



# NORTH HOUSE FOLK SCHOOL

## **Artisan Development Program: Cohort V Application Information**

North House Folk School 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 instructors and volunteers 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. Read more about the school at [northhouse.org](http://northhouse.org).

### **Program Overview:**

The Artisan Development Program nurtures 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. Resident Artisans in the program build in-depth experience in their craft, while enhancing the vitality of North House Folk School as craft ambassadors for the 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:**

Cohort V has 2 openings for resident artisans who will participate from September 1st, 2021 through June 30th 2023, a 22-month program.

Note that the program description below contains several elements that are contingent upon safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. Current resident artisans have found ample opportunities to engage with the vision of the program without the ability to travel or conduct in-person activities. As it becomes safe to do so, travel and group activities in-person will return to the program.

### **Focus Areas:**

We recognize that traditional craft artisans are often committed to multiple areas of craft. Successful resident artisans will be those who have the ability to balance their interests appropriately to accomplish the depth of learning they desire.

Current available core craft areas for focus include: fibers (felting, spinning, weaving, 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.

### **Application Timeline:**

**All applications must be received by March 31st, 2021.** Interviews take place during the weeks following the closing date. Application details are found at the end of this document.



## **Resident Artisan Duties:**

- 1. Expand and deepen craft skills** in a chosen core area through independent study and by collaborating with a craft mentor (~40% of time per year)
  - Utilize studio space for craft exploration to pursue an appropriately balanced array of projects, focusing both on core craft skills while also creating a body of work
  - Develop relationships with professional craft mentor(s), utilizing provided funding to build a multi-year strategy for engagement
  - Participate in professional development opportunities around the business of craft
  - Utilize four days of North House coursework annually, to advance personal craft skills or experience teaching strategies
  
- 2. Develop teaching skills** through observation, assisting, and independent teaching (~ 30% of time per year).
  - Collaborate with Program Director/Manager to identify and build partnerships with an appropriate group of instructors to collaborate with each year
  - Engage with coursework on campus 2-4 days per month, serving as an instructor, assistant instructor, studio assistant, or student
  - In alignment with individual skill development progression, take on course leadership roles including contributing to classroom improvements
  - Participate in North House's annual instructor retreat, first week of April each year
  
- 3. Actively expand public engagement skills** and professional connections through participation in selected regional community events. (~20% of time per year).
  - Attend 2-4 regional events, conferences or festivals per year, and/or pursue teaching opportunities at peer institutions. Identify both personal and institutional opportunities for involvement as a craft ambassador for the school
  - Demonstrate or teach public short courses during special events (2-3 times/year) and as a summer instructor-in-residence (1 week)
  - In your second year, assist the Program Director in planning a thematic weekend or special event related to your area of craft study
  
- 4. Build meaningful relationships with international artisans and institutions** (~ 10% of time per year)
  - Build meaningful international relationships by coordinating pre-visit resources for international guest artisans (approx. 1/year) and by serving in support role during coursework
  - Travel to Scandinavia for several weeks to research craft, engage with Scandinavian artisans, and build international relationships in second half of program



## **Benefits:**

- Studio space provided located near the North House campus, shared with other Resident Artisans. Studio is one large space that is divided by partial walls into four sections (one for each Resident Artisan). Each studio space is approximately 250 ft<sup>2</sup>. While Resident Artisans are required to outfit their own studio spaces, some shared resources are available including dust collection for power tools, flammables storage, an outdoor storage shed, sink space and several work benches. Modest program-funded evolutions to the space are possible.
- Living stipend of \$800/month
- Furnished lodging provided in a house shared with other Resident Artisans. Each Resident Artisan has their own bedroom, with shared kitchen, living, dining, and bathroom. Onsite laundry provided. Small pets are occasionally accommodated and must be approved by the landlord. \$250 stipend for moving expenses is provided.
- Professional development funding for materials, tools, conference and festival participation, lodging and travel expenses (\$6000)
- Funding for building mentor relationship and engagement plan (\$4500)
- International immersion funding for Scandinavian travel and research during second year of apprenticeship (\$2000 for study expenses, \$4000 for travel expenses)
- Additional compensation opportunities available for things like:
  - Solo-instructing coursework on campus (negotiated with Program Director)
  - Consignment sales in North House School Store (60%)
  - Sales at Artisan Marketplace during special events (90%), and at regional events (100%).
- Participation in the program is a full time commitment, vacations/holidays/time off are encouraged where they align with program duties

## **Desired Qualifications of Applicants:**

- Four plus years work in one or more areas of traditional Northern craft
- Experience teaching hands-on craft to groups of a range of ages and backgrounds
- Prior participation in public showing of work through galleries, exhibits, or public sales
- Experience in craft education as an intern, apprentice, artist in residence or equivalent preferred
- Strong communication skills, including comfort speaking with the public and efficient use of information technology
- Confidence developing strong and positive working relationships with instructors, staff and volunteers
- Ability to problem solve, think creatively, and adapt to changing situations with a positive attitude
- 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 including a personal computer
- Physical requirements: Ability to walk up and down stairs, lift and carry equipment and tools related to craft study area, work in close proximity to other craftspeople whose work may produce sounds, smells, and sawdust.
- Willingness to live in Grand Marais, MN for duration of program
- Criminal Background checks will be completed on all finalists prior to confirmation in the program

**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.

**Program Work Structure:**

Resident artisans are guided in setting goals and vision for their two year development program by the Program Director. Program details, logistics, and direct supervision are provided by the Program Manager for Emerging Artisans.

Resident artisans are expected to work an average of 40 hours per week with work times and days varying alongside duties.



## Artisan Development Program Cohort V: Application Information

Thank you for your interest in the Artisan Development Program. The program, in its fourth year, is an exciting new way for emerging craft artisans to develop as professionals. As you consider applying, please carefully review the Program Announcement, our courses, and website information to assess your interest and reflect upon the skills that you have to contribute. Prospective applicants are encouraged to request a resource packet (including our print catalog, newsletter, and annual report) and schedule a campus visit if desired by contacting Program Manager Sarah Waddle at [swaddle@northhouse.org](mailto:swaddle@northhouse.org).

Applicants for Cohort V must submit the following:

- Cover letter
- Resume (including your contact information and link to your website/online presence)
- Responses to applicant questions (see below)
- Portfolio: a curated series of up to 10 photos & 1-2 sentence descriptions documenting your experience working in traditional northern craft. Images should be at least 500 px on their shortest end.
- 1-2 letters of recommendation from references who can speak to your skill as a craft artisan, your growth over time, and your commitment to craft education. **Note:** Letters of recommendation should be mailed from the recommender to Sarah Waddle at North House Folk School, PO Box 759 Grand Marais MN 55604, or submitted by the recommender via e-mail to [swaddle@northhouse.org](mailto:swaddle@northhouse.org). Letters of recommendation must arrive by the application deadline. North House may request additional references later in the application process as needed.

**Application materials must be submitted no later than March 31st, 2021.** After the closing date, we will select finalists to interview. The search committee includes the Executive Director, Program Director, a Lead Instructor and the Program Manager.

### How to submit your application:

Please e-mail your application to [swaddle@northhouse.org](mailto:swaddle@northhouse.org) OR mail your application to Sarah Waddle at North House Folk School, PO Box 759 Grand Marais MN 55604. The deadline to apply is March 31st. **If you submit via e-mail, your cover letter, resume, and responses to the applicant questionnaire must be submitted as a single PDF file titled as "Last name \_ First Name \_ Application.pdf". Your portfolio may be sent as a separate pdf file titled as "Last name \_ Frist Name \_ Portfolio.pdf".**



## **Applicant Questionnaire:**

1. What has prepared you in your development as a craft artisan and educator to participate in the Artisan Development Program? How do you hope the program will propel you and your work forward?
2. Tell us about the craft(s) you plan to study in your time in the Artisan Development Program. What will make up the core of your work? What related areas do you want to explore given this time and resources?
3. As a craft artisan, why do you think craft education and teaching are important to your practice? In answering, please highlight previous experiences you've had in a teaching role.
4. North House's mission is centered around building community in a broad sense. How do you build community through your craft work now? How could your focus on building community through traditional northern craft evolve and develop by participating in the Artisan Development Program?
5. The Artisan Development Program provides funding for participants to travel in Scandinavia for several weeks in their second year. How will a research/study trip like this benefit you as a craft artisan?