



News from
SALEM COUNTY
Office of Public Information

Mr. Robin B. Weinstein, Public Information Officer
Office Phone: (856) 935-7510 ext. 8202
After Hours: (856) 297-5433

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GRANTS FOR TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS AVAILABLE
FY10 Grant Opportunities from the State Arts Council

(SALEM, NJ)—Freeholder Deputy Director Beth Timberman, announced that the New Jersey State Council on the Arts has made available its Fiscal Year 2010 Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program.

“We have long recognized that in Salem County there is a need to help sustain important cultural traditions and promote cross-cultural understanding. This program will bring together some of our unique artists and help us embrace diversity,” said Freeholder Director Ware.

Folk Arts Apprenticeships support the traditional arts and crafts of New Jersey’s many different cultural communities; helping talented apprentice artists further hone their skills by working directly with a master artist of a shared community. New Jersey is home to more than 144 ethnic groups as well as diverse communities of people defined by region, occupation, religion or language, whose traditional arts are valued ways of expressing identity and sustaining authenticity.

Dr. James F. Turk, Arts Director for Salem County has copies of the Folk Art Apprenticeship applications available for distribution.

“We certainly encourage our traditional artists to consider applying to the program to assure that the county’s traditional art forms will survive and thrive” said Dr. Turk. “Applicants may request up to \$3,000 to support an intensive regimen of study with a master artist for up to 12 months.”

Over the last twelve years, the Council’s Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program has assisted more than 160 artists who comprise a fascinating spectrum of traditional arts and crafts. Some of these apprenticeships have included Filipino, Native American, Ukrainian, NJ Pinelands region, Japanese, African American, Puerto Rican forms of art. According to Arts Council Executive Director Steve Runk, “These awards help preserve and sustain the traditional art forms that have been continually practiced in New Jersey and around the world for many generations. It is of paramount importance that these unique customs and ways of life get passed forward accurately and consistently.”

For applications and more information please call James F. Turk, 856-935-7510 ext. 8384.