



Request for Proposals

The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts (NHSCA) is seeking proposals from qualified contractors to conduct fieldwork and document traditional artists and art forms in New Hampshire. Traditional arts are passed down from one generation to the next within communities through observation, conversation, imitation, and practice. They represent a sense of beauty, skills, knowledge, and community values refined over generations and are an important part of our living cultural heritage. These artistic and cultural expressions can include music, dance, storytelling, crafts, skills, celebrations and architecture. Communities can be defined in many ways, such as groups that share the same ethnic heritage, language, geographic area, religion, occupation, or way of life.

Scope of work: Fieldwork will include identifying and documenting up to (8) traditional artists that are highly skilled in practicing a traditional art form that is part of NH's cultural heritage. Artists will be recommended for inclusion on the NHSCA Traditional Arts & Folklife Listing, and/or as an applicant for NHSCA Traditional Arts Apprenticeship grant, and/or possible special programming. Artists identified should be highly skilled in their respective tradition/s and in demonstrating or performing for the public. Contractor will be responsible for completing background research on traditional art form; travel to and meet in-person with artists; conduct interviews and document with interview report form, photographs and/or video; and follow suggested best practices provided by NHSCA for fieldwork. All documentation will become part of the research collection of the state's Heritage & Traditional Arts Program and will be used to inform educational programming and publications of NHSCA. Contractors will identify artists for documentation in consultation with the NHSCA Heritage & Traditional Arts Coordinator.

Communication: Contractor will be expected to meet with the NHSCA Heritage & Traditional Arts Coordinator at least 3 times throughout the project period, be in regular communication as to project status, and be adaptable to feedback.

Timeline: Scope of work will be completed by June 30, 2025.

Compensation: Contractor will be paid \$4,000 in two equal installments. The first installment will be paid at the beginning of the contract and the second installment after successful completion of the full project. Compensation is inclusive of all expenses and mileage.

Contractor Qualifications: Contractor should have an academic background and/or experience in folklore, anthropology, ethnomusicology, American Studies, English, History, or other cultural studies; a familiarity with the cultures and geography of New Hampshire; and experience in fieldwork techniques including the use of a professional camera and writing up the results of original research. Personal digital camera required.

To apply: Send a brief narrative outlining proposed method of research and cultural groups or geographic area you will focus on, experience in similar projects, resume, and one page or less writing sample, by email to the NHSCA Heritage & Traditional Arts Coordinator, Kayla Schweitzer at Kayla.M.Schweitzer@dncr.nh.gov. For more information about the project and scope of work, please call 603-271-0795. Letters of interest will be accepted until Friday, June 7, with notification of selected contractors by June 28, 2024.