FALL 2020

THE FOLK ARTS INITIATIVE AT THE EVERHART MUSEUM

FEATURING THE FOLK & TRADITIONAL ARTISTS OF LACKAWANNA, LUZERNE, PIKE, SUSQUEHANNA, WAYNE, AND WYOMING COUNTIES

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FOLK AND TRADITIONAL ARTS

"Bonga" - Gaston Jean-Baptiste
Susquehanna County
photo: Dawn Leikness

WITH FUNDING FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS
ABOUT THE FOLK & TRADITIONAL ARTS INITIATIVE AT THE EVERHART

The Initiative

As a Folk and Traditional Arts Partner with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), the Everhart is working to sustain cultural and artistic practices rooted in the histories, traditions, and everyday lives of people in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming counties.

We are working to identify traditional artists in this region, create a curated roster of those artists, assist them in keeping their traditional practices alive, and increase public access to folk arts.

The Process

Through this Initiative, the Everhart is seeking artists and practitioners who qualify as experienced folk & traditional artists. Through this process we will research, document, and present the traditional and folk artists in our region who celebrate and preserve our diverse cultures, valuing time-honored traditions from here and around the world.

This is an open call to our community for applications and recommendations. These will then be panel reviewed and additional fieldwork will be conducted as necessary. Finally, The Everhart will present a vetted roster of regional folk arts practitioners.
Two other PCA programs can work hand in hand with the Folk & Traditional Arts Partnership: PA Partners in the Arts (PPA) and PA Artists in Education (AIE).

The Everhart Folk Art Initiative will work with the regional administrator of these two vital PCA resources for artists, the Northeast Educational Intermediate Unit 19. As partners, we will bring to artists the resources of these and other regional arts organizations and community resources.
WHAT ARE FOLK ARTS AND TRADITIONAL ARTS?

Rooted in Community
Folk and traditional arts are rooted in community traditions, in the collective experiences of people who share a common ethnic heritage, cultural mores, language, religion, occupation, or geographic region.

Passed Down Through Generations
These arts practices can be either artistic or utilitarian (or both) with very specific, traditional techniques that are shared within families, neighborhoods, and communities.

Folk arts traditions are shaped by values and standards of excellence that are passed from generation to generation, most often within family and community, through demonstration, conversation, and practice.

Balancing Tradition with Changing Times
The nature of community is to continue to evolve from the base point of revered traditions. Folk arts, then, also continually grow beyond the limitations of traditional expressions, to encompass emerging circumstances and new world views.
WHAT KINDS OF ARTISTS ARE CONSIDERED FOLK OR TRADITIONAL?

Broadly defined, Folk Arts include traditional methods of visual arts, hand crafts, music, drama, literature, and dance.

Folk artists are skilled “Tradition Bearers” who have spent years expressing their personal creativity through a wide variety of media - including but not limited to the following:


*Please Note:* For the purposes of this Initiative, Fine Artists will not be considered, unless their artistic process centers around highly traditional processes within their art form.

This Initiative seeks to create a roster of artists highly experienced in their field, whose folk and traditional arts training can be documented or demonstrated over time.

There are so many ways to define folk arts, and to limit inclusion of various art forms - but our goal here is to be broadly inclusive of form. As seen above, most forms of folk and traditional arts will be considered. What we care about is your experience and your means of training.

Artists who are then recommended by our panel will be further interviewed to determine whether they will be included in the Official Roster of Folk Artists.

Those artists will be featured on our website, as well as being included in the PCA Statewide Folk Artist Roster.

The application to apply for inclusion on the Official Roster is now open. We look forward to learning about your art!
Your application gives you the opportunity to describe, in your own words, your art and your own journey within it. This portion of the application is your best tool for helping us truly understand you and the traditional practice or art you perform.

If you are selected to be included on the Folk & Traditional Arts Roster, it will be your own words that are used to represent you and your art, rather than a generic description written by someone who doesn't know you. Be honest, be thorough, and let your experience, passion and personality shine! We look forward to learning about you and your art form.

With your permission, we will share your arts info with our PCA (PA Council on the Arts) partners - so that every applicant can be considered our partners' arts resources as well. Partners include the PPA (PA Partners in the Arts) and AIE (Artists In Education).
TIMELINE:
FROM APPLICATION TO APPROVAL

APPLICATIONS OPEN
Friday, October 30, 2020

INFORMATION SESSION FOR ARTS APPLICANTS
Tuesday, November 17, 2020
Virtual Session 6:00-7:00 pm
Online Session. To Register, Please Email: folkart@everhart-museum.org

APPLICATIONS DUE
Sunday, November 29, 2020

NOTIFICATIONS SENT
Friday, December 18, 2020
All applicants will be notified by email

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF FOLK & TRADITIONAL ARTISTS ROSTER
Friday, January 15, 2021

This project was made possible through the Folk and Traditional Arts Infrastructure Program of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), a federal agency. The PCA Folk and Traditional Arts Partner organization in this region is The Everhart Museum in Scranton, PA.
APPLICATION FOR THE FOLK & TRADITIONAL ARTISTS ROSTER

PLEASE COMPLETE AND SUBMIT BY SUNDAY, NOV. 29, 2020 (11:59 PM)

Applications and Questions should be emailed to: folkart@everhart-museum.org
Or mailed to: Everhart Museum, Attn: Folk Arts 1901 Mulberry St., Scranton PA 18510
This form is also online at: everhart-museum.org/folkartapplication
Applications must be received or postmarked by the deadline listed above.

Artist Name:
Email:
County:
Phone:
Art Forms/Media Practiced (list all):

Artist Address:
Group Affiliation or Business Name:
Artist Role in this Group or Business:
Group or Business Address:

Web Site (Personal):
Web Site (Business):
Facebook:
Instagram:
Other Social Media:

Please Share 3-5 Examples/Documentation of Your Art:

Please share the URL of any online articles, interviews, video, photos, etc. If there is not an online link (url), then please email the files to: folkart@everhart-museum.org

NOTE: Please do not mail any physical photos or discs or art pieces to us. We will not review nor return samples received by US Post. Questions? folkart@everhart-museum.org
What is the traditional practice, traditional art, culinary tradition that you want to share here? If more than one, please list them in order of your relative expertise in each.

How did you become interested in your traditional practice? When do you first remember seeing it? Who was doing it?

Who most particularly taught you the skills and/or influenced your practice of this tradition?

How long did it take you to master it? Any special means of doing so? Have you practiced this continually throughout your life?

Is your artistic practice tied to a particular place or community? If so, describe connection.

What is the brief history of your traditional practice? When / where are its origins? Have you seen it evolve over your lifetime? What is the future of your tradition? Are there any challenges to its sustainability?
What does this artform mean to you? (Your personal attachment, reasons you practice it, etc)

Where were you born and (roughly) when?  
Was this traditional practice valued in your family? Was it part of your early life?

Were members of your family also involved in other arts? Who? What forms did they practice?

Have you / Do you teach others?  Are you happy with the engagement of younger generations?

What aspirations do you have for your own work? For your broader artform (in 10 yrs or so)?

How do you envision the Everhart Folk Arts Initiative assisting you in meeting your goals?

Thank you for your care in answering these important questions. They have been adapted from Marjorie Hunt’s Cultural Traditions/Occupational Skills interview questions in The Smithsonian Folklife and Oral History Interviewing Guide. With thanks to our neighbors, The Folk Arts Alliance of Schuylkill, Berks, and Lancaster.
ABOUT THE 
EVERHART MUSEUM

Here for our community for over a century - still growing with the times.

Founded in 1908, the Everhart Museum is one of the oldest museums in Northeastern Pennsylvania and part of the early 20th-century regional museum movement. Monies and initial natural history collections were provided by Dr. Isaiah Fawkes Everhart, a Scranton physician and Civil War veteran. Everhart conceived that the Museum would serve not only the immediate City of Scranton but the whole of Northeast Pennsylvania.

Today, The Everhart Museum continues to be one of the region’s leading resources for educational and cultural opportunities. With a multidisciplinary and diverse approach, the Everhart creates extraordinary experiences for everyone in our region. Our programs stimulate creative expression and active engagement between art and science. Whether you attend a lecture, workshop, or studio course, our classes are designed for all ages, interests, and abilities.

"Museum at Home" is a new way to interact with the resources of the Museum, even when you can’t get there. Explore our catalogue of online resources of museum lessons, inspiration boards, staff playlists, interactive experiences, and more. Content will be added regularly, including links to content from other museums. As Dr. Everhart knew in 1908, we continue to grow with and for our community, stronger together!

1901 Mulberry Street, Scranton PA 18510
www.everhart-museum.org