, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender stereotypes, genetic information, status with regard to public assistance or any other status protected by applicable law.

North House Folk School welcomes and encourages applications by individuals from underrepresented groups in the field of traditional Northern craft.

Benefits:

- Living stipend paid as a North House employee (\$800/month)
- Furnished lodging and studio space located near the central North House campus, shared with other program participants
 - *Note: Due to limited rental availability in the program location, participants are welcome to find their own housing if seeking to live with a partner/family, however there is no stipend available for housing sought outside of the the furnished, single room available in the program house
- Professional development funding for materials, tools, conference and festival participation, lodging and travel expenses (\$6000 over two years, up to \$2000 of the total \$6000 may be used for tools/materials)

- Funding for building mentor relationship and engagement plan (\$8000 over two years)
- International immersion funding for Scandinavian travel and research during second year of apprenticeship (\$6000 total)
- Compensation for solo-instructing up to 10 days of coursework per year on campus (negotiated with Program Director)
- Up to 6 self-arranged days per year of teaching for other institutions (no additional pay from North House, but compensation may be gained from host institutions)
- Opportunity to gain income from consignment sales in North House School Store (60%), sales at Artisan Marketplace during special events (100%), and sales at regional events (100%).
- Compensation for materials used for teaching mini-courses at public/special events
- Holidays/personal days (7 days/year), vacation days (10 days/year)

Duties:

- 1. Expand and deepen craft skills** in a chosen core area, through independent study and by collaborating with a craft mentor (approx. 25% of each year, may vary season to season)
 - Utilize the off-campus studio for craft exploration, demonstrating independent initiative and exploration while building proficiency and confidence in your chosen craft
 - Research, select and recruit a professional craft mentor, utilizing provided funding to build a multi-year strategy for development. Integrate both on campus mentorship with travel to their studio to maximize learning
 - Pursue an appropriately balanced array of projects, focusing both on core craft skills while also creating a body of work for consignment sales (i.e. in school store) and/or commercial sales
 - Travel to engage at least one additional mentor instructor

- 2. Develop teaching skills** by serving as an assistant instructor with multiple senior instructors and in multiple interrelated curriculum areas. (approx. 25% of each year, may vary season to season).
 - Collaborate with Program Director and Program Managers to identify and build partnership with appropriate group of 4-8 instructors to collaborate with each year
 - Assistant instruct 2-4 days of coursework per month, serving in an active role in pre-course preparation and post-course wrap up.
 - Communicate with collaborating instructors to ensure the effectiveness of the partnership and maximize its value to students, developing artisan, and instructor
 - In alignment with individual skill development progression, take on appropriate course leadership roles
 - Participate in North House's annual instructor retreat

- 3. Actively expand public engagement skills** and professional connections through participation in selected regional community events. (approx. 20% of each year, may vary season to season).
 - Forge connections to key regional events and festivals (could include: Canoecopia, Viking Festival, Hostfest), identifying both personal and institutional opportunities for involvement. May include roles as demonstrators or artisan sales. Approx four per year.
 - Identify and select regional conferences for professional development, attending as a participant and making professional connections. Approx two per year.

- Play an active programmatic role at key times for North House, demonstrating craft and leading mini-courses during major events and presenting Live Craft for the general public in peak summer season.
- In cooperation with the Program Manager for Local Engagement, identify and complete a project during the two year program that advances North House's mission in the local community

4. Strategically advance classroom resources by serving in a classroom assistant role (approx. 10% of each year, may vary season to season).

- Serve as classroom assistant in a core area of study, assisting with material procurement and tool preparation, particularly with guest and visiting international instructors
- Collaborate with Program Director/Managers and lead instructors to identify classroom advancement priorities. Select and complete at least two improvement projects each year that bring classroom resources forward via innovation and creative solutions.

5. Build meaningful relationships with international artisans and institutions (approx. 10% of each year, may vary season to season)

- Build meaningful international relationships by coordinating pre-visit resources for international guest artisans (approx. 1/year) and by serving in support role during coursework
- Spend time in the first year of the program researching and developing goals and a plan for the Scandinavian professional development trip to be completed in the second year
- Travel to Scandinavia for several weeks to research craft, engage with Scandinavian artisans, and build international relationships

6. Pursue opportunities for personal and professional development (approx. 10% of each year, may vary season to season)

- Participate in spring and fall artist development programming co-hosted with the Grand Marais Art Colony.
- Collaborate with North House's development manager expanding skills and pursuing independent grant funding requests for next phase of artisan development
- Utilize four (4) days of North House coursework annually, to advance personal craft skills or experience teaching strategies.